Japan Pledges 100 Million US Dollars at International Donor's Conference for the Earthquake Victims

Japan's Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, H. E. Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki and his 4-member delegation came to Pakistan to attend the International Donor's Conference for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the affected areas on 19th of November, 2005. During the conference, Senior Vice-Minister Shiozaki pledged Japan's assistance to the Government of Pakistan in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including a commodity loan programme of 100 million US dollars.

Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, Ambassador of Japan, Donating Relief Goods for Earthquake Victims

The ruling parties of Japan (LDP and its coalition party New Komei party) dispatched a consignment of relief goods, valued at US$ 238,000 to Pakistan for the victims of the earthquake disaster. Japan's ruling parties' members arrived in Pakistan with these relief goods by a chartered flight on 1st November 2005. These relief goods were donated by private Japanese companies and citizens for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Statistics, received the relief goods on behalf of the Government of Pakistan.

The Japanese delegation was headed by Mr. Gen Nakatani, former Defense Minister of Japan, comprising five members of the Lower House and one member of the Upper House.

Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, Ambassador of Japan, and Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, at the occasion of signing ceremony.

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The conference was organized by the Government of Pakistan in an effort to generate international aid for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas affected by the earthquake, which struck AJK and the NWFP regions of Pakistan in the early hours of October 8, 2005.

In financial terms, relief goods worth 25 million yen (approx. US$ 238,000) reached Pakistan immediately. The Government of Japan then pledged emergency grant assistance amounting to 20 million US dollars. Of this commitment, a sum of US$ 12 million (60%) has been committed on a bilateral basis and is being used to procure urgently required items and equipment to improve the living conditions in the disaster struck areas. Another US$ 8 million (40%) has been disbursed to the United Nations in response to its flash appeal.

In terms of human resources and logistics, initially and immediately, the government of Japan dispatched a 49-member rescue team followed by two batches of medical teams comprised of 21 members each to take part in relief operations. A contingent of around 150 personnel of Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces (JGSDF) was also sent to operate 6 helicopters for transporting relief goods and shifting patients to medical camps and hospitals.

The Japanese civil society has also been working in league with the Government of Japan and over 20 NGOs are involved in rescue, transport and relief operations. The government of Japan supported these NGOs and provided 440 million yen (approx. 4 million US dollars) to them through Japan Platform (JPF). The civil society in Japan has also donated 130 million yen (1.2 million US dollars) in cash assistance and relief supplies including blankets, tents, etc. to the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan.

The private sector of Japan donated generously to the earthquake stricken people and contributed 207 million yen (approx. 1.9 million US dollars) through Japan Red Cross to Pakistan’s Red Crescent Society. The Japanese Ruling Party (LDP) delivered a consignment of 20 tons of relief goods including tents, blankets and thermal wares, etc. directly to the affected areas.

The Government of Japan’s pledge today of 100 million dollars in commodity loan assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction for the affected areas is in addition to the assistance mentioned above. It is hoped that the counterpart fund for mid and long term rebuilding activities will also be utilized. Japan provided the funding through Yen loan and grant assistance for maintenance of the infrastructure needed to help the reconstruction process.

Japan will also carry out the development work in different areas of Kashmir such as Muzaffarabad which suffered heavy losses due to the devastating earthquake and Batagram.

Contd from p/1

of the Japanese Diet. The delegation held meetings with the federal ministers of Pakistan and the leaders of PML (Q) to get updated information about the damage caused by the October 8 earthquake and to learn of the requirements of the earthquake affected people in their hour of crisis and need.

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Earthquake Hits Northern Pakistan: 8th Oct. 2005

What Causes the Earthquakes

Earthquakes are caused by the motion of tectonic plates - individual sections that make up the Earth's surface like panels on a football. Immense strain accumulates along fault lines where adjacent plates meet. When the rock separating the plates gives way, sudden seismic ground-shaking movement occurs.

when heated - even molten rock - are affected by a process of convection. This makes hot liquid rise to displace cooler liquid, creating a current. Tectonic plates effectively float on the mantle. But these plates are constantly moving due to the convection current.

The latest earthquake fits in with the scientists' expectations but, at 7.6 on the Richter scale, is relatively weak compared to what they feared.

Of course, they creep along very slowly. Even at this very slow pace, the effects can be devastating. The combined force of earthquakes each year is equal to 100,000 times the power of the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima.

The point where the seismic activity occurs is called the epicentre, where the earthquake is strongest. But it doesn't always end there, seismic waves travel out from the epicentre, sometimes creating widespread destruction as they move.

Experts have long been warning of the danger of serious earthquakes in South Asia - and say more are likely.

Many have struck along the southern sides of the Himalayas over past centuries - but not enough to account for all the steady northward movement of India into Asia.

The earthquake in Pakistan is the result of Indian plate's long-term, gradual, geological movement north into Asia at a speed of five centimeters a year, a millimeters per week.

Earthquakes happen when energy stored up along geological faults, like the Himalayan thrust, is suddenly released.

The trouble is, the more time passes without seismic release, the more energy accumulates, making a major earthquake more likely.

Centre of the Earth

Our planet is made up of three main layers:

The core is at the centre of the Earth

The mantle is a mobile semi-molten layer around the core

The outer-shell of the Earth is called the crust. Scientists call this the lithosphere - it's the part that we live on.

The crust is made up of 12 individual tectonic plates. Below the sea, they can measure 4km-10km thick and underland this increases to 32km-71km. Below the crust, radiation from the Earth's core heats the semi-molten mantle to temperatures of over 5000°C. All fluids

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Reunion of Former Students in Japan 2005
Dr. Nasim Shahzad

Foreign students who return to their home countries from Japan are utilizing their experiences of studying in Japan, for the development of their own societies. To enable these former students to serve as a bridge between Japan and their home countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan invites a few of them each year to Tokyo for a reunion of Former Students (Tsudoi).

Under this reunion program MOFA invites back alumni to renew their understanding of Japan through an exchange of views on various topics with experts and MOFA officials, as well as through visits to educational and research institutes and industrial facilities. The objectives of the Tsudoi reunion is to strengthen ties between former students and Japan, to build networks among neighboring countries, and to promote the activities of alumni associations in each country.

A total of 23 former students were invited from Southwest Asian, Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries to attend the 2005 Reunion of former students in Japan, which was held from Dec. 4 to 10, 2005. Two participants Dr. Zabita Khan Shinwari and Dr. Shahzad Nasim from MAAP Pakistan attended the reunion meeting in Tokyo.

The schedule of the meeting this year was as follows:

December 4 (Sunday):
Arrival of all the participants.

December 5 (Monday):
An orientation meeting was held by the officials of MOFA and the schedule for during participants stay in Japan was explained. It was followed by the introduction of each member. Mr. Ranjan Rajiv was chosen as group leader from the national delegation leaders, to make a speech in Japanese on behalf of the participants at the reception.

After the lunch break, a lecture was delivered by Mr. Anton Wicky, Prof. of OHU University, followed by another lecture by Prof. Masayuki Yamachih, of Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo.

In the evening a welcome reception was held, hosted by Mr. Masaki Okada, Director General, Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. University professors, journalists, the former teachers and acquaintances of participants were invited.

December 6 (Tuesday):
In the morning a lecture was delivered by Haiku Poet Ms. Modoka Mayuzumi, followed by taking of an official photograph.

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In the evening Mr. Atsushi Nishioka, Executive Director, Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO) delivered a lecture and explained the student exchange system in Japan. This was followed by a visit to the Tokyo International Exchange Centre.

December 7 (Wednesday):
A visit to MOFA Japan was arranged where a lecture was delivered by Mr. Hiroaki Takiguchi, Deputy Director, Policy Planning Division, Waste Management and Recycling Department, Ministry of the Environment Japan.

In the evening we visited Tokyo Pet Bottle recycling company and Panasonic Centre Tokyo.

December 8 (Thursday) and December 9 (Friday):
These two days were allocated to the Partnership Renewal Programme, through which the participants were able to visit former teachers and universities.

During these days I visited Tokyo University of Agriculture, Tokyo and met with my professors and friends. My laboratory arranged for my two presentations vis, (i) MAAP Activities in Pakistan (ii) Earthquake in Pakistan. About 250 students attended these presentations and appreciated very much the activities of MAAP in Pakistan.

We wish to thank MOFA Japan and Embassy of Japan in Pakistan for providing us with an opportunity to participate in the Reunion meeting held in Tokyo.

December 10 (Saturday):
Departure from Narita International Airport.

South Asian Federation of the Japanese universities Alumni Association (SAJUAA)
The signing ceremony of SAJUAA was held on Dec. 6. Dr. Shahzad Nasim, Member MAAP, signed the agreement on behalf of MAAP. The objectives of SAJUAA are to maintain links with the Japanese Universities Alumni Associations of South Asian Countries, interacting with their members in order to conduct activities of mutual interest and benefit.

All members are requested to write for the Newsletter. Kindly send us a passport size photograph and a brief C.V. to be included in the coming issue of the MAAP Newsletter. Please let us have your latest postal and e-mail addresses & phone numbers.
CDA Approves a Japanese Garden in F-9 Park, Islamabad

To review the progress on the Japanese Garden Project, the President MAAP held a working tea party at the Islamabad Club on the 29th of November 2005. Mr. Mazhar Hussain, D. G Environment CDA, Mr. Hussain Malik, Project Director, F-9 Park Project, Mr. Naeem, Architect CDA, Mr. Hisao Nishimaki, Director Press, Culture & Information, the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Abbasi and Dr. Najam Siddiqui, General Secretary MAAP, were present on this occasion. As a result of the discussions, the CDA has issued a letter to MAAP agreeing to undertake this project.

The Government of Japan Decides to Provide US$ 20 Million Grant Aid in Response to the Earthquake Disaster

The Government of Japan decided to provide an emergency grant aid of 20 million US dollars for the disaster relief to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This announcement was made by Mr. Shuzen Tanigawa, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz during their meeting. The Government of Japan will determine the details of the emergency grant aid.

The Government of Japan had immediately dispatched relief goods worth 25 million yen (approx. US$ 238,000) which consisted of 30 tents (each accommodating 6 people), 2000 blankets, 20 water filters, 20 electric generators, 20 rolls of electric wire, 768 handy water tanks, 500 sleeping mats, 20 rolls of plastic sheet and 5 large water tanks (35,000 liters capacity). These relief goods were formally handed over by His Excellency Mr. Nobuki Tanaka, Ambassador of Japan, to Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary of Cabinet Division.

A Japanese Disaster Relief Team participated in relief efforts being carried out in Bannu, NWFP. The Japanese team is composed of a rescue team (49 rescue operators and specialists) and two medical teams (of 21 medical experts each) who were actively involved in evacuation and provision of emergency health-care services to those suffering from the recent disaster.

Japanese Aid of US $6.5 Million for Polio Eradication in Pakistan

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Signing Ceremony of the SAFJUAA Constitution

The signing ceremony of the constitution of the South Asian Federation of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association (SAFJUAA) was held in Tokyo on 6th December, 2005. The Charter of SAFJUAA was signed in the presence of Director General and Director of the Public Diplomatic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan.

Information received from the Embassy of Japan in Katmandu further mentioned that Mr. Chaudhari from Bangladesh, Mr. Rajib from India, Mr. Pokharel from Nepal, Dr. Nasim Shahzad from Pakistan and Mr. Nimelisi from Sri Lanka signed on behalf of their respective organizations.

The first meeting for the establishment of the proposed Japanese Universities Alumni Association of the South Asian Region was held at Katmandu on March 29, 2005. Delegates from Japanese Universities Alumni Association of Bangladesh (JUAAB), Mobukagakusho Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) Japanese Universities Students Association of Nepal (JUSAN) attended the meeting while Monbusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) participated through correspondence. At the meeting it was unanimously decided to establish the South Asian Federation of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association (SAFJUAA).

MAAP Seminar on "Life & Study in Japan" at the University of Peshawar

The Monbukagakusho Alumni Association of Pakistan organized a seminar on "Life & Study in Japan" at the University of Peshawar on the 23rd of December, 2005. Speakers included Mr. S. Sikander Khan, President MAAP, Dr. Najam Siddiqui, General Secretary MAAP and Dr. Mohammad Nisar Khan, Head Pharmacy Department, University of Peshawar. The programme was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University who, in his concluding remarks thanked the speakers for their illuminating talks and the slide shows. The seminar was followed by a question-answer session and tea party later. Dr. Nisar Khan and Dr. Inayat Ali Shah both MAAP members, hosted a lunch in honour of the visitors from Islamabad.

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Dr. Mujahid Alam  
MSc, MPhil, Ph.D  

Dr. Alam was born in 1967. He completed his BSc from Bosa Road College, Multan, in 1988. MSc and MPhil from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He went to Japan in April 1998 to pursue a doctoral program at Kyoto University. He spent a long time in Kyoto and considers Kyoto his second home town. He also visited other cities of Japan, such as Kobe, Osaka, Hiroshima, Nara, Nagoya, Tokyo, and so on. He found the Japanese to be very kind, helping and peace loving especially his teachers and host families. He still remembers the beautiful cherry blossoms and other sights of Japan. Now a days he is working as a Senior Scientist at the Informatics Complex in Islamabad.

Mohammad Tahir Akhtar  
(MSc, Ph.D Electronic Engineering) natahirakhtar@yahoo.com  

He went to Japan on the Monbukagakusho scholarship for doctoral studies and attended Sendai University in 2001 where he studied Electrical Engineering. Previous to that, Dr. Akhtar had obtained a Master’s degree in Systems Engineering from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. At present, he is working as an Assistant Professor, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad. He visited various Japanese cities during his stay in Japan and has acquired a working knowledge of the Japanese language.

Dr. Farmanullah Khan  
farmanullahkhan380@hotmail.com  

He was born in Thana Malakand Agency. Did M.Sc. (Hons) in Soil Science from NWFP Agriculture University, Peshawar in 1987 and joined his old University the same year as a lecturer. He proceeded to Japan in 1994 for post graduation and received a Ph.D. degree in Soil and Water Conservation from Ehime University, Matsuyama in 1998. Presently he is working as a Professor in the Deptt. of Soil and Environmental Sciences, NWFP Agriculture University, Peshawar. Since 1999 he has completed three research projects, two projects were sponsored by Pak. Science Foundation and one from HEC/NWFP Agri. University. Besides teaching he is supervising M.Sc. (Hons) and Ph.D. in the field of Soil Conservation and Land Management.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER  
This is a newsletter of the Monbukagakusho Alumni Association of Pakistan, published from Islamabad. It is intended to provide an update of the activities of the Association and to help its readers to understand the Japanese society and its traditions.

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