



**Title: Rethinking Japan-Pakistan Relations: Past, Present, and Future**

**Event Date:** May 6, 2026

**Venue:** CAPES Office, Islamabad/ Online International Webinar

**Time:** 10:00-12:00

**Moderator:** Muneeb Salman, Senior Research Analyst, CAPES

The Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES), in collaboration with the Area Study Center for Far East and South East Asia (FESEA) at the University of Sindh, organized an international webinar on “Rethinking Japan-Pakistan Relations: Past, Present, and Future.” The speakers in the webinar included Mr. Hattori Masaru, Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Dr. Masahiro Kurita from Chukyo University, Japan, and Professor Moonis Ahmar, former Dean of Karachi University.

Professor Moonis Ahmar, former Dean of social sciences at Karachi University, emphasized that the work ethic and professionalism in Japanese society have been instrumental in helping the country post-war to become the second largest country worldwide. He also added that Pakistan must learn from Japan’s example to enshrine values and produce quality human resources for economic growth.

Dr. Masahiro Kurita stated during his lecture that despite commercial relations and limited naval cooperation between the JMSDF and Pakistan Navy in the Indian Ocean, the high-level visits between Japan and Pakistan are extremely rare. He added that Pakistan’s image in Japan’s strategic community is viewed with the former’s image in relations with China. He also proposed that in the future, Japan may see Pakistan as a possible intermediary between China and Japan. This view developed due to Pakistan’s role as a mediator in the Gulf region, which is highly commendable, as Japan depends heavily on the Gulf Region for its energy resources.

He proposed that the possible avenues for future cooperation between Japan and Pakistan involve Free and Open Indo-Pacific, promotion of quality infrastructure, and Climate action. Dr. Kurita also noted that the cooperation between Pakistan and the United States on critical minerals may also open avenues for a possible role of Japan in the value chains.

The Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Hattori Masaru, highlighted the contemporary cooperation between Pakistan and Japan, including the participation of 51 delegates from 28 sectors in the Japan-Pakistan Business Forum. He also highlighted the country's immense potential in the growing IT industry.

The audience engaged in an interactive Q&A session during the webinar. Dr. Khuram Iqbal, President of CAPES, delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Naureen Nazar Soomro, Director Area Study Center FESEA at the University of Sindh, delivered the concluding remarks and extended a vote of thanks to the participants.

