

## Third Party Evaluation's Opinion on Kohat Tunnel Project

Abdul Kader Jaffer  
President  
Pakistan Japan Business Forum  
Pakistan

### Impact

As President of Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF) I am indeed delighted to learn that Government of Japan through Japan Bank for International Cooperation has financed Kohat Tunnel which was inaugurated by the President of Pakistan Gen. Pervez Musharraf and is now known as Pak-Japan Friendship Tunnel.

This is indeed a great contribution to Pakistan's Northern Areas development as this is located in the central region of the North-West Frontier Province that touches on the Afghanistan border. Earlier this road was considered dangerous because of its narrow roads and many sharp slopes and curves. Frequent major traffic accidents resulted in 300 deaths per year due to obstructed views and large vehicles were unable to pass. This is the largest road tunnel in Pakistan (total length: 1,885 meters) and of the approaching roads on both ends (total length: approximately 30 km). This project began in 1999 and was completed with the route, which connected the two districts in the North-West Frontier Province by the shortest possible distance, enabled in June 2003.

### Effectiveness

There is a great satisfaction on the completion of this support from Japan not only amongst the people of the North-West Frontier Province but also the drivers of large vehicles wanted to see this completed. Before it used to take almost 3 hours to go through the Kohat pass but now it takes less than 1 hour. This project will promote economic development in the Northern part of Pakistan by improving distribution efficiency and enhancing transportation capacity to northern Afghanistan because the traffic congestion has been totally alleviated and large vehicles and trailers can now drive through comfortably. According to the statistics, the opening of the tunnel in July 2003 saw the traffic volume of 110,000 vehicles which increased to approximately 190,000 during April 2005 and the number of large trucks increased from around 2,500 to 8,500. This has now made it necessary to plan a second Kohat tunnel which is vital to materialize President Musharraf's vision of making Pakistan the Hub of regional trade activity. The people and the Government of Pakistan appreciate the completion of the Kohat tunnel. President Musharraf attending the inauguration, stated in his speech

### Quote

On behalf of the Pakistani people, I would like to express my gratitude for Japan's assistance and contribution. I will never forget the assistance and contribution provided by Japan.

### Unquote

This reflects the true sentiments of the people of Pakistan and as a testament to this, a commemorative postage stamp was issued by the Government of Pakistan for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japan's ODA, featuring an image of the Kohat Tunnel which will continue to contribute to the future development of Pakistan and improvement in the standard of the people of Northern Areas and will remind all of the close friendship between Pakistan and Japan.



*Handwritten signature and date:*  
17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2006