



# EMBASSY of THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN in WASHINGTON DC



### MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

May has been a very productive month with high level exchanges continuing between Pakistan and the US. Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan led a delegation to attend the 7th meeting of the US-Pakistan TIFA Council in Washington and also had fruitful interactions with the US Department of Trade and Department of State representatives. A joint action plan in line with the vision outlined by the Prime Minister and President Obama in their meeting in October last year was agreed upon to expand bilateral trade and investment between the US and Pakistan. In this regard, a working group was established to meet

regularly to oversee implementation of the joint action plan and monitor progress in specific areas.

I am pleased to share with you the signing of two developmental policy credit agreements with the World Bank. The first agreement "The Power Sector Developmental Policy" is aimed at supporting Pakistan's program of energy reforms, while the second "Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Developmental Policy" seeks to support the government's efforts to promote private and financial sector development.

The visits of Mr. William J Burns, US Deputy Secretary of State, US congressional delegation and Ambassador Robin Raphel, Senior Adviser to the US Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan reflect a healthy trend of continued high level engagements between Pakistan and the US.

During my visit to Chicago, I had the opportunity to meet the wonderful Pakistani-American Community of Bolingbrook and also had the privilege of speaking at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

I am also delighted to share that we have reached a milestone in Pakistan-US trade with the arrival of the first commercial consignment of Pakistani Mangoes in Houston, TX. South Asians and Pakistani-Americans in particular have long yearned for the delicious fruit.

### AMBASSADOR JILANI PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO H.E. THE HONOURABLE, SIR PATRICK ALLEN, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF JAMAICA

Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States of America, H.E. Jalil Abbas Jilani, who is concurrently accredited as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Jamaica, presented his credentials to His Excellency, the Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica in Kingston, Jamaica. Ambassador Jilani stated that during his tenure as High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Jamaica, he would work to deepen and strengthen bilateral political and economic relations and build upon the friendship that exists between Pakistan and Jamaica. The Governor General pledged to extend his full support and the cooperation of the Government of Jamaica in this endeavor.

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## PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA ON HIS VISIT TO NEW DELHI

In a statement to the media regarding his visit to New Delhi, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif expressed his pleasure at attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony. Apprising the media, he said he had a constructive meeting with Prime Minister Modi where he stressed upon their common agenda of development and economic revival which cannot be achieved without peace and stability in the region. He also highlighted the need for the two countries to strive to change confrontation into cooperation. Prime Minister Sharif said that, in a spirit of cooperation and sincerity, his government stands ready to discuss all issues between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi warmly reciprocated his sentiments and remarked that Prime Minister Sharif's visit to New Delhi was seen as a special gesture by the people of India. He agreed that it was incumbent on both leaders to work together, to achieve their common objectives for peace and development. Both leaders agreed that their Foreign Secretaries would be meeting soon, to review and carry forward the bilateral agenda initiated in their meeting.

## COMMERCE MINISTER , ENGR. KHURRAM DASTGIR KHAN VISITS WASHINGTON, DC (May 13-14, 2014)

### COMMERCE MINISTER ADDRESSES US-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AT THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, DC



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan addressing the US-Pakistan Business Council at the US Chamber of Commerce

Commerce Minister, Khurram Dastgir Khan, addressed the US Chamber of Commerce and highlighted the Government's efforts in economic recovery, improved security and good governance to attract local and foreign investment. He also thanked the USPBC for being a close and trusted partner in promoting business collaboration between the US and Pakistan, and for providing a national forum for dialogue on key economic, political and other issues of interest to American companies operating in or exploring business opportunities in Pakistan.

Full Text of Address:

[http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news660\\_05015014\\_Speech\\_USPBC.php](http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news660_05015014_Speech_USPBC.php)

### PAKISTAN-US ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT ON A JOINT ACTION PLAN TO EXPAND BILATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT FLOWS OVER THE NEXT 5 YRS AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE US-PAKISTAN TIFA COUNCIL

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan met with USTR Ambassador Michael Froman at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the US-Pakistan TIFA Council in Washington, DC where they discussed a variety of trade and investment issues. The United States and Pakistan announced an agreement on a Joint Action Plan to expand bilateral trade and investment flows over the next five years. The two sides established a bilateral working group to meet regularly to oversee implementation of the Joint Action Plan and to monitor progress in specific areas. Both countries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Joint Efforts to Empower Women and to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship. This MOU will provide a mechanism for discussion on how to help ensure that women participate fully in the economy and have access to economic, as well as trade and investment, opportunities. Both sides discussed market access opportunities and exchanged views on how to enhance those opportunities. Both sides agreed to hold the next Business Opportunities Conference in Pakistan in 2014 and to hold the next TIFA Council Meeting in Pakistan in 2015.

Joint statement from the seventh meeting of the US – Pakistan TIFA Council

[http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news658\\_05013014\\_TIFA.php](http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news658_05013014_TIFA.php)



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan and USTR Ambassador Michael Froman shake hands after signing an MoU on Women's Economic Empowerment at the office of USTR in Washington, DC – May 13, 2014

### COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS WITH CAROLINE ATKINSON, DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Ms. Caroline Atkinson, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs called on Federal Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan. Ms. Atkinson briefed the Commerce Minister on the successful visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the US and the resolve of the two leaders to work together on a range of options to enable Pakistan to achieve a positive economic growth. The Joint Action plan had been developed towards the realization of this resolve. She expressed keen desire of the US government to work jointly with Pakistan to implement the strategy devised for the purpose. Minister Dastgir briefed her on the Government of Pakistan's efforts towards promoting international trade and investment, which is the pivot around which Pakistan seeks to devise its economic development and poverty alleviation strategies.

Above, Ms. Caroline Atkinson, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs called on Commerce Minister, Khurram Dastgir Khan – Washington, DC



## COMMERCE MINISTER , ENGR. KHURRAM DASTGIR KHAN VISITS WASHINGTON, DC (May 13-14, 2014)

### COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS WITH CATHERINE A. NOVELLI, US UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan met with Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Catherine Novelli at the State Department. The two sides discussed Pakistan-US Joint Action Plan for enhancing Trade and Investment and resolved to begin immediate work on its implementation strategy. Minister Dastgir briefed Under Secretary Novelli on several measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to ensure a congenial and business friendly atmosphere. He spoke of Pakistan's economy, where all indicators were showing an impressive recovery rate and business confidence was being further strengthened. He added that closer economic relations and expanded trade and investment opportunities would lend greater strength and sustainability to the strategic relationship between the two countries and help in realizing some of the shared objectives; including promotion of enduring stability in the region.



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan with Catherine A. Novelli, US Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment

### COMMERCE MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES AT ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON TEXTILES & APPAREL



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan speaks at the round table conference on textiles & apparel in Washington, DC

A Business Roundtable Conference on Textiles and Apparel sector was held in Washington DC on the side lines of the TIFA Council meeting. Minister Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir apprised the attendees of the positive steps taken by the government to promote investor friendly atmosphere in the country especially in the textile sector. He reiterated the government's resolve to ensure prospective investors fair competition, rationalize tariff and policy distortions, ease entry barriers, reduce government involvement and improve regulatory quality. The Minister invited US businesses to Pakistan to experience firsthand, the consistently improving economic figures defining business confidence, exceptional performance of the Karachi Stock Exchange, and rate of return experienced by US businesses in Pakistan.

### COMMERCE MINISTER MAKES A STRONG CASE FOR GREATER ACCESS TO US TRADE AT THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL, WASHINGTON, DC



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan speaking at the Atlantic Council, Washington, DC

Emphasizing Islamabad's policy to bolster the national economy through expansion in trade instead of reliance on aid, Commerce Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan made a strong case for greater trade access for Pakistani products to the large US market. Speaking to a gathering of American experts at the Atlantic Council the Minister apprised the audience that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government is pursuing a policy of economic diplomacy and wants to foster normal trade relations with other countries. He added that the US Administration is also supportive of better access for Pakistani products to the American market. Minister Dastgir expressed hope that the US would emulate the EU in its recent award of GSP Plus scheme for Pakistan for ten years which will help Pakistan improve its economic performance and provide a better quality of life to its people through the creation of new jobs. The Commerce Minister highlighted that materialising greater trade access for Pakistani products would be in line with the US commitment to assist economic empowerment of Pakistani women as women dominate the workforce in textile factories. He also indicated that the government would pass a new legislation to create a new land port authority that would oversee trade through Pakistani land crossings.

### COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS WITH CHAIRMAN EX-IM BANK, FRED P HOCHBERG

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan met with Chairman Export Import Bank of USA, Fred Hochberg and discussed various areas where Export-Import Bank could help finance US businesses towards investing in Pakistan. Minister Dastgir briefed Chairman Hochberg on the consistently improving economic situation in Pakistan, which was an ideal destination for conducting business and investment. More than 67 US companies are currently invested in Pakistan and enjoying the business friendly environment. He invited Chairman Hochberg and his team to visit Pakistan to witness the vastly improved infrastructure and multiple avenues for investment. Chairman Hochberg expressed his keen desire to visit Pakistan upon the successful conclusion of a project loan.



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan meeting with Chairman Export Import Bank of USA, Fred Hochberg in Washington, DC

## COMMERCE MINISTER , ENGR. KHURRAM DASTGIR KHAN VISITS WASHINGTON, DC (May 13-14, 2014)

### COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS WITH MAURICE JONES, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AT THE USTR OFFICE.

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan met with Secretary of Commerce of the State of Virginia, Maurice Jones at the USTR office. Secretary Jones briefed Minister Dastgir on the various sectors where the Government of Virginia could work with the Government of Pakistan on Trade and Investment. Secretary Jones also briefed Minister Dastgir on the rich human resource of Virginia particularly the ICT sector. He expressed a desire to take a delegation of business leaders to Pakistan in the near future. Minister Dastgir spoke about Pakistan's immense investment potential in various sectors including energy,

infrastructure and agriculture sectors. Pakistan's exponential growth in technology adoption, and the Government's mandate to develop infrastructure allows for the youth based and fast growing technology sector to complement US innovation and industry. Towards this end, he mentioned the successful auction and resultant adoption of 3G/4G network in Pakistan. The two resolved to boost bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Virginia. Minister Dastgir extended an invitation to Governor McAuliffe and Secretary Jones to visit Pakistan with their business delegation, where the two governments could visit potential areas of trade and investment in Pakistan.



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan meeting with Secretary of Commerce of the State of Virginia, Maurice Jones at the USTR Office, Washington, DC

### COMMERCE MINISTER KHURRAM DASTGIR KHAN MEETS WITH EVP- IFC, JIN-YONG CAI

Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan addressed the participants of the Business Roundtable Conference on the Information and Communications Technology sector planned alongside the TIFA Council meetings in Washington, DC. The Minister highlighted the rapid growth of the ICT sector in Pakistan, which has immense potential for investment in Pakistan. The potential of services export spans across the technology sector into many different industries. Pakistan has the potential to capitalize on IT based services, cross border professional services trade, software development, communications and research.



Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan shaking hands with EVP/ CEO IFC, Jin-Yong Cai prior to their meeting at the IFC HQ, Washington DC

### COMMERCE MINISTER ADDRESSES THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



Commerce Minister, Khurram Dastgir Khan addressing the participants of the Business Roundtable Conference on the Information and Communications Technology Sector at USTR office

## PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS

### CALL ON THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER, SYED TARIQ FATEMI BY US DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. BURNS

The US Deputy Secretary of State, William J. Burns called on the Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides discussed Pakistan-US bilateral relations and regional issues, including Afghanistan. The Special Assistant underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to stronger Pakistan-US cooperation and expressed satisfaction at the positive direction and momentum of bilateral relations since the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Washington. With regards to Afghanistan, the importance of deeper consultations between Pakistan and the US was highlighted during the meeting. Both sides also discussed the post-2014 situation and matters relating to Afghan peace and reconciliation process.



US Deputy Secretary of State, William J. Burns called on the Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad on May 8, 2014



## PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS

### SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SYED TARIQ FATEMI HOLDS LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF AMBASSADOR ROBIN RAPHEL, SENIOR ADVISER TO THE US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi held a luncheon meeting with Ambassador Robin Raphel, Senior Adviser to the US Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan. The discussions focused on Pakistan-US bilateral relations and regional issues including Afghanistan. Syed Tariq Fatemi noted the positive direction and momentum of bilateral relations since the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Washington in October last year. Both discussed ways to advance bilateral cooperation under the mechanism of the Strategic Dialogue between the two countries. The Special Assistant reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to support all efforts for Afghanistan's peace, stability and progress.

### US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEETS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

A four member bipartisan delegation of the US House of Representatives held a meeting with Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry. The delegation was led by Representative Martha Roby and included Representative Susan Davis, Representative Renee Ellmers and Representative Cheri Bustos. The US legislators are members of the Armed Services, Energy and Agriculture Committees. The Foreign Secretary highlighted the Government's focus on pursuing the goal of economic prosperity for the people of Pakistan. He also underscored Pakistan's commitment to promote relations with its neighbours for regional security and prosperity. The Congresswomen acknowledged the importance of Pakistan-US relationship. They appreciated Pakistan's efforts for countering terrorism and its role in the promotion of regional peace and prosperity, especially in the backdrop of US forces drawdown from Afghanistan.



Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhary in a meeting with the US Congressional delegation led by Rep. Martha Roby in Islamabad on May 13, 2014

## ECONOMY

### AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI SIGNS TWO DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY CREDIT AGREEMENTS WORTH \$1B ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AT THE WORLD BANK

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani and Philippe H. Le Houerou, Vice President of the World Bank Group's South Asia Region signed two Developmental Policy Credit Agreements. The Policy Credit Agreements include: (i) Pakistan's First Power Sector Developmental Policy Credit amounting to US \$ 600 million; and (ii) Fiscally Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Developmental Policy Credit worth US \$ 400 million. The Power Sector Developmental Policy is aimed at supporting Pakistan's program of reforms aimed at developing an efficient and consumer oriented electric power system that meets the needs of Pakistan's people and economy, sustainably and affordably. Meanwhile, the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Developmental Policy financing seeks to support the Government of Pakistan's efforts to promote private and financial sector development and expand social protection for the poor through enhanced revenue mobilization. In addition to finalizing the two Policy Credits, the World Bank Board also approved the World Bank Country Partnership Strategy for Pakistan for the period 2015-19 involving a total outlay of \$ 11 billion and allocation of \$ 125 million by the IFC for setting up a Three Gorges subsidiary in Pakistan to finance energy related projects. The World Bank Board decisions are a clear sign of international financial institutions' growing confidence in Pakistan's economy and would play a key role in attracting investments to Pakistan from other international financial institutions and bilateral donors, particularly in the energy sector.



Ambassador Jilani and VP WorldBank SAR signing Developmental Policy Credit Agreements at the World Bank

## CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

### AMBASSADOR JILANI INFORMS HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT DEMOCRATIC PAKISTAN WISHES TO HAVE CORDIAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US

Continuing his outreach efforts, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani met a number of Congressmen belonging to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives to discuss bilateral relations and the regional situation. Ambassador Jilani briefed the Congressmen on the state of bilateral relations and the policies undertaken by the current government to improve internal security and overtures undertaken to build better relations with its neighbors. Ambassador Jilani informed the Congressmen that Pakistan deeply values Congressional support to democracy and various programs for providing assistance to Pakistan in Energy, Education, Health and services etc. He also underscored the need for broadening people to people contacts including parliamentary exchanges.



Ambassador Jilani shaking hands with Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA)

## CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

Matters related to regional developments were also discussed. The Congressmen noted the positive trajectory of Pakistan-US bilateral relations and expressed the hope that both nations will continue to develop wide ranging mutually beneficial cooperation in the future.

Left: Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA)  
Right: Ambassador Jilani with Rep Eliot Engel (D-NY)



### AMBASSADOR JILANI MEETS CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF (R-VA)

Ambassador Jilil Abbas Jilani called on Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) at the House of Representatives. During the meeting Ambassador Jilani appreciated Congressman Wolf's long tenure in Congress and his consistent support for a strong Pakistan-US relationship as well as for democracy in Pakistan. He said that as a society representing diverse cultures, Pakistan considered inter-faith harmony as a core social value. The Congressman expressed keen interests in developments in Pakistan and the region. He also discussed a range of issues in Pakistan-US bilateral relations and appreciated the active role played by Pakistani-American Community in fostering the relationship.

Right: Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)



## EMBASSY OUTREACH

### AMBASSADOR JILANI SPEAKS ON "PAKISTAN'S PARADIGM SHIFT" AT CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

On an official tour to Chicago, IL, Ambassador Jilil Abbas Jilani spoke at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs where he outlined consolidation and maturing of democracy as a defining feature of contemporary Pakistan. He said that the people of Pakistan believe in basic human freedoms and rule of law, an independent media and an active Judiciary are clear manifestations of this trend. The Ambassador articulated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of a peaceful neighborhood as means for shared security and prosperity in the entire region. He added that in line with this vision of the Prime Minister, Pakistan had made sincere overtures to its neighbours to transform existing bilateral relationships. Speaking on Pakistan-US bilateral relations, the Ambassador said that the resumption of Strategic Dialogue process reflects the strong desire of the two sides to give an impetus to cooperation in key areas of trade, investment, energy, agriculture, education and science and technology. Responding to questions during the interactive session, Ambassador Jilani illustrated various measures undertaken by the government to improve the economy and overcome the energy crises.

### AMBASSADOR JILANI AND AIR MARSHAL SOHAIL AMAN MEET WITH MS. DEBORAH L. JAMES, HONOURABLE SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE AND GENERAL MARK A. WELSH-III AT PENTAGON



Ambassador Jilani with Ms. Deborah L. James, Honourable Secretary of Air Force and General Mark A. Welsh-III



Air Marshal Sohail Aman with General Mark A. Welsh-III and Ms. Deborah L. James, Honourable Secretary of Air Force



## EMBASSY EVENTS

### AMBASSADOR JILANI MEETS WITH DEFENSE OFFICERS AT THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN, WASHINGTON, DC



Ambassador Jilani with Air Marshal Sohail Aman, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Op)

### OFFICERS OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COURSE, LED BY RECTOR NSPP MUHAMMAD ISMAIL QURESHI WITH AMBASSADOR JILANI IN WASHINGTON, DC



### IDEAS FORUM



Haroon K. Ullah, an international scholar, US diplomat, and field researcher specializing in South Asia and the Middle East had an interactive discussion at the Embassy. He is the author of *Vying for Allah's Vote* and *Bargain from The Bazaar*.

### A PAKISTANI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS THE US UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PROJECT TITLED "RULE OF LAW"



### SYED NAVEED SAFDAR BOKHARI, POLITICAL COUNSELOR EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN, BRIEFING A GROUP OF AMERICAN STUDENTS VISITING THE EMBASSY



### FARID AYAZ & ABU MUHAMMAD PERFORMING QAWWALI AT THE EMBASSY





## EMBASSY EVENTS

### PAKISTAN EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN 'AROUND THE WORLD TOUR' IN COLLABORATION WITH PASSPORT DC

In the month of May, the Embassy participated in Passport DC's 'Around the World Embassy Tour', opening its doors to the diverse tri-state area residents. An array of exhibits displaying arts, crafts, costumes, ornaments and pictures of the country's multicultural heritage were a huge attraction for all visitors. The event helped project Pakistan's true image as a country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes and, artistic and architectural achievements.





# ALSO PAKISTAN

*While the mainstream media often focuses on the problems Pakistan faces and the challenges confronted by our government and society, there*

*is a substantial amount of good news coming out of Pakistan.*

We are pleased to share these stories of achievement with you as we redefine a narrative for Pakistan based on the values of equity, democracy, pluralism, rule of law and transparent governance.

## **'PAKISTAN'S MICROFINANCE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT NUMBER ONE GLOBALLY,' FINCA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Rupert Scofield, FINCA International President and Chief Executive Officer said that he is very excited about his assignment in Pakistan. FINCA hopes to increase the size of microfinance industry in Pakistan to a more sustainable one. Rupert Scofield added that the government of Pakistan, especially the central bank, has done a marvelous job in creating a regulatory environment for microfinance which is number one in the world. That alone is enough to attract foreign investment in the microfinance sector.

<http://www.brecorder.com/brief-recordings/0/1179894.-pakistan-s-microfinance-regulatory-environment-number-one-globally--finca-international-president-and-ceo/>

## **BEST ASIA CURRENCY BOLSTERS PAKISTAN SUKUK PLAN, ISLAMIC FINANCE**

Improving investor confidence in Pakistan, whose currency is the best performing in Asia this year, bodes well for its plan to tap the global sukuk market for the first time since 2005. The world's second-biggest Muslim nation may sell "much more" than \$1 billion of Shariah-compliant notes in the third or fourth quarter, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said in a May 5 interview in Astana, Kazakhstan. The rupee has climbed 7.2 percent in 2014 as the government increased the size of a non-Islamic dollar bond to \$2 billion last month from \$500 million, after demand exceeded supply by 14 times. "Pakistan wants to capitalize on this euphoria," Mohammed Sohail, chief executive officer at Topline Securities Ltd. in Karachi, said in a May 6 telephone interview, adding that it may result in the nation raising money at a relatively cheaper rate.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-07/best-asia-currency-bolsters-pakistan-sukuk-plan-islamic-finance.html>

## **PAKISTAN'S FIRST SOLAR PROJECT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Pakistan's first solar power park, which will start generating 100 megawatts of energy by the end of the year and a total of 1,000 megawatts by 2016. The project has 400,000 solar panels, with a total cost of around \$131 million. When complete the plant will produce about 2.5 times the power coming from the 392 megawatt Ivanpah solar thermal plant in California's Mojave Desert, making it one of the largest solar parks in the world.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/05/13/3437021/pakistan-inaugurates-first-solar-park/>

## **PAKISTAN'S "BURKA AVENGER" SERIES WINS PRESTIGIOUS PEABODY AWARD**

Burka Avenger, a Pakistani animated series about female empowerment, was among the international programmes honoured this year at the annual Peabody Awards, the oldest and one of the top honours in broadcasting. Burka Avenger is a cartoon series about a mild mannered teacher with secret martial arts skills who uses a flowing black burka to hide her identity as she fights local criminals seeking to shut down the girls' school where she works. The Urdu language show is the brainchild of one of Pakistan's biggest pop stars, Aaron Haroon Rashid — known to many as simply Haroon — who conceived of it as a way to emphasize the importance of girls' education, protecting the environment and not discriminating against others.



## **PAKISTANI DOCTOR GIVEN UN AWARD ON CHILD HEALTH**

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Margaret Chan announced the 'Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize' for Dr Bhutta at a session of the assembly in Geneva on Thursday. Dr Bhutta is the founding director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at Aga Khan University Karachi and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. Dr. Bhutta is the first Pakistani to receive this award. Dr Bhutta's research interests include newborn and child survival, maternal and child malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. He leads a large group based in Pakistan with a special interest in research synthesis.

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1108331/pakistani-doctor-given-un-award-on-child-health>

## **ALSO PAKISTAN...**

### **PAKISTANI STUDENTS WIN THE KING ABDUL-AZIZ & HIS COMPANIONS FOUNDATION FOR GIFTEDNESS AND CREATIVITY AWARD AT THE INTEL INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FAIR 2014 IN LOS ANGELES, CA**

Three Pakistani students Sana Batool, Shazia Bibi, Iqra Irshad, from Punjab Daanish Girls School, Hasilpur, were recognized for their project "Working of Wind Turbine with Low Air Pressure" at Intel-International Science and Engineering Fair. The award worth \$1,000.00 was given by King Abdul-Aziz & his companions foundation for giftedness and creativity. The participating students said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the opening ceremony which included exchanging of pins and badges with students of other countries.

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1107105>

### **RESEARCH PAPERS OF DOW UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (DUHS) YOUNG SCIENTISTS ACCEPTED AT 114TH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY (ASM) CONFERENCE, BOSTON, MA**

Nine young Pakistani scientists from Molecular Pathology Department Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) presented their research papers at the 114th American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Conference held in Boston, USA on 17 May 2014. The ASM is the oldest and largest, life science membership organization in the world and a very prestigious name in the world of science. The students involved in research with Dr Saeed Khan including Asif Iqbal, Noorulaine, Nazish Haider, Maria Zahid, Zeba Zehravi, Fatin Zehra, Sehrish Mohsin, Noorul Huda, Ayaz Ahmed and Kanwal Niazi were not only invited by ASM to give presentations based on their abstracts but were also awarded with travel grants to support their travel expenses due to the impressive quality of their research. The research was on common diseases like tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, C & D, auto-immune and other pathological diseases.

<http://pakistan.onepakistan.com.pk/news/health/302283-research-papers-of-duhs-young-scientists-accepted.html>

### **PAKISTANI CEO KHWAJA MASOOD AKHTAR DESIGNS THE 2014 FIFA WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT BALL**

Khwaja Masood Akhtar, owner and CEO of Forward Sports in Sialkot, Pakistan, who had long dreamed of producing the official ball for the FIFA World Cup fulfilled his dream this year. Akhtar's factory 'Forward Sports' is the largest football producer in Pakistan, primarily manufacturing footballs for Adidas.





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The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.  
Please send your comments to [newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org](mailto:newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org)  
or visit [www.embassyofpakistanusa.org](http://www.embassyofpakistanusa.org)

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