MESSAGE FROM DR. ASAD M. KHAN
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES

The month of November marked the continuation of high level interactions between Washington and Islamabad that began with the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to the United States in October. In November we witnessed greater focus and coordination on energy, defense and strategic security, as the Embassy welcomed a number of high profile delegations under the strategic dialogue framework.

The fifth meeting of Pak–US Energy Working Group held in Washington, DC discussed the whole range of Pakistan–US energy cooperation to help Pakistan overcome its energy crisis. This meeting was followed by an Energy Trade Mission to Houston. The purpose of this mission was to explore the possibilities of discovering and exploiting oil and gas resources in Pakistan through sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology available with Houston–based US companies.

Meanwhile, the 22nd meeting of Pakistan–US Defense Consultative Group was also held in Washington, DC. The occasion provided a good opportunity to both sides to review the state of cooperation in the defense field and to reaffirm that Pak–US defense partnership is vital to regional and international security and that it should continue to endure and grow in the years ahead. Separately, Islamabad also hosted the Sixth Meeting of the Security Working Group on Strategic Stability and Non-proliferation issues under the strategic dialogue framework.

The wide range of consultations under the strategic dialogue framework and the important decisions taken thereof will deepen the Pak–US bilateral cooperation, and would help in promoting peace, prosperity and security in the region and beyond.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, also visited DC at the invitation of Woodrow Wilson Center where he delivered a key note address on ‘Pakistan's Galloping Urbanization’.

We also had the honour of receiving a senior parliamentary delegation representing different political parties. The delegation was in Washington DC at the invitation of the International Republican Institute.

I would also like to avail of this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best during this holiday season.
THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PAK-US ENERGY WORKING GROUP HELD IN WASHINGTON DC UNDER THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK

The fifth meeting of the Pak-US Energy Working Group, under the Strategic Dialogue Framework, was held in Washington DC. The Pakistani delegation was jointly led by Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Water and Power and Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources and included senior officials from the two Ministries. The Working Group discussed the whole range of Pakistan-US energy cooperation issues and explored ways to help Pakistan overcome its energy shortfall in line with the priorities identified by Prime Minister Sharif and President Barack Obama in their meeting in October. The Working Group reviewed the existing and future cooperation in oil and gas as well as power sectors and also discussed the renewable energy potential in Pakistan. The Pakistani delegation also emphasized the need for enhanced U.S. assistance in the construction of large hydroelectric projects, particularly the Diamir-Bhasha, given its water storage and power generation related significance. The next round of the Energy Working Group will be held in Islamabad next year.

PAK-US ENERGY WORKING GROUP MEETS US SECRETARY OF ENERGY, DR. ERNEST MONIZ

The Pakistani Energy Working Group delegation met with U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz. During this meeting the two sides held wide ranging discussions on ways and means to further explore the potential offered by Pakistan's vast energy resources. Secretary Energy appreciated the steps taken by the government to overcome the energy crisis in Pakistan including the retirement of circular debt and assured of continued U.S support and technical assistance to help Pakistan deal with its energy challenges. Both sides agreed that Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and CASA-1000 projects would help regional integration and will greatly help in meeting the growing energy demands in the region.

POWER SECTOR DELEGATION ROUNDTABLE AT THE US-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

On the sidelines of Pak-US Energy Working Group session in Washington, DC Pakistan's Power Sector delegation led by the Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, was hosted by the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) at the US Chamber of Commerce, for a Business Roundtable. Senior business executives from some of the leading energy sector companies in the US among others attended the Roundtable. Minister for Water and Power briefed the participants about the broad contours of the power policy of Pakistan and highlighted the recent initiatives taken by the Government to manage and overcome the acute energy shortages. The Minister encouraged the participants to invest in the energy sector in Pakistan, which presented a favourable environment with immense potential of growth and immediate dividends. The Minister also shared with participants the gist of discussions held in the Energy Working Group meetings and the interest shown by the US Government to collaborate with Pakistan in providing technical and financial assistance to revamp and revive the energy sector. The Roundtable participants evinced keen interest in working with the Government to further explore avenues of investment in energy projects in Pakistan.
PAK-US COOPERATION UNDER THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK

PAKISTAN’S POWER SECTOR DELEGATION MEETS WITH PRESIDENT, OPIC

As part of the Energy Working Group related interactions, the Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif met with President Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Ms. Elizabeth Littlefield and her team. During the meeting the two sides reviewed the program portfolio of OPIC in Pakistan. Ms. Elizabeth Littlefield noted that recent reforms introduced by the Government of Pakistan in the energy sector had sent positive signal to the US business community and would lead to an enhanced flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the coming months. She informed that OPIC was considering a range of projects in the fields of Wind Energy, Food processing and other sectors. Minister Asif emphasized that with the personal commitment of the Prime Minister to continue with his reform agenda, Pakistan was presenting an attractive choice for international investors. He assured Ms. Littlefield that the US investors would be provided full facilitation by the government. Terming wind energy as one of the priorities of the government, Secretary Water and Power informed that the government was determined to establish the “Wind Corridor” and would ensure that the additional electricity is added in the system without any delay.

ENERGY TRADE MISSION VISITS HOUSTON, TEXAS

A 22-member Energy Trade Mission led by Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources visited Houston, Texas. The aim of the mission was to explore the possibility of discovering and exploiting oil and gas resources in Pakistan through sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology available with Houston-based US companies. During the two-day mission, nearly 30 private Pakistani companies, state-owned enterprises, and oil and gas officials met with leading U.S. energy companies to identify business opportunities, explain incentives offered by the Pakistani government, and attract investment from the private sector to Pakistan’s oil and gas sector. The delegates
apprised the US side of Pakistan’s needs and potential for cooperation in the energy sector. The hosts gave presentations on the resources and expertise available with them and the experience of sharing the same with companies from friendly countries.

**FEDERAL MINISTER FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS PROFESSOR AHSAN IQBAL VISITS WASHINGTON, DC**

Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, visited Washington, DC. During his stay in Washington, Minister Iqbal met with Ms Sri Mulyani, Managing Director World Bank. He also spoke at the International Food Policy Research Institute on Pakistan’s 2025 vision and delivered a key note address at the Wilson Center on “Pakistan’s Galloping Urbanization”. The Minister also interacted with a group of leading Pakistani–American entrepreneurs at the Council on Pakistan Relations.

**PAKISTAN AND THE US DISCUSS SECURITY, STRATEGIC STABILITY AND NONPROLIFERATION ISSUES UNDER THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK**

Additional Secretary for United Nations and Economic Coordination Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and U.S. Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller co–chaired the sixth round of the Pakistan–U.S. Security, Strategic Stability, and Nonproliferation (SSS&NP) Working Group in Islamabad. The delegations had a productive exchange of views on issues of mutual importance, including international efforts to enhance nuclear security and peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The participants also shared views on nonproliferation challenges as well as on the multilateral regimes on chemical and biological weapons, export controls, and the importance of regional stability and security. The delegations reaffirmed that the Working Group remains an invaluable forum for discussing issues of interest and stated that they looked forward to future sessions.
The 22nd meeting of the US-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group (DCG), a working group under the strategic dialogue framework, was held in Washington, D.C. The two sides were led, respectively, by General Lt. Gen. (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik, Pakistan’s Secretary of Defense, and Dr. James N. Miller, the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Affirming their mutual commitment to a strong defense relationship, the delegations agreed that Pakistan-U.S. defense partnership is vital to regional and international security and that it should continue to endure and grow in the years ahead. The United States recognized Pakistan’s success in its counter-terrorism campaign this year, as well as Pakistan’s broader efforts to achieve internal security. Both sides reviewed the challenges to regional security, emphasizing the importance of regional peace and stability, especially following the U.S. drawdown in Afghanistan. Recognizing the mutual desirability of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, the U.S. delegation thanked Pakistan for its support for promoting reconciliation and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to continued engagement in the region. The delegations underscored the critical significance of cross-border cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan to achieve shared objectives. Both delegations expressed satisfaction on the Lines of Communication (LOCs) and the U.S. delegation noted Pakistan’s positive efforts to counter threats from improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

**EMBASSY NEWS AND EVENTS**

**A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PAKISTAN VISITS WASHINGTON, DC**

A Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan visited Washington, DC at the invitation of the International Republican Institute. The delegation comprised of Mr. Zafar Iqbal Jhagra, Secretary General PML (N), Sardar Muhammad Arshad Khan Leghari, MNA, PML (N), Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, MNA, PTI, Mr. Amir Haider Khan Hoti MNA, ANP and Mr. Rehan Hashmi MNA from MQM. During their stay in Washington, the delegation held meetings with the US legislators including Senators Dianne Feinstein and James Risch. The Parliamentarians also met with officials of the State Department and were hosted for an internal briefing at the Embassy.
EMBASSY NEWS AND EVENTS

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON DC HELD A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HONOR OF (LATE) BRIGADIER SAJID SHAKOOR.

A GROUP OF EMERGING PAKISTANI ARTISTS AND STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS ART COLLEGES OF PAKISTAN VISITS THE EMBASSY

A group of emerging Pakistani artists and students from various art colleges of Pakistan visited the Embassy. The group was led by Mr. Jamal Shah, Chairman Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts, Islamabad. The Head of Chancery, Mr. Muhammad Hassan welcomed the group of artists and briefed them about the efforts of the Embassy to project Pakistan's culture in the United States and the various cultural activities. The Pakistani artists are on a visit to the United States in connection with the painting exhibition of their works of art at the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC. The painting exhibition, Pakistani Voices– In Conversation with the Migration Series, which started on Oct 1, 2013 will continue at the Phillips until December 31, 2013.
U.S. CONSUL GENERAL LAUNCHES GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK
Global Entrepreneurship Week was launched at the Pak100 Awards and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Enterprise Forum Pakistan (MITEF) Summit in Lahore. The event, attended by 250 Pakistani entrepreneurs and business leaders, reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to supporting Pakistan’s young entrepreneurs and the importance of increased trade and investment to the future of Pak-US relations.
The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.
Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org
or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org