Message from Dr. Asad M. Khan, Chargé d’Affaires

In Pakistan, in June we witnessed a smooth democratic transition of power that underscored our commitment to the democratic process and our desire for good governance. Achieving security and greater prosperity for the people of Pakistan is the new government’s top priority. The Government is determined to realize this by instituting more transparency, ensuring due process, undertaking economic reforms, overcoming the national energy crisis, and providing efficient pathways for foreign investment. To showcase the Government’s resolve to urgently and directly deal with the economic challenges faced by Pakistan and to further promote and strengthen business and investment ties between our two countries, the new economic team led by the Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar joined an impressive group of business leaders from the United States and Pakistan for the Pakistan-U.S. Business Opportunities Conference in Dubai on June 25-26, 2013.

Focusing on improving relations with our neighbors and facilitating regional trade is another key priority of the new Government which we believe will help foster peace, prosperity and economic growth in the region.

In Washington, we supported a number of initiatives aimed at promoting people to people contacts, particularly involving the youth. We concluded the first of what will be a regular certificate course on “Understanding Pakistan”. The course offered by the Embassy is designed to open a window to Pakistan for Washingtonians. The Embassy also hosted a variety of events to explore new avenues for innovation and collaboration including the GIST Impact through Entrepreneurship program and the 4th annual U.S. Pakistan Youth Leadership Conference.

We look forward to continuing these initiatives in the coming months to empower our youth and support their efforts as they contribute to a better society here and abroad.

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U.S.-PAKISTAN SENIOR OFFICERS PROGRAM

Delegations led by U.S. Lt. General Christopher A Kelly, USAF, U.S. Maj. General Joseph Ward, Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College USAF, and Pakistani Lt. General Shafqat Ahmad participated in the U.S.-Pakistan Senior Officers Program, a multi-year initiative of the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) and the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS). This twelve-day course includes faculty and participant presentations, guest lectures, exchanges with senior policy makers and round table discussions and concludes with an operational planning exercise in which the Pakistani and U.S. participants function as combined staff.

CHARGE D’AFFAIRES DR. ASAD M. KHAN MEETS WITH CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS

Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Republican Congressman Steve Stockman of Texas and Republican Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee to discuss Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relations. Congressman Stockman spoke fondly of the Pakistani American community in his constituency in Houston and emphasized the need for strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two nations.

PAKISTAN - U.S. RELATIONS

GREGORY GOTTLIEB SWORN IN AS MISSION DIRECTOR FOR PAKISTAN

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah swore in Gregory Gottlieb as the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Mission Director for Pakistan in the presence of family, friends, colleagues, and the Embassy of Pakistan’s Charge d’Affaires, Dr. Asad M. Khan. Gottlieb will be responsible for managing USAID’s program in Pakistan which is focused on five priority sectors: energy, economic growth, stabilization, education, and health. Gottlieb has served in Namibia, Malawi, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR JAMES DOBBINS VISITS PAKISTAN

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador James Dobbins met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister’s Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and Foreign Secretary Jilani to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process. Ambassador Dobbins expressed great appreciation for the role Pakistan has played helping to advance this process. Ambassador Dobbins reiterated the United States’ commitment to working with the new democratically-elected government of Pakistan to build a strong, mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

PAKISTANI AMERICAN CONGRESS ANNUAL SUMMIT

Established in 1990, the Pakistan American Congress held its annual summit in Washington, DC to strengthen the ties between the U.S. legislature and Pakistanis and Pakistan supporters. In attendance were Rep. Andre Carson (D-Indiana), Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Rep. Nick Rahall (D-West Virginia), and Rep. Steve Stockman (R-Texas).
PAKISTAN USA BILATERAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE IN DUBAI

The Government of Pakistan and the U.S. government hosted more than 200 Pakistani, American, and Emirati companies at the “U.S.-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference” in Dubai, to help Pakistani and American companies and investors identify new business opportunities together. Pakistan’s Minister of Finance, Ishaq Dar, led the Pakistani delegation and was joined by Science and Technology Minister Khurram Dastigir, Water and Power Minister Khawaja Asif, Adviser on Foreign Affairs Javed Malik, and Secretary of Commerce Munir Qureshi. The U.S. delegation included USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah, Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Robin Raphel, U.S. Ambassador Richard Olson, and Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Dan Feldman. Representatives from the State Department, the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and USAID also attended.

KARACHI STOCK EXCHANGE DELEGATION VISITS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, DC

In New York, the Karachi Stock Exchange partnered with Bloomberg, a global financial news and data provider, and JS Global to host a “Pakistan Investment Conference” to bring together the management of several of Pakistan’s listed companies, international financial institutions and potential investors from across the United States. The conference was intended to generate awareness of the investment opportunities in Pakistan’s capital market. While addressing the conference, KSE Chairman Muneer Kamal highlighted the strong performance of the Pakistan stock market despite a challenging global financial environment. The performance of the KSE has been one of the best within the emerging and frontier markets over the last 12 months, with the 100-share index rising by over 65 percent during this period.

In Washington, DC, the U.S.-Pakistan Business Council hosted a panel discussion titled “Emerging Growth Opportunities and Development of Capital Markets in Pakistan” moderated by Ambassador Teresita Schaffer. Panel participants, Ambassador Robin Raphel, Dr. Asad Khan, Charge d’Affairs, Embassy of Pakistan, Mr. Muneer Kamal, Chairman KSE and Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Managing Director KSE, underscored the historic milestone Pakistan reached through a peaceful transition of power. Mr. Kamal also highlighted rising economic optimism, stemming from the policy decisions announced by the new Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, which he believes will help to stabilize the economy and improve relations with India through the promotion of intra-regional trade.

DINNER IN HONOR OF SENIOR IMF OFFICIALS

Economic Minister, Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq Chandna, hosted a dinner at his residence for a number of senior officials from the International Monetary Fund, including Jeff Franks, Daniella Gressani, Adnan Mazari, and Raza Baqir.
While the mainstream media often focuses on the problems Pakistan faces and the challenges confronted by our government and our society, there is a substantial amount of good news coming out of Pakistan.

The Embassy is pleased to share these stories of achievement with you as we redefine a narrative for Pakistan based on the values of equitable democratic and social entitlements, pluralism, rule of law and transparent governance.

**PAKISTANI SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR REDEFINING ONLINE TRAVEL SERVICE**

Ruzwana Bashir is the cofounder of Peek, an online travel concierge service that creates an online forum highlighting the best activities and experiences a traveler can explore in a new city. The company includes investors such as Google’s Chairman and Twitter’s cofounder and offers travel excursions in 12 U.S. markets and launches in London and Paris this summer.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323469804578523532958719720?mg=reno64-wsj.html?dsk=y

**PAKISTAN GROWING AS A RESEARCH HUB**

Research publications out of Pakistan increased 50 percent during the last two years, the second highest increase worldwide. The number of Ph.D faculty at public universities has also increased, by nearly 50 percent, from 4203 to 6067 in the last two years.


**PLANTING A RECORD**

Pakistan set a new Guinness World Record for the number of saplings planted in one day. The previous record, held by India, was bested when 300 volunteers, organized by the Sindh Coastal Community Development Project, planted 750,000 mangrove saplings in one day.


**THE ROOF GARDEN COMMISSION**

This year the annual exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City is displaying the work of Pakistan’s most famous contemporary artist, Imran Qureshi.


**AYEsha FARooQ, PIONEER AND FIGHTER PILOT**

Ayesha Farooq, a 26-year-old Pakistani woman from Punjab province, made history by becoming the first female fighter pilot in Pakistan’s Air Force. Farooq is one of 19 female pilots who have joined the service in the last decade, five of whom are also training to become fighter pilots.

http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/06/12/pakistan-airforce-women-idINDEE95B0GZ20130612

**THE CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION**

A growing number of female college students are enrolling in teacher training programs as part of the USAID Teacher Education Project. At least 22 universities and 89 teacher colleges are employing the program in an effort to raise educational standards and train the next generation of educators.

http://www.edc.org/newsroom/articles/teaching_change_pakistan

**SCIENTISTS MAKE HEARING BREAKTHROUGH**

A team comprised of Pakistani and American scientists discovered a gene responsible for hearing impairment. Their discovery, published in a major medical journal, will help doctors treat patients and may one day help restore hearing.


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**ALSO PAKISTAN**

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EMBASSY PROGRAM BUILDS RELATIONSHIP FROM THE GRASSROOTS

The Embassy held a ceremony to conclude its certificate course on “Understanding Pakistan.” The course, which will be conducted on a regular basis, was designed to provide interested young Americans and Pakistani-Americans a basic understanding and knowledge of Pakistan’s society and culture, economy, trade and foreign policy. Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mr. Cameron Thomas-Shah and Ms. Ambereen Husain expressed the participants deep appreciation for the Embassy’s initiative and termed the course very timely and highly informative. In his remarks, Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad Khan congratulated the participants and underscored the need for tackling misconceptions and debunking myths about Pakistan.

Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan, Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan, and Mr. Cameron Thomas-Shah spoke and presented participants their Certificates at the Award Ceremony at the final session of the Understanding Pakistan education program.
IMPACT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP
The Embassy hosted an event with GIST Impact through Entrepreneurship, convening entrepreneurs and investors from the United States and Pakistan. The attendees discussed exciting international opportunities in the technology sector and exchanged ideas on investment. Five entrepreneurs were each given five minutes to pitch their business plans to the audience and receive critical feedback from a panel of expert business plan judges. The GIST initiative, works to promote entrepreneurship in 54 countries across the Middle East, Turkey, Asia and Africa by identifying, coaching, and funding the most promising technology entrepreneurs through business plan competitions, startup acceleration services, online social media platforms and interactive mentorship programs.

EMBASSY HOSTS 4TH U.S.-PAKISTAN FOUNDATION YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
For the fourth year, the Embassy of Pakistan jointly collaborated with the U.S.-PAK Foundation to host the Annual Youth Leadership Conference 2013. Speaking on the occasion, Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan lauded the contribution of U.S.-PAK Foundation in providing a platform for young Pakistani Americans to learn about the United States and Pakistan. He emphasized the significance of the role played by the young Pakistani American diaspora and discussed the Embassy’s Generation Next Initiative, launched to build bridges between Pakistani and American youth.

PAKISTAN’S WOMEN’S FIELD HOCKEY TEAM VISITS EMBASSY
Members of Pakistan’s youth female field hockey team visited the United States on a 10-day program funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The team members played and practiced with their American counterparts as part of the ‘Empowering Women and Girls through Sports’ initiative.
EMBASSY NEWS & EVENTS

NMC DELGATION VISITS EMBASSY

Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Mr. M. Ismail Qureshi, Rector National School of Public Policy Lahore, and hosted participants from the 98th National Management Course of senior civil servants during the delegation’s visit to the Embassy.

APPNA VIRGINIA CHAPTER’S ANNUAL PHYSICIAN BANQUET IN RICHMOND

At an event hosted by members of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan underscored the importance of unity and solidarity to effectively project and promote Pakistan’s image in the United States. He stressed the need for the Pakistani-American community, especially APPNA, to play a proactive role in building bridges between Pakistan and the United States. In attendance was Dr. Asif Rehman, President-elect of APPNA 2014, Dr. Rasheed Paracha, member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Hameed Paracha, Chairman of APPNA’s 2014 Convention, Dr. Talha, Co-Chairman Convention APPNA 2014, Dr. Asaf Riyaz Qadeer, APPNA’s Secretary, and Dr. Nisar Chaudhry, Life Member of APPNA. Also in attendance was Mr. Bilal Hayee, Political Counselor, and Mr. Salman Sharif, First Secretary of the Embassy of Pakistan. Dr. Khan distributed lifetime achievement awards to senior APPNA members for professional excellence and distinguished service to their community.

FAREWELL DINNER FOR EMBASSY MINISTER SYRUS QAZI

After serving for seven years as the Minister for Political Affairs at the Embassy, Syrus Qazi returned to Islamabad to serve in the Secretariat for the Prime Minister. In his remarks Charge d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan noted Mr. Qazi’s efforts and contribution to the Embassy.
The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback. 
Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org