



Ministry of Environment

Tuesday the 29th May, 2007

**Training- Workshop on “Climate Change and Natural Resource
Management in Pakistan”
29th May to 1st June 2007, Best Western Hotel, Islamabad.**

OPENING REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Malik Amin Aslam, Minister of State for Environment,

Esther Haldiman, Delegate, Inter- Cooperation

Distinguished guests, Workshop participants; Ladies and gentlemen:

I welcome you all to this workshop on “Climate Change and Natural Resource Management in Pakistan” organized by Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Inter-Cooperation, United Nations Development Programme and Pakistan Tropical Forestry Programme of UNDP.

The April 2007 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impacts of Climate Change shows that the international community can no more afford to do nothing as global warming has already started having major effects on ecosystems, water resources and coastal zones across the world.

The Ministry of Environment, being the focal Ministry in Pakistan for Climate Change, is undertaking all necessary measures for enhancing the country’s capacity

to combat the problem. The following steps have been taken by Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan in this regards:

- (i) A Prime Minister's Committee on Climate Change has been constituted as policy and review forum.
- (ii) A Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) has been established for undertaking research on Climate Change and suggesting appropriate adaptation measures.
- (iii) A Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Cell has been established under the Climate Change Wing of the M/o Environment to facilitate approval of CDM Projects, in the country. Host Country Approval for three CDM Projects has been accorded by the Ministry. Development of Mega Forest Sequestration projects in all the four provinces is being supported by this Ministry.
- (iv) An amount of Rs.20 billion has been allocated under Medium-Term Development Framework (MTDF) (2005-2010) for the improvement of environment sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Forest and vegetation have a unique role in the global carbon cycle. They are the natural mechanism for removing carbon- dioxide from the air. Planting more trees and reducing timber cuts helps restore the imbalance, and contribute significantly to reduce the world greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and thus help in mitigating climate change.

This four-day training workshop brings together experts from a range of professional capabilities to share their valuable knowledge and experiences. It is expected that this

workshop will build the capacity of the participants for the effective management of natural resources in changing climate scenarios in Pakistan.

At this occasion, I would like to appreciate the efforts of the organizers of the workshop for taking this initiative. The Ministry of Environment is grateful to the Resource Persons from Inter- Cooperation who traveled long way to help us in enhancing our understanding about the climate change and natural resource management. I also appreciate the support from the United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan Tropical Forestry Programme of the UNDP for organizing this event.

I hope that the workshop will come up with solid recommendations.

Thank you.

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