

WORKSHOP ON “CARBON CREDITS POTENTIAL IN CEMENT PRODUCTION SECTOR”

30TH JANUARY, 2008

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ADDITIONAL SECRETARY ENVIRONMENT

Bismillah er Rahman er Rahim

- Mr. Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi, Secretary, Ministry of Environment.
- Mr. Sajjad Ahmad. Joint Secretary (IC) Ministry of Environment.
- Officials, Representatives from Cement Industry, Experts and fellows:

Assalam o' Alaikum

I welcome you all to this workshop on “*Carbon Credits Potential in Cement Production Sector of Pakistan*”, organized by the Clean Development Mechanism Cell, Ministry of Environment.

The tremendous increase in the use of conventional fossil fuels has increased the level of Greenhouse Gases in the atmosphere, which is causing Global Warming and rapid changes in our climatic system. The negative impacts of these changes are already evident on every sector of economy and has become a major concern for Governments across the globe.

Ministry of Environment is the Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM and is undertaking a number of initiatives for capitalizing carbon as tradable commodity from different carbon intensive sectors. This workshop specifically focuses on cement industry, which is a life- line of the national economy of Pakistan. It is believed that tapping the potential of carbon trading in this important sector will not only help earning additional revenue, but will also help the companies in this sector to comply with the National Environmental

Quality Standards in addition to achieving the objectives of their corporate social values.

This workshop also aims at highlighting the benefits of developing CDM projects cement industry by providing a platform for potential project proponents to interact, understand and discuss the possibilities of tapping the carbon credits potential in cement production industry.

Under the dynamic leadership of Secretary Environment, the Ministry of Environment has initiated a comprehensive awareness raising programme, with focus of most energy intensive sector of our economy. Sufficient financial resources have been made available in this regard. The vision behind this is to promote the development of CDM projects in all potential sectors, so that revenue from carbon credits can be maximized. This will also help in addressing our national environmental conservation objectives.

I would particularly like to mention that, a number of investors and CDM project advisory companies have also been invited. This unique representation will provide an opportunity to help the development of a competitive carbon market in Pakistan. I hope that this initiative will contribute significantly in obtaining the desired goals and will also help Pakistan in capturing a due share in global carbon market.

Finally, I welcome all the workshop participants and wish all of you fruitful deliberations and discussions and also hope that the desired objectives of this workshop will be achieved.

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