

THE VIION

INAUGURAL ISSUE

THE NEWS LETTER OF

Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law

Volume 1, Issue 1

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From Secretary General's desk THREE YEARS OF PROGRESS

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law launched itself at a glittering ceremony on 10th May 2003. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mian Khurshid M. Kasuri was the Chief Guest of the ceremony which was largely attended by veterans and stalwarts of Pakistan's Foreign Service and the heads of diplomatic missions in Karachi.



Since its inception in May 2003 the Karachi Council invited national and international scholars, members of the Diplomatic Corps and foreign dignitaries, from time to time, to express their views on vital issues and current problems which included Foreign Minister, H.E. Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri; former Finance Minister and now Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz; the British Defense College Delegation; Minister of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs. H.E. Mr. Mike O'Brien MP; Indian High Comissioner, H.E. Mr. Shivshankar Menon; Ambassador of USA, H.E. Ms. Nancy Powel; the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, H.E. Mr. Douglas Alexander MP; H.E. Mr. L.K. Advani, President of BJP and Leader of Indian Opposition; H.E. Ambassador Mrs. Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on UN reforms; 28 member delegation of Foreign Ministry Officials from 19 countries; H.E. Mr. Jaswant Singh M.P. Leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha of India and former Minister of External Affairs Affairs; H.E. Dr. Gunter Mulack, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany: H.E. Mr. Regis de Belenet, Ambassador of France in Pakistan: H.E. Syed Mustafa Kamal, City Nazim (Mayor) of Karachi; H.E. Mr. Sebastian Edathy, Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee of the German National Parliament, H.E. Mr. Gustavo Machin Gomez, Ambassador of Republic of Cuba in Pakistan and H.E. Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Deputy High Commissioner of India and many Ambassadors accredited to Pakistan. H.E. I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India has accepted our invitation in principle and is expected. to address the Karachi Council, H.E. Mr. Shivshanker Menon, Secretary of External Affairs of India is also expected to address the Karachi

A high level goodwill Mission of Karachi Council visited India on the invitation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) New Delhi through the courtesy of the High Commission of India in Islamabad.

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The goodwill Mission had a series of meetings with the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis, Confederation of Indian Industry, the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Bar Association of India, Centre for Policy Research, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, H.E. Mr. I.K. Gujral, Former Prime Minister of India and Indian Council of World Affairs. The members of the goodwill Mission also called on H.E. Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India and had a very cordial exchange of talk on bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Karachi Council organized a seminar to throw light on the achievements, failures and prospects of SAARC on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the founding of the SAARC. It was a well attended seminar. H.E. Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Shivshankar Memon, High Commissioner of India and the Consul General of Sri Lanka spoke on the occasion.

It is heartening to note that the Karachi Council launched the book on "WTO and Pakistan - an overview" published by the Council. A hall filled to capacity with heads and members of apex business, trade and industrial associations, and a big segment of the business and banking and finance community witnessed the launching of the book which was launched by no less a personage than the new Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The presence of many very eminent members of the intellectual society was an indicator of the importance and need for a book on the subject.

The Karachi Council has planned to publish two research papers on "Indo Pak Peace Process: The New Realities" and "Expansion of SAARC: Prospects and Challenges" prepared by the research team of Prof. Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director, Social Policy & Development Centre.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Chief Justice (Retd.) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Chairman of Karachi Council who has all along been cooperative and helpful to me in running the affairs of KCFR. Whenever I approached him for his guidance regarding the affairs of the Karachi Council, be it at night or day, he was always eager to help me. I also owe my gratitude to Ambassador Mr. S.K. Dehlavi, Mr. Liaquat H. Merchant and members of the Executive Committee for their cooperation and advice extended to me during the period of last three years of the existence of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law. I also wish to express my special thanks to Mr. Nurullah Khan, Co-Editor, who took pain, for successfully publishing this New Letter.

I look forward to the continued support and cooperation extended to me by all of them in years to come. I wish them good luck, health and happiness.

AHSAN MUKHTAR ZUBAIRI SECRETARY GENERAL & CEO



ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY

The genesis of the Society can be traced to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations which was addressed by His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan and its information on the web inspired Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, now the Secretary General & CEO of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law, to make a council on the same LINES. He found many intellectuals in the city agreeing with him. They all felt that there was a need for such a society which would not only be beneficial for Pakistan but for many other countries. For one thing there was a need for such a forum. As such 17 persons who are known as the founding members of Karachi Council got together and after long deliberations formed the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law. The bye-laws were drawn. The Council was formally inaugurated at Marriott Hotel, Karachi on 10th May, 2003.

INTRODUCTION

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law is a non-profit international organization in Pakistan and serves the community in Pakistan and of Karachi through diversified programming. The Karachi Council provides members with specialized group and the general public with a forum for the consideration of significant international issues and their bearing on Pakistan's foreign policy. It is a forum at which Pakistani and foreign scholars can present the results of their research and study.



MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF JUSTICE (RETD.) SAEED UZ ZAMAN SIDDIQUI, Chairman, KARACHI COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS & LAW

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law (KCFR) is presenting its first NEWS LETTER having completed three years of existence. The News Letter contains broad information regarding aims and objects of the Council besides presenting a catalogue of activities of the



Council during the past three years. Within the short period of its existence the KCFR arranged a number of interactive sessions by inviting outstanding diplomats, politician and other dignitaries to hold discussions and express views on issue of international relations and changing economic scenarios to disseminate information and educate the public opinion. The Council also led a delegation to the neighboring country India in the backdrop of break through in the normalization of relations between the two countries and shared and exchanged views and information with the similar organizations working there. Encouraged by the response of intelligentsia KCFR is hopeful of presenting soon, research papers on current issue facing the international community in general and Pakistan in particular in the field of foreign relations and economics. I congratulate Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General & CEO without whose help and efforts it would not have been possible to launch the first NEWS LETTER of KCFR and hope that the News Letter will continue this exercise to provide useful information to the members of the Council and the public at large.



MESSAGE FROM

MR. AHSAN MUKHTAR ZUBAIRI, Secretary General & CEO, KARACHI COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS & LAW

I am delighted to bring out the first News letter of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law. The necessity of a mouthpiece in the form of a News Letter of the Karachi Council was felt for a long time. Finally it has seen the light. This news letter will cater news on the events of KCFR that took place during the past three years.



I hope the members of KCFR will find this News Letter informative. We will try our best to improve the quality of the News Letter in due course of time which will include research papers, articles and views concerning Pakistan. I look forward to the valuable suggestions and comments of the members of the Council in this connection. The Council will appreciate contribution of articles from nonmembers also.

The News Letter will be distributed to the members of the Karachi Council as well as to the members of the Diplomatic Mission, academicians, jurists and elites through out Pakistan.



HATS OFF TO KARACHI COUNCIL BY DR. ASGHAR SHEIKH NASIR, EDITOR

Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law was successfully launched on 10th May, 2003. One of the "Success" stories of KCFR in the last three years has now Eighty Five active members. It sponsored over Twenty Three workshops and seminars, prominent local



and foreign experts on wide range of international issues presented papers.

The launching of the book titled "WTO and Pakistan - an overview" by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan is an addition of a feather in the cap of KCFR.

The Karachi Council is also publishing two research papers on "Indo Pak Peace Process: the new Realities and "Expansion of SAARC: Prospects and Challenges" prepared by the research team of Prof. Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director, Social Policy & Development Centre.

The council offers free exchange of ideas to increase coopertion and understanding among developed and developing nations. It initiates to work together towards solving, problems through dialog process. It offers a unique opportunity to join in an effort to promote understanding to meet challenges for economic development and to foster partnership, friendship among individuals from various background and countries.

The overall objective of the KCFR, therefore is to create an environment that will inspire constructive insights, encourage an open exchange of views, and promote policy innovation. It offers opportunities to meet with public policymakers, leading businessmen, eminent scholars, prominent citizen and foreign dignitaries.



EVENTS HELD SO FAR UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COUNCIL

An update of the functions organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law, from time to time, are as follows:

INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Karachi Council launched itself at a glittering ceremony on May 10, 2003. H.E. Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan was the Chief Guest of the ceremony which was largely attended by veterans and stalwarts of Pakistan's Foreign Service and the heads of diplomatic missions in Karachi. The purpose of the Council is to provide a platform where discussions, debates and interactions between governments and government representatives could take place on pertinent issues to resolve contentions and promote peace and progress.

The launch has been helpful in opening doors of communication between government and diplomats. The Council will take its platform of discussion to other cities of Pakistan too in future.



VISIT OF H.E. MR. SHAUKAT AZIZ, THE THEN FINANCE MINISTER AND NOW PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law arranged a Seminar on the topic of "Economic Reforms - the Future Agenda on August 23, 2003. Mr. Shaukat Aziz was the Chief Guest and Mr. Shahid Kardar, a former Finance Minister of Punjab and an economist was the Guest speaker on the occasion. The Seminar was attended by the members of the Karachi Council, the business elites and heads of multinational and corporate business sector of Karachi.



The Chief Guest highlighted the achievements of the Government in the economic field and unveiled its future programme. The Guest Speaker offered his expert analysis of the policies of the government and explained his viewpoint with the help of transparencies which were greatly appreciated by the audience.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session wherein the audience actively participated. Earlier the Chairman of the Council welcomed the Chief Guest, the Guest Speaker from Punjab and the audience and introduced the subject of discussion. The Secretary General highlighted the aims and objects of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law. The function was followed by high tea served to the guests.



VISIT OF H.E. MS. NANCY POWELL, THE U.S. AMBASSSADOR TO PAKISTAN

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Nancy Powell was invited on November 13, 2003 by the Council to speak on "Pak - American Relations". The Ambassador who has had a long career in diplomacy spoke on the U.S. Foreign policy and threw light on the economic, political and military aspects of the policy. She reiterated the government's commitment to enforcing human rights and democracy as the only way to promote peace and progress. She gave out facts and figures about the extent of aid and long-term loans given to Pakistan for its economic, social and civil development.

The Chairman of the Karachi Council, Justice (Retd.) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui welcomed the guests and thanked the US Ambassador for taking time out from his busy schedule to address the interactive session.



Mr Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General delivered his address of thanks and appreciated the Ambassador's gesture of carving out time to accept the Council's request to address the gathering. The prominent personalities among the guests were, former Governor of Sindh, Lt. Gen (Retd..) Moinuddin Haider, several provincial ministers, judges, lawyers, businessmen end the media.



VISIT BY ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES DELEGATION

A delegation of `Royal College of Defence Studies consisting of senior officers and officials of United Kingdom and other countries of the world visited Pakistan on a study tour.

The delegation accompanied by the Deputy Head of the Mission of United Kingdom in Karachi and Defence Advisor of High Commission of the United Kingdom at Islamabad, called on the members of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law on October 11, 2003.

The delegation held on in-depth discussion during the luncheon meeting held at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, on matters relating to strategic balances with special reference to South Asia Region. The meeting was followed by an hour-long question and answer session.



VISIT OF H.E. MR. MIKE O'BRIEN, BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Mike O'Brien was invited by the Karachi Council as a Keynote speaker to deliver a lecture on "Pakistan and Britain: A Developing Relationship" on December 11, 2003 Mr. O'Brien said that the trade between the United Kingdom and Pakistan is steadily growing and by the end of the current year it will exceed pound sterling 1 billion. He lauded the efforts of the Council in promoting diplomatic activities in Pakistan.

Earlier Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General of the Council introduced the Minister while Mr. Liaquat H. Merchant presented the welcome address. A selected gathering of politicians, diplomats, opinion leaders, newsmen and businessmen attended the programme.



A TALK BY H.E. MR. SHIVSHANKAR MENON, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA ON "INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY"

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law invited H.E. Mr. Shivshankar Menon, High Commissioner of India in Pakistan at an interactive Session on "Indian Foreign Policy" on April 20, 2004.

Since this was the first visit of Mr. Shivshankar Menon, Justice (Retd) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui, Chairman of Karachi Council introduced the aims and objects of the Karachi Council briefly. The Chairman said that the interactive session with the India High Commissioner was a follow up of the above objectives of the Council and the Karachi Council was grateful to H.E. Shivshankar Menon for accepting the invitation to address the members of the Karachi Council and the distinguished gathering of leaders of public opinion on "Indian Foreign Policy".

India - Pakistan relations has always been a subject of great concern and interest to the governments and the people of both the countries. The interactive session has a special significance and importance as it is being addressed by a representative of Indian government on the soil of Pakistan at a time when the relation between the two neighbouring countries has taken a positive turn towards normalization.



Justice (R) Saeedzumman Siddiqui said that the goodwill and understanding created as a result of people to people contact between the two nations is likely to build a strong base for public opinion in favour of ongoing process of normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. To maintain this growing goodwill and understanding between the people of India and Pakistan it is necessary that the Governments of two countries take appropriate steps to make the traveling easy and cost effective between the two countries by relaxing the existing visa restrictions and establishing visa offices at convenient places on reciprocal basis. The highest number of visitors to India from Pakistan comes from Karachi and other place of Sindh. There is an urgent need for establishment of an India visa office in Karachi.

Whatever may be the reason for the present change in the outlook of the two Governments to resolve the outstanding differences and disputes through peaceful means and negotiations, the people of India and Pakistan should ensure that this historic opportunity is not squandered by the leadership and that the on going process of normalization is taken to its logical goal to bring about long awaited peace and harmony in this region and economic prosperity to the people of India and Pakistan.



GOODWILL MISSION TO NEW DELHI

A high level good will Mission of Karachi Council visited India from September 20 - 24, 2004 on the invitation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) New Delhi through the courtesy of the High Commission of India at Islamabad comprising Chief Justice (Retd.) Mr. Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Chairman, Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General & CEO. Mr. Liaquat H. Merchant, Mr. Mansoor Alam, Mrs. Shaheen Salahuddin, Dr. A.S. Nasir and Mrs. Naseem Liaquat Merchant. The goodwill Mission had a series of meeting with the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, Confederation of Indian Industry, the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations., Ministry of External Affairs, Bar Association of India, Centre for Policy Research, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, H.E. Mr. I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India and Indian Council of World Affairs.



The members of the goodwill Mission called on H.E. Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India on September 22, 2004. After an introduction by the Chairman of Karachi Council, the discussion immediately entered upon the talk of rapidly improving relations between India Pakistan. The Minister handed out to the members of KCFR copies of proposals formulated by his Ministry for Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) which India was prepared to implement and act upon with immediate effect. The paper contained 72 different forms of CBMs and was considered by members of KCFR as an excellent means to promote and upgrade relationship between the two countries. Significantly the issue of Kashmir was not included because India believes .that the issue would become capable of resolution after the relationship between the two countries achieves stability and the atmosphere becomes conducive for a final settlement. The Karachi Council pointed out to the Minister that in his proposal for promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields, the legal fraternity had been excluded and he immediately instructed his secretaries to make necessary changes.

On the issue of providing Pakistan with an appropriate premises for a Consulate in Bombay, he stated that arrangements were being finalized to give Pakistan alternative accommodation as Jinnah House was not available and could not be given to Pakistan.

The Karachi Council Goodwill Mission also called on H.E. Mr. I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India and exchanged views with him on mutual interests.





VISIT OF MR. NIAMATULLAH KHAN, CITY NAZIM

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law held an interactive session on the subject "Problems of Karachi and their solutions" with Mr. Niamatullah Khan, City Nazim on October 5, 2004 at Hotel Avari Towers.

Mr. Niamatullah Khan, City Nazim in his speech said that the City Government has been able to complete several mega projects in spite of many hurdles. He said that the problems of the citizens of Karachi are being solved and the conditions of the people of Karachi are improving. He complained that the provincial government was not cooperating with him in spite of his repeated requests.



Mr. Niamatullah Khan said that he had taken over the charge of the city on August 2001 and at that time the city was facing with multiple problems and the budget of Karachi was only 15 billion of rupees. He increased the budget slowly to 32 billion of rupees. He said that 52% of the people of Karachi are still living in slums and, that is why he says that Karachi is the city of poor. Presently there are 600 slums in Karachi.

Earlier, Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General and CEO of the Karachi Council drew the attention of Mr. Niamatullah Khan to the plight of the overlooked and neglected city of Karachi, the industrial and commercial hub of Pakistan.

In his welcome address Justice (Rtd.) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui , Chairman of Karachi Council welcomed the City Nazim, Mr. Niamatullah Khan and expressed his hope that under the stewardship of the City Nazim, the city government will act with vision and foresight while planning the future development of the city and will keep in view likely requirement of the City in the next 50 years period.

The meeting was largely attended by former Governor of Sindh, former federal Ministers, MNAs, MPAs and elite of the city.



SAARC SEMINAR

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law organized a Seminar on December 7, 2004 to throw light on the achievements, failures and prospects of SAARC on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the founding of the SAARC. Speaking on the occasion the High Commissioner of India, H.E. Mr. Shivshanker Menon expressed satisfaction with SAARC and wondered why such ambitious expectations were attached to SAARC, He said that in response to Chairman of Karachi Council, Justice (Retd.) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui's stipulation in his opening speech that despite several summits and meetings of ministerial level, no particular breakthrough has been achieved in areas of poverty alleviation, hunger, environmental degradation, containment of health and education. Most of the declarations have not been implemented yet, he said, and it tantamount to failure of SAARC.



Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General & CEO in his address advocated the establishment of IT Technology and Science, Medical universities and other institutions of higher learning in the countries of SAARC with equal opportunity to admission to students from all SAARC countries.

Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs reiterated the President's view that SAARC had not performed effectively till 2002 but the 2003 Summit had opened new doors to cooperation and initiated coordinated movement for control of terrorism and human resource development. Pakistan and India were most advantageously located on the map between the east and west, and should move ahead to reap the benefits, buying all squabbles and discords. The 2005 summit, it was agreed, would take SAARC forward a positive journey of increased cooperation and development.



VISIT OF H.E MR. DOUGLAS ALEXANDER MP, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Visit of H.E Mr. Douglas Alexander MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was invited jointly by the British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi and the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law to deliver a speech on "UK-Pakistan: A Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and Progress" on January 10, 2005. H.E the Minister said that UK is working closely with the Government of Pakistan to support her poverty reduction is spending pound 200 million over a period of three years on economic reform, health care and education, which are fundamental to employment and economic growth.

He referred to the visit of President General Pervez Musharraf to London and called it a commitment of the two governments work together for greater peace, prosperity and progress throughout not only South Asia but globally. With regard to global peace, it was imperative to contain and end terrorism. He vehemently rejected the argument of clash of civilizations. He said that both Islam and Christianity can co-exist peacefully and cooperatively.



He welcomed President Pervez Musharraf's approach of enlightened moderation and hoped it would bear fruit. The narcotics trade was another thorn in peace process and UK was focused on completely rooting out drug industry from the world. He strongly advocated regional economic cooperation and wished the Dhaka SAARC Summit would help establishment of an Asian Free Trade Area by 2006.



Earlier, Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General, KCFR, welcomed the guest and introduced the Karachi Council. British Deputy High Commissioner H.E Mr. Hamish Daniel addressed the meeting. A note of thanks was presented by Justice (Retd.) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Chairman of the Karachi Council.

FELICITATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF SITARA-E-IMTIAZ

A dinner was held on April 24, 2005 to honour Mr. S.H. Hashmi, founder member and member of the Executive Committee, Mr. Abdul Razzak Tabba and Mr. Dewan Mohammad Yousuf Farooqui, life members of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law, who have been conferred upon the prestigious award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz by President General Pervez Musharraf, in recognition of their public service and services in their respective fields.



Justice (Retd.) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui, Chairman: Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General; members of the Executive Committee and the participants present on the occasion extended their heartiest felicitations to them.

The Karachi Council announces with profound grief that (late) Mr. S.H. Hashmi, (late) Mr. Abdul Razzak Tabba and (late) Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Farooq are no more with us. May Almighty Allah shower His choicest blessings on the departed souls. Their contributions for the cause of Karachi Council will be remembered for many years to come.

It is heartening to note that Mr. Kazi Asad Abid, Chairman/Chief Editor, Ibrat Group of Publication and a member of Karachi Council has been conferred upon the award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2007 by President General Pervez Musharraf. The Karachi Council extended its heartiest felicitations to him on being awarded the prestigious award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz.



H.E. MR. L.K. ADVANI ADDRESSES KARACHI COUNCIL

H.E. Mr. L.K. Advani, President BJP and leader of the opposition from neighbouring India in his address from the Karachi Council rostrum on June 5, 2005 stressed the continuation of CBM's and emphasized the importance of Composite Dialogue in the pursuance of complete peace. He further pointed out that there was great demand for opening rail, road, air, sea links via Gujrat, Karachi to Bombay. He urged the re-opening of the respective countries consulates in Karachi and Bombay. He also remarked that people suffered from some avoidable contentious issues such as not being able to watch each other's national news channel in their countries.

Mr. L.K. Advani recalled his past, his roots in the soil of Sindh, Karachi to be precise and many scenes flashed by his memory's vision . He reminisced about his childhood days in a little house in Parsi Colony and school days at St. Patrick's school.

Earlier, Justice (Retd.) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui, Chairman of Karachi Council in his welcome address appreciated the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) initiated by BJP government and the mobilization of people to people contact. But he also stressed that all such efforts would be futile if they did not lead to the resolution of the core issues, which definitely are Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachen, the Baghlihar Dam and Neelam river link canal projects. Ambassador (Retd.) Mr. Mansoor Alam presented the vote of thanks.



MEETING WITH H.E. MR. ZHANG CHUNXIANG (H.P.), AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law hosted a breakfast meeting in honour of H.E. Mr. Zhang Chunxiang (H.P.), Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on August 28, 2005 at Karachi Marriott Hotel. The meeting was attended by the senior founder members and life members of the Karachi Council.



In the meeting the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Zhang Chunxiang (H.P.) on the reforms of UN said that China firmly supports increase of representations of the African countries in Security Council. He further said that any enlargement formula must ensure that small and medium sized countries have more opportunities to serve as members of the Security Council and participation in its decision making. The reforms formula concerning various regions should first achieve consensus within relevant regime groups. He said that it was the consisting view of China that the reforms should be realized through a gradual process of democratic discussion aimed at achieving consensus. The issue of reforms was extremely sensitive and complicated because it was not only crucial to international peace and security, but also to immediate interest of all member states of the United Nations.

He opposed the artificial time frame for deciding about the sensitive issue of enlargement and reforms of the UN Security Council. It must uphold the principle of geographical balance and reflect the representation of different cultures and civilization. The Security Council's authority and efficiency must at the same time ensured. The enlargement of the Security Council must give priority to increase the representation and voice of the developing countries. The developing countries constitute over 2/3 of the whole membership of the UN, but they were seriously under-represented in the Security Council. It should be made by all members of the UN and be founded on the will of the vast majority of the membership. It should not just take care of the concerns of a few states or a part of the membership. Only decisions achieved through the widest possible consensus can enjoy universal trust and support and serve the common and long term interests of all the member states of the U.N.

At the end of the meeting, the senior founder and life members of the Karachi Council congratulated H.E. Mr. Chunxiang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on being conferred the most prestigious and highest award of Hilal-i-Pakistan on the occasion of the independence day of Pakistan by General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan. On the occasion Chief Justice (Retd.) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Chairman of Karachi Council presented a Memento to H.E. the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China.





H.E. MR. JASWANT SINGH MP. LED 80 MEMBERS DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

His Excellency Mr. Jaswant Singh M.P., Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha of India and former Minister of External Affairs of India spoke at a selected gathering of distinguished personalities organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law on February 2, 2006. H.E. Mr. Jaswant Singh led a 80 member delegation and arrived in Pakistan by train through Khokrapar - Munabao border for a week long visit to Pakistan. He had an informal talk on Pakistan - India relationship in the new millennium. His visit by train by recently opened border will go a long way in further consolidating the Confidence Building Measures between the two countries. It will facilitate in easing the travel of people between the two countries curtaining the travel time. The immigrants from India are mostly settled in this part of the country and have long been dreaming the opening of the Khokrapar - Monabao rail link.

Their dream is finally going to be fulfilled soon and will be able to meet their near and dear ones on the other side of the border. Similarly the people from India will also visit this part of the province to meet their long separated families. This interaction will help in people to people contact between the two countries thus bringing the people of both the countries closer.



DR. SHAMSHAD AKHTAR, GOVERNOR, STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN LAUNCHES THE BOOK "WTO AND PAKISTAN - AN OVERVIEW"

State Bank Governor, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has said though, the World Trade Organization (WTO) poses many challenges, it also carries opportunities for those who understand the system and its mode of operations. Speaking at the launching ceremony of a book titled "WTO and Pakistan - an overview", on February 3, 2006, composed by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law, the SBP Governor said that Pakistan has fully complied with the government. The governor said tariff on agricultural items has been reduced from more than 36 percent on average and more than 15 percent on each tariff line from the base year, and added, while on imports of agricultural items, it has been reduced from a maximum of 65 percent to 25 percent. The regulatory duty on import of selected agricultural predictors



has been converted into fixed specific duty, she informed. She said Pakistan has been providing 25 percent freight subsidy on fruit and vegetable exports under the WTO rules, that are permitted for up gradation and transpiration of agricultural commodities.

The governor appreciated publication of the book on the WTO by the Karachi Council and said this book will help people understand WTO and its implication.

Welcoming guests, Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi , the Secretary General of Karachi Council. on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law, said that the book is a worthy contribution, carrying articles by Mr. Inamul Haque and his colleagues: It can help decision-makers develop a better understanding of the changing scenario. It can also provide valuable information to a wide variety of readers.



GERMAN AMBASSADOR DEPLORES BLASPHEMOUS IMAGES' PUBLICATION

The Ambassador of Germany in Pakistan, Dr. Gunter Mulack, has deplored the publication of blasphemous cartoons in Danish and other newspapers which hurt the feelings of Muslims. He was delivering a keynote address at an interactive session on "Relations between the West and the Muslim World - Cooperation or Confrontation" organized by the Karachi Council on foreign relations, Economic Affairs and law on February 15, 2006 in collaboration with department of International Relations, University of Karachi.

The German envoy described these sketches as insulting and provocative. The freedom of speech and information also has a limit. However, he believed that resorting to violence in such a situation is not a right approach. Dr. Mulack called for promoting dialogue and understanding between the West and the Muslim World to remove the misunderstandings and for forging ties in the time ahead. He was of the view that violent protest only provided an opportunity to extremists. He was of the view that because so many acts of terrorism has



been committed in the name of Islam, this has created perception that Islam is a threat to the West. He maintained that the silent majority of Muslims in the West and the Muslim world was not extremist and wanted dialogue for peace.

Earlier, Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General of Karachi Council called for an effective strategy to counter blasphemy and protect sanctity of Islam. Prof Dr. Khaleda Ghous,



Chairman of the Department of International Relations underlined the need for interactive dialogue for conflict resolution.

PAKISTAN - NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS ACQUIRE NEW DIMENSIONS

The Karachi Council on foreign relations, Economic Affairs and law held another illuminative interactive discourse sessions, with the Deputy Secretary of the Foreign Affair's Ministry of New Zealand, Mr. John McKinnon and the High Commissioner of New Zealand Mr. John MacMaster, accredited to Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan on September 18, 2006. The speakers addressed the Karachi Council on the topic of "Pakistan and New Zealand in



the Asia-Pacific region".- Although it was a working days, most members, guests and media turned out to listen to Mr. John McKinnon. In wake of china's phenomenal economical growth, with India following fast behind, both all sets shift the economic balance to Asia's favour, a significant shift in New Zealand's inclinations from a pro Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to an interest in Asia has become perceptible and is of interest to people of Pakistan. Pakistan and New Zealand have been distant neighbors in Asia region, separated by the expanse of Indian Ocean, enjoying a lukewarm, or as better put by the Deputy Secretary - 'friendly but just slight' bilateral relations. The only linking factors hitherto being the commonalities of our passion for cricket - English language and as member of the Common Wealth mother organization. Earlier, in his welcome address Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi gave a detailed account of the President Pervez Musharraf's visit to New Zealand and the Positive response that ensued soon after. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms Helen Clarke has welcomed the visit as "historic in advancing bilateral relations between the two commonwealth members." The Prime Minister appreciated the suggestions for cooperation in area of education, communication, agriculture, specifically in dairy farming, and for people interaction for trade.



FRENCH INITIATIVES TO COUNTER TERRORISM

The Karachi Council on foreign relations, Economic Affairs and law organized its interactive session to explore the issues of and counter measures for "Internal Security and Terrorism" on September 20, 2006. The Ambassador of France, Mr. Regis de Belenet, addressed on the subject. The French Ambassador, in his address focused on the white paper on Terrorism issued by the Government of France and to elaborate on its scope and intent. The paper examined the issue of terrorism in four dimensions, he said, and though specific to France and her policy, it has since acquired global relevance. France has identified and listed preventive measures for countering terrorism. The intelligence agencies will be responsible for uncovering terrorist groups and their activities, apprehending repressive elements, and creat special courts to litigate against them. The system will combine administrative, legislative and judiciary organs under a law to deal with the prevention of terrorism, and to meet on punitive measures. The armed forces would be called on as last resort in extreme cases, and only in self defense in consonance with Geneva Convention.

Pakistan has had a strong friendly bilateral relation with France, which on the economic front has grown and strengthened over the years. Today Pakistan - France trade stands at US\$660 million. Pakistan's 3 "Agosta 90-B class submarines (PNS-M) "Khalid" (built at the French Shipyard Cherbourg) launched in September 1999; (PNS-M) "Saad" (hulls built in France and delivered to PN Dockyard for integration and outfitting in May 1998) launched on 10th December, 2003 and the (PNS-M) "Hamza" (fully built in and outfitted at PN Dockyard) launched on 17th August, 2006, are evidences of Pakistan's close collaboration with France in building a credible defense force as deterrent to war and a guarantee to security and peace.





13 AGENCIES CONTROLLING MEGA CITY KARACHI MUST COOPERATE AND COORDINATE TO RESOLVE CIVIC PROBLEMS OF KARACHI - CITY NAZIM SYED MUSTAFA KAMAL

The development of civic facilities is the focus of the City Nazim, Syed Mustafa Kamal. Karachi is seeing a surge in road building activities ever since the present City Nazim took office and continued the project launched by his predecessor with greater vigour and stronger ambitions. However, Karachi city cut up like a pie with each section being controlled by different agencies has made going not tough but impossible in some areas, said the youthful and dynamic City Nazim

He was speaking at an interactive meeting of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and Law on January 17, 2007. Explaining the problem faced by his team, he said 13 agencies Viz. COD, Navy, Army, Air Force, Cantonment areas, Railway, DHA and such others had never in 58 years history of the City after the formation of Pakistan, sat down together to coordinate and cooperate for developing the civic facilities. The consequence has been Karachi's unique unresolvable sewerage, water, road and garbage clearance problems.

He spoke of his government's endeavours for a mass transit project for which an MOU has been signed with a foreign country. Another agreement for Solid waste management has been concluded with a Shanghai based company which offered its services at the cheapest possible rate. Another project waiting to take off is the link road to carry heavy traffic from the port to the super highway, circumventing the city, thus leaving the city Roads free and safe for the general public.





NEED STRESSED TO RAISE LEVEL OF THE TRADE BETWEEN EU, PAKISTAN

Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs and law welcomed H.E.Mr. Sebastian Edathy, Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee of German National Parliament, to a lecture on "Regional Cooperation in South Asia in the German and European Perspective" on February 10, 2007.

Mr. Sebastian Edathy said that there was need to raise the level of trade and commerce between EU and Pakistan. Mr.. Edathy said that EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner, accounting for 28 per cent (3 Billion Euro) of its export and 17 percent (2 billion Euro) of its imports in 2004. Pakistan is, however, only the EU'S 43rd trading partner accounting for 0.3 percent of EU exports and imports. German consumed around 4.8 percent of Pakistan's export which consisted of mainly textile, clothing and agriculture products. He said that the EU is a strong advocate for fostering regional cooperation for quite some time. Edathy said that Pakistan had been on the forefront of regional integration in Asia, which was evident from the role in SAARC, its accession into the Commonwealth of nations in 2004 and becoming a member of Asean Regional forum. He said that the overall aim of the EC operations in Pakistan was to fight poverty and to help Pakistan in following a sustainable growth path and a stable development. Justice (Retd.) Saeeduzaman Siddiqui in his brief remarks spoke about the ineffectiveness of the EU in matters of trade and commerce vis-a-vis Pakistan.



CUBA SEEKING NEW BONDS WITH PAKISTAN IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Machin Gomez, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba was the guest of honor at the interactive session on "Pakistan - Cuba relationship in the new millennium" on March 12, 2007. The gathering of all high profile members among whom were members of national and provincial assemblies, provincial ministers, senior government officials, jurists, former ambassadors, leading businessmen and elite of the city was addressed by the Ambassador of Cuba to enlighten the audience about the Pakistan - Cuba relationship in the new millennium.



The relationship between Pakistan and Cuba is ever growing and the Karachi Council on foreign relations, Economic Affairs and law has a very cordial relation with the Cuban Ambassador.

Cuba hosted the 118 member countries Non-Aligned Movement 14th Summit conference in Havana on September 11, 2006. General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan attended the Summit Conference. Earlier to 14th NAM Summit in September, 2006, President General Pervez Musharraf participated in the South Summit celebration in April, 2000.

Pakistan owe its sincere gratitude to the Cuban government for their humanitarian aid to the October 8, 2005 earthquake victims in the northern areas of Pakistan. On October 14, 2005, 6 days after the earthquake, the first group of Cuban doctors & medical workers arrived in Pakistan. It was the advance force of what was named "Cuban Medical Relief Task Force of 2,468 members," who stayed in Pakistan for around 7 months.

All the members were deployed in 44 medical positions: 32 Cuban field hospitals, 2 Pakistani field hospitals, 2 refugee camps and 5 Pakistani hospitals. 1.7 million Patients were attended, that represented 73% of all the victims of the earthquake treated. All the 32 fully equipped Cuban Hospitals were donated to Pakistan.

Cuba offered 1,000 scholarships to Pakistanis to study medicine in Cuba. 500 Pakistani students are studying medicine in Cuba. The boarding, lodging, tuition fees and books are provided free of cost to the Pakistani students by the government of Cuba. Another badge of 500 students is expected to leave for Cuba to study medicine in April, 2007.

The Cuban Ambassador said that Cuba wishes to enhance its ties with Pakistan through political understandings, economic activities, a people to people interaction and participation in global events in each other's country. Cuba, a nation of 11 million people only, may be 14,000 km away from Pakistan, but was keen to explore opportunities for trade, joint ventures and exchanges in other spheres of life viz, education, culture and tourism.





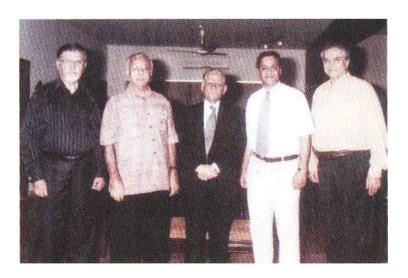
VISIT OF INDIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER

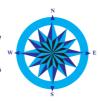
H.E. Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Deputy High Commissioner of India, who has arrived recently, was invited by Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General & CEO of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Economic Affairs & Law at a dinner on April 26, 2007.

Talking to the guests Mr. Manpreet Vohra presented the welcome news that the Visa Office in Karachi would soon be opened to facilitate intending travelers from Karachi, although it was not specified by him as to how soon the visa office would be opened. For long the opening of the Indian Deputy High Commission in Karachi has been linked to the opening of a reciprocal Pakistani Mission in Bombay, and to date the problem of the Pakistani Mission in Bombay has remained elusive for various reasons. But he was full of hope that the issue would be resolved very soon.

Pakistan and India have a strange relationship. Both sides profess o have a soft spot for each other and, to the credit of both, much has been done in the last decade to pull down several barriers to put diplomacy on a progressive track, promote travel, trade, people to people interactions and exchange of delegations of both people and government levels for holding dialogues, discussing views as well as exploring ways and means for resolving outstanding issues between the two neighboring countries.

Unfortunately, efforts tend to run into snags. Though both sides hold the other responsible for the glitches in one breath, in the other they assure us - the common man - that they will soon be resolved, and we are easily reassured.





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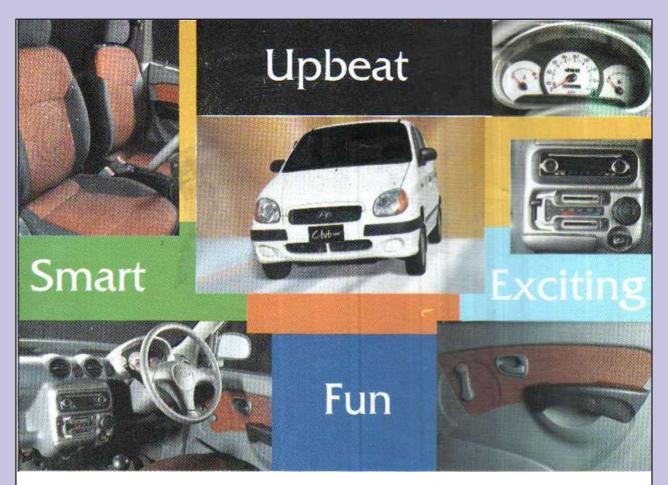


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