

Government of Pakistan

Benazir Income Support Programme

Press Release

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BISP AND DIPLOMATIC DEANS FOR COLLABORATION OF WORLD SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

SARTAJ AZIZ: PAKISTAN TO LEAD ON SYPOSIUM FOR SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the Dean and the Regional deans of diplomatic corps can collaborate for establishing knowledge based sharing which could eventually lead to the league of Social Safety Nets. This can prove to be a platform for exchanging and sharing the experiences in the Social Safety Nets working in different countries. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon while addressing the Deans Conference at BISP Headquarter.



Deans Conference was attended by the the Dean and the Regional Deans of Diplomatic Corps: namely the Dean of the Diplomatic Corp H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia Ambassador of the Argentina Republic and Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Dean of Americas, H.E. Mr. Suhrab Hossain High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Dean of South Asian Countries, H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov Ambassador of Azerbaijan and Acting Dean of Central Asian Countries, H.E. Mr. Mpendulo Kumalo High Commissioner of South Africa and Acting Dean of Africa , H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Lakomov Ambassador of Ukraine and Dean of European Countries, H.E. Mr. Nawaf Araireh Ambassador of Jordan and Acting Dean for Arab League Countries, H.E. Dr. Song Jong-hwan Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Dean of Australia, China, Japan, DPR Korea, South Korea, H.E. Mr. Tomwit Jarnson Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand and Dean of ASEAN Countries, H.E. Mr. Philip Barton High Commissioner of UK and Acting Dean of European Union Countries, Ms. Angela Kearney Acting UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and Dean of UN Agencies and International Organizations.

The purpose of the Deans Conference was to initiate the mutual corporation between BISP and social protection programmes being executed in different countries with the idea to enhance interaction to improve their operations in the social sector. BISP expressed its interest in its initiatives being shared and exported through the deans with the rest of the world. BISP Chairperson acknowledged the efforts of its development partners in its success and their continued international ownership of the program. BISP Chairperson said that it was time the compassionate face of the PMLN government was projected internationally through the deans and that BISP was offering itself as a window to the real Pakistan, to the most vulnerable for the diplomatic community and for their visiting delegations. MNA Marvi Memon noted that through the deans the consultations between world social safety nets could move from one way, to feedback driven, to sharing program/ process driven and to eventually helping each other in implementation.

In her introductory remarks, Chairperson BISP said that we are blessed to work for the welfare of 5.1 million most vulnerable families in Pakistan. BISP has achieved a lot by adopting scientific means and international practices and we would like to export these ideas to the rest of the world.

She also said that through this conference, we want to connect to the world for creation of a forum which can be used for sharing of knowledge and serving the marginalized segments all over the world. Together, we can materialize the idea of league of Social Safety Nets. Not only we want to serve the vulnerable people of Pakistan but also the vulnerable population at the world level.

Chairperson BISP also presented the demographic directory to the participants. The demographic directory launched by BISP contains a multi-dimensional data of the population in every district of the country. She said that the corporate sector within Pakistan and abroad can utilize the data of this directory for redirecting their corporate social responsibility activities towards BISP beneficiaries who have been identified as extremely poor on scientific basis.

During the conference, a discussion among the participants was also conducted. The participants appreciated the efforts of the BISP for poor people. The idea of mutual cooperation among the countries and the creation of league of Social Safety Nets was praised. The participants shared the experiences of their countries regarding Social Safety Nets and expressed their determination to work together for the benefit of the vulnerable population of the world.

Mr. Saleem Ahmed Ranjha, Secretary BISP, in the end, thanked the Deans for their participation in the conference. He said that the budget increase of BISP from Rs. 40 billions to Rs. 102 billions during last three years of the present government demonstrates its commitment to the cause of the poor. He assured the participants for cooperation of BISP for initiating and developing Social Safety Net Programmes in their countries on the pattern of BISP.



Chief Guest of the event Mr. Sartaj Aziz Prime Minister's Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs visited BISP Headquarter. Mr. Sartaj Aziz appreciated the initiatives taken by BISP for the vulnerable people of Pakistan. He said that the mutual cooperation among the countries will help them in sharing their experiences and developing such programs on sound footings. The exchange of knowledge and international best practices through this cooperation will be beneficial for the welfare of the marginalized segments. He encouraged Chairperson BISP and stressed that BISP should take a lead in organizing a symposium of the world social safety nets in Pakistan for the purpose of knowledge sharing and transfer. Chairperson BISP,

thanked Mr. Sartaj Aziz for his valuable inputs and expressed her determination that we will keep on taking such initiatives to make BISP pride of Pakistan as envisioned by the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.