

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

**PRESS RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

MARVI PROPOSES INTEGRATED ICT PLATFORMS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon represented Pakistan in a learning program ‘Cross Country Learning on Integrated Approaches for Developing Social Protection Information Systems through Unique Identity’ as resource person at Seoul, South Korea. The Learning Program was organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The objective of the Learning Program was to showcase the successful experience in capitalizing on national identity management systems backed by the most recent advancements in information and communication technology to improve social protection delivery. The program also discussed the challenges and opportunities to replicate the success stories in other countries.



Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon addressing in the program ‘Cross Country Learning on Integrated Approaches for Developing Social Protection Information Systems through Unique Identity’ held at Seoul, South Korea. (Dated: September 19, 2016)

In her opening remarks, Chairperson BISP informed the participants that BISP, the flagship Social Safety Net Program of Pakistan, is providing financial assistance to 5.3 million active beneficiaries who were identified from across the country through PMT based poverty scorecard survey of 27 million households and 155 million populations. Since 2008, BISP has disbursed cash grants of approximately \$ 4.1 billion. Moreover, 1.3 million beneficiary children have been enrolled in schools and approximately \$ 240 million have been disbursed under this conditional cash transfer.

Chairperson BISP also talked about the challenges faced by Social Safety Nets, specifically data linkage challenges between the main program and other social delivery programs (in provinces and at local level) and how these challenges can be turned into opportunities for efficient service delivery to the poor by removing the duplication of efforts and resources. She said that this could be achieved through a core integrated system using BISP's own Social ID and NADRA's National IDs.

She shared with the audience that NADRA, having the most extensive national registry of each citizen of Pakistan, is being used as identity source of each BISP cash transfer beneficiary. NADRA provides biometrically linked ID numbers to all BISP Cash Transfer beneficiaries. She added that data integration between NADRA, BISP and other social intervention programs can greatly help in equal resource distribution to the right target group across the country.

During the address, Chairperson BISP also proposed the idea of 'League of Social Safety Nets' to the audience. She explained that the idea is to help accumulate the social safety net information globally against common features: its implementations, effectiveness and lessons learned. She proposed to make a joint working committee of representatives from key program implementations around the world, supplemented by an integrated online portal for sharing the information from various social safety nets being implemented across the world. This working group could also be used to analyze the variations in each implementation and results from each output for knowledge generation, which could be of immense value for global social safety net community. This information shall be very useful for improving the existing programs and implementing new programs and initiatives by different Social Safety Nets across the world.