

September 7, 2012

ADB to provide BISP an additional financing of worth \$ 200 Million

BISP's approach is among the international best practices used in the social sector by various governments around the world: Country Director ADB

Enabling beneficiary families to achieve financial self-sustainability is BISP's prime objective: Madame Farzana Raja

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is one of the best initiatives in the social sector among the similar interventions by various governments around the world which is self evidentiary of its unprecedented success. ADB is with BISP and wishes it to succeed and be sustained on long term bases. Keeping in view the performance of the programme, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to provide an additional financing of \$ 200 million to BISP. These were the views expressed by country director of ADB Dr. Werner Liepcach while talking to Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja during a visit of BISP secretariat Friday. It's worth noting here that ADB has already provided BISP with a financing of \$ 150 million.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja talking to Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Dr. Werner Liepcach at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: 7.9.2012)

Madame Farzana Raja on the occasion informed the delegation that BISP at present providing financial assistance to 4 million families out of total more than 7 million families declared eligible as a result of nationwide poverty survey. However, she said, the rest of the families would be included in the programme formally after completion of some procedural requirements that are necessary to maintain the transparent mechanisms of the programme.

Chairperson BISP said that it is a sad reality that youth despite being our greatest asset is highly vulnerable to extremist tendencies due to lack of opportunities to them. Hence, BISP is paying special attention to provide the youth with new opportunities through its Waseela-e-Haq and Waseela-e-Rozgar schemes. She added further that BISP provide financial assistance to underprivileged segments of society through targeted subsidy and its basic aim is to enable these families to achieve financial self-sustainability and hence a consequent graduation from the programme. She said that BISP is serving the poor people of Pakistan regardless of their political affiliations, geographical location or religious orientation.

Earlier, the ADB high level delegation from Manila visited Debit Card Distribution, Center at Chakwal and while observing the systems in placed termed the level of computerization as well as technology based mechanisms highly appreciable.

Madame Farzana Raja appraised the delegation that BISP has provided identical facilitation to its offices across Pakistan. The delegation expressed its keen interest in the health insurance initiative of BISP and also discussed probabilities for the provision of immunization facilities for the children under the age of 5 years. Madame Farzana Raja appreciated the gesture and said the probabilities of cooperation in this area would be sought out. She said that BISP wants to extend its schemes Waseela-e-Haq and Waseela-e-Rozgar further so that beneficiary families could attain to achieve self-sustainability and then can graduate from the vicious circle of poverty.