

September 15, 2011

President Asian Development Bank (ADB) appreciates transparency in BISP, ensures continued support to the programme for socio-economic uplift of poor in Pakistan; Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP proposes comprehensive partnership between ADB and BISP; expresses gratitude for Bank's continued support and confidence

MANILA: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja has termed the support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) vital for economic as well as human development initiatives aiming to improve the lives of marginalized segments of society. She said this during a high level meeting with President ADB Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda and the other top management of the Bank. Secretary BISP Mr. Sher Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to Philippines Mr. Mohsin Razi, Alternate Executive Director for Pakistan Mr. Siraj Shamsuddin, Director General Center and West Asia Regional Department, Mr. Juan Miranda were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, avenues of cooperation between the two organizations came under discussion as well as the future oriented endeavors of BISP regarding poverty alleviation and socio-economic uplift of the poor segments of society. Sharing of BISP experiences and success stories with other development partners was another highlight of the meeting.



Manila: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja during a meeting with Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President Asian Development Bank (Dated: Sep 15, 2011)

Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, on the occasion applauded the efforts of BISP regarding poverty alleviation. While appreciating the element of transparency in the working of BISP, he assured Madame Farzana Raja for continued support of ADB to BISP for its future endeavors as well. The President of ADB termed BISP as a role model for the other similar initiatives in other developing countries aiming to provide relief to their poor population.

Earlier, Madame Farzana Raja gave a detailed presentation to top ADB management regarding various components/initiatives of BISP envisaged to improve the living standards of the poor and marginalized segments of society as well as the transparent mechanism adopted by BISP. She also presented an outlook of various future oriented initiatives of BISP which are to be launched soon.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP proposed to evolve a comprehensive partnership between ADB

and BISP, the pros and cons of which were discussed in details during the meeting.

While expressing her gratitude for confidence and consistent support of ADB being extended to BISP right from its inception, she emphasized on enhanced investment and cooperation towards social protection of poor in Pakistan through comprehensive social safety nets like BISP so that the underprivileged strata of the society may conveniently cater for its basic needs which is also imperative for the success of efforts pertaining to economic and human Federal

Farzana Raja said that a support of \$150 Million by ADB has proved instrumental to implement the social safety plan of BISP for millions of its beneficiaries. She added that the deprived and underprivileged segments is a major section of Pakistani society and BISP is striving to bring them in the national mainstream which is the only way forward for a progressive Pakistan.