

Dated: October 18, 2012

**Asian Development Bank Declares BISP's Work as Impressive; Vows to Continue Supporting Programme in the Future;
Madame Farzana Raja thanks ADB's Support; BISP Aiming To Bring Sustainable Economic Growth by Empowering Poor;
ADB's Board of Directors Calls on Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja**

Islamabad (): Asian Development Bank has expressed immense satisfaction over the achievements of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in the field of social protection during the course of last 4 years. The Bank has acknowledged the work of BISP as impressive while pledging a continuous support for the Programme in coming years. This was declared in a high level meeting between Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja and ADB's Board of Directors here in BISP Secretariat. The Bank delegation was lead by its Executive Director Mr. Maurin Sitorus whereas Alternate Executive Director Mr. Siraj Shamsuddin, and Country Director ADB Pakistan Mr. Werner E. Liepach along with the Bank's Executive Directors from all over the world were also part of it.



Islamabad: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja in a meeting with Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Board of Directors here in BISP Secretariat (Dated: Oct 18, 2012)

ADB's Executive Director Mr. Maurin Sitorus said that BISP is highly praised at international level and his personal experience about the Programme during his Pakistan visit proves this fact. He said that women household could prove to be the engine of economic growth for any country and BISP by providing socio-economic strength to women has taken a step in the right direction. He said that ADB is providing support to BISP for its various social sector endeavors and looking at the progress and performance of the Programme, this cooperation will be further enhanced in the future. ADB's Executive Directors were of the view that the BISP's transparent and technology based working mechanisms could prove fundamentals to the success of such social protection programmes in the future.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja while thanking ADB for its continuous support to the Programme, reiterated her resolve to carry on with the same zeal and dedication to revolutionize the lives of the millions affected by chronic poverty and socio-economic injustice. She said

that ADB's support worth \$200 Million is ideally helping the Programme to achieve its set objectives by launching various pro-poor initiatives.

Madame Farzana Raja said that BISP by virtue of its nationwide poverty survey has compiled a digitized data of 27 million households. This data is an asset for Pakistan which could prove phenomenal in the success of poverty alleviation and various social sector projects.

Chairperson BISP told the visiting delegation that various impact evaluations, baseline studies, spot check analyses, assessments and audits have been carried out by third party international firms who have shown complete satisfaction over BISP's operations, accuracy, effectiveness and transparency.

Federal Minister said that BISP has introduced Waseela-e-Haq (Right to Livelihood), Waseela-e-Rozgar (Right to Employment), Waseela-e-Sehet (Life and Health Insurance) and Waseela-e-Taleem (Right to Education) for its beneficiary families which are bringing sustainable economic growth in the society by empowering people from lower strata.