

'FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN PAKISTAN: DRAWING ON INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE'

Islamabad, June 19, 2008

9.00-10.55 OPENING SESSION: 'FOI FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT'

Session Chair: Yusupha Crookes, Country Director, World Bank

9.00-9.15: Welcome Address

Yusupha Crookes, World Bank

9.15-9.35: 'Pakistan's Place within the Global FOI Movement'

Ishrat Hussain, Institute of Business Administration

9.35-9.55: 'Basic Principles and Lessons from International Practice'

Sohini Paul, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, India

9.55-10.45: Open Discussion

10.45-10.55: Closing Remarks by Yusupha Crookes

10.55-11.15 TEA BREAK

11.15-13.30 SESSION II: DESIGNING FOI LEGISLATION

Session Chair: Ishrat Hussain, Institute of Business Administration

11.15-11.35: 'FOI as a Tool for Good Governance'

Syed Adil Gilani, Pakistan Chapter Transparency International

11.35-11.55: 'Using International Experience to Address Issues in 2002 FOI Ordinance'

I. A. Rehman, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

11.55- 12.35: Panel Comments

Mazhar Abbas, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists

Ahsan Iqbal, Information Secretary PML-N

Mukhtar Ahmed, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives

Khashih-ur-Rehman, Ministry of Law

12.35-13.25: Open Discussion

13.25-13.30: Closing Remarks by Session Chair

13.30-14.30 LUNCH

14.30-15.10 SESSION III: MAKING THE LAW WORK

Session Chair: Sohini Paul, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, India

14.30-14.45: 'Tackling the Implementation Challenge'
Rick Snell, University of Tasmania, Australia

14.45-15.00: 'Enforcement of FOI Legislation: The Mexican Experience'
Jose Jarero Valencia, Federal Institute of Access to Information, Mexico

15.00-15.15: 'FOI Implementation and Enforcement: Strategies for Pakistan'
Zafarullah Khan, Centre for Civic Education

15.15-15.30: 'Measures for Stakeholder Participation in FOI Regime'
Harris Khaliq, Strengthening Participatory Organization

15.30-15.45: 'Role of Donor Community in Promoting FOI in Pakistan'
Jorge Sequeira, UNESCO

15.45-16.15: Panel Comments
Muneeb Zia, Ministry of Finance
Syed Shabbir Ahmed, Wafaqi Mohtasib
Mazhar Siraj, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan

16.15-17.00: Open Discussion

16.00-15.10: Closing Remarks by Session Chair