



ADB OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific

Combating Corruption In the New Millennium

The Secretariat

FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION PLAN FOR ASIA-PACIFIC (Tokyo, 30 November 2001)

PAKISTAN

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The Tokyo conference successfully aims today to be a follow-up to the conferences in Manila and Seoul.

It is reassuring to note the initiative taken by the OECD and the Asian Development Bank in achieving the milestones to make us more aware of anti-corruption matters.

This conference is significant as the phase of implementation begins.

On behalf of the government of Pakistan, I endorse the Action Plan.

Pakistan has been and continues to be plagued by corruption. For the past two years, we in Pakistan are already involved in some aspects outlined in the plan. This process will continue and when we meet twelve to eighteen months from now, I am confident that we shall have covered more significant ground towards good governance in the anti-corruption field.

We are restructuring our police, the central board of revenue and its ancillary institutions. Through public campaigns, we are working on enhancing institutions for public scrutiny and oversight. The creation of the National Accountability Bureau lays testimony to the political will and commitment of the Government of Pakistan to combat corruption in any form. Across the board accountability, initiated by the NAB is starting to have good Anti-Corruption effects.

For the new system of local government and empowerment at the grass roots, we have had a successful election in August 2000. As a result, monitoring of the political institutions and development is now under constant scrutiny and monitoring of the public. However, more education and awareness of the public is required.

Our major problem, and I brought out this earlier as well, is the provision of assistance, both human resource development and financial by the developed countries. I would ask the OECD and the ADB, since they have taken the noble initiative to assist for making a regional group that could interact with other regional groups of Europe, Africa and America to repatriate money for us. To achieve this, legislation by these countries is required to facilitate the return of our money and to help identify corrupt persons.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude to the OECD, the ADB and the Government of Japan for organizing this excellent conference.

It has been our privilege – that is the privilege of my fellow delegates and myself – to have interacted with everyone here, as the delegates focused on the task of Anti-Corruption.

I wish the OECD, the ADB and all of us the very best in this task that we have undertaken for ourselves.

Thank you very much.