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## Bridge-US December 2013

*Connecting People - Building Bridges – Spreading Harmony*



Bridge-Us will now only be published online. Our Pakistan office has withdrawn its support following security concerns and since been closed. This might have happened since we publicly announced our dedication to Daniel Pearl in Bridge-US, September 2013. Despite all of that, we will not be intimidated, threatened and scared.

As usual, USAID continues to work for a better Pakistan by Combating Disease in Sheep and Goats with \$1.6 Million Program, Wheat Productivity Enhancement Project, in power generation for 4.3 Million Pakistanis, Agreement for 50-Megawatt Renewable Energy Project and through Gomal Zam Dam in FATA, providing \$23.5 million to support Pakistan's Police, Announcing \$160 Million Pakistan Reading Project on International Literacy Day

This unconditional support by the United States to the people of Pakistan lasts regardless of ups and downs in relations between the two governments. There is a growing need for civilian ambassadors and cultural exchange between two countries because the power of people prevails and the power of people is far superior to the political hypocrisy of the Government of Pakistan. .

As a reminder, our online readership is above 5000.

Happy Holidays

Syed Naeem Uddin

Editor-in-Chief

## Clarification for the Record: Ambassador Richard Olson on U.S. - Pakistan Civilian Nuclear Cooperation

Ambassador Olson stated in a television interview that "discussion of civilian nuclear cooperation is a topic best left in the discreet diplomatic sphere." In the interview, which aired on September 30, Ambassador Richard Olson was asked about the prospect of U.S.-Pakistan civilian nuclear

cooperation. Media outlets have widely misreported that Ambassador Olson suggested the United States was considering providing civilian nuclear technology to Pakistan. The Ambassador noted that discussions are best left to the diplomatic sphere.

The United States looks forward to continuing cooperation with Pakistan in ways that are compatible with Pakistan's economic, environmental, and security needs and with U.S. international commitments and policies.

## **U.S. Science Envoy Dr. Bernard Amadei Visits Pakistan Again: u.s.**

Science Envoy, Dr. Bernard Amadei, strengthened the framework for U.S.-Pakistan science and technology cooperation during his second visit to Pakistan in 2013. Dr. Amadei is a professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado-Boulder and is also the founder of Engineers Without Borders USA. He has dedicated his professional efforts outside the classroom on small-scale, community development projects that directly change lives and enhance wealth.

During a workshop with engineering students at Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute, professor Amadei said, "I believe the solutions to Pakistan's problems are in Pakistan."

To bring that vision to Pakistan, professor Amadei convened a workshop of Pakistani Government officials –including Dr. Qadir Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan Engineering Council; Dr. Mudassir Israr, Chair of the Pakistan Science and Technology Council; and the former Higher Education Commission Chairman, Dr. Javaid Laghari, as well as distinguished university professors and administrators, fellow engineers and students to lay the foundation for a larger conference in 2014 that will attempt to harness science, technology, and engineering to address Pakistan's development needs in the areas of water, energy, and food.

Professor Amadei also mentored a group of engineers, scientists, and students to establish Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Pakistan, through which EWB chapters across Pakistan can be established and collaborate with one another. There are over 50 countries registered with Engineers Without Borders International. Chapters in each country foment community-driven development programs by collaborating to design and to implement sustainable engineering projects, while creating transformative experiences and responsible leaders to supply clean water, sanitation, energy, agriculture, civil works, and infrastructure projects.

Within Pakistan, the student chapter from GIK Institute has designed and tested biogas generators in the Mardan district of KPK province. The U.S. Science Envoy Program is a core element of the U.S. government's commitment to global engagement in science and technology. President Obama announced the program in Cairo in June 2009. Since the program's inception, U.S. Science Envoys have visited 21 countries. Dr. Amadei chose Pakistan as his very first country to visit as a Science Envoy.

## **U.S. Exchange Program Alumni Demonstrate Strong U.S. - Pakistan**

**Ties:** More than 600 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs gathered in Islamabad to share their experiences and to commit to building trust and understanding between the United States and Pakistan. This third annual event of the Pakistan–U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) Islamabad Chapter attracted politicians, parliamentarians, scholars, journalists, professionals, and students –all of whom are alumni of various exchange programs to the United States.

“My American colleagues and I appreciate that the experiences you had in the United States – whether decades ago or just last year –are a common bond that has brought you together to do good work in Pakistan,” said Thomas E. Williams, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the event’s keynote speaker.

PUAN President Samina Imtiaz encouraged participants to volunteer for the network’s activities to spread the knowledge they gained in the United States throughout Pakistan. The network also recognized several prominent alumni who have given back to their communities through the inaugural Distinguished Alumni and Emerging Leader awards.

The U.S. government invests an estimated \$40 million annually on exchange programs for Pakistani citizens. More than 1,200 Pakistanis participate in the various high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional U.S.-sponsored exchange programs each year.

PUAN is one of the largest U.S. alumni networks in the world. Its mission is to encourage people-to-people relationships between Pakistanis and Americans. Consisting of more than 13,000 students and professionals who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, PUAN organizes a number of events in Pakistan, including community service projects, leadership training, roundtable discussions, and community engagement activities.

PUAN has 11 regional chapters across the country in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Bahawalpur, Baluchistan, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Islamabad, Jamshoro, Karachi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Lahore, Multan, and Sukkur. Learn more about PUAN at <http://www.facebook.com/pakalumni>. For more information about the PUAN Islamabad chapter, contact Ayesha Fazal at [ayesha.fazal@gmail.com](mailto:ayesha.fazal@gmail.com).

## **U.S. Government Project in Jamshoro Generates Power for 4.3**

**Million Pakistanis:** Islamabad, September 26, 2013 - U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Olson visited the Jamshoro Thermal Power Station (JTPS), which was recently upgraded with \$19.3 million in U.S. assistance. The Jamshoro plant will now provide an additional 270 megawatts of

power to the national grid, enough to provide electricity to nearly 4.3 million more Pakistanis. The visit of U.S. Ambassador Olson, U.S. Consul General in Karachi Michael Dodman, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Gregory Gottlieb, and other senior U.S. government officials to JTPS reaffirms the U.S. government's commitment to strengthening public-owned power sector entities. Sultan Zafar, CEO of Genco Holding Company Limited, Anwar Brohi, CEO of Jamshoro Power Company Limited, and other Government of Pakistan representatives toured JTPS with the U.S. delegation.

"The United States' commitment to Pakistan's energy needs is long term and it delivers results. Jamshoro is just one example of how the United States and Pakistan continue to partner to help Pakistan grow," said Ambassador Olson. "Together, we are responding to Pakistan's energy crisis. And we are working together to develop a partnership that delivers for the people of Pakistan and beyond."

The United States, via USAID, provided \$19.3 million to rehabilitate JTPS. Work began in June 2010 to upgrade the plant, restoring 150 megawatts of power generating capacity that the plant had lost as a result of deferred maintenance and reduced fuel efficiency. The repairs exceeded project targets and now a total of 270 megawatts has been added to Pakistan's national electrical grid as a result.

In addition to Jamshoro, the U.S. government, via USAID, is supporting the rehabilitation of thermal plants at Muzaffargarh and Guddu, as well as the Tarbela hydro-plant. USAID has also funded the completion of Gomal Zam and Satpara dams. Collectively, these projects have added more than 1000 megawatts to Pakistan's electrical grid - enough to supply power for 16 million Pakistani citizens. The U.S. government also continues to support energy sector governance and policy reform.

**United States Provides \$23.5 million to support Pakistan's Police, Counternarcotics, and Rule of Law Programs:** Islamabad, September 24, 2013 – U.S. Ambassador Richard Olson and Pakistan Economic Affairs Division Secretary Nargis Sethi signed a bilateral assistance agreement under which the U.S. State Department's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau (INL) provides \$23.5 million to support the Government of Pakistan in the following areas: building law enforcement capability, fighting illicit narcotics, and reforming the criminal justice system.

"The United States has been working with Pakistan to professionalize its police forces and confront domestic security threats for over 30 years," Ambassador Olson said. "We commend the Government of Pakistan on its achievements over this period." These successes include a significant

reduction in Pakistan's domestic poppy cultivation and improved capacity for Pakistan's civilian police to manage mass demonstrations. Applauding Pakistan for these accomplishments, Ambassador Olson noted that this agreement demonstrates the United States' ongoing commitment to partner with Pakistan to confront domestic security challenges.

The agreement covers three main areas. First, it will continue to help Pakistan build capacity in law enforcement by training and equipping provincial and tribal police in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Sindh provinces. The funding agreement will also help Pakistan expand its police presence along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and provide air support for civilian police operations.

Second, the funding will help Pakistan interdict illegal narcotics, arrest and prosecute drug traffickers, fund crop substitution and agricultural training programs for poppy farmers, and provide small-scale irrigation and hydro-electric systems to farms in KP and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

Finally, the agreement will help promote the rule of law by providing training to provincial and federal prosecutors in effective trial advocacy, to corrections officials in modern prison administration, and to help Pakistan modernize its anti-corruption and counterterrorism regimes.

## **U.S.-funded Wheat Productivity Enhancement Project and Pakistani Scientists Defending Pakistani Wheat From Dreaded UG 99 Disease:**

The United States government - funded Wheat Productivity Enhancement Project (WPEP) is working with Pakistani and international scientists to introduce, evaluate, and release new high - yielding, disease resistant wheat varieties. This work is following the successful testing and release of a highly productive variety that survives even the most destructive wheat disease.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's WPEP's highest priority is to introduce disease resistant wheat varieties to Pakistan. WPEP and Pakistani partners introduced and tested NARC 2011, a variety resistant to the feared UG 99 wheat disease. NARC 2011 not only provides disease protection but also produces higher yields than existing varieties. UG 99 is already in neighboring Iran and threatens to devastate Pakistan's wheat crop if they are left unprotected.

At the two - day WPEP Annual Wheat Planning Meeting held in Islamabad, wheat researchers from across Pakistan, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) focused on reviewing the progress of the past wheat growing season and on developing a plan for breeding, disease surveillance, and agronomy research in coming years. The

meeting participants agreed that making UG 99 resistant varieties available to farmers is a critical step in ensuring protection of wheat, Pakistan's most important crop.

American and Pakistani agriculture scientists expressed satisfaction over progress made by the Wheat Productivity Enhancement Project (WPEP), a USDA program. WPEP links USDA, Pakistani, and international scientists to develop, introduce, and test disease - resistant wheat varieties as well as improve agronomic practices and upgrade research capacity in the country.

"The WPEP project has produced exceptional results, including the introduction of NARC 2011, and I look forward to great progress in the future. Wheat is an important crop in both Pakistan and the United States and our two countries are continuing a 50 - year tradition of collaboration in agriculture," said Clay Hamilton, agricultural Counselor.

Clay Hamilton noted that wheat accounts for approximately 60 percent of the daily caloric intake of the average Pakistani and that joint efforts to combat this disease are vital to Pakistan's economy and food security.

WPEP is a United States Department of Agriculture program that develops, introduces, and tests disease - resistant wheat varieties. The project also focuses on improving agronomic practices, developing disease surveillance systems, updating infrastructure, and building research capacity in the Pakistan. The five - year collaborative research project brings together wheat research scientists from PARC, CIMMYT, USDA, provincial wheat research institutions, and ICARDA.

## **U.S.-Funded Gomal Zam Dam Project Provides Energy, Irrigation Water, and Flood Protection in FATA: Islamabad, September 12, 2013 - U.S.**

Ambassador Richard Olson joined Federal Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif and WAPDA Chairman Syed Raghیب Shah to laud the completion of the Gomal Zam dam project. The dam will boost the region's electricity supply, irrigate farmlands, and protect the South Waziristan area from seasonal flooding.

"The completion of the Gomal Zam dam hydropower station and the installation of a new transmission line are significant achievements," said Ambassador Olson during the visit. "In partnership with Pakistan, we are working to boost power generation capacity and to ensure long-term self-sufficiency of the power sector."

The U.S. government contributed a total of \$97 million via the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) to complete the Gomal Zam dam multipurpose project. Located in the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas, this dam supplies electricity to more than 270,000 people, prevents life-threatening flash floods, and creates water storage for households and farmers in the

area. Gomal Zam now stores over 140,000 hectare-meters of water, which will help to prevent seasonal flooding in areas of D.I. Khan and Tank that have been prone to flash floods. The dam will also supply irrigation water for around 77,000 hectares of farmland, which will create job opportunities and increase the incomes of an estimated 30,000 farming families in the region.

Federal Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif added, "We value the support of the U.S. government and the American people. We look forward to continued cooperation in the future."

In total, the U.S. government has worked with the Government of Pakistan to irrigate almost 243,000 hectares of land throughout Pakistan since October 2009. Also, with the energy provided by Gomal Zam dam, the United States has supported projects that since 2009 have added 1000 megawatts to Pakistan's electrical grid - enough to provide electricity to more than 16 million people.

## **The United States Announces \$160 Million Pakistan Reading**

**Project on International Literacy Day:** The United States announces the launch of the Pakistan Reading Project to boost the reading skills of 3.2 million Pakistani children. This project will fund improvements in reading instruction and reading assessment in grades one through five throughout the Pakistani public school system. The International Rescue Committee (IRC), which is partnering with regional governments and Pakistani civil society organizations, will implement this \$160 million project in an estimated 38,000 public schools over the next five years. The launch of this program on International Literacy Day, observed annually on September 8, demonstrates the firm commitment of the United States and its Pakistani partners to improving critical reading and writing skills.

"The Pakistan Reading Project provides Pakistani children an opportunity to develop skills which are essential for success in higher education and in the workplace. Children who do not learn to read in the first few grades of school will struggle to keep up with classroom assignments in later grades," Gregory Gottlieb, Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said after the agreement was signed between USAID and IRC. "IRC is honored to work on such an important project which will help improve the quality of education for millions of Pakistani children," IRC Chief of Party, John Shumaker, said.

This initiative is just one part of a comprehensive U.S. education assistance program which includes building or rehabilitating nearly 800 schools; launching new degree programs in education at 90 colleges and universities; providing scholarships for 12,000 students to study in Pakistan; and operating the largest Fulbright academic exchange program in the world.

For high resolution photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidthepakistan/sets/72157635399052815/>

For more on U.S. education programs:

- <http://goo.gl/auHXF> (Urdu)
- USAID website: <http://pakistan.usaid.gov>
- USAID Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidthepakistan>
- USAID Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/USAID-Pakistan/440868732600680>

## **U.S. Ambassador Signs Financing Agreement for 50-Megawatt**

**Renewable Energy Project:** Islamabad, September 4, 2013 - U.S. Ambassador Richard Olson signed today on behalf of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) a \$95 million [over Rs 9.96 billion], ten-year loan to Sapphire Wind Power Company to build a 50-megawatt (MW) wind power plant in the Ghoroketi Bandar wind corridor near Jhimpir in Sindh. Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Abdullah signed on behalf of the Sapphire Wind Power Company.

"The provision of clean and reliable electricity is an essential building block for any economy," Ambassador Olson said. "This project affirms OPIC's commitment to support efforts by Pakistan to diversify energy production to include important contributions from renewable energy sources, and demonstrates the United States' continued commitment to strengthening Pakistan's economy, and with it, the prosperity of its citizens."

"The Sapphire Wind Power Project will enable Pakistan to take advantage of its massive renewable energy potential to help meet unmet demand for electricity," OPIC President and CEO Elizabeth L. Littlefield said in Washington today. "We are thrilled to partner with Sapphire and General Electric to bring this project to realization."

The 50-megawatt wind power plant in southeastern Pakistan's Ghoroketi Bandar wind corridor will use 33 General Electric (GE) turbines and is designed to generate 133 gigawatt hours of emission-free electricity annually. The United States and Pakistan work closely together on projects designed to diversify Pakistan's power generation beyond reliance on high-priced fuel oil and tap Pakistan's vast renewable energy potential. According to a study funded by the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that Pakistan possesses 132,000 MW of potential installed wind capacity - virtually equal to the world's entire installed wind capacity in 2010.

OPIC has invested in 123 projects in Pakistan since 1975. Its current Pakistan portfolio includes 14 active projects worth nearly \$300 million in key industries including energy, health care, financial



services for small and medium-sized enterprises, and telecommunications.

OPIC is the U.S. government's development finance institution. It mobilizes private capital to help solve critical development challenges, providing investors with financing, guarantees, political risk insurance, and support for private-equity investment funds. Established in 1971, OPIC operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to American taxpayers. OPIC services are available for new and expanding businesses in more than 150 countries worldwide. Please visit [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov) for more information.

## **United States Helps Combat Disease in Sheep and Goats with \$1.6 Million Program**

Dr. David Ashford, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, discussed USDA efforts to help Pakistani authorities control a highly contagious viral disease endemic to sheep and goats in Pakistan during a workshop that USDA sponsored on August 19.

The disease, Peste Petits Ruminant (PPR), was first confirmed in Pakistan in 1992. PPR prevalence is highest in Balochistan and the Northern areas. A countrywide study of 206 villages, undertaken as part of a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project, revealed that 45 percent of six to 18-month old sheep and goats in the villages surveyed were exposed to the PPR virus. It is estimated that PPR causes annual losses of more than \$342 million, or Rs. 34.5 billion due to depletion of these small ruminant livestock.

Many of Pakistan's veterinarians and para-veterinarians are unfamiliar with PPR. While Pakistan does not currently have a systematic program to control PPR, the USDA is coordinating with the Government of Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research, provincial and regional livestock and dairy development departments, and the FAO to combat this disease. Now, building on progress the USDA has made working with Pakistani authorities to control Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), a program which began in 2011, efforts to counter PPR are taking root. Dr. Ashford reported, "We are proud of the great achievements the provinces have made in the control of FMD since we began working together. FMD was not even being routinely reported when I came here for the first time in 2010, and now we have nearly nationwide awareness of the national FMD control program. The PPR program should follow this model."

FAO Project Coordinator for FMD and PPR, Dr. Mohammad Afzal described the USDA-FAO-Government of Pakistan three year program, which began in March 2013 to progressively control the deadly PPR virus to the workshop attendees. The United States has donated \$1.6 million toward expanding PPR vaccine production in Pakistan and to projects that demonstrate techniques to control this very common disease. Dr. Ashford noted that based on the teams' successes in the

earlier FMD pilot program that began in 2011, the USDA is happy to be providing the \$1.6 million in funding to help control PPR, one of the most devastating livestock diseases affecting many of Pakistan's farmers. "Pakistan is now perfectly positioned to become a leader in the area of FMD and PPR control in this region," said Dr. Ashford.

This initiative is just one part of a comprehensive U.S. economic growth assistance program which includes projects such as modernizing dairy farms in Punjab; expanding irrigation by more than 200,000 acres near the Gomal Dam and Satpara dams; constructing more than 1,000 km of roads to connect communities and facilitate trade; and launching private equity investment funds to help small and medium businesses grow.

*Bridge-US is nonpartisan and an effort to share and publish news of diversity, harmony and mutual understanding to bridge between nations and inform people directly about how humanitarian aid is positively changing lives in Pakistan.*

Dedicated to



Daniel Pearl

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Special thanks to: Julian Dickenson and Amy Ballantine