

**PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE
DONOR CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 19, 2005
CONCEPT NOTE**

BACKGROUND

The 8th October, 2005 earthquake is the most debilitating natural disaster in Pakistan's recent history. Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and western districts of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) bore the full force of the earthquake. In at least three Districts of AJK and five in NWFP, public and private infrastructure necessary for shelter, social service delivery, governance, commerce and communications has been damaged or destroyed. At least 73,000 people have died and over 75,000 have been seriously injured, while 2.8 million people have been left without shelter. According to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Anan "Survivors of the Pakistan earthquake will be engulfed in a "wave of death" unless the international aid effort is stepped up immediately", while the WHO regional director Hussein A. Gezairy has termed the incident "A bigger catastrophe than last year's tsunami in terms of the number of people made homeless and the extent of destruction to infrastructure".

The Asian Development Bank and World Bank have estimated that the cost of the devastating October 8 earthquake will exceed US\$5 billion, which includes estimated cost for relief, reconstruction and livelihood support for victims. Pakistan will require more than \$3.5 billion to restore and reconstruct the country. These costs are in addition to the \$1.6 billion the United Nations has estimated will need to be spent on relief efforts in the eighteen months following the disaster. These estimates are still preliminary and likely to rise as more of the damaged areas are surveyed.

The assessment has been prepared by Asian Development Bank and World Bank alongwith experts from other international organizations including Department for International Development (DFID), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), German Kfw, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Development Programme through the detailed surveys carried out between October 24th and November 5th with the aim of providing decision-makers and stakeholders with a quantitative basis on which to design a comprehensive reconstruction strategy can be based. The Government of Pakistan and the provincial governments / agencies worked with the donors team for the preparation of the assessment report.

OBJECTIVE OF THE DONOR CONFERENCE

The Donor Conference is meant to share the findings of the assessment study with Pakistan's development partners, present GOP's reconstruction and rehabilitation strategy and seek international community's financial, technical and in-kind support

towards meeting the costs of the rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake affected zone.

There has already been a generous support from the global community in the initial phase of the rescue and relief efforts currently underway. However, a lot more assistance is still needed as the complexity of the disaster continues to unfold and we move into the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase, which is a long-term process spanning several years.

PARTICIPANTS

In view of the importance of the event, Secretary General of the United Nations, President of Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, President Asian Development Bank, President Islamic Development Bank, Vice-President South Asia Region World Bank, Administrator UNDP, Ministers from a number of countries and heads of a number of international institutions are coming to attend the Conference. The relevant agencies of Government of Pakistan, Governors and Chief Ministers of Provinces, Ministers and corporate sector leaders are expected to attend the Conference. National and international media will provide coverage of the event.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Over three hundred foreign delegates are expected to participate in the event. The foreign delegates are expected to start arriving on 18-11-2005. Special arrangements (with prior confirmations) are being made for visits of the Heads of delegations to the earthquake affected areas. The Conference includes a high-level plenary session in the morning and three parallel briefing sessions in the afternoon for the participants of the Conference. The plenary session of the Conference from 0845am to 130pm will include a brief video on earthquake disaster, speeches by UN Secretary General, President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Heads of Delegations and Heads of international financial institutions shall also be making their statements in the plenary session.

The briefing sessions in the post-lunch period will be on Infrastructure; Livelihood and Rehabilitation; and Social Sector and Volunteer efforts. In addition to the presentations by the Damage assessment team, the sessions will include presentations on:

- National Volunteer Movement on the programme and role of Volunteers to support the on-going rehabilitation efforts by Mr. Muhammad Ali Durrani, Minister of State/Chairman
- The reconstruction, monitoring and transparency mechanism by Chairman, ERRA.
- Rehabilitation Strategy for destitute and disabled by Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Social Welfare and Special Education

- On “Creating opportunities of livelihood for the victims of Earthquake by Mr. Omar Ayub, Minister of State for Finance

The invitees have been advised to register in advance for attending the briefing sessions of their choice.

CONFERENCE MESSAGE

- A significant financing gap remains which must be addressed in order to minimize further socio-economic impacts of the earthquake. The joint Asian Development Bank and World Bank Damage Assessment will provide the backdrop for discussions with overseas development partners.
- While emergency assistance must continue, we also need to prepare ourselves for meeting the long-term challenge of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The reconstruction programmes may take at least five years to implement given the vast scale of destruction of the basic infrastructures and services in the affected areas.
- To meet this challenge Pakistan looks upto the international community to extend generous support for the implementation of these programmes to mitigate the impact of this catastrophe. The resources that are required at this critical time cannot be provided by Pakistan alone.
- The Government acknowledges the role that civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations can play in rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and is channelizing the efforts of civil society in a consolidated manner.