ADDRESS OF WELCOME
by
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PRESIDENT
PAKISTAN ENGINEERING CONGRESS
on
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
(Thursday, 5th June, 2014)
at
Pakistan Engineering Congress

The Honourable Mr. Shuja Khanzada
Minister for Environment, Govt. of Punjab
Distinguished Delegates
Members of Pakistan Engineering Congress
Ladies and Gentlemen

اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَ رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهٗ

I take this opportunity on behalf of Pakistan Engineering Congress in general and on my own in particular to welcome you all to this gathering for observing World Environment Day on the theme of :

"Effects of Climate Change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and its Mitigation"

Ladies & Gentlemen!
Small Island Developing States which are commonly called SIDS are the most affected places by the environmental and natural disasters. The total number of SIDS is 52 out of which 38 are on the approved list of United Nations. Some of the prominent small islands are Cuba, Singapore, Mauritius, Maldives, Bahrain, Bahamas etc. Singapore has been transformed in a highly economically and commercially developed country. Mauritius and Maldives are tourist attraction for its beautiful location. However, they can be easily hurt by the rising sea levels and global warming. The United Nations has been making continued efforts to help the small islands in their financial, social, food security problems.

Ladies & Gentlemen!
The UN General Assembly declared 2014 as the international year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the objective of raising awareness of their special development challenges, achievements in solving environmental problems, climate change, waste management, excessive consumption, degradation of natural resources, natural disasters etc.

Ladies & Gentlemen!
It is our responsibility that we should join hands with other countries of the world for a greater understanding to help protect these Small Islands from the ever increasing risks of effects of climate change and the resulting rise in sea levels. An overwhelming number of countries have come to the conclusion that the average world temperature should not be more than 2-degrees Celsius (3.6 degree Fahrenheit) to safeguard from the killing effects of global warming. However, the increase in temperature far exceeds

this limit. This is resulting in fast melting of glaciers and snows, expansion of sea water, floods and increased number of storms. Hence, the very lives of the people living in these small islands / coastal areas are exposed to greater risks. This is necessary because approximately 50-million of the world's population live in the SIDS and they are faced with the problem of growing population with limited resources at their disposal. Problem of shortage of fresh water, remote location, adverse effects on their fisheries, decreasing mangrove forests. With the sea level rising by 3 to 4 mm per year there is a danger of alarming adverse effects on their fruit, Agriculture and Tourism industry and above all their very survival. The rise in global warming is due to excessive emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) due to burning of fossil fuels by the advanced countries of the World (America, China, Russia, Japan etc.). However, the amusing / strange happening is that the bad effects of Global Warming are being borne by countries like Pakistan (with 0.2%) and Small Islands (0.5%) of world emissions.

With this prologue, I would like to conclude my address of welcome by once again thanking you all, for granting me a patient hearing.

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