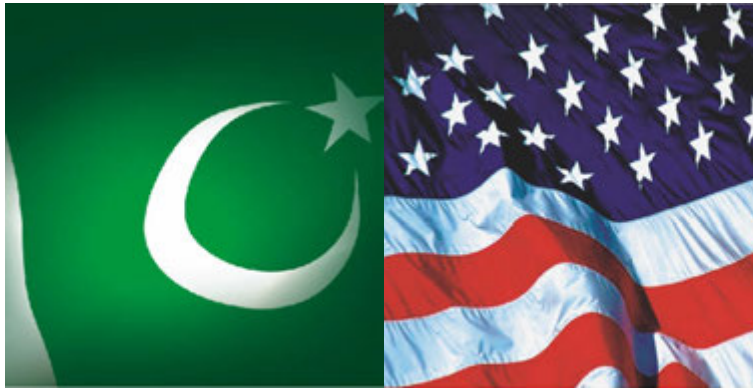


INTRODUCTORY **BOOKLET**



The **Pakistani** Parliamentary
Delegation
Legislative Study Tour to the
UNITED STATES

September 22 - October 02, 2004



World Vision

PLSC
Pakistan Legislative
Strengthening
Consortium



PIIDA
Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

Prepared By

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And
Transparency - PILDAT



As a Part of
Pakistan Legislative Strengthening
Consortium - PLSC



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Abbreviations & Acronyms

AWARD	All Women Advancement and Resource Development
CCHD	Citizens Commission for Human Development
CRCP	Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan
IRDO	Integrated Research and Development Organisation
MMAP	Muttahidda Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan
MNA	Member National Assembly (Pakistan)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
MQM	Muttahidda Qaumi Movement
NA	National Assembly
NWFP	North West Frontier Province
PA	Provincial Assembly
PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency
PLSC	Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Consortium
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group)
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PPP	Pakistan Peoples Party
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian
SNPLG	Strengthening National and Provincial Legislative Governance Project (Funded by USAID)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Meanings of Some Urdu Language Terms in Booklet

Zila	District
Nazim	Elected Administrator
Naib	Deputy



Introduction

The Pakistani Parliamentary Delegation's Legislative Study Tour to the United States is undertaken so as to learn from and share best practices of the legislative governance system of the United States. The Study Tour consists of a Delegation of Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff and is taking place from **September 22 - October 04, 2004.**

Main features of the study tour include opportunities of interaction with the Members and Staff of the US Congress, exposure to the research facilities and support staff available at the US Congress; avenues of comparison of rules of procedure and conduct of business of the Pakistani and US Legislatures as well as learning in detail about the working of the State Legislatures vis-à-vis the Centre.

This Legislative Study Tour to the United States is a part of the three-year USAID-funded project of Strengthening National and Provincial Legislative Governance - SNPLG in Pakistan. Implemented by

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT, as a member of the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Consortium PLSC, the study tour is a part of the series of capacity building and legislative strengthening objectives of SNPLG.

The delegation comprises Speakers of Provincial Assemblies, Secretaries of Balochistan Assembly, Punjab Assembly, the Senate and the Additional Secretary of the National Assembly; six (6) Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), two (2) Senators and ten (10) Members of the Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) belonging to four Provincial Assemblies. The legislators accompanying the delegation belong to various political parties of Pakistan.

Special thanks are due for the close cooperation extended by the USAID Pakistan Mission in organising this study tour in general and facilitating the process of obtaining visas in particular.

PILDAT, on behalf of the PLSC, thanks all the individuals and institutions who have set aside valuable time for meeting and interaction with the delegation during the study tour.



Objectives of the Study Tour

The objectives of the Study Tour are to provide Pakistani Legislators and Legislative Staff with an opportunity to learn from the tools, techniques and best practices of the US Legislative System so as to enable them to understand the support infrastructure, staff and institutions that assist deliberation in the US Federal and State Legislatures

The study tour programme, designed according to the objectives, provides the delegation with an opportunity to discuss the tools, techniques and technologies which support the legislative process and communication between the public and legislators in the US. It also offers avenues to compare the roles and responsibilities of Pakistani Provincial Legislatures with those of the State Legislatures in the US through visit and interaction with selected State Legislatures in the US. In addition, the tour also includes an insight into the relationship of legislators and their constituents as practiced in the US at the state and the national levels for the Pakistani delegation.

This study tour, together with the dialogue and discussions that will take place in Pakistan upon completion of the tour, will contribute to modernising and strengthening of the legislative system in Pakistan.



Members of the Parliamentary Delegation

A. Speakers of Provincial Assemblies

S. No.	Name	Legislature	Party	Province	Gender
1.	Jamal Shah Kakar, Mr.	Provincial Assembly, Balochistan	MMAP	Balochistan	M
2.	Bakht Jahan Khan, Mr.	Provincial Assembly, NWFP	MMAP	NWFP	M
3.	Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal Sahi, Mr.	Provincial Assembly, Punjab	PML	Punjab	M

The list is arranged alphabetically by the name of the provinces in the case of Speakers while arranged by the first name, following the order of Senate, National Assembly and the alphabetical order of provinces in the case of legislators and legislative staff.



B. Legislators

S. No.	Name	Legislature	Party	Province	Gender
1.	Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Prof.,	Senate	MMAP	NWFP	M
2.	Asiya Nasir, Ms.	NA	MMAP	Balochistan	F
3.	Jalil Ahmed, Mr.	NA	PML-N	Punjab	M
4.	Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi, Mr.	NA	PPPP	Sindh	M
5.	Syed Javed Ali Shah Jillani, Mr.	NA	PML	Sindh	M
6.	Syed Naveed Qamar, Mr.	NA	PPPP	Punjab	M
7.	Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Ms.	PA-Balochistan Assembly	PML	Balochistan	F
8.	Isrrar Ullah Khan Gandapore, Mr.	PA-NWFP	PPP	NWFP	M
9.	Kashif Azam, Mr.	PA-NWFP	MMAP	NWFP	M
10.	Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Mr.	PA-Punjab	PML	Punjab	M
11.	Qasim Zia, Mr.	PA-Punjab	PPPP	Punjab	M
12.	Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Mr.	PA-Punjab	PML-N	Punjab	M
13.	Shaheena Asad, Ms.	PA-Punjab	PML	Punjab	F
14.	Shoukat Hussain Mazari, Mr.	PA-Punjab	PML	Punjab	M
15.	Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Mr.	PA-Sindh	PPPP	Sindh	M
16.	Syed Faisal Ali Sabzwari, Mr.	PA-Sindh	MQM	Sindh	M



C. Legislative Staff

S. No.	Name	Designation and Legislature
1.	Shahiq A. Khan, Mr.	Secretary Senate
2.	Tariq Shafiq Khan, Mr.	Additional Secretary National Assembly
3.	Muhammad Khan Mengal, Mr.	Secretary Balochistan Assembly
4.	Saeed Ahmad, Mr	Secretary Punjab Assembly

D. SNPLG Team (World Vision and PILDAT)

S. No.	Name	Designation and Organisation
1.	Bushra Jafar Malik, Ms.	Governance Operations Manager World Vision
2.	Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, Mr.	PILDAT Executive Director/ Programme Manager
3.	Aasiya Riaz, Ms.	PILDAT Joint Director/Projects Manager



Profiles of the Delegates



A. Speakers of Provincial Assemblies

Mr. Jamal Shah Kakar

Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan (Zhob-I, Balochistan, MMAP)

Mr. Jamal Shah Kakar was born on February 03, 1965 at Zhob, Balochistan. He is politically affiliated with Muttahidda Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan and was elected for his first-term as Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) in October 2002 and serves as the elected Speaker of Balochistan Assembly. Mr. Kakar holds a MSc. Chemistry degree from Balochistan University. Married, Mr. Kakar has six (6) sons and two (2) daughters.



Mr. Bakht Jehan Khan

Speaker, Provincial Assembly of NWFP (Bunair-III, NWFP, MMAP)

Born on May 02, 1953 at Village Toor Warsak, District Buner, NWFP, Mr. Bakht Jehan Khan holds Master and LLB Degree from the Karachi University, Pakistan and is a practising lawyer. He was elected as District Council Member in 1979, 1983 and 1987. He contested general election in 1985, 1988, 1990 and 2002 and elected as Member Provincial Assembly of NWFP. Mr. Bakht Jehan Khan is politically affiliated with Muttahidda Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan - MMAP. He contested and won election for the slot of Speakership of the NWFP Assembly on November 27, 2002. He is married. He is the father of six (6) daughters and one (1) son.

Profiles of the delegates are provided and /or approved by the delegates themselves.



Ch. Muhammad Afzal Sahi

Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Punjab (Faisalabad-I, Punjab, PML)

Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal Sahi graduated from the University of the Punjab in 1971. An agriculturalist by profession, he joined politics in 1971, served as a member of the Zila Council Faisalabad from 1971 to 1991 and Naib Zila Nazim from 2001 to 2002. He also served as a member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab during the years 1988 - 1990, 1990 - 1993 and 1997 - 1999. He has also held the portfolios for Parliamentary Secretary for Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife during the years 1990 -1993 and Minister for Communication and Works from 1998 -1999. He has been elected as Member Provincial Assembly of the Punjab for the fifth consecutive term. He is serving as Speaker Provincial Assembly of the Punjab since November 27, 2002. Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal Sahi is politically affiliated with the Pakistan Muslim League. He is married and the father of seven boys.



B. Legislators

Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim Khan

Senator, (NWFP, MMAP)

Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim Khan was born on September 28, 1954. He was elected as Senator from the Province of NWFP. He holds Masters Degrees in Political Science and Journalism. Married, he is the father of two sons and four daughters.



Ms. Asiya Nasir

MNA, (Non-Muslim-III, Balochistan)

Ms. Asiya Nasir was born on July 15, 1971 in Quetta. She is politically affiliated with the JUI (F) but was elected for her first term on an MMAP ticket from a seat reserved for the minorities. She holds a Masters in English Literature from Government Girls College, Quetta, Balochistan and a Certificate in Teachers Training from Notre Dame University, Karachi. Being the only minority female legislator in the National Assembly, she is very concerned about the uplift of minority women ethically, socially and economically. Educating the poor children of community is her prior interest. She is enthusiastically striving for the development of Pakistani minorities towards their progress as better citizens of Pakistan. She is a Member of the Executive Committee for the Young Parliamentarians Forum - YPF Pakistan, a member of the Standing Committee on Housing and Works and a member of Aurat Foundation. She is married with a son and two daughters.



Jalil Ahmed

MNA, (Sheikhupura-II, Punjab, PML-N)

Mian Jalil Ahmed was born on March 06, 1962 at Sharaqpur Sharif. He is the youngest son of Pakistan's famous spiritual leader Mian Jameel Ahmed Sharaqpuri. Mian Jalil Ahmed entered in textile business in Faisalabad after obtaining Masters Degree in Economics from University of the Punjab in 1988. In 1992, he started the business of Garments export as Chief Executive of Lasani Nit. He undertook business tours of various countries and introduced Pakistani cotton garments in the World. Besides his business, Mr. Ahmed is the patron of Sher-e-Rabbani Scouts Open Group and Sharaqpur Welfare Association initiating a number of welfare works such as setting up of free dispensary, library, free supply of books and uniforms to students, etc. He began his political career in affiliation with the Pakistan Muslim League (N). He is married with two sons and two daughters.



Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi

MNA, (Multan-I, Punjab, PPPP)

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi was born on June 22, 1956. An Agriculturalist by profession, he completed his BA in 1978 from Punjab University followed by a Masters Degree from Cambridge University, UK in 1983. Mr Qureshi was elected to the Punjab Assembly for the periods of 1985-1988, 1988-1990 and 1990-1993. As a Provincial Minister, he held the portfolios of Planning & Development from 1988 - 1990 and Finance from 1990-1993. In 1993, he was elected to the National Assembly and was appointed Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Agriculture. He served as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from 1994-1996. Mr Qureshi was also elected Chairman District Council Multan from 1987-1991 and in 2001, served as District Nazim Multan. Mr. Qureshi has been associated with organisations such as Farmers Association Pakistan (FAP), of which he is a founding member, and SOS. He is married with a son and two daughters.



Syed Javed Ali Shah Jillani

MNA, (Khairpur-II, Sindh, PML)

Syed Javed Ali Shah Jillani was born on May 08, 1948, in Khairpur Mir's, Sindh. He completed his B.A Hons and Masters in Political Science from University of Sindh, Jamshoro in 1970 and 1971 respectively. Mr. Jillani is politically affiliated with the Pakistan Muslim League and currently is the Parliamentary Secretary with portfolio of Production, Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan. He is also a member of two Standing Committees in the National Assembly: Planning & Development and Local Government & Rural Development. Syed Javed Ali Shah Jillani is married and enjoys riding, reading and travelling with legislative interests in agriculture development, social welfare, tourism, economic affairs and finance. He takes active interest in social welfare work. At present, he is a patron of Red Crescent Society, Khairpur, Director Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights, and Patron-in-Chief of NGO Coordination Council, District Khairpur.

Syed Naveed Qamar

MNA, (Hyderabad-IV, Sindh, PPPP)

Mr. Qamar was born in Karachi on September 22, 1955. He started his political career with Pakistan People's Party and got elected MPA Sindh from 1988-1990. He was the provincial minister for Information during this term. He was elected as MNA for the terms 1990-1993, 1993-1996, 1997-1999 and returned to the National Assembly for his fourth term in October 2002. He served as minister for Privatization from 1993 to 1996, carrying out the largest capital market deals in South Asia at the time. He was appointed Federal Minister for Finance in 1996. He is currently the ranking opposition member of the National Assembly committees on Finance, Commerce and Rules and Privileges. Syed Naveed Qamar is a graduate in Computer Science and holds Masters Degrees in Management and Business Administration. Married, he is the father of three daughters and a son.





Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani

MPA, (Women, Balochistan, PML)

Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani was born on February 17, 1968. She holds a Masters in Mass Communications and an L.L.B. degree. Ms. Durrani's name is synonymous with the Women and Human Rights in Balochistan. Initially she joined journalism and was the first Pushtoon lady in the province to join this field. She remained associated with various leading newspapers and highlighted the real issues of women. She has also worked with a number of regional, national and international organisations working for the public welfare, especially women, in the province and the country. Ms. Durrani was elected as a MPA Balochistan on Women's Reserved Seat in 2002. In her capacity as a journalist, social activist, lawyer and a politician, she has represented the country at various international forums. She is a Member of National Commission on the Status of Women, National Commission on Human Development and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.



Mr. Isrrar Ullah Khan Gandapore

MPA, (D.I.Khan-IV, NWFP, PPP)

Mr. Gandapore was born on August 06, 1975 and holds a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of Peshawar and an M.Phil in International Relations. He has previously served as Tehsil Nazim Kulachi, NWFP under the devolution of power concept of the Musharaf Regime. As an MPA, he is the member of House Committees on Law Reforms and Control on Subordinate Legislation, Health; Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights. He is the Chairman of Standing Committee on Science Technology and Information Technology. His legislative interests include Foreign Affairs, Finance and Defence.

**Mr. Kashif Azam**

MPA, (Peshawar-VI, NWFP, MMAP)

Mr. Kashif Azam was born on October 02, 1971. He holds a bachelors degree from Peshawar University. His areas of legislative interests include Foreign Affairs, Health and Women Development. Mr Azam is married and has a son. He currently holds the portfolio of Population Welfare and Women Development as a Provincial Minister of NWFP.

Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan

MPA, (Kasur-V, Punjab, PML)

Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan was born on November 29, 1971. He holds a L.L.B (Honours) degree and is currently serving as Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs at the Punjab Assembly. Married, Mr. Khan is the father of two sons and a daughter.





Mr. Qasim Zia

MPA, (Lahore-XIX, Punjab, PPPP)

Mr. Qasim Zia was born on August 07, 1961 in Lahore. He holds a bachelors degree from the Punjab University and is an Olympics Gold Medalist in the field of Hockey. Mr Zia has been affiliated with the PPPP since he joined politics and is currently serving as the Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly and also holds the office of Party President in the Punjab. Mr Zia's legislative interests lie in the fields of Education, Foreign Office, Health and Finance. He is married and has two daughters and one son.



Mr. Rana Sana Ullah Khan

MPA, (Faisalabad-XX, Punjab, PML-N)

Mr. Rana Sana Ullah Khan was born on January 01, 1955 and holds a B. Com Degree from the Government College of Commerce, Faisalabad and an L.L.B. Degree from the Punjab University Law College. Mr. Khan is an advocate by profession. He has been previously elected twice as an MPA in 1990 and in 1997 from Punjab. He is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at the Punjab Assembly. His legislative interests include Foreign Affairs, Education, Law and Religious Affairs. Mr. Khan is married and has a daughter.



Mr. Shoukat Hussain Mazari

MPA, (Rajanpur-IV, Punjab, PML)

Mr. Shoukat Hussain Mazari, born on the February 10, 1948 at Rojhan, District Rajanpur, graduated from Government College, Lahore in 1967 and went on to get a Diploma in Textile from Blackburn College of Technology and Design, United Kingdom. Mr. Mazari was President of the Pakistan Students Association from 1969-1970. An agriculturalist by profession, he was elected Member of the Zila council from D.G Khan in 1979 and from Rajanpur in 1982. In 1977, he served as the Provincial Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, and from 1988-1990 served as the Deputy Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly. Mr. Shoukat Hussain Mazari has represented Pakistan twice at the United Nations General Assembly as a delegate in 1974 and 1995 and at the International Conference in Basil, Switzerland in 1988-89. He is currently serving as the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly. He is married and has one son.

Ms. Shaheena Asad

MPA, (Women, Punjab)

Ms. Shaheena Asad was born on November 15, 1967 and holds a Masters Degree in Urdu from F.C College Lahore and Journalism from Bahauddin Zakaria University, Multan. Ms Asad is the General Secretary for '*Azm*' welfare foundation and on the executive board for '*Sadaf*', organisation for children with thalassemia. She is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Tourism at the Punjab Assembly. Her legislative interests lie in the areas of Foreign Affairs, Education and Women's Development. She is married with one son.





Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro

MPA, (Larkana-II, Sindh, PPPP)

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly, was born on September 22, 1950. He was elected as a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh for five times: 1988, 1990, 1993 and 1997 and 2002 from the platform of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). He has been affiliated with PPP at the district level and remained President of the District Larkana for four years; Vice President for the Province of Sindh for three years and President of the Province of Sindh for seven and a half years. He has also served as a member in the local government system. An agriculturist by profession, he holds a bachelors degree from University of Karachi. He is also involved in social welfare with patronship of various welfare organisations. He is married and is the father of five daughters. Education, Health and Women Development are his areas of legislative interest.

Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari

MPA, (Karachi-XXX, Sindh, MQM)

Mr. Subzwari was born on April 08, 1975. He holds B.B.A. Degree in Finance and a C.A. degree. Mr Subzwari completed his articleship with Fergusson & company. He has also worked as a chartered accountant with Muhammad Yousaf Adil & Company Chartered Accountants. He is married and has one daughter.





C. Legislative Staff



Mr. Shahiq A. Khan

Secretary, Senate of Pakistan

Mr. Shahiq A. Khan was born on October 21, 1950 at Muzaffargarh, in a respectable and educated family of the Punjab province. His father was a General in the Pakistan Army and his Grandfather the Chief Minister of West Pakistan. He has earned his Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of the Punjab. He is married with four children while his wife is a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He joined the Senate Secretariat in 2003. He has worked in different departments in various capacities and has a vast experience in the field of Human Resource and top level management in private as well as government sectors. Since July 10, 2004, Mr. Shahiq A. Khan is performing as the Secretary of Senate. He has travelled extensively around the world including official visits to Algeria, Cuba, China and Fiji as part of his assignment with the Senate.

Mr. Tariq Shafiq Khan

Additional Secretary, National Assembly

Mr. Tariq Shafiq Khan was born on March 24, 1950 at Lahore, Punjab. He graduated from Government College, Lahore in 1971 and obtained his Masters and Law degree from University of the Punjab, Lahore in 1973 and 1974 respectively. He is a career civil servant having joined the civil service in 1974 batch. During his service he has held various senior administrative appointments both in the Secretariat and the field establishments. He is currently posted as Additional Secretary in the National Assembly Secretariat. He is married and enjoys reading books.





Mr. Muhammad Khan Mengal

Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

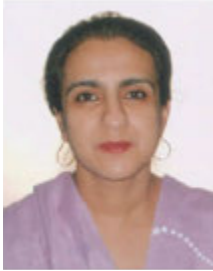
Mr. Muhammad Khan Mengal was born on July 23, 1950. He holds a Masters degree in Political Science as well as an M. Phil and an L.L.B degree from Karachi University. Mr Mengal has, to his credit, eight (8) years of practice in the field of law having practiced in both, the City Court and the Sindh High Court, Karachi. Mr. Mengal is also the Secretary to the Ad-Hoc Public Accounts Committee, Balochistan Provincial Assembly, Member of the Provincial Transitory Team and Deputy Relief Commissioner, Balochistan.



Mr. Saeed Ahmad

Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Punjab

Mr. Saeed Ahmed was born on March 05, 1947. He holds a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Punjab. Mr Ahmed has 36 years experience of financial, administrative and parliamentary affairs in Assembly Secretariat. He has a major contribution in editing and compiling numerous publications for the Punjab Assembly. He is married and has four (4) daughters and two (2) sons.



Ms. Bushra Jafar Malik

Governance Operations Manager,
World Vision International, Islamabad

Ms. Malik's professional experience in the development sector has spanned over 13-14 years covering a diverse range of fields including rural development, gender roles, integrated programmes in planning, environment, refugee assistance, public relations, advertising and governance. Her career in the social sector has involved working with organizations such as Aurat Foundation, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Action Aid and Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment. Ms. Malik has also spent about 3 ½ years in Uganda working with the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a Public Information and Liaisons Officer. Ms. Malik joined World Vision in June 2004 and currently holds office as Governance Operations Manager.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Executive Director PILDAT

The founder director of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative development And Transparency PILDAT, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob is a civil engineer by profession with over 20 years of experience in senior management positions.

Born on October 28, 1952, Mr. Mehboob is married with four children. Mr. Mehboob has travelled widely around the world and has participated in many international conferences as a speaker and has previously conducted five (5) Parliamentary study tours to Germany, United Kingdom and India.





Ms. Aasiya Riaz

Joint Director PILDAT

Ms. Aasiya Riaz is Joint Director at PILDAT and holds an MSc. Degree in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, UK. Ms. Aasiya Riaz specialises in political communication and is also involved in research on the emerging discipline of E-Democracy. She has extensive experience in managing international publications and has also worked as editorial writer in the mainstream English-language newspapers in the country.





Introduction of SNPLG, PILDAT and USAID



Introduction of SNPLG Project

Strengthening National and Provincial Legislative Governance - SNPLG Project in Pakistan is a three-year (Sept. 03-06), US \$14 million project funded by the United States Agency for International Development - USAID and implemented by the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Consortium - PLSC. World Vision leads the PLSC in partnership with IFES, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT, The Researchers, All Women Advancement and Resource Development - AWARD, Citizens Commission for Human Development - CCHD, Integrated Research and Development Organisation - IRDO,

and the Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan - CRCP.

The objectives of the SNPLG project are defined as:

1. Legislators stakeholders equipped with the know-how and tools to perform their respective functions
2. Civil Society empowered to perform public advocacy and oversight functions
3. Media and research more effectively applied to enhance transparency and facilitate participatory decision-making

On August 12, 2004, the ownership of the project was established with the primary government partners when the National Assembly (NA) and the Senate Secretaries signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in the presence of the Chairman of the Senate and the Speaker of the National Assembly, together with the US Ambassador and all project implementers. This opened the way for full implementation of all critical aspects of the project.



Introduction of PILDAT

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT is an independent, not for profit and non-partisan research and training institution committed to strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. PILDAT has been actively engaged with building the capabilities of elected legislators towards a better discharge of their functions of Legislation, Representation and Oversight.

PILDAT regularly holds training Workshops, Briefing Sessions and Short Courses for national and provincial legislators of Pakistan on crucial policy and technical issues, while it prepares concise briefing papers, case studies and reports on such issues as a learning tool for Pakistani parliamentarians. In addition, PILDAT facilitates intensive study tours and courses for parliamentarians to learn from international best practises.

PILDAT joined the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Consortium -PLSC in September 2003 to undertake the legislative training and capacity building part of the three-year USAID-funded project of Strengthening National and Provincial Legislative Governance -SNPLG in Pakistan. PILDAT, under the SNPLG, works to equip legislative stakeholders with know how and tools to better perform their representative, legislative and oversight functions through training and technical advising. PILDAT also leads the efforts of development and implementation of a comprehensive curriculum on legislative governance under the project.



Introduction of USAID

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) carries out foreign assistance programs that support key U.S. foreign policy interests, including sustained economic and social progress. USAID reopened its field mission in Pakistan in 2002, and its work is focused on improving health and education in the country, strengthening democratic governance, and promoting economic development. To improve governance, USAID supports the Government of Pakistan in helping civil society become more effective in its advocacy role, improving the ability of elected officials to respond to their constituents, strengthening the media, making policy making more fact-based and issue-oriented, capacity building of political parties, and supporting devolution.



World Vision



5-A, Zafar Ali Road, Gulberg-V, Lahore 54000 Pakistan
Ph: (+92-42) 111 123 345 Fax: (+92-42) 575 1551
E-mail: info@pildat.org URL: www.pildat.org