



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Environment

Regional Conference on

“Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia”

13–14 January 2009, Serena Hotel, Islamabad



The clear and present danger of climate change is widely acknowledged in every corner of the globe. With this recognition has come the call for all nations to put aside their differences and address this global threat collectively, for the sake of our collective future.

On the world stage, Pakistan has been at the forefront of efforts to raise awareness about issues related to climate change, leading resolutions in international forums to develop uniform policies on the subject.

At the same time, Pakistan faces a potential environmental catastrophe, brought on by the cumulative effect of a host of factors from unregulated development to population growth to the over-exploitation of natural resources. So severe are the effects already that environmental degradation is today estimated to cause economic losses to the tune of 365 billion rupees annually, or six per cent of GDP. And this figure is likely to rise in the near future, unless steps are taken to address environmental threats on an emergency footing.

Keeping in view the urgency to respond to the challenge of climate change as well as other pressing ecological concerns, the Government of Pakistan has

declared 2009 to be the National Year of the Environment.

As one step in a series of measures that will address the country's environmental issues, the Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan, and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Pakistan, are jointly organising a regional conference, “Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia”.

The conference will bring together experts from the South Asia region to share their knowledge and experience of the impact of climate change, and to explore mitigation measures. Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), will be the keynote speaker at the inaugural session. The technical sessions will focus on responses developed by Asian countries to specific climate-related problems in agriculture, water resource management and disaster management.

Objectives

- To facilitate a dialogue on climate change between Pakistan and other countries.
- To assist in policy planning for the sectors most susceptible to climate change (agriculture, water and disaster management).

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

