



CPC 2015
COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE
ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN



2015

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PAKISTAN.





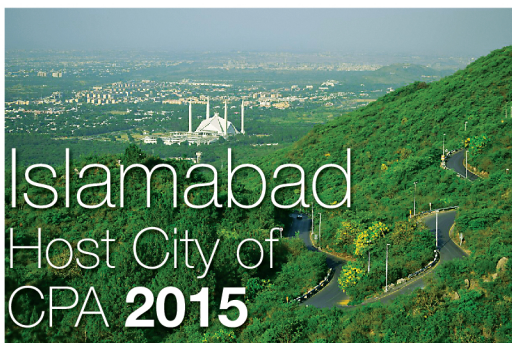
Welcome Message

by H.E Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Honourable
Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan

It is my profound pleasure to welcome you to Pakistan, the ancient lands with a young and dynamic nation of over 180 million people. Strategically placed at the doorsteps of South Asia, Pakistan is a developing democracy, which has played a significant role for global peace and regional security. As a Member of the Commonwealth since its independence in 1947, our contributions for the harmonious growth of CPA community are also on record as many of our distinguished parliamentarians have served as elected office bearers of this distinguished forum. Now, as Pakistan gears up to holding the 2015 Commonwealth Parliamentarians Conference, our people and the Parliament assure you an unforgettable experience of a sojourn to a land of history, geographical wonders and hospitality.

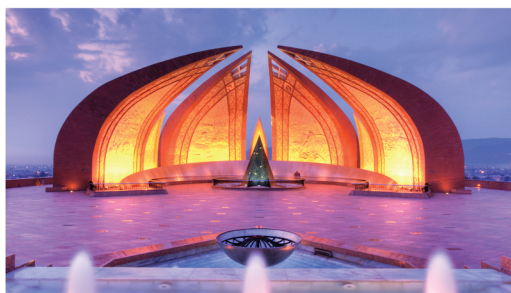
With over 8000 BC relics of Mehrgarh, the Indus Valley and Gandhara Civilizations, Pakistan is truly the melting pot of civilizations. It's a crucible of man's oldest faiths as told by the ancient temples of Taxila and Kattas Raj and a majestic seat of Muslim Mughal Empire of the 16th century. What is more, Pakistan is a land of natural beauty, grandeur and a variety of landscape. From K-2, the world's second highest peak in the North, to the white sandy beaches of Southern Baluchistan, Pakistan has a lot to offer. To be held in the federal capital of Islamabad, one of the world's most planned and modern cities, I am sure that 2015 CPC will long be remembered by our valued delegates and participants for its meticulous organization, unique warmth and splendid hospitality.

I, on behalf of my people and Parliament, therefore look forward to receiving you in 2015.



Islamabad, the beautiful city hosting the Conference is known for its peace and tranquillity amidst its serene and scenic surroundings. Despite being a pretty, quiet capital of the country there are a number of fascinating locations to visit in the city including majestic Faisal Mosque, spectacular view points of Pir Sohawa and Daman-e-Koh, scenic Saidpur village, captivating Rawal lake, Lok Virsa Museum portraying cultural variety in Pakistan, Rose and Jasmine Garden for flower lovers and many other places including Pakistan Monument, Monal, Lake view parks, etc.

Come and explore the city on the newly revamped transport services including the latest comfortable Metro Bus Service reflecting state of the art facility and ease of access, which is currently in the final stages of completion.



How to reach **PAKISTAN**

Visa Requirements

Visa formalities are essential for entry in Pakistan. However, for select friendly countries, on arrival visa facilities are also available. For details, Contact Pakistan embassy in your respective jurisdiction or visit Pakistan Foreign Office

website: <http://www.mofa.gov.pk>

Travelling

Pakistan International Airlines, the National flag carrier operates from over 24 domestic and 37 international destinations in 27 countries across Asia, Europe and North America. Nevertheless, all major airlines, i.e. the Emirates, Etihad, British Airways and others regularly fly to Pakistan. The Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad has all the modern facilities to cater its guests.

Connecting flights to Islamabad are also available from Quaid-e-Azam International Airport, Karachi and Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore.



Parliament of **Pakistan**

The Parliament of Pakistan is the federal and supreme legislative body of Pakistan.



A bicameral legislature, it consists of the National Assembly, which is the lower house with 342 seats, and the Senate which is the upper house consisting of 104 seats. The National Assembly is elected on a 5-year term and the Senate for a 6-year term. Currently women represent approximately 20% in both houses.

The Parliament House in Islamabad is a five-story building, and was inaugurated on 28th May, 1986. It was built in 11 years and was designed by an American architect, Edward Durel Stone.

Sights & Sounds of Pakistan

Pakistan's culture, literature, music and arts present a pleasant surprise to its visitors. With poets and writers like Allama Iqbal, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Bapsi Sidhwa and Mohsin Hamid, artists such as Abdur Rehman Chughtai, Sadeqain, and Gulgee and world renown musicians such as Noor Jehan, Nusrat Fateh Ali and Abida Parveen, the history and individuality, of all provinces of the country merge beautifully into the oneness of Pakistan. It offers a wide range of flavours in one big melting pot.

Pakistan expresses its cultural grandeur through historical forts and palaces in the vicinity of Jehlum and Lahore, beautiful archaic mosques and shrines in the heart of Sindh and Southern Punjab, and boasts of the oldest Gandharan civilization through its famous archaeological sites such as the 3,000 year old city of Taxila, the necropolis of Mohenjodaro, and the legendary pilgrimage site of the Hindus at the temple of Katasraj.

Pakistan is land of many splendours, serenity and surprises. Born in 1947 as an independent nation, it may be a relatively young country but is indeed an ancient land. The country's north is dotted by picturesque valleys, surrounded by an aggregation of over a hundred peaks ranging from 6,000 to 8,611 meters, above sea level, including the awe-inspiring K-2, which is the world's second highest peak at 8,611 meters. The south is all about the wilderness of the Cholistan and Thar Desert, spreading to the sandy beaches of Karachi and Baluchistan. In between are the lush green farmlands of fertile Punjab and Sindh.



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