

# Italian Development Committee

## 72<sup>nd</sup> National Day of Italy in Karachi and Islamabad

On the occasion of 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the proclamation of Republic of Italy, the Italian Development Committee congratulates H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo and Mr. Roberto Puddu at Embassy of Italy in Islamabad, Ms. Anna Ruffino at Italian Consulate in Karachi, Mr. Gianpaolo Bruno and Mr. Daudpota from Italian Trade Agency and the people of the Republic of Italy.

Italy is a fascinating country inhabited by some of the most talented, creative and innovative minds, which excel not only in Fashion, Art and Lifestyle but is also a hub for technologically advanced industrial, agricultural and engineering solutions. It is a privilege for IDC to be affiliated with Italy, a country with third largest economy in EU and one of the most diversified industrial economies in the world.

It has been great year for IDC and its members. There have been initiatives by members of Italian Development Committee in Textiles, Interiors, Kitchens, Food and Industrial machinery sectors with the support of Italian Embassy in Islamabad, Italian Consulate in Karachi and the Italian Trade Agency.

IDC is strongly committed towards bringing more value to its members by exploring more business opportunities with Italy and actively promote bilateral economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

According to Mr. Aarij Iqbal, President, IDC, "I have always felt a very special, personal connection with Italy



and that bond has only strengthened over many visits these past years as President of IDC. I am especially grateful to Ambassador of Italy in Islamabad, H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo and Consul of Italy in Karachi, Ms. Anna Ruffino for their partnership on initiatives that are related to trade and investment between Pakistan and Italy. The trade relations have seen double digit growth in the last years and continue to be promising for the coming years. We have had the opportunity to host delegations from Italian companies and have had the opportunity to reciprocate the same by taking delegations to Italy. I look forward to strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and Italy in the years to come."

H.E. Nadeem Riyaz, Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy said, "Heartiest felicitations to the government and the people of Italy on the occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> National Day of Italy. As inheritors of two great ancient civilizations, Pakistan and Italy enjoy warm and cordial

relations. These relations have been further strengthened over the years in diverse areas of cooperation. Pakistan-Italy bilateral trade of over US\$ 1.4 billion has immense potential of increase. As Pakistan offers great investment opportunities, I am convinced that there would be a quantum increase in commercial activities between the two countries in the coming years."

H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan said, "It gives me immense pleasure to be celebrating the National Day of Italy for the third time in Pakistan. I am indeed thankful for being the Ambassador to Pakistan, as the relationship between our countries is one of those that will always allow Heads of Mission like myself to escape the curse of banality, otherwise constantly lurking in diplomatic prose."

Ms. Anna Ruffino, Consul of Italy in Karachi said, "The occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the National Day of Italy is important event for my country, that I am very pleased to celebrate this year with the people of Pakistan."

Italian entrepreneurs are choosing to visit Karachi looking for business opportunities, as well as investing in Pakistan. It's a growing trend that shows that Italy looks at the Pakistani market with great interest, and that Pakistani companies continues to be strongly attracted towards Italy." ♦

