



November 23, 2012

Colleagues and friends,

In the brief few weeks that I have been in Pakistan I have been struck by the tremendous economic potential this country possesses and by the industriousness and vitality of its people. I have also been pleased to see the many ways in which the United States is working with Pakistan to harness this potential to create a brighter economic future for the people of Pakistan. Here are a few examples:

Boosting agricultural output: To generate jobs and higher incomes among the 45 percent of the population employed in agriculture, the United States helped train 14,000 Pakistani farmers to better protect their livestock from disease, improve the quality of their products, and achieve profitable growth. We're also helping to build new irrigation canals that will expand arable land by more than 200,000 acres.

Building roads for greater trade: To connect communities and facilitate trade, the United States is helping to build more than 1,000 km of roads in FATA, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and Baluchistan. The Peshawar-Torkham Highway reconstruction is also underway and it will connect Jamrud and Landikotal Tehsils in Khyber Agency with the city of Peshawar to foster regional trade for years to come.

Helping businesses bloom: The United States is uniquely placed to support entrepreneurship in Pakistan because, as President Obama said, "innovation is what America has always been about." In September, we launched the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative, a private equity offering designed to help Pakistan's talented entrepreneurs access the capital they need to expand their businesses and create jobs. In October, we organized the "U.S.-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference" in London to bring together Pakistani and American businesses and bankers to identify new business opportunities.

Promoting trade and investment: The United States is Pakistan's largest export market. Two-way trade between our countries amounted to almost \$6 billion in 2011. The U.S. government wants to expand our trade and investment relationship with Pakistan and so do U.S. investors who are attracted to this country's market of 180 million people.

These are just a few of the initiatives that represent U.S. economic assistance to Pakistan, a program that is focused on helping Pakistan build the skills, networks, regulatory environment, and access to capital necessary to realize the potential and aspirations of millions of Pakistanis.

To learn more, please read our new **Economic Growth** bulletin below. As always, we welcome your ideas and comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Richard Olson", written over a circular stamp.

Ambassador Richard Olson

P.S. If a friend would also like to receive these updates, please send that person's name and email address to uspakassistance@state.gov. In the coming weeks and months, look for future bulletins to come to you from the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section.