



News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

U.S. for Strengthening Bilateral Relationship through Academic, Scholarly Exchange

Islamabad, January 12, 2007 – The U.S. Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission, Peter W. Bodde, said that there is nothing more noble than the pursuit of strengthening bilateral relationships through academic and scholarly exchange. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 2007 conference of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) here on Friday.

The American diplomat said that AIPS is increasing the richness of people-to-people exchange between the U.S. and Pakistan and promoting scholarly pursuit of a region vital to the United States. “This is an excellent example of how ties between Pakistan and the U.S. continue to deepen and widen – the current U.S.-Pakistan relationship is not exclusively focused on security and the War on Terror,” he remarked.

Mr. Bodde said that whether by assisting the Pakistani government accomplish its education reform goals, to supporting the preservation of Pakistan’s archaeological treasures through the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation, or engaging on gender issues, the U.S. is involved at all levels and intends to remain so.

The goal of the three-day conference, being organized in collaboration with the Quaid-i-Azam University, is to facilitate scholarly research relating to Pakistan and to encourage the exchange of ideas among American and Pakistani scholars. This is the third major biennial international conference organized by AIPS, and the first one to be held in Pakistan.

The central focus of this conference will be on university-level pedagogical development in Pakistan Studies, both in the U.S. and in Pakistan, with an emphasis on the humanities and social sciences. AIPS aims to build bridges among academic disciplines, such as archaeology, history, literary and cultural studies, anthropology, political science and education, with overall sensitivity to issues of gender and Islam.

This American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) conference will result in a major publication to disseminate the results of the conference.

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