

SECP conducts awareness Session on Code of Corporate Governance at Karachi Stock Exchange

ISLAMABAD, October: 4 The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), on Thursday conducted an awareness session on Code of Corporate Governance, 2012 (“the Code”) at Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE). The awareness session was held in collaboration with the KSE and was attended by CEOs, CFOs, company secretaries and internal auditors of companies listed at KSE. The session opened with a presentation by the SECP highlighting the revised Code and implementation schedule followed by presentation by KSE on compliance and enforcement of the Code and concluded by a detailed question and answer session.

The Code was launched and implemented as part of the listing regulations of the stock exchanges in April. It was finalized after extensive stakeholder consultation both by Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance Task Force and by the SECP. However, this consultation and coverage was more at a policy level, since the implementation of the Code the SECP has been receiving numerous queries – primarily of operational nature.

Due to above and the fact that the revised Code has made certain previously optional provisions mandatory and also introduced new concepts and requirements, it was felt that awareness sessions should be held at all three stock exchanges targeted towards CEOs, CFOs, company secretaries and internal auditors of the listed companies.

This awareness session is a part of the SECP’s efforts to raise corporate governance standards in Pakistan and to protect the interest of minority share holders. Apart from creating awareness, these sessions would help listed companies to ensure compliance with the provisions which have become effective and at the same time prepare and take measures for timely implementation of the provisions which will become effective at the time of next board election. It is expected that these sessions would not only lead to successful implementation of the Code but also improve the growth of corporate sector by promoting governance regime which strengthens the rights of all stakeholders.

The SECP is grateful to all who participated in the awareness session at the KSE.