

## Press Release

### **SEC, ASIC Sign MoU in Canberra**

**Islamabad – June 15, 2005:** The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SEC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for mutual assistance and exchange of information.

The MoU was signed this morning in Canberra, Australia during the President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf's visit. Mr. Jeffrey Lucy, Chairman signed on behalf of the ASIC while Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia, Mr. Babar Wahid Malik, signed on behalf of the SEC in place of the Chairman SEC, Dr. Tariq Hassan, who was unable to travel.

Recognising the increasing international activity in the financial markets, and the corresponding need for cooperation between the relevant national authorities, ASIC and the SEC have formalised a framework that will facilitate the exchange of information. The MOU has been developed to ensure compliance with the respective securities and futures laws or regulatory requirements of Australia and Pakistan.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman SEC, Dr. Tariq Hassan, Mr. Babar Wahid Malik welcomed the signing of the MoU saying it will help in cementing ties between the two regulators and prove beneficial in sharing of corporate information.

Mr Lucy said while welcoming the MoU said: "The MOU will improve the arrangement for providing assistance, obtaining information and the use of information by the securities regulators of our countries,"

Cross-border financial services transactions between Australia and Pakistan are significant and growing given our improving trade relationship, and increasing globalisation. The signing of the MOU is one of a number of agreements signed by the two countries this week, which illustrate Australia's strong relationship with Pakistan.

Information exchanged between ASIC and the SEC may be used in civil investigations and proceedings. This information can also be used to assist other law enforcement or regulatory bodies, such as the stock exchanges, to enforce laws relating to insider dealings, market manipulation and other fraudulent practices.

Furthermore, this information can be used for supervising and monitoring stock markets, as well as ensuring that registered persons are considered fit and proper.

"As the need to combat transnational fraud grows, it is important that regulators share information about illegal securities activities. ASIC and the SEC have a strong relationship and I look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in Pakistan to protect consumers and business interests at home and abroad," Mr Lucy added.