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SEC Arranges Three-day Training Programme on Insurance in Consultation with ADB.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SEC) is determined to bring about effective regulation in the insurance sector and bring it at par with international standards. To ensure and achieve this, the Commission arranged a three-day training programme from March 19th-21st with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), on the insurance reforms and regulations introduced by the Commission. The training was conducted by Mr. James Smith, a well known international consultant from ADB.

The training was aimed at educating officers working in various divisions of SEC, particularly those recently recruited to run the Insurance Division, about the importance of insurance, its affect on the economy and the need for effective regulation of the sector. The ADB consultant gave detailed presentations on the repealed Insurance Act and its comparison with the new Insurance Ordinance, 2000, and explained the changes brought about, the reason for the changes and comparison with worldwide industry standards.

Officers of the Commission were further informed of the regulatory tools available to them and the transitions that were expected in the industry due to laws recently enforced by the SEC. The ADB consultant provided great insight into actions that needed to be taken by the SEC to enforce principles that were new to Pakistan's insurance industry. He appreciated the steps already taken by the Commission in this regard; however, he said that it would take some more time to have effective regulation of the insurance industry to bring it at par with international standards, in order to ensure protection of interests of policyholders and sound development of the insurance industry in Pakistan.

