



THE KARACHI STOCK EXCHANGE (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

South Asian Federation of Exchanges



DOW JONES SAFE 100 INDEX LAUNCHED

Islamabad: In order to promote the South Asian region as a combined investment destination for the global fund managers/investors, South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) in collaboration with Dow Jones Indexes Inc, New York, has launched first ever Dow Jones SAFE 100 Index comprising prominent companies listed on the major exchanges of the region. The index launching ceremony has been held in the annual general assembly of the SAFE held on March 11, 2009 at Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Michael A. Petronella, president, Dow Jones Indexes, said that the South Asia is home to some of the most rapidly evolving financial markets worldwide. By further developing securities markets and aiming at their regional and international integration, the SAFE had been contributing significantly to these developments. The Dow Jones SAFE Indexes will provide market participants with accurate, transparent and reliable performance measures of leading companies in the SAARC region. He said that such indexes were yet another example of Dow Jones Indexes' commitment to index excellence.

Mr. Aftab Ahmad Ch. Secretary General SAFE and MD/CEO Islamabad Stock Exchange said that we are very delighted to launch the Dow Jones SAFE 100 index jointly with Dow Jones Indexes, well-known for reliable and world-class indexes. As a representative body of South Asian Exchanges, our effort had been to present the entire region as one investment destination and the launch of the Dow Jones SAFE 100 Index is an effort in the same direction. The index showcases the region as one asset class and can thanks to its superior methodology be used as an underlying tool for investment products on national and international level alike.

This index would represent the collective movement, direction and trend of the regional stock markets and would enable global investors to use the same as a benchmark for the performance of their investments in the region. The index would also promote the region as an important asset class in the investment portfolio of the regional and international fund managers. The launch of the initial composite index of the region would also enable the Dow Jones to launch different sub indexes representing various major and performing sectors of the economies of the countries of the region such as banking, insurance, telecommunication, oil and gas sectors etc. In this way, the index would greatly help the investors in co-relating and comparing the performance of the similar sectors within different countries of South Asia. With the launch of this index, global asset management companies would be able to start Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) based on SAFE-DJ index, besides enabling the regional and other international exchanges to start futures trading based on this index. It would also serve as an underlying tool for developing many other new investment products in the region.