

US AMBASSADOR APPRECIATES KSE POTENTIAL

(KARACHI, May, 8 2008) US Ambassador Anne W Patterson on Thursday visited Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) and held a meeting with its management and board of directors. US Consul General Kay L Anske and Press Attache Elizabeth O Colton were also present on the occasion.

Commenting on her visit to KSE, she said that Pakistan stock market has a "huge" upside potential and she was keen to be at the premier stock exchange of Pakistan.

"I was preparing for the job and I picked up the Wall Street Journal one day and there was a front page article on "terrorism in Pakistan" and on the business page there was a story on "how this (KSE) was the most successful stock exchange in the world". So I wanted to visit this stock exchange (KSE) which is the symbol of Pakistan's growth and symbol of hopefulness in the economy", she said.

"I had also heard a lot about the distinguished and impressive management the stock market had here." she said. The US Ambassador expressed her pleasure for provided a chance to visit KSE. She termed it a symbol of what Pakistan can and will be".

Earlier, Managing Director KSE Adnan Afridi gave a presentation on country's economy, stock market and performance of Pakistan's premier bourse.

He said Pakistan has experienced a sustainable growth and can continue on the path provided there is continuity and longevity of economy policies. It is one of the most open investment regimes in the world with 100 percent repatriation of profits that has helped in attracting investment, he said.

Adnan pointed out that financial services and telecom sector were deregulated with strong, professional regulators adopting global practices and benefiting from favourable demographics other sectors should adopt similar strategies.

He said KSE was the top performer in the emerging stock markets of the world with a growth of 8.73 percent during 2008. Taiwan is the second with 5.69 percent followed by Bangkok and Singapore, he added.

He said the growth rate of KSE is over 35 percent per annum for the last ten years as its market capitalization has grown to \$ 75 billion.

He said KSE was heading for de-mutualization which will make it a member of prestigious group of developed stock markets of the world.

Responding to a question about the prospects of long term investment in the backdrop of security concerns, Adnan pointed out that despite ups and downs and political uncertainty in the country, foreign investment has continued.

Other members of the board of directors told US Ambassador that there were big upside expectations, once the security situation is improved. What they (fund managers) are worried is the falling rupee and lack of economic road map.

US Ambassador was told that KSE has the average multiple of 10 to 11 whereas neighboring markets including India are 17 while Bangladesh was 23.

She also had a one-on-one meeting with KSE managing director Adnan Afridi on her arrival at the stock exchange.

VISIT OF US AMBASSADOR TO KSE

A group photographs on the occasion of visit of US Ambassador Anne W Patterson to the Karachi Stock Exchange on May 8, 2008 Picture shows from left to right are Mr. Shehzad Chamdia, Director-KSE, Mr. Adnan Afridi, Managing Director-KSE, Mr. Haroon Askari, GM-Operations, Anne W Patterson, US Ambassador and Mr. Muhammad Shoib Memon, Director-KSE