

SUMMARY OF CONCLUDING ADDRESS

Mr. Mirza Hamid Hasan
*Federal Secretary,
Ministry of Water and Power
Government of Pakistan*

The concluding session of the meeting was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hasan, Federal Secretary for Water and Power, Government of Pakistan.

In his closing address, Mirza Hamid Hasan appreciated the comments made by *H.E. Badi Khattab*, the Charge d' Affaires of Syrian Arab Republic, *H.E. T.Y. Opatola*, the Deputy High Commissioner of Nigeria and by the other participants. Speaking on the occasion, he said that drastic changes in the global climate have affected the scenarios of water-resources in many regions of the world and that Pakistan is no exception. He added "In our country, we are facing severe drought-like conditions for the last three years. The Government of Pakistan is taking serious measures. We are adopting short and long-term strategies to meet the situation and are formulating policies for conservation of water-resources and are putting in place a system that forecasts droughts, assesses damages and provides relief to the affectees. The time has come for us to act fast and to re-frame and devise our strategies in the most efficient way.

A number of projects are planned for water-resource management in the 'Vision-2025'. Of these, the key projects are related to the issues of *Access to Clean Water* and *Optimal Use of Water-Resources for Agriculture*. The future threat to Pakistan emanates from increase in population and resultantly enhanced food-requirements, imbalancing the demand and supply of water. About 235 MAF of water is required, which is not possible under the prevailing conditions. We must identify key-measures to strengthen, develop, manage and conserve our water-reserves". Mr. Hamid also underlined the need to give priority to the flood-prevention issue.

Mirza Hamid Hasan congratulated the organizers for arranging purposeful meeting of national and regional importance. He appreciated the efforts of the COMSATS for gathering key researchers and learned scholars of the field at one forum, who discussed the problem of water-resource in great detail and formulated far-reaching recommendations. He urged further refinements of these recommendations for submission to the government.

He said that the government of Pakistan would extend every possible help to support the initiative of the COMSATS in conserving water-resources in Pakistan and in the other member-states of the COMSATS. He emphasized that issues related to water-resources should be tackled in collaboration with international community, since these issues have assumed global and regional significance.