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A Roundtable Discussion on Opportunities for Commercial Banks in Microfinance

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN) jointly organized a two-day round table discussion among financial sector players, and microfinance practitioners in Pakistan with a panel of speakers representing ICICI Bank, India. The event was held at Learning Resource Centre, SBP on November 1-2, 2006.

The objective of the discussion was to scale up the delivery of financial services to poor by integrating Microfinance with formal financial sector. Addressing to the participants, Governor SBP emphasized on the need of evolving an effective growth strategy for Microfinance sector keeping in view the international successful experiences and domestic environment. She mentioned that access to development finance remains a core mission of SBP in view of its critical importance for the economic and social uplift of poor. Referring to different profitable worldwide microfinance institutions, she especially invited attention of commercial banks for understanding the business dynamics of Microfinance. She also added that MF initiatives of commercial banks would also reflect their role for Corporate Social Responsibility.

The guest speakers of the round table discussion were Mr. Nachiket Mor, Deputy Managing Director, ICICI Bank, India and his team's senior members who shared the objectives and methodology of their bank's fast growing innovative partnership models with various NGOs. The participants took keen interest in the round table discussion and discussed various aspects regarding the potential, constraints, business development strategies along with appropriate risk management framework in area of Microfinance.
