

**SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF  
THE CENTRE FOR SURVEY RESEARCH ON JANUARY 04, 2012**

Honorable Dr. Ishrat Husain, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here and to say a few words on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Centre for Survey Research (CSR). The importance of consumer expectation surveys is well known. These expectations are based on consumers' perceptions about current as well as future economic conditions. Expectations regarding inflation, interest rates, stock prices, and employment are important for policy formulation. This explains why many developed and developing countries are using consumer surveys for policy and research purposes. Accordingly, this survey will help us study the expectations of consumers and their reaction to economic and policy decisions. Such a set of information is expected to facilitate the process of designing a forward-looking monetary policy in the country.

It would be worthwhile to mention here that, until recent times, a documentation of the expectations channel at the household level and one that is nationally representative of Pakistan was not available with either SBP or the private sector. It was this very fact which made it all the more important that State Bank of Pakistan, being the Central Bank of the country, to enhance its efforts to collect information on expectations. This will allow us to undertake meaningful research, well-supported by first-hand knowledge of the situation in the country.

It was against this backdrop that the idea of undertaking the consumer confidence survey was developed. I am glad that we have the support of a reputable institution like Institute of Business Administration. The groundwork has been laid by both the institutions to make the project a real success. In this regard, a pilot project was completed last July, which enabled us to stop, rethink and ultimately adopt the most appropriate strategy to steer this idea into practice.

In the end, let me thank you all for gracing the occasion with your presence today. I believe that this joint effort between our Research Department and Professors in Accounting and Law, Computer Sciences, Economics, Statistics of the Institute of Business Administration will go a long way in providing a reliable set of information regarding consumers' expectations in Pakistan. Apart from its instantaneous contribution towards the process of policy formulation, I hope that this project will be of great help to future generations of policy makers in Pakistan, primarily by periodically documenting consumers' expectations. I am grateful to the Institute of Business Administration for joining hands with the State Bank of Pakistan in order to undertake this venture which is also being continuously peer-reviewed by international and domestic institutions. I sanguinely believe that today's inaugural ceremony will prove to be the start of a long-term relationship between both the institutions as well as a beneficial exercise for the national economy. Thank you.