

12th December, 2003

SBP, BMA SIGN MoU TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Manama (Bahrain) to strengthen cooperation between the two central banks.

Mr. Tawfiq A. Husain, Deputy Governor of SBP and Mr. Khalid Abdulla Al Bassam, Deputy Governor of BMA signed the MoU. Also present at the signing ceremony were Mr. Sabihuddin Bukhari, Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain, Mr. Mansur-ur-Rehman Khan, Executive Director, State Bank of Pakistan and other senior officials.

The agreement provides for a more comprehensive exchange between the two institutions on a host of issues, including supervision, technical expertise and training assistance.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tawfiq A. Husain said the two sides had identified certain specific areas for cooperation, primarily Islamic banking and finance, leasing and banking supervision.

'Bahrain is a regional financial centre of excellence and we are particularly keen to learn from BMA's experience in developing Islamic finance,' Mr. Tawfiq Husain added.

Mr. Khalid Al Bassam said: 'We are delighted to sign this agreement to continue developing the good working relationship between the BMA and the SBP. The increasingly complex operations of financial institutions and the multiplicity of jurisdictions in which these institutions operate are necessitating enhanced cooperation between regulatory authorities, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels'.
