



External Relations Department

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Governor SBP for capacity building in finance and economics amongst SAARC countries

Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Ashraf Mahmood Wathra has expressed optimism that SAAARCFINANCE can play an important role in fostering closer relationship and building human capability in the fields of economic and finance amongst SAARC partners.

He was addressing to the meeting of 31st SAARCFINANCE Group held on 8th October 2015 at Lima, Peru, alongside the IMF/World Bank annual meetings. Mr. Ashraf Mahmood Wathra, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Chairman of SAARCFINANCE chaired the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by SAARC central bank governors and finance secretaries. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ashraf Mahmood Wathra thanked all the members for entrusting SBP the chairpersonship as well as for extending full support to fulfill such responsibility during the last one year. He highlighted some of the recent initiatives undertaken by the Network and urged member countries to further fortify regional cooperation, especially in the area of banking and finance.

The Opening Session was followed by the business session. The major issues deliberated upon during the meeting included updates on SAARCFINANCE related issues during 7th SAARC Finance Ministers' Meeting held at Kathmandu on 20th August 2015; creation of a statistical database; modalities for collaborative research studies by member countries; proposal for identifying areas of regional cooperation and integration, which would eventually act as the roadmap for SAARCFINANCE; venue for 32nd Group Meeting and Governors' Symposium 2016; transfer of SAARCFINANCE Chair from State Bank of Pakistan to Central Bank of Sri Lanka; and new proposals from the member countries to hold seminars or other activities. Before close of the Meeting, the SAARCFINANCE Chair was handed over to Central Bank of Sri Lanka from State Bank of Pakistan.
