

**Director General, South Asia Department Mr. Iwasaki Visit to Pakistan
26-29 January 2003**



DG SARD Mr. Iwasaki and Mr. Shaukat Aziz Advisor for Finance and Economic Affairs addressing a press conference in Islamabad

Director General South Asia Department (DG SARD) Mr. Yoshihiro Iwasaki visited Pakistan during 26-29 January 2003. The purpose of the visit was to discuss various aspects of ADB's operations in Pakistan and the Government's on-going economic and governance reform program. The DG SARD was accompanied by Director SAAE, Country Director –Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), and other Headquarter and PRM staff in the meetings.

In a meeting with Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Advisor for Finance and Economic Affairs, Mr. Iwasaki highlighted the record ADB lending of \$ 1.141 billion to Pakistan in 2002, and stated that ADB was proud to have been associated with the substantial progress made under Pakistan's economic and governance reform in the past four years. He also briefed the Advisor on the various initiatives ADB has planned in the field of subregional cooperation, including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan pipeline, and road sector projects in Balochistan and NWFP, that would link various parts of Pakistan to Afghanistan and on to the Central Asian Republics.

ADB's 2003 lending program was also discussed, and the Advisor appreciated the various projects that have been proposed in the lending pipeline. The Advisor summarized the main economic achievements of the Government and reiterated the Government's determination to continue with the economic and governance reform program.

After the meeting, the Advisor on Finance and Mr. Iwasaki addressed a press conference to give the details of ADB's lending program for 2003. Mr. Iwasaki stated that ADB was ready to support a new phase of reforms in Pakistan with a focus on private sector development, and would continue to assist the Government in its efforts for poverty reduction and employment generation.

Mr. Iwasaki also addressed a press conference at PRM and briefed the press on major accomplishments of ADB's program in Pakistan in 2002. He said that ADB will continue to support Pakistan's reform program and development initiatives but stressed the importance of further improving implementation of projects in the country. Earlier, addressing a meeting of PRM staff, Mr. Iwasaki expressed appreciation for PRM's role in ADB's operational achievements in Pakistan.