



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

www.ustda.gov

NEWS RELEASE

July 19, 2010

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Michael Chapnick / +1 (703) 875-4357

DIRECTOR ZAK PARTICIPATES IN UNITED STATES – PAKISTAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

USTDA Announces Support for New Clean Energy Projects that Promote Economic Development

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN. – Following-up on commitments made by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency during the Tri-Lateral Consultations in Washington D.C. last year, Director Leocadia I. Zak announced USTDA’s support for the development of new clean energy and transportation projects to support broad-based economic development in Pakistan. These agreements directly support USTDA’s Pakistan-Afghanistan Infrastructure and Trade Initiative that will foster broad economic development in Pakistan and promote trade with regional partners.

As President Obama stated during the Tri-Lateral Consultations, “the future of Pakistan must be determined by the talent, innovation, and intelligence of its people.” With [these grants](#), USTDA is entering into a partnership with Pakistan to leverage this talent to spur broad-based economic development that will help build the foundation for a safe and secure economic future for the Pakistani people.

Working with the Pakistani public and private sectors, USTDA is supporting the deployment of smart grid technologies, biomass power generation, and new wind and solar power generation. Of particular note is [the solar power project for Beacon House Schools](#) that will ensure students and teachers of having reliable power throughout the day.

“The Beacon House grant will help determine the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaic power systems at hundreds of private schools in Pakistan,” said Director Zak. “This effort will help to ensure that educational services can be consistently delivered without energy price increases and power outages.”

“Our Pakistani partners, who represent both the public and private sectors, have a clear sense of what is needed and are well-positioned, with the help of USTDA funding, to bring these projects to implementation and to lead the way to creating a more attractive investment climate,” said Director Zak.

“These programs will encourage progress in the development of tariff-setting procedures and other regulatory reforms that will bring greater investment to Pakistan’s energy sector.”

In addition to the new energy projects, USTDA also announced its commitment to support the development of a trade information gateway feasibility study that will assess the viability and application of an IT software solution for tracking and managing cargo movement operations in and around the main ports in Karachi, Pakistan. Megatransport Private Limited and NTELX

(McLean, VA) will identify the technical requirements for the development of a web-based software system that will track the movement of cargo between ships, port operators, truckers, rail systems and customers in an effort to promote efficient and secure trade.

The opportunity to conduct these feasibility studies will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website. A link to the FBO announcement will be posted to USTDA's website at www.ustda.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement. Educational Services Limited and Packages Limited will select the U.S. contractor that will complete each respective feasibility study.

###

The [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](http://www.ustda.gov) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops to support development of modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's efforts create an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development.