



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pakistani Project Wins EU Energy Award

Prague, Czech Republic, 14 April 2009 – Reduction of domestic energy consumption by 40%, resulting in 60% less emission of green house gases from homes and decreased morbidity of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), pneumonia and other health related disease in women and children by 50 percent are some of the benefits of the Building and Construction Improvement Programme (BACIP) realised by over 150,000 people in Pakistan. The project of Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), was recognised at the glamorous Energy Globe Award ceremony, attended by the politicians and top-environmental experts in Prague last evening.

Energy Efficiency, a topic that moves the world, was uniquely demonstrated at the presentation of the national **ENERGY GLOBE Awards**, powered by E.ON in Prague's Veletržní Palác. On the evening before the huge ENERGY GLOBE Gala, where the world's best sustainability projects are honored, excellent projects and ideas regarding environmental protection and energy efficiency were celebrated. The rich variety of national costumes of the 60 national winners – from Ethiopia to Malta to USA to Pakistan – created a colorful picture as the project submitters were introduced. At the focus of attention, however, was the spectrum of projects that enthused an interested audience.

BACIP was also the recipient of the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Global Leadership Award at the 4th Biennial Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Forum in Kampala, Uganda on March 28, 2009. Like the previous winners of the PCIA Award, BACIP was selected by a committee formed by the United States Environment Protection Agency, WinRock International and GTZ.

The Energy Globe Award attracted 769 entries from 111 countries, BACIP was the only project from Pakistan to receive the National Award. The award was presented by Mr. Jan Dusik, Czech Deputy Environment Minister, and Professor Edward Solomon Ayensu, President CSIR Ghana to Mr. Hafiz Sherali, Chairman Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, Pakistan, along with 71 other winners in the National Winner Category.

Mirek Topolánek, EU Council President, Martin Bursík, President of the Council of Environmental Ministers and Europe's top environmental policy makers were among the guest at the award ceremony.



The National Energy Globe Award for Pakistan for 2008 being presented to Chairman Hafiz Sherali of Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan by Jan Dusik, First Deputy Minister of Environment, Czech Republic and Professor Edward Solomon Ayensu, President CSIR, Ghana



Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan

Each of us can make a contribution. This was demonstrated clearly by the projects and emphasized by the award presenters, including the first assistant environment minister of the Czech Republic, Jan Dusik, and Professor Edward Ayensu, a renowned scientist from Ghana. The head of the ENERGY GLOBE Jury, Maneka Gandhi, could not attend due to the elections in India; however, in her greetings to the winners, she expressed her gratitude for their engagement. In addition to their certificates, the winners took home an important message that each step counts to return our planet to a state of balance.

In his welcome address, Mr. Wolfgang Neumann, ENERGY GLOBE Initiator, said, "From all over the world, projects are showcased that conserve and protect resources or that employ renewable energy. The goal is to present successful sustainable projects to a broad audience, for many of the environmental problems already have good, feasible solutions. Each year some 800 projects and initiatives from all over the world are submitted to compete for the award in the categories Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Youth."

Established in the year 1997 as a research and extension programme, BACIP has proved that products' efficiently using wood can reduce the deforestation rate in the Northern Areas and Chitral by over 40%. Till date, BACIP has introduced 70 energy efficient and living condition improvement products and technologies in local communities where approximately 15,000 of them have been installed in various households, contributing in environmental, social and economic sustainability leading to poverty reduction and improved health and well-being of communities.

On receiving the award, Mr. Hafiz Sherali, Chairman Aga Khan Building Services, Pakistan said that the contribution of BACIP in uplifting the living conditions of the people in Northern Areas of Pakistan has been a source of tremendous satisfaction for AKPBS,P, but a lot more needs to be done. With UN HABITAT Award in 2006 and the Global Leadership Award in 2009, also received by BACIP, the Energy Globe Award brings yet another moment of honour and celebration for all Pakistanis across the globe.



Mr. Jan Dusik, First Deputy Minister of Environment, Czech Republic and Professor Edward Solomon Ayensu, President CSIR, Ghana, presenting the National Energy Globe Award to Mr. Hafiz Sherali, Chairman Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan

Products of BACIP include floor insulation, wall insulation and roof treatment techniques for thermal efficiency, light-weight and low-cost galvanized iron wire reinforcements for walls to strengthen housing structures against earthquakes and encourage multi-storey construction, wooden bow-string composite beam for earthquake proof light roof construction reducing timber use in roof construction by 500 percent/ roof, solar cookers and solar water heaters for fuel conservation, bedding racks and shelving to protect items from dampness dust and dirt, Fanoos (candle wick lamp) for energy conservation in indoor lighting, household level Bio-gas plants for alternative energy source



Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan

for cooking and water heating and locally adaptable Arch foundation construction techniques to address construction in high water table area.



Presenter of the National Energy Globe Award 2008 , Professor Edward Solomon Ayensu, President CSIR, Ghana(1st from left) and Jan Dusik, First Deputy Minister of Environment, Czech Republic (2nd from left) with the National winners from the Asian Continent. The National Award 2008 for Pakistan was received by Hafiz Sherahi, Chairman of Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan (centre).

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Note for Editors:

The Energy Globe Award has been awarded annually since 1999 in the realm of a television gala broadcast worldwide. It distinguishes projects from all over the world that conserve our resources such as energy and water or that utilize renewable or emission-free forms of energy. The goal is to present successful sustainable projects to a broad audience, for many of our environmental problems already have good, feasible solutions. Each year some 800 projects and initiatives from all over the world are submitted to compete for the award in the categories Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Youth. For more information please visit: www.energyglobe.info

Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan (AKPBS,P) has been working to improve the built environment in Pakistan since 1980. Its areas of focus include housing design and construction, institutional construction management, village planning, natural hazard mitigation, water supply and sanitation, and improved indoor living conditions for the most disadvantaged members of society. AKPBS,P achieves its goals by providing material and technical expertise and training to rural and urban areas. Currently, AKPBS,P is focusing on developing technology related to earthquake-resistant buildings, solar energy use, thermal efficiency, village planning, and other quality-of-life issues.

For more information: http://www.akdn.org/akpbs_pakistan.asp

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan, 49th Hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Ismaili Muslims. It is a group of private, non-denominational development agencies working to empower communities and individuals to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East. The Network's nine development agencies focus on social, cultural and economic development for all citizens, regardless of gender, origin or religion.

For more information: <http://www.akdn.org>

For further information, please contact:

Naeem Razwani

Manager Communications
H.H. Aga Khan Council for Pakistan
Telephone: + 92 21 586 12 42
Facsimile: + 92 21 586 12 72
Email: naeem.razwani@akcpk.org

Youshey Zakiuddin

Communications and Programme Management
Aga Khan Planning and Building Service,
Pakistan
Telephone: +92 21 5361802-4
Facsimile: +92 21 5361807
Email: youshey.zakiuddin@akpbsp.org