

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Investment
BOARD OF INVESTMENT
MEDIA SECTION

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, 17th December, 2008

SUBJECT: ENVOYS OF BRAZILIAN AND CHINESE EMBASSYS IN ISLAMABAD CALLED ON BOI'S CHIEF, MR. SALEEM MANDVIWALLA

Ambassador of Brazilian Embassy in Islamabad, H.E. Mr. Carlos Eduardo Sette Camara Da Faonseca Costa called on BOI's Chairman, Mr. Saleem Mandviwalla today in the office of Board of Investment. The agenda was to discuss bilateral relations between two countries.

Pakistan and Brazil have always enjoyed extremely cordial and friendly relations. Both the countries share common perception on issues pertaining to international relations, politics and economic crises.

The Minister of State apprised the Brazilian Ambassador on various joint ventures opportunities for Pakistan and Brazil, particularly in the area of high technology, which would include agriculture, manufacturing mining etc. The BOI's Chief was of the view that Brazilian Companies can participate in many infrastructure projects such as mass transit programme in various big cities of Pakistan, railways, port development, telecommunication, electronic, processed foods like fruits and vegetables, processing sugar distilleries, etc.

The Ambassador assured to extend maximum support and cooperation for the promotion of bilateral relations and investment in both countries.

In another meeting, H.E. Mr. Luo Zhaohui Ambassador of China in Islamabad also called on BOI's Chairman. In the meeting Chinese Ambassador put forward concerns of Chinese investors in Pakistan.

The Ambassador highlighted the concerns of Chinese locomotive supplier, Dongfang and said the company met all the required international standards and received the contract for 69 locomotives in 2001. Technical problems arise everywhere whenever locomotives are made operational in a new environment, same happened in the case of Dongfang. The Chinese company rectified the faults and engines are working efficiently now. For the second batch of 75 engines, Ministry of Railways has rejected thrice the proposal of Dongfang on the basis of technical deficiencies. The US Company, General Electric has also offered bid for the same contract but its price is way higher than the Chinese and apparently it has become favorite to win this contract.

The Ambassador also referred to the recent approval of the cabinet for issuing Long Distance International (LDI) License to China Mobile Pakistan which is the largest mobile operator both in China and international market and has now acquired 100 per cent shares of Paktel. He further added that since China Mobile is not a new entrant, as it

acquired Paktel in Pakistan therefore any further delays in the issuance of LDI license to Cm Pak would send a negative message to Chinese companies and investor.

The Minister of State assured the Chinese Ambassador to consult with Ministry of IT and PTCL for speedy resolution of CM Pak long standing issue. He further committed support of the Government and assured to look into the concerns raised by the Chinese Ambassador at his personal levels and on more fast track basis.
