



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

28 August 2015

Press Release

Australia supports Pakistan's attendance at the 9th Australasian Women and Policing Conference

Australian High Commissioner Margaret Adamson today welcomed the participation of five Pakistani law enforcement officers in the 9th Australasian Women and Policing Conference to be held in Sydney from 31 August to 3 September 2015.

Pakistan's delegation of five, including four women, have been selected from a range of agencies: Customs Intelligence and Investigations, AJK Police, and National Accountability Bureau. Their attendance at the Conference is being supported by the Australia Awards scholarships program.

The Conference, *Making History: Shaping the Future*, will explore how law enforcement agencies can respond better to the needs of women in the community and in expanding the numbers of women in this vitally important profession. Women remain severely under-represented in police and other law enforcement agencies globally, with only around nine per cent of police officers being women.

In wishing the delegates well, High Commissioner Adamson said Australia and Pakistan law enforcement cooperation has been active since 1984 addressing all crime types and providing extensive capacity development opportunities. High Commissioner Adamson said Australia was committed to strong gender balance in all ranks of law enforcement, including in Australia and Pakistan.

"Australia is keen to encourage women into law enforcement professions, including the police forces, given that women's participation is known to improve responses to violence against women, reduce the reliance on force, and strengthen evidence-based prosecutions," High Commissioner Adamson said.

"Pakistan's delegation to the Conference will help build the body of knowledge around how policing is being improved for women across our region, and how women law enforcement officers are strongly contributing across the profession to the pursuit of justice and the rule of law," she said.

Pakistani Customs Assistant Director, Ms Zainab Mahmood said the delegation was pleased to be representing Pakistan at the Conference, and looked forward to sharing policing and broader law enforcement experience with delegates from all over the Asia-Pacific region.

Contact: Media Liaison Officer 051 8355422