

MESSAGE FROM

Mr. Jahangir Bashar *

It gives me great pleasure and honour to send my message on the auspicious occasion when the Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre, University of Karachi, is holding International Conference on "Religious Tolerance And Interfaith Harmony", March 26-27 2007 in the light of the decision of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) taken in the meeting held in Abu Dhabi and is sponsored by a unique coalition of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Ministry of Education on this topic, which in fact is order of the time globally.

These Centres were established in Pakistan by H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultant Al' Nahayan for advancement of knowledge and research specially in the sphere of Islamic education to discover the new vistas so that wrong conceptions and theories may be eliminated and it is believed that this conference would also play an important role in this regard.

The purpose of this high level conference is sacred i.e. to bring together different religious sects closer for enhancing Tolerance, Peace and Harmony among them. We hope that this conference would certainly and positively demonstrate that there is no room for sectarianism in the Islamic Faith.

I believe that such conferences/seminars/ dialogue should be conducted at large scale as it is not only the high time for it but it is also on the top of the Agenda of the Government of Pakistan that wants to display the brighten look and true picture of Islam and Pakistan worldwide.

We are suffering from the consequences of religious conflicts and it is significant that the participants would share their perspective on the

* Federal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan.

Foreword

The Conference addressed that tolerance is our binding spirit and forgiving and compassion are vital aspects of human society. It would be stressed that diversity exists so that we came together to learn from, not fight each other. Diversity without dialogue causes hostility and Dialogue without diversity brings distortion. We should remove all ideas, feelings, hatred and hostility that pull us apart and violets our every union and call for building a healthy, happy and peaceful life.

It was also elaborated that how that how without laying each other aside and taking separate paths that come to dead-ends, we together come up with a united path to mutual understanding. As Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) commanded us that, "INSTEAD OF COMPETING WITH OTHERS' IDEAS, EACH BELIEVER SHOULD TRY HIS BEST FOR-ADVANCEMENT".

We do not dialogue in Fiqh but in our understandings of Fiqh and understanding Fiqh roots in our cultures.

We are facing diversity; multiplicity in the position of thought and practice inside our Islamic world. Dialogue finds meaning when there is a joint search. Therefore the first step is to be sincere with ourselves. If dialogue finds tactic, we should not expect fruits. This responsibility encourages us to become closer and closer together through participation in the unease interests and hopes.

MAY ALL SHOWER HIS BLESSINGS UPON US.

(Prof. Dr. Khalilur Rehman)
Director
March 26, 2007