

**SPEECH OF THE
PRIME MINISTER
ON
INAUGURATION OF
“GO GREEN CONGRESS”
(OCTOBER 27, 2010)**

Chairman ARCASIA, Mr. Mubasshar Hussain

President of International Union of Architects, Ms. Louis Cox,

**President of all 17 member institutes of ARCASIA,
President of Institute of Architects of Pakistan, Mr. Shahab Ghani Khan**

Chairperson of Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners, Ms. Shama Usman

**Chairman Lahore Chapter of IAP Mr. Muhammad Syed Irfan
All Foreign and Local Delegates**

ARCASIA Award winners

Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Architecture is one of those professions that can not only provide a home but can also ennoble the human spirit when done with care and built in tune with its surroundings.

When at variance with the environment, it can lead to a disproportionate use of non-sustainable resources of a country and become a burden on these resources.

It is here that the architect of today must take into account that his creation must be sustainable and indeed “Green” in terms of its existence, without becoming a burden on its own environment.

In this connection I appreciate the theme of your Congress “Go Green”. You are gathered here to explore, learn and share from each others’ experience in this field, on how to make your creations as an architect more sustainable, easily maintainable and without over-stretching the already stretched resources of your countries and indeed on the resources of our planet.

I am sure you are aware that you need to re-look at what, how and for whom you create so that after your completion your building jells with the environment around it.

I am also sure that you have much to debate, much to learn from each other and much to teach the future generation of architects who will take your place in the years to come when there will be increasing deficits and added dangers to the ecology of the planet. You cannot ignore these factors, if you want your own children and that of your fellow country-men to enjoy life on this planet much the same way you or your fathers did and do. That is the global perspective.

Ladies and Gentlemen

On the national scale, ARCASIA consists of countries in a wide range of various stages of development ...from China, Japan and Korea to Pakistan. We can no longer ignore the challenges of global warming, melting glaciers, deforestation, and unplanned, even hazardous growth of settlements in vulnerable areas. We should keep in mind responsibility to future generations.

We would be wise to work with nature rather than against it. If we do not, we will pay collective price, as many of the countries have done in the recent past. Over and over again and especially in our region, it has been shown that if we do not learn to live with nature and respect its fragile balance, such events will repeat themselves in similar or more disastrous fashion.

Distinguished audience

Our unrestrained craving for more and more, and our casual disregard for the environment have already exposed us to nature's wrath.

We must learn from our mistakes. We must share our knowledge, and learn from the experience of others in the region, and together build an Asia which will exist in harmony with nature. Indeed we must go "Green". Therein lies our salvation. It is here that your role as architects in Asia comes into play. It is here that you become increasingly responsible

Dear participants

Gone are the days when your ideas and your money could buy everything needed to please your ego and that of your client: to construct as you two wished in defiance of the nature around you. You must now think more seriously, you must now take ultimate responsibility for the impact your work has on your surroundings and on the limited resources of your country. To top it all you bear the responsibility to educate and lobby your clients and guide them towards such efforts. You have to show them that "going green" methods work and work better in the long run for them while it benefits others as well.

You must as architects give us what is in tune with the era. Our buildings must use energy efficiently or better still use the sun and the wind to generate their requirements and re-use its wasted thermal output. Your designs should facilitate its used waters to be recycled. Its building materials must be local and sustainable as far as we can manage.

Ladies and Gentlemen

While the government can only devise policies that encourage such actions, it is you, the architects and your co-professionals, who will have to come up with new ideas which make such green buildings possible.

In the wake of the recent calamity of the unprecedented floods, the government is seized with the gigantic task of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

I am glad that Institute of Architects of Pakistan (IAP) also rose to the occasion in this hour of need. IAP has not only set up a relief camp in Thatta in collaboration with the Pakistan Navy but its members have also contributed generously to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. It is now offering its expertise to help the government design & develop model villages in the flood-stricken rural areas along with its infrastructure. IAP's offer & assistance to work together with the government is commendable and I pledge my government's full support for the Institute.

It is very satisfying to see IAP doing a great job as a professional institute since 1957. In line with this government's declared policy to strengthen & respect all institutions, my government, has recognized IAP as the official executive arm of the statutory body of Pakistan Council of Architects & Town Planners.

It is also central to my government's priorities to encourage, strengthen & promote the growth of institutions. Therefore it gives me immense pleasure to announce today the acceptance of IAP's request to grant a lease of the BRADLAUGH Hall to establish its office at Lahore.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to declare the 14th Asian Congress of Architects (ACA) Open. I also welcome foreign delegates to Pakistan and wish them a great stay in Lahore, the Heart of Pakistan.

I am sure that all of you will have fruitful discussions and come up with recommendations to cope with challenges Thank You very much.

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD

