

ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER

SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI

AT

SOFT LAUNCHING OF IDEAS – 2010

26TH JULY, 2010

Federal Ministers

Major General Muhammad Ijaz Hussain Awan,

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good Evening

At the very outset I would like to congratulate the organizers of the Defence Exhibition for holding this event in a befitting manner. It is, indeed, a matter of great pleasure to see the [International Defence Exhibition](#) and Seminar more popularly known as 'IDEAS' going from strength to strength, in a short span of nine years. The exhibition has grown in scope and stature and I feel satisfied to see [Pakistan's](#) achievements in this field. Over the years, IDEAS has become a great meeting place of defence exhibitors, high level defence delegations, analysts and trade visitors from all over the world. This congregation of IDEAS provides excellent opportunity to develop better understanding and friendship, networking of defence industry for trade and joint ventures, and more importantly seeking affordable solutions to meet the challenges being faced by the defence industry.

Honourable Guests

Peace dividends, which the world had hoped with the end of cold war, unfortunately remain unrealized. The world at large and our region in particular have been challenged by the menace of terrorism. Pakistan, with its vital geo strategic location and paradigm shift in the regional and global security environment, finds itself in the forefront of collective struggle against new form of threat to the [world peace](#). We, in Pakistan, are the worst affected victims of this

menacing threat. Cognizant of the new responsibilities and its key role in this milieu, Pakistan is determined to secure peace and stability. Our armed forces and general populace continue to make monumental sacrifices for a better tomorrow which we all so dearly seek. We would like the international community to support our efforts to bring peace as early as possible. We shall neither be lacking in resolve nor in commitment and expect our partners in this struggle to show trust and understanding. While we fight the scourge of extremism and terrorism, we can not afford to be oblivious of the need to address the root causes with judicious use of force where necessary. I am confident that my government will be able to meet the challenge including peaceful settlement of longstanding disputes with the help of international community.

Pakistan harbours no aggressive designs against any state but we are determined to defend our territorial integrity and safe guard our sovereignty, we therefore, need to maintain conventional forces adequately supplemented by credible deterrence. Pakistan will therefore, continue to develop her military potential that guarantees peace with dignity and honour. By the grace of Almighty Allah, we have been able to do so by significantly developing indigenous capabilities for production of sophisticated weapon systems and equipment. Our [military capability](#) is basically for deterrence while we yearn for peace. We believe that military weakness invites aggression from stronger nation but we do not wish to be dragged in an arms race as we seek to invest in socio-economic well being of our people.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that after meeting the domestic requirements, our defence industry has now moved towards marketing products at the international level. Our arms, ammunition and more complex products like tanks and other armoured vehicles, air-launched munitions and aircraft related technology, are of world class standard. Our defence industry is though primarily geared to meet requirements of Pakistan [Armed Forces](#) but it has a great potential to export its products on competitive basis through responsible arms trade. We have also opened up this sector for public-private partnership and both foreign and local investors can take advantage of this opportunity.

Honourable Guests!

On internal front, we will have to ensure that the process of extensive reforms to strengthen the state institutions and democracy continue unabated. There are strong reasons to believe that the government's socio-economic initiatives will help marginalize the extremist elements that thrive in an environment of ignorance. At the end of the day, as a consequence of a comprehensive policy of the government, we will emerge as an economically vibrant, truly democratic, socially tolerant and externally secure country playing a significant role in the regional as well as global issues.

Armed Forces of Pakistan are battle hardened and known for their professionalism, the world over. Our contribution to the UN's peace keeping mission and our performance around the globe is a clear manifestation of devotion to duty and skills to use any equipment. This also highlights our commitment to the international community for [peace and harmony](#).

Holding of IDEAS is a reflection of the Pakistan Government's consistent efforts to galvanize the industrial activities for production of defence equipment through collaboration and joint ventures in addition to the indigenous production. I wish the organizers of this event success in the conduct of IDEAS and look forward to an overwhelming participation from defence industries inland and abroad. We would warmly welcome the foreign defence delegations and trade visitors to IDEAS-2010 to be held in December this year. I also congratulate all the defence related or other business community who have selected this mega event of such international repute for participation and sponsorship. I wish to thank People's Republic of China and Turkey for having reserved large pavilions for participation.

I declare the Launching of International Defence Exhibition and Seminar at Expo Centre [Karachi](#) from [6-10 December, 2010](#).

Thank you.

Pakistan Paindabad.