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**Press Release**

**100,000 Pakistani Workers in Malaysia by Next Year**

Pakistan is set to join Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar as a primary source of foreign labour for Malaysia, with a three-fold increase in workers, taking their numbers to 100,000 by December next year.

This was reported by Mr. Balan Mosses, the Deputy Chief News Editor of Malaysia's second highly circulated English language news papers the "New Strait Times" in a four column story published prominently today (27<sup>th</sup> August, 2009) while quoting the High Commissioner for Pakistan, Lt General (Retd) Tahir Mahmud Qazi.

Mr. Balan Moses who is the top most writer and columnist of Malaysia, conducted an exclusive interview of the High Commissioner on 24<sup>th</sup> of this month and mainly focused on bilateral relations with Malaysia, the trade investment and business opportunities available in Pakistan especially after signing of Malaysia Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (MPCEPA) in 2007, and opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Malaysia.

While talking to the Mr. Balan Moses, the High Commissioner said that inflow of Pakistan's hardy English speaking and skilled and semi skilled workers would contribute in Malaysia progress and prosperity, specially after the expected boom in construction activities in Malaysia as an aftermath of creation of various corridors of development in the country including Iskandar Development Region in Johor, Malaysia.

The High Commissioner said that all necessary steps will be taken to increase the Pakistani workers to one hundred thousands (100,000) from the existing thirty thousand (30,000) by December next year to assist in the development of Malaysia's various newly announced construction projects.

Mr. Tahir Qazi said that a Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed between the two countries in 2005, wherein Pakistan has been declared as one of the source country for Malaysia for recruiting workers. The High Commission was also liaising actively with the Construction Industry Development Board of Malaysia on the anticipated need for Pakistani workers in the short- and long-term.

While giving the existing status of Pakistan labour force in Malaysia, the High Commissioner said that there were about 30,000 Pakistani workers who are mostly employed in construction industry. They have a proven track record of being hardworking and dependable. They had made a name for themselves in the Middle East as well, due to their ability to adapt to local conditions besides their high level of skills and expertise in the building industry.

He said that Pakistani worker are doing very well in Malaysia, too, as they have been able to work well with local employers.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,**  
**28<sup>th</sup> August, 2009**