

Message of Ambassador Dr. Michael Koch

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Dear Reader,

it gives me a great pleasure to address myself to you in this magazine presented by the Pakistan German Business Forum in cooperation with the German Consulate in Karachi.

The last months have shown that the exchanges between our two countries continue to be intensive: The German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development has paid an official visit to Pakistan; various members of our parliament, the Bundestag, came to Pakistan as well as high ranking German officials from different federal ministries.

German Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier appointed Ambassador Bernd Mützelburg as his Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan in order to intensify our diplomatic engagement with both countries.

Furthermore Germany has increased its emergency assistance to Pakistan to a total of € 22.6 million (approx. 2.6 billion rupees) as a support to help the internally displaced persons of Malakand Division. This illustrates Germany's undiminished desire to assist Pakistan in difficult situations.

Pakistan and Germany are two countries which are connected through many links which are in our view unfortunately not as visible and as present in the eyes of the Pakistani public, as they should be. Therefore I am glad that this magazine contributes towards a better awareness of German Pakistani ties and I do hope that the contacts between our two countries will be broadened and deepened in the years to come.

Dr. Michael Koch