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### **Press release**

Environment and Economics are closely related things and the phenomenon of climate change has given it a new dimension, said Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad at launching ceremony of Center for Environment Economics and Climate Change at PIDE. He further added that modern communication system has made the world a global village.

Deputy Chairman appreciated the efforts of PIDE (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics) in launching first ever institute of this kind. He termed it the dire need of today's Pakistan. He highlighted the importance of correct and accurate data in conducting research on these critical issues of environmental degradation and climate change. He further emphasized that in-depth analysis based on accurate data is helpful in efficient policy formulation. He put emphasis on strengthening the linkages with reputed international institutions of learning and research.

Dr. Rashid Amjad, VC PIDE in his inaugural remarks highlighted the need for a center for capacity building and research. He explained how rapidly the climate is changing globally and its impact on world economy. He said it is the right time to take steps in right direction to save resources for the future.

Dr. Ghulam Rasool for Department of Meteorology said that a significant rise in temperature has been recorded in last century, resulting in receding of the glaciers. Siachin glacier is the fastest depleting glacier in the region after Batura and Baltoro glaciers. According to IPCC 2007 report the tracks of Western distributaries are rapidly shifting northward which will result in snow decline on HKH region.

Dr. Shamsulmulik, former Chairman WAPDA stressed on the strengthening of the institutions to deal with critical environmental and water related issues. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel member committee of advisors to Minister for Environment explained in detail the expected adverse effects of rapid climate change on flora and fauna of the country. He was of the view that efficient integration of environmental imperatives is needed at level of decision makers to fight these problems.

Dr. Mohsin Iqbal from GCISC highlighted the importance of water security, food security and energy security likely to be in danger due to rise in temperature. The meeting was attended by members of Planning Commission, Faculty and Students from PIDE.