

Honourable Former Presidents

Mr. Shahzad Ali Malik,  
Out Going President

Sheikh Muhammad Arshad,  
Out Going Senior Vice President & Executive Committee  
Member

Mr. Sohail Azhar,  
Out Going Vice President & Executive Committee Member

Mr. Irfan Qaiser Sheikh,  
Newly elected President

Mr. Kashif Younis Meher,  
Newly elected Senior Vice President

Newly elected & Former Executive Committee Members

Respected Members

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce is a very sacred place for me as my father late Chaudhry Nazar Mohammad, was one of the founder members of this beautiful chamber. I assure you that I will devote all my time and energy to serve the business community of Lahore, following my father's footsteps.

Dear members, I would now like to dwell upon the salient features of the program for the year. The imperative fact is that we have to dedicate ourselves sincerely to the activities of the Chamber and it is essential that not only the Managing Committee and the leadership, but also even the general body should take maximum participation in these activities. My agenda: Carrying the Torch Forward is as follows:

We at the Chamber have to play our role in promoting Lahore Chamber in a very positive way.

We have to develop our human resources if we have to progress and carve a niche for our products in the international market.

#### Liaison with the diplomatic community:

We should intensify our relationship to convince businessmen of their countries to invest trade and exhibit their products here, and to develop more beneficial business relationships with their counterparts in Lahore. We also plan to lobby strenuously to eliminate negative travel advisories.

Economic development of a country is primarily possible when the environment is safe and secure.

We must become a strong and powerful entity because we are the ones who bring in the dollars and Euros, who provide employment, and who are the best ambassadors of the country. We must unite together to ensure the country's prosperity.

We must develop national pride in our products and services. We should depend less on foreign experts and more on domestic talent. We must become strong global players, to achieve more job opportunities, more revenue and more exports.

According to latest economic research by Goldman Sachs BRIC Countries Brazil, Russia, India and China will comprise of 11 countries including Turkey, Pakistan and Indonesia will be the biggest consumption stories over the next 15-20 years and will be the most important investment theme market all over the world.

I assure my women entrepreneurs that they will be facilitated. I invite them all, to participate in all chamber's activities.

With these words I would like to thank you for listening me with patience and pray to Almighty Allah to grant us courage and strength to restore the peace and harmony of our beloved country.