

## JICA Pakistan Office



### Haroon-ur-Rashid Rana

Leading Industry & Economy

In Pakistan, JICA staffs, Haroon-ur-Rashid Rana and Nazia Seher play active roles in promoting SDGs.

Haroon started working for JICA in 1993 and holds a Ph.D. in the field of Anthropology. He has published several research articles in renowned journals.

As team leader for industrial development sector, Haroon explains, “We have to be vigilant towards latest economic changes and international strategies such as SDGs. To make JICA’s project more efficient, I always stress the necessity to analyze the reasons for under achievement of MDGs when I interact with stakeholders”.

Haroon also supports Pakistan Government for promoting decent and productive employment in automobile and textile sectors in line with SDGs. “It is imperative for the government to adapt SDGs to national policies. Working with JICA gives me a unique opportunity to uplift living standards of people of my own country”.

Nazia Seher, also an Anthropologist and team leader, plays key role in improving the quality of education, gender equality and environment which are also the targets of SDGs. “In Pakistan, 70% of

### Nazia Seher

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transaction take place in “informal economy”, of which 30% comes from women home based workers (HBWs) who are usually illiterate and engaged in low-paid work”, Nazia explains. Still, their accumulated contribution, including 3% from men HBWs, reaches 3.8% of GDP. She emphasizes it is essential to improve access of girls and women to education, skills, market, and finance to increase their economic participation.

For Nazia, it was a valuable experience to Chair, on behalf of JICA, “Interagency Network on Gender and Development”, donors’ working group on Gender. She also led the session on Malnutrition and Gender Equality, which are both SDGs, for parliamentarians, academia, NGOs, and media. “We discussed gender inequality’s impact on the nutritional health of girls and women and explored strategies for seeking greater engagement of parliamentarians. I witnessed how JICA’s commitment towards SDGs implementation was recognized and shared by various development actors.”

SDGs have an ambitious agenda which has 17 goals and 169 targets. Haroon and Nazia’s efforts in Pakistan contribute to achieving our international goals.