

## Suggestions for the Australian Foreign Policy White Paper

[From: Dr Mohammad N Cheema

Trade ties of Australia with Pakistan will benefit Australia due to a number of factors:

1. Recent economic reviews world-wide confirm that Pakistan is an emerging market;
2. Home to 200 million people (50% less than 30), Pakistan is situated at a unique geographic location;
3. Australian agricultural products, especially the Halal meat have a great market in Pakistan with an expanding middle class;
4. Chinese investment of about 55 billion US Dollars in Pakistan testifies to Pakistan's potential role in the future trading activities of a vast region;
5. Pakistan is the ultimate destiny of labour-intensive industry being shifted from China. The shifting process is on. Australia has an opportunity to benefit from the cheap but capable Pakistani manpower;
6. As the 8<sup>th</sup> biggest English speaking nation, home to legions of entrepreneurs, and with one of best investment environment, Pakistan is a very good long-term trading partner;
7. Because of its inherent abilities, capable manpower, natural resources, CPEC, strong links with China, Central Asia, Middle East and Turkey, Pakistan will soon be a hub of trade in Asia. Ignoring Pakistan in the Australian foreign policy would be against the long-term interests of Australia;
8. Pakistan is projected as a significant regional power of the near-future. Pakistan's influence on the Muslim world has to grow in time. Australian link with Pakistan can enable an access to a much wider area than a single country; and
9. Australia has a huge resource of highly educated and skilled professional of Pakistan origin in almost all disciplines. I am sure all of them would be willing to facilitate a trade/business link between Australia and Pakistan in an environment beneficial to the two countries.