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FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PAKISTAN, TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN INAUGURATE THE INSTITUTE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ANKARA

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, together with the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Afghanistan jointly inaugurated "The Institute for Private Sector and Economic Development" (IPSED) in Ankara at the Headquarters of Turkish Chambers of Commodities and Exchange (TOBB) in the afternoon of 01 April 2009.

The creation of IPSED was envisaged by the Istanbul Trilateral Forum (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey) that groups the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the three countries. IPSED is affiliated with TOBB Economics and Technology University, considered amongst the top in Turkey.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the special relationship between Pakistan and Turkey, which is rooted in people to people affinity. The Foreign Minister expressed Pakistani nation's pride in the tremendous socio economic progress made by Turkey.

Foreign Minister Qureshi stated that the Third Trilateral Summit, held earlier today was a unique and a very fruitful event. "It was the first occasion that the Summit, brought together the Presidents, the Foreign Ministers, the Army and Intelligence Chiefs from the three countries. The Trilateral Summit has agreed on a structured process of engagement. At the Summit, the leadership of the three countries deliberated, among others, on ways and means to promote peace, stability and security in Afghanistan and the region."

The Foreign Minister emphasized the imperative need for closer economic ties, both bilaterally as well as under the Trilateral Framework. He expressed the hope that the new centre will serve as a valuable institution to promote entrepreneurial skills in students from the region, especially Afghanistan and Pakistan. He invited Turkish businessmen to visit Pakistan and to avail the vast potential of commercial and economic opportunities available in Pakistan.

The Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Afghanistan as well as the President of TOBB also spoke on the occasion and pledged to make the Trilateral Istanbul Forum even more productive.

Islamabad

01 April 2009