



# SWISS PAKISTAN SOCIETY

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H.E. Shaukat Aziz  
The Prime Minister of the  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Areuse/Switzerland, 04 July 2006

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Pakistan community in Switzerland I would like to thank you for giving us an opportunity to meeting you.

Presently Swiss Pakistan Society is working on a project to providing assistance for the early rehabilitation of the Paraplegic patients of the earthquake of Pakistan. We are aiming at developing upon the existing competences in the rehabilitation medicine in Pakistan by training 4 Pakistani Rehabilitation doctors in Switzerland; Sending a world renowned spinal Orthopaedic surgeon to Pakistan to train his Pakistani counter parts in low cost spinal implants surgery; sending paraplegic physiotherapists to Pakistan to train the trainer; and to help acquiring Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) technology that is successfully used to treat the paraplegic patients.

We have made a request to the President Gen. Musharraf to provide clearance to this project so that the Swiss rehabilitation medicine experts could collaborate with the experts of the Armed Forces Institute of Medicine (AFIRM). Please refer to the attached letter to the President.

**We have received a clearance from the Health Ministry allowing the Swiss Experts to collaborate only with Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad. We would like to collaborate with AFIRM as the main point of contact for this project, instead of PIMS for the following reasons:**

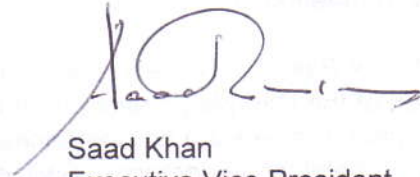
- AFIRM is a teaching hospital in Rehabilitation Medicine and is best equipped and organised to train the trainers, including the trainers at PIMS
- The National Institute of Handicap (NIHd) at PIMS is at this point an improvised setup. It does not have a doctor qualified as Rehabilitation Medical Expert (FCPS). It should be noted that there are total 14 rehabilitation medical doctors in Pakistan, out of which only 2 are in civil hospitals and 12 are with the Armed Forces. None of these doctors are foreign trained. Swiss Pakistan society is committed to bring 4 Pakistani Rehab doctors (2 Civilian and 2 from AF) to Switzerland for training.
- PIMS do not have the equipment or expertise in the Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) equipment. AFIRM has 2 units of (FES) equipment. Swiss Pakistan Society has already acquired 18 units of FES equipment from UK that will be used in AFIRM, PIMS/NIHd and CGH. 6 FES units are reserved for the planned rehabilitation centres for Muzaffarabad and Mansehra.

- In Switzerland Spinal Orthopaedic Surgeons would operate on paraplegic patients to install spinal implants. At PIMS most of the implants were installed by a Neurosurgeon. Unfortunately a large number of those implants have consequently failed and would require re-surgeries from orthopaedic spinal surgeons.

**Due to the above facts we feel more confident to dealing with the Armed Forces Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFIRM) as our main collaborators. We request you to help us putting this project on a fast track by providing the necessary clearances.**

Yours sincerely

Swiss Pakistan Society



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