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Agreement signed for climate change policies

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By Our correspondent
Islamabad

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) Pakistan, a German foundation, signed a cooperation agreement on 'Climate Change in Pakistan: Institutional Arrangements and Alternative Sources of Energy'.

The agreement, signed by SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri and Resident Director HBS Gregor Enste, aims at developing institutional framework for the implementation of the national climate change related policies, and building and strengthening the capacity of government officials and the private sector for better policy implementation.

According to the agreement, the views of civil society regarding the national climate change related policies and institutional arrangements will also be incorporated and mapping of the current use of different sources of energy will be carried out. The agreement also asks for analysing the expected policy on climate change, review of institutional arrangements of selected countries and implementation of the climate change policy in Pakistan. Dr Suleri will be responsible for looking after the project.

The impacts of climate change are evident in Pakistan, which is facing multiple threats from the phenomenon. The agricultural sector is one such example where low productivity, water shortage, mismanagement, etc, are further worsening the situation, and studies show that wheat and rice productions will decline due to climate change.

Monsoon rains and glaciers are two sources of water availability in Pakistan but monsoon patterns and quantity are now changing. Pakistan also observed two long spells of droughts in the last two decades, especially during 1998-2002.

Believing that it is essential to provide a strategic framework for the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the climate change policies in Pakistan, an official said the creation of a framework would depend on an initial analysis and evaluation of the existing systems as well as incorporating the demands placed by an ambitious climate change policy.