

PRESS RELEASE

(Karachi, October 3, 2011): Mr. Shehzad Salim was elected unopposed as the Chairman, PRGMEA for the year 2011-12, while Mr. Atiq A. Kochra and Mr. Sohail A. Sheikh were elected unopposed as the Chairmen, South and North Zones respectively.

Mr. Shehzad Salim on assuming charge of the office stressed the garment industry is faced with many the challenges ahead and during his tenure he would stress on more interaction with the whole textile chain. “Without taking into the account the concerns of growers, ginnners, spinners, weavers and the garment industry, Pakistan’s textile sector cannot function properly and therefore we would stress that all the associations of the industry to work together for better functioning of the whole textile chain, he said.

Better coordination with the government would be another priority for PRGMEA this year, he stressed. “We would like to thank the government for relentlessly pursuing the matter of EU concessions package with European Commission, WTO and with India. All credit goes to the government for their successful trade diplomacy on this issue. We would like to extend our full support and cooperation to the government and would stress better coordination with the government on all such important matters”, he stressed.

We would appeal the government to restart the successful Stitching Machine Operators’ Training (SMOT) program for skill development in Pakistan. Creation of new jobs should be our top priority during these testing times and at our vocational training institute; PRGTTI we are going all out to bring badly needed jobs to workers. In order to have a vibrant garment industry and competing with the likes of Bangladesh, trained labor force is essential and therefore development of skills at the operator level is of utmost importance, he pointed out.