



# Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR)

Sensitises on prompt reporting, monitoring and protection of Democracy and Human Rights

Member of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal  
Member of South Asia Media Committee on Human Rights (SAMCOHR)  
Research Partner, NCCR IP6 Project, Zurich University, Switzerland

## **Globalization is inevitable but we need to take pro-people stand while negotiating trade terms**

Globalization seems inevitable despite its uneven practical shapes due to monopolistic and arms twisting attitude of major economic powers in international trade but we have to make our own way by taking strong pro-people positions during the multilateral rounds of negotiations on international and regional trade.

This was the crux of speeches made at the media launching ceremony of Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri's book 'Social Dimensions of Globalization' at a local hotel in Islamabad on November 07, 2004. The book has jointly been published by Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR), a media think tank and a research and capacity building organization based in Islamabad and National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South, Zurich University, Switzerland. Dr Abid, head of Oxfam GB's programmes in Pakistan, in this book has covered social dimensions of globalization in the World Trade Organization (WTO) perspective.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Dr Abid Suleri said globalization means different things to different people. We hear many people claiming that globalization offers opportunities, other say it poses particular threats. Some feel that it is inevitable; others say despite its anti social dimensions, globalization is manageable. All those who have one or the other view hold their own merits. However, one thing is clear that globalization ties us all together more tightly than ever before and now we have to face the challenges of globalization, bad or good. He said an adverse form of such globalization is economic liberalization. At the inception of the WTO, poor economies were promised in the preamble of the Marrakesh agreement that they would be able to gain access to major markets following the principles of non-discrimination and equality provided they liberalize their economies. But the UN report for the 11th Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) says eight years after, things seem to be in different direction as small economies are still at the losers' end in global trading system.

Dr Suleri said his book, which is a compilation of his articles published in The News in logical and chronological order, talks about the process of negotiations and arms twisting techniques used at the WTO forums and committees. It highlights all major development right from Havana to Cancun and impacts of WTO process on Pakistan. He thanked all those who had helped him in compiling the book, especially NCCR North South and JDHR for providing financial and technical support for publication of the book.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shafqat Munir, president Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights said Dr Suleri's book is worth reading as it provides valuable insight to the readers regarding different aspects of globalization. The book presents social dimensions of the processes of globalization in the rights based perspective. He said developing countries' concerns over certain WTO agreements raised during various occasions from Seattle to Cancun have been described in the book. The concerns included: Why globalization always adversely affects weaker players? Can we benefit from globalization? Can we go by a selective approach on liberalization instead of a fast track liberalization policy? How can we find a balance between opportunities offered and threats posed by globalization? All these questions have been addressed in the book 'Social Dimensions of Globalization'. Shafqat said the crux of answers to all these questions has been that we should have to put the people



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at the centre of development as any development without people would not be sustainable and would possibly be a compromise on our sovereignty.