

## **UNEP ROAP and SDPI ink MoU for Environmental Cooperation**

United Nations Environmental Program, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNEP ROAP) and SDPI have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for environmental cooperation. The agreement aims at strengthening UNEP ROAP and SDPI relationship of mutual cooperation, through close collaborative activities for strengthening the environment communities, assisting and identifying emerging environment issues, promoting regional cooperation and leadership by example, through demonstration projects in the region, especially South Asia. The activities in Pakistan will be conducted in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director, UNEP ROAP, Bangkok and Dr. Abid Suleri, Acting Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad signed for their respective organizations. Dr. Subrato Sinha and Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja from UNEP ROAP and SDPI would, respectively, be focal persons for the program/activities.

An envisaged core element of the UNEP – SDPI partnership would be the SDPI role to assist UNEP in the implementation of its Regional Strategy at sub-regional and national levels. It is agreed that for the period 2008 - 2010 the parties will cooperate in the areas of environmental education and awareness, chemical management, environment assessment and capacity building of partners/stakeholders for the same.