

## PRESS RELEASE

### **General Elections-2008: Observation of Women-Contested Constituencies**

**December 12, 2007:** The Researchers, a non-profit organisation, with the support of The Asia Foundation is undertaking observation of 40 selected national and provincial constituencies being contested by women in General Elections-2008.

In this regard The Researchers will be fielding almost 350 International, Domestic and Constituency based observers. A comprehensive report would be produced covering pre-election, election-day and post-election observations. This project would be the first-ever documentation of the observation of women contested constituencies in Pakistan and in Asia.

The Researchers' Executive Director Aazar Ayaz maintained that "Pakistan is unfortunately weak in researched documentation in general and more so on political/ electoral documentation especially for women and minorities," "In the current political situation the self repeating questions are: "what is free and fair election? What would happen? Who will be responsible for transparency and accountability?" "The credibility of electoral processes would thus be established by impartial and credible observers' report" he added.

The Researches (TR) is a research based civil society organization with sister organizational linkages in 85 districts of Pakistan. TR is also the regional convener and secretariat of Women in Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF), which was established in the year 2005. Both TR & WPAF have been gradually moving towards their target of increased research based documentation on women's political progress at national, regional and international level.

WPAF has its regional linkages through its country chapters in Thailand and South Korea with King Pradjadhopik Institute (KPI) and Korean Institute of Women in Politics (KIWP), respectively. The objective for the country chapters is to promote national research and cross fertilize regional research focusing democracy and women's participation. The detail about TR & WPAF can be found at [www.theresearchers.org](http://www.theresearchers.org) & [www.wpaf.org](http://www.wpaf.org), respectively.