

BridgeUS – Jan 2017

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In dedication to Daniel Pearl

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American and Pakistani Artists Complete New Mural at Lok Virsa



Islamabad – December 17: Artists, students, and community members gathered at Lok Virsa today

for the dedication of a mural jointly designed and painted by American and Pakistani artists. The mural focuses on the beauty and culture of Pakistan's people.

The American artists who contributed to the mural are associated with Words Beats and Life, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. that uses the power of hip-hop culture to transform communities locally and globally. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad sponsored the artists' travel and activities, which have been coordinated by the Kuch Khaas Centre for Arts, Culture and Diague.

"The people of Pakistan are its most precious resource. It has been our honor to learn from them and to be inspired by their hospitality, culture, and creativity," said Words Beats and Life Executive Director Mazi Mutafa. "We were very inspired to create a piece of public art together with our Pakistani friends."

U.S. Embassy Acting Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Rob Raines spoke at the mural dedication ceremony and encouraged continued collaboration between the American and Pakistani artistic communities.

"This mural serves as a reminder that art crosses borders, it is a universal language that both connects us and speaks to us regardless of our nationality." Raines said. "This artwork will remind passersby for years to come of the great creativity sparked when Americans and Pakistanis exchange ideas and work together."

For more information about the U.S. Embassy's activities in Pakistan, visit <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

December 17, 2016

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section 051-201-5427, 051-201-4423

U.S. Presents Boats to Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA)



Karachi – Last week representatives from the U.S. Office of the Defense Representative Pakistan (ODRP) presented two Zodiac Hurricane boats valued at more than USD \$1,000,000 to Pakistan

Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in Karachi. The PMSA, part of the Ministry of Defense, is headquartered in Karachi and is responsible for enforcing national and international laws off the coast of Pakistan. The boats will be a primary tool for PMSA in preventing drug smuggling and drug trafficking along Pakistan's 650-mile Makran coastline.

Please refer to our website for additional information: <https://pk.usembassy.gov/>

U.S. Consul General visits Sindh Wind Corridor



THATTA – U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton visited and met with wind energy professionals at the Sindh Wind Corridor in Jhampir, Thatta today. CG Shelton visited Sapphire Wind Power Project, USAID grid station, and Kheenjar Lake.



“The Sindh Wind Corridor shows the vital role renewable energy can play in helping Pakistan solve its energy crisis,” said U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton. “The United States continues to strongly support Pakistan’s efforts to expand clean energy to foster economic development.”

At Sapphire Wind Power Project, she learned from Project Site Manager Danish Hanif how Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has funded and contributed to 50 megawatts of renewable energy to Pakistan’s national grid. The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) grid station is also the site of major U.S. government support – USAID support of \$43 million will facilitate the creation of a 680 megawatt link. While visiting Kheenjhar Lake, Pakistan’s second largest fresh water lake, CG Shelton appreciated World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and the work they have done for wildlife conservation and sustainable economic development.

U.S. Congratulates Sindh Government on Signing Agreements for Sindh Basic Education Program



Karachi – Early today Consul General Grace Shelton and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah witnessed the signing between Sindh School Education Department and Beaconhouse, Sukkur –IBA, and Indus Resource Centre and Charter for Compassion on the management and construction of five new schools in Khairpur and Sukkur districts. Included in the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP), these five schools are part of the 106 large state-of-the-art school buildings being reconstructed in northern Sindh and Karachi. Also attending the event at the Chief Minister’s House was USAID Provincial Director Denise Herbol, Minister of Education Jam Mehtab Dahar, and Secretary Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho.

“We are proud to partner with the Government of Sindh in this important initiative,” Consul General Shelton stated. She added, “The Sindh Basic Education Program will help improve the quality of teaching and increase equitable access to safe learning opportunities for children, especially girls. These children in Sindh who will receive a free education will grow up to be the next generation of engineers, doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs.”

SBEP is a U.S. government five-year, \$155 million initiative that aims to increase and sustain student enrollment in primary, middle, and secondary public schools in selected areas of Sindh. The Government of Sindh is the first province to implement this innovative Public-Private Partnership by awarding concession agreements for a period of up to ten years to private sector organizations to improve the operations of public schools and enhance student achievement

For more information about this and other programs, please go to www.pk.usembassy.gov

U.S to Provide \$81 Million for the Construction of Stage 1 of Kurram Tangi Dam Project



Islamabad, December 14, 2016: The United States signed an agreement to provide over 8.5 billion rupees to the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) for the construction of the Kaitu Weir project in North Waziristan Agency of FATA. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and WAPDA signed the agreement at a ceremony held in Islamabad. American Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale attended the ceremony.

“America and Pakistan have a long history of cooperation in the energy sector,” Ambassador Hale said in his remarks. **“The agreement signed today builds on decades of shared effort to meet Pakistan’s energy needs and help improve the lives of millions of Pakistanis.”**

The Kaitu Weir is Stage 1 of the larger Kurram Tangi Dam Project (KTDP). By completing the construction of KTDP-Stage 1, more than 16,000 acres of agricultural land will be irrigated and an additional 18 megawatts of electricity will be produced, enough to benefit 100,000 Pakistanis. Under KTDP-Stage 1, funds will be transferred to WAPDA to support the construction of a weir on Kaitu River, the Shertalla and Spairaga canals, two powerhouses, a transmission line, housing accommodations for construction and operational staff, and an office building for dam construction and operation activities.

Since 2009, the United States Government has invested more than 53.1 billion rupees to develop Pakistan’s power sector, benefitting more than 28 million Pakistanis and adding more than 2,400 megawatts of electricity to the national grid. This total includes 1,013 megawatts from new or rehabilitated dams and thermal power plants, and 1,447 megawatts from improvements in the

transmission and distribution system.

For more information on U.S. assistance to Pakistan's energy sector, please visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/pakistan/energy>

U.S. and KP Government Launch IT Skills Project for KP and FATA Youth



Photo Caption: USAID Deputy Mission Director Kevin Brownawell and the Senior Minister for IT and Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Mr. Shahram Khan Tarakai today signed an agreement for a new program that will train and provide Cisco-certification to more than 3,000 young men and women enrolled in higher education and technical institutions across nine districts of the province.

Peshawar, December 14, 2016: USAID Deputy Mission Director Kevin Brownawell and the Senior Minister for IT and Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Mr. Shahram Khan Tarakai today signed an agreement for a new program to train youth from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and KP in information and communication technology. The program will train and provide Cisco-certification to more than 3,000 young men and women enrolled in higher education and technical institutions across nine districts of the province.

“Our government gives high importance to collaboration with the United States to promote education and youth training in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,” Minister Tarakai said. “Working together in the education sector, we can improve quality and access to information and communication technology, which is the need of the hour,” he added.

Mr. Brownawell highlighted the importance of empowering Pakistani youth through training in employability skills that will lead to economic opportunities. “Youth across Pakistan, and especially in conflict-affected areas of KP and FATA, face challenges in gaining relevant skills that prepare them for employment,” said Mr. Brownawell. “The project we are launching today will engage the youth in KP

and FATA in developing certified ICT skills and link them to employment opportunities. This will ultimately contribute to long-term stability, economic growth, and progress of Pakistan.”

The U.S. Consul General in Peshawar Mr. Raymond McGrath praised the project for helping today’s youth build the technical skills they will need for successful careers and social leadership.

The USAID-funded Skills for Youth Project is a pilot project in USAID’s Global Development Alliance (GDA) in Pakistan that partners with the private sector on a resource sharing basis. The Skills for Youth Project will establish Cisco Networking Academies in 40 institutions across nine KP districts with a 1:1 partnership with Cisco Systems. The project will also train selected teachers from these institutions to become instructor trainers to deliver student training in IT skills.

American Hip-Hop Group Mahogany Jones Performs and Shares Message about Women’s Empowerment



Islamabad, December 12, 2016 – American musician Mahogany Jones and her band introduced hip hop to an excited audience at Aiwan-e-Quaid hall Sunday evening. The group’s performance, sponsored by the American Embassy, emphasized the importance of women’s empowerment. Mahogany Jones’ visit to Pakistan coincides with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, November 25-December 10. The group conducted a variety of performances and workshops in Pakistan organized by American Voices and The Kuch Khaas Centre for Arts, Culture, and Dialogue.

“It is a privilege to be in Pakistan during the 16 Days against Gender-Based Violence Campaign,” lead performer Mahogany Jones said. “In this program, I have been running workshops with Pakistani young artists and look forward to the collaborations that will result. Pakistan is brimming with talented and socially committed young performers.”

American Ambassador David Hale welcomed the musical group to Islamabad and commented on the power of music to educate. “Music can challenge our understanding of the world, open our minds to new ideas, and bridge cultural gaps,” he said.

The American Embassy supports arts programming through a variety of initiatives. Each year, with U.S. government support, dozens of Pakistani musicians participate in programs like the Pakistani Showcase at South-by-Southwest Music Festival, the Dosti Music Project, and Daniel Pearl World Music Days. For more information on the American Embassy’s activities, visit <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

U.S. Consulate Celebrates Sindh Culture Day



Karachi – For the fourth year in a row, the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi marked Sindh Culture Day with a folk music concert and reception. Consul General Grace Shelton welcomed Sindhi media, cultural contacts, and dignitaries to the event and Sindhi folk musicians Arbab Khan Khoso from Badin played the Al-ghozo, Sattar Jogi from Tharparkar played the Murlee and acclaimed singer Ahmad Mughul enthralled the participants with their soothing music.



Consul General Grace Shelton speaking on the occasion of her first Sindh Culture Day said, “Sindh is a land of mystics, Sufis, poets and saints; the people of this land have created a peace-loving, inclusive and tolerant society. On this great cultural day, the United States wishes prosperity and peace to the people of Sindh.”

To check out photos out of this event, please click here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usconsulatekhi/>

US Government Helping to Bring Water to 191,000 acres in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank



The recently-constructed irrigation canals of the U.S.-funded Gomal Zam Dam Command Area Development Project will create opportunities for large-scale employment in D.I. Khan and Tank Districts.

Islamabad, December 9, 2016 – The recently-constructed irrigation canals of the U.S.-funded Gomal Zam Dam Command Area Development Project were inaugurated in Dera Ismal Khan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an agreement with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in March 2015 to provide \$22.22

million funding for the Gomal Zam Dam Command Area Development project.

“These canals will create opportunities for large-scale employment,” said USAID Mission Director John Groarke. “The availability of water in the region will catalyze the integrated development of the command area. Farmers will also be trained on farm water management, productivity enhancement, value addition, processing, and effective marketing.”

The first phase of this activity started in 2015 and consisted of baseline and feasibility assessments; preparation of a master plan for the development of the command area; formation of water user associations and training of farmers to improve agricultural productivity; and the processing and marketing of crops, fruits, vegetables and livestock. The second phase of the project consists of construction activities, including 393 concrete lined irrigation canals in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan Districts, land leveling, construction of water storage ponds, and the introduction of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

Approximately 30,000 families are expected to directly benefit from this activity. The project will be completed in September 2018. For more information on USAID’s economic growth and agriculture activities, visit <http://bit.ly/1kUsuds>

USAID’s Gender Equity Program fosters Educational Empowerment for Women in Pakistan



American Ambassador David Hale along with Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer, Aurat Foundation, John Groarke, Mission Director USAID, Younas Khalid, Chief of Party, Gender Equity Program and Simi Kamal, women rights’ activist at the event regarding 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Vi

Islamabad, December 08, 2016 — American Ambassador David Hale spoke today at an event sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Gender Equity Program to recognize the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. Held at the Islamabad Club, the event brought together students, development workers, academics, and distinguished government officials from all over Pakistan to promote gender equality through stories, speeches, and theater.

Ambassador Hale, in his remarks, addressed this year's campaign theme – From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All. "Education is crucial to lifting people out of poverty, improving living standards and quality of life, and reducing health and safety risks. But for many girls and women around the world, including Pakistan, it is difficult to access education and do so safely. That's why I'm so pleased that the Government of Pakistan has made girls' education a critical component of its national development strategy," he added.



Mr. Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer at Gender Equity Program (GEP) implementing partner the Aurat Foundation, spoke about the program's work to assist survivors of gender-based violence, including the legal services and emergency shelter the program makes available. He also informed audience members of the educational opportunities and job training programs the program provides which have helped women throughout Pakistan achieve their academic goals and break into fields traditionally dominated by men, such as information technology.

One of the highlights of the event was a team of artists from Lahore who performed a theater piece tied to the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Beneficiaries of GEP's support also shared their experiences, including Ms. Zonia Kanwal from Agricultural University Faisalabad, who said, "my area of research is socioeconomic barriers and its effect on women's empowerment. I am delighted the scholarship I received from GEP will help me complete my research and receive an education." The Gender Equity Program educates women about their rights at home, at work, and in society. The program is working to expand women's access to justice and human rights, while combating gender-based violence. To learn more, visit: www.usaid.gov/pakistan

We were saddened to hear
of the tragic crash of
PIA flight PK 661
in Havelian today,
and extend our deepest
condolences to the families and
loved ones of the victims lost
in this terrible tragedy.

American Ambassador
David Hale

December 3

This weekend, the [Pakistan Youth Federation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) and the [Special Talent Exchange Program \(STEP\)](#) organized a conference with [U.S. Embassy Pakistan](#) support regarding the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The event occurred on December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities. We are proud to partner with the Pakistan Youth Federation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, STEP, and other organizations and individuals that advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

[#IDPD2016](#) [#USEmbassyISB](#) [#USPak](#) [#STEP](#) [#PYFDH](#)



November 30 Pakistani **#TechWomen** here is an opportunity for you.

TechWomen, an initiative of **Exchange Programs - U.S. Department of State**, empowers, connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by providing them the access and opportunity needed to advance their careers, pursue their dreams, and inspire women and girls in their communities.

#TechWomen2017 will select 100 women in **#STEM** from 20 countries to come to the **#US** for professional mentorship and exchange.

Apply online at bit.ly/techwomen17. Deadline to apply is January 17, 2017

#USPak #WomenInSTEM #Pakistan #ExchangesAre

American Ambassador David Hale Meets with Pakistani Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni



Islamabad – December 2: Approximately 250 Pakistani alumni of the Fulbright Program and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program gathered at the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad for a conference that examined how they can contribute to Pakistan’s development in fields ranging from



higher education to law to health.

American Ambassador David Hale congratulated the alumni on their accomplishments and urged them to continue applying the skills and connections they developed in the United States to their professional and personal pursuits in Pakistan. Ambassador Hale also thanked the Higher Education Commission and its Chairman, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, for their contributions to the Fulbright Program. “The people of Pakistan and America share a fundamental desire for stability, peace, and regional and global economic development. We are able to achieve these goals through education,” said Ambassador Hale.

“Being a part of Fulbright is being part of a privileged group of people. And one of the strengths of the organization is the number of events offered in Pakistan through PUAN (Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network) and USEFP (U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan) where alumni can talk about what

they're doing. No one else does that the way Fulbright does," said Haider Shishmahal, producer/game developer, Fulbright Scholar, Harvard University Class of 2013.

Through the Fulbright Program, Pakistani students pursue master's and doctoral degrees in the United States. Through the Humphrey Program, mid-career professionals pursue up to one year of non-degree graduate-level study in the United States. The U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) administers both programs on behalf of the U.S. government.

"The merit-based Pakistan Fulbright program gives people with the greatest potential in all academic disciplines the opportunity to gain much needed skills and knowledge in rigorous degree programs essential to sustainable development and progress," USEFP Executive Director Rita Akhtar said. "This is why the overarching theme of this year's conference is 'Agents of Change.' The conference showcases the commitment of returning alumni to share innovative solutions in a variety of fields. USEFP is proud to be part of building a network of alumni who have the skillsets and commitment to be leaders for growth and progress in Pakistan."

For more information about the American Embassy's educational activities and exchange programs, visit <http://pk.usembassy.gov>. For more information about the U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan and its programs, visit <http://www.usefpakistan.org/>.

United States Rehabilitates Kalat-Quetta-Chaman Highway



Islamabad – December 1: American Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale along with National Highway Authority Chairman Shahid Ashraf Tarar and Frontier Works Organization Director Major General Muhammad Afzal today opened an exhibition displaying photos of the recently rehabilitated section of National Highway (N-25) connecting Chaman to Kalat through Quetta, Balochistan. At the exhibition, which commemorates the recent completion of American-funded improvements on the road, attendees viewed the many photos of scenes of Pakistani life on and around the new highway.

The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), funded the construction of the 111 kilometers needed to complete the N-25 highway, in cooperation with the

Frontier Works Organization, the prime contractor, and the National Highway Authority (NHA). USAID provided \$63 million to rehabilitate the highway and has committed an additional \$27 million for further improvements including a bypass road at Kuchlak, four bridges, two weighing stations, and three toll plazas. The newly-restored N-25 highway will increase trade and economic integration by linking Pakistan with Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbors. The road, which stretches from Chaman on the border with Afghanistan to Karachi, will also improve the lives of the people of Balochistan by expanding access to basic healthcare, education, and other social services. The Frontier Works Organization began construction in October 2014.

“This road is a concrete demonstration of America’s commitment to help bring peace, stability, and prosperity to Pakistan. It is a testament to the far-reaching benefits of our partnership, as it will serve the people of Pakistan for generations to come,” Ambassador Hale said at the inauguration.

The funding for this highway is one element of USAID’s \$681.5 million FATA Infrastructure Program, which has restored essential public infrastructure in remote communities. To date, USAID has funded the construction and rehabilitation of more than 1,100 kilometers of roads in Pakistan, including the four major trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

American Ambassador Meets with Disability Rights Advocates



American Ambassador David Hale met with Pakistani disability rights advocates to discuss the achievements of individuals with disabilities in Pakistan, America, and around the world.

Islamabad – December 1, 2016: American Ambassador David Hale met with approximately 25 Pakistani disability rights advocates to discuss the achievements of individuals with disabilities in Pakistan, America, and elsewhere around the world. The group also discussed how to address challenges that individuals with disabilities still face in society today, such as difficulty accessing mainstream education and health services.

“At the State Department, led by our Special Advisor for International Disability Rights Judith Heumann, we campaign to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities,” said Ambassador Hale. “Earlier this year in conjunction with the Paralympics, we started a campaign called ‘Without Limits.’ This campaign focuses on ensuring that persons with disabilities are employed on an equal basis with others.”

The American Embassy recently concluded a one-year \$375,000 program, managed by the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), to support Pakistani women with disabilities. Through this program, STEP organized more than 90 training sessions, TV talk show discussions, and provincial workshops to increase public and Pakistani government awareness about the rights of women with disabilities and to provide livelihood training for women with disabilities.

“While we observe and celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we also need to commit ourselves to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which can create a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities,” said STEP President Atif Sheikh.

Now, the American Embassy, Mobility International, and STEP are beginning collaboration on a new program to empower Pakistanis with disabilities and their allies. The American Embassy also supports the rights of individuals with disabilities through exchange programs and other activities, such as the International Visitor Leadership Program. For more details about the American Embassy’s work in Pakistan, please visit <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

U.S. Consulate Organizes Sports Diplomacy event with Special Olympians



Karachi — Consul General Grace Shelton welcomed Special Olympics Pakistan officials, Special Olympics athletes, and students to the Old Consul General Residence earlier today for the third in a series of Consulate sports diplomacy events this year. CG Shelton, Mr. Rizwan Mansoor, Secretary General of Special Olympics Pakistan and Mr. Daniyal Alvi, manager of Operations and Organizational Development, presided over the event involving 50 Special Olympics athletes and 30 students who all came together to play bocce, basketball and a 25-meter “assisted walk race.”



“Despite different abilities and skillset, it is great to see these students work hard to achieve a common goal,” said CG Grace Shelton, speaking at the event. “That effort reminds us all what is possible when we work together and remain committed to a common goal.”

The Special Olympics was founded in the 1950s by President John F. Kennedy’s sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver when she saw how unjustly and unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated. The first international Special Olympics competition was held in Chicago in 1968 and since then has expanded to include over 100,000 events globally.

American Embassy Turns Orange in Honor of the 16 Days of Activism

against Gender-Based Violence



Islamabad – November 28, 2016: In honor of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the American Embassy will be lit with orange lights for several nights.

“During my time in Pakistan, I have met many inspiring and energetic Pakistani women and men who are advocating for the rights of women and minorities,” said Ambassador Hale. “The 16 Days campaign reminds us that every one of us has a role to play in ensuring we all live and work in safe environments, with full access to educational and economic opportunities. Protecting and advancing these rights benefits not only women and minorities, but society as a whole.”

The Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University in the United States launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign in 1991. The annual campaign runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25 to International Human Rights Day on December 10. The campaign’s timing symbolically links the prevention of violence against women with broader human rights issues.

The American Embassy supports women’s rights in Pakistan through a wide range of programs, including the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Gender Equity Project and a new partnership with the Women Win organization to empower adolescent girls to exercise their rights. For more information about the American Embassy’s activities in Pakistan, visit <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section 051-201-5427, 051-201-4423

U.S. Consul General inaugurates state-of-the-art school



Sukkur – U.S. Consul General Grace W. Shelton and Sindh Education Minister Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar today inaugurated a new school in Rohri; district Sukkur that was constructed with the support of the United States Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



This is the sixth state-of-the-art school constructed under USAID’s \$155 million Sindh Basic Education Program to be inaugurated this year. The local government representatives, community leaders, teachers and students attended the ceremony .

“The United States Government strongly supports education in Pakistan, and this school is just one of the 106 state-of-the-art facilities that USAID is constructing in partnership with the Sindh Government,” said Consul Grace W. Shelton at the ceremony. “Here, children will be able to learn and grow, helping Pakistan realize its full potential.”

Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar, Minister for Education, Sindh expressed his appreciation of the U.S. Government for its strong support in modernizing education in Sindh. “Education is the utmost priority of the Sindh Government and we are very grateful to USAID for helping us in education reforms, a need of the hour.” He added, “Technical support in the launch of Education Management Organizations is another phenomenal support from USAID for the people of Sindh, which will help uplift standard of schooling in the province.”



The Sindh Basic Education Program will construct up to 106 modern school buildings in eight districts of Sindh. Currently, 71 schools are under construction with five schools inaugurated earlier this year. The project aims to increase and sustain student enrollment in primary, middle and secondary public schools in selected areas of Sindh, with a special focus on bringing back children who have dropped out of school.

For more information about USAID and its programs in Pakistan, please visit www.usaid.gov/pakistan.

American Curator Vicky Clark and Pakistani Art Community Exchange Ideas



Islamabad – November 26, 2016: American art curator and writer Vicky Clark discussed American and Pakistani art traditions with local artists, teachers, and students during a November 15-25 visit to Islamabad and Lahore.

The U.S. Embassy partnered with the Kuch Khaas Centre for Arts, Culture, and Dialogue to arrange Dr. Clark's lectures at the Beaconhouse School, COMSATS University, IQRA University, and the National College of Arts, Lahore as well as engagements with local artists.

“Kuch Khaas is best known for its dedication to the arts and its deep commitment to building bridges through cultural exchange. Our ethos is to cultivate relationships and artistic exchange which mutually benefit communities and strengthen our understanding of different cultures, thereby enriching our collective global contemporary experience,” said Kuch Khaas CEO Michelle Tania Butt. “We would like to thank Dr. Vicky Clark for sharing her passion and knowledge with local artists and students. The exchanges will hopefully open new avenues for collaborations between American and Pakistani art institutions and individuals.”

Dr. Clark also participated in the November 18 opening of a U.S. Embassy-funded exhibition of Pakistani art at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

“I am so grateful to meet with so many talented and inspiring Pakistani artists and students,” Dr. Clark said. “The individuals I met in Lahore and Islamabad have introduced me to new artistic concepts and traditions. Exchanges like this provide opportunities for future collaborations and the exchange of ideas and art.”

The American Embassy is committed to funding arts programming in Pakistan because exchanging artistic traditions enriches both countries while engaging, educating, and inspiring new artists’ ideas. For more information about the U.S. Embassy’s activities in Pakistan, please visit <https://pk.usembassy.gov/>.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section 051-201-5427, 051-201-4423

November 26, We welcome Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s appointment of Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa as the new Chief of Army Staff. We look forward to continuing our work with Pakistan’s elected leaders, with Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and with the Pakistani military to advance our shared counterinsurgency and counterterrorism goals for Pakistan and the region, and to enable Pakistani authorities to honor their pledge to prevent the use of Pakistan’s soil for terrorist attacks against its neighbors.

#AmbHale #USEmbassyISB #QamarJavedBajwa #NewCOAS

We welcome Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's appointment of Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa as the new Chief of Army Staff. We look forward to continuing our work with Pakistan's elected leaders, with Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and with the Pakistani military to advance our shared counterinsurgency and counterterrorism goals for Pakistan and the region, and to enable Pakistani authorities to honor their pledge to prevent the use of Pakistan's soil for terrorist attacks against its neighbors.

Our congratulations to Pakistani Chief of Army Staff General Raheel and his family upon the conclusion of his three-year appointment. General Raheel has been a respected partner throughout his tenure as Army Chief. We appreciate his leadership in combatting terrorism in Pakistan and across the region, and his support for Pakistani civilian governance and institutions. He has demonstrated an impressive commitment to the peace, security, and well-being of the Pakistani people.

We congratulate the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Lieutenant General Zubair Hayat and recognize the dedicated service of General Rashad Mahmood.

American Ambassador David Hale

National Special Education Center Students Meet American Diplomat, Learn About Helen Keller and the Rights of the Disabled



Islamabad, November 22, 2016 – Pakistan's National Special Education Center for Hearing Impaired

Children hosted U.S. Embassy Press Officer Nolen Johnson, who spoke with students about the inspiring life of Helen Keller, the deaf-blind American educator, writer and social activist, who helped found the American Civil Liberties Union in 1920, and was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her life's work. The students also learned about Ms. Saima Saleem, the first blind member of the Pakistan Foreign Service.

During his remarks, Mr. Johnson told the students, "Always remember that your limitations shrink in comparison your tremendous potential."

Speaking at the event, Ms. Ishrat Masood, Director General Special Education remarked, "Helen Keller's life inspires us to pursue our dreams with courage and passion despite apparent hurdles."

The U.S. Embassy supports the promotion and protection of the rights of the disabled in a variety of ways, such as support for the Helen Keller Center, and a recently concluded a one-year \$375,000 program, managed by the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), to support Pakistani women with disabilities. Through this program, STEP organized more than 90 training sessions, TV talk show discussions, and provincial workshops to increase public and Pakistani government awareness about the rights of women with disabilities and to provide livelihood training for women with disabilities. Now, the American Embassy and Mobility International are beginning collaboration on a new program to empower Pakistanis with disabilities and their allies.

For more information, please visit <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/sadr/>

Want to know how USAID Pakistan and Pakistani government are working together for women's empowerment? Join us on Power99 FM tonight at 6:00 p.m. for Tea Time with U.S.! Learn about USAID's Gender Equality Program and Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives. Our guests tonight are from USAID Pakistan and its partner [Aurat Foundation](#).

Listen to the show online: <http://goo.gl/0QZY2E>



American Ambassador David Hale Opens Contemporary Pakistani Art Exhibition at PNCA



Islamabad, November 19, 2016 – American Ambassador David Hale and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Director General Syed Jamal Shah opened a new exhibition of contemporary Pakistani art at PNCA last night. The exhibit, titled “Open Field,” features the works of more than 80 young artists from across Pakistan and is funded by the American Embassy.

“This exhibit shows the vitality of the Pakistani arts community and its ability to conserve and reflect its rich creative heritage while inventing new forms of expression for today,” said Ambassador Hale. The exhibit, which was organized by the Kuch Khaas Center for Arts, Culture, and Dialogue, will remain on display at PNCA for two months.

“The artwork on display in ‘Open Field’ is representative of the ways in which artists, operating fully within art-world conventions, have begun to ask new questions and to open up spaces for the formation of new processes,” said exhibit curator Aasim Akhtar.

One sign of the vitality of the Pakistani arts community is its ability to conserve its great creative heritage while inventing new forms of expression for today. The American Embassy spends over 100 million rupees annually to fund arts programming in Pakistan, introducing Pakistanis and Americans to each other’s artistic traditions. The arts engage, educate, and inspire. For more information about the U.S. Embassy’s activities in Pakistan, please visit <https://pk.usembassy.gov/>.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section 051-201-5427, 051-201-4423

The Lincoln Corner Islamabad at the International Islamic University hosted women entrepreneurs and over 60 female students and faculty as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. The panel, led by State Department alumnus Ms. Durreshawar Mahmood, shared stories about starting their own businesses. The speakers offered helpful tips and suggestions on removing the socio-cultural barriers facing young Pakistani women entrepreneurs. Lincoln Corners are partnerships between the Embassy of the United States of America and select institutions in Pakistan. #LincolnCornersPakistan #Islamabad #GEW2016





November 18, #FulbrightHeroes: Talha Rehmani is the Co-Founder of the Intelligent Machines Lab at [Information Technology University](#), Lahore. He teaches undergraduate students to develop robots which solve local problems. Some of the products developed by his team can potentially produce machines providing essential services for a tenth of the cost of an imported alternate.

Talha went to the U.S. on a Fulbright Scholarship to study for a Master's in Robotics Systems Development from [Carnegie Mellon University](#)

This is his story...

Watch full version here: <http://bit.ly/2f6Naf2>

[The Fulbright Program Exchange Programs - U.S. Department of State International Exchange Alumni U.S. Embassy Pakistan Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network](#)

American Ambassador Hale Celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week



Islamabad, November 17, 2016 – American Ambassador David Hale hosted a reception for members of Pakistan’s entrepreneurship community to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW). He was joined by guest of honor Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications Anusha Rahman Khan. Several members of Pakistan’s delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), who travelled to Silicon Valley in June, were also in attendance. Pakistan sent the largest foreign delegation to the GES, a point which Ambassador Hale lauded as evidence of the country’s economic vibrancy.

The reception was the capstone of several Embassy events celebrating Pakistan’s entrepreneurs and U.S.-Pakistan cooperation in this sphere. To begin the week’s activities, State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Angela Aggeler met with a group of young Pakistani entrepreneurs to discuss the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship. Other events included a meeting between members of the agricultural industry and the entrepreneurial scene which focused on boosting productivity in the agricultural sector through the adoption of new technologies, and a forum for women entrepreneurs and students to share their experiences in starting companies.

Various U.S. Embassy programs assist Pakistani entrepreneurs by increasing their access to financial resources, supporting opportunities for entrepreneurship education, and nurturing an entrepreneurial culture, including the United States Agency for International Development’s Pakistan Private Investment Initiative, which will make over \$100 million in equity capital available to Pakistan’s dynamic and fast-growing small-and medium-sized businesses.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-201-5427, 051-201-4423)

November 17, As part of the Embassy’s Global Entrepreneurship Week activities, Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Pratt led a discussion with entrepreneurs, business people, and policymakers from Pakistan’s agricultural sector to discuss innovations for productivity and competitiveness, and to forge mutually beneficial research, trade, and investment ties among U.S. and Pakistani companies. #GEW2016 #GlobalEntrepreneushipWeek



U.S. Consulate hosts Presidential Election reception



Karachi – U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton hosted a reception for Karachi’s civil society, politicians, businessmen, journalists and students to watch live results of the November 8 American presidential election.



Consul General Shelton said, “The United States is proud of its centuries-old democratic traditions and institutions. In addition to electing the 45th President, we are also choosing 34 Senators, 12 state governors and our entire House of Representatives.” CG Shelton added, “For over two-hundred years, Americans have been going to the polls every four years to select the President of the United States. The democratic process is an inherent part of the American story and one that has helped the United States achieve some of its greatest successes. We believe that free and fair elections are the best way to guarantee the rights and freedoms of a nation’s citizens. As fellow democratic nations, these are values that the people of the United States and Pakistan share. Regardless of who the next president is, the U.S. will continue to work closely with the Pakistani people.”

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale said in Islamabad, “Like at every U.S. embassy around the world, our consular officers in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore have helped American citizens here in Pakistan register and vote in the 2016 elections. We are all proud and excited to participate in the American democratic process of selecting our president and representatives. The U.S.-Pakistan relationship is based on our enduring shared national interests, including the advancement of democracy, peace, security, and economic development in Pakistan and the region. We look forward to continuing this partnership under the direction of our new president after January 20, 2017.” Participants watched live television coverage of the American elections, voted for their favorite president from American history in a mock poll, attended informational sessions, and took election quizzes.

November 17 , U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Intl Narcotics & Law Enforcement (INL)-Pakistan (INL-P) Director Katie Stana signed an agreement with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to provide \$125,000 worth of forensics equipment and training to enhance NAB’s capacity to investigate and examine documents, contributing to NAB’s mission to eradicate corruption in Pakistan. Read the full #PressRelease: <https://goo.gl/A94hhJ> #USEmbassyISB #USPak



INL Director Signs Agreement to Enhance the National Accountability Bureau’s Ability to Combat Corruption | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Pakistan



INL Director Signs Agreement to Enhance the National Accountability Bureau's Ability to Combat Corruption | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Pakistan - See more at PK.USEMBASSY.GOV

November 16, U.S. Embassy Pakistan's Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Christina Tomlinson watched the final rounds of the national champion and distributed prizes to winners and participants at the Spelling Bee event. Congratulations to all of the participants, winners, teachers, parents, and dawn.com staff for their hard work and continued success in education! #IEW2016 SpellingBee #Pakistan dawn.com <http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php...>





November 16, How can we help women entrepreneurs to address the challenges and expand their entrepreneurial networks? **U.S. Embassy Pakistan's Economic (ECON)** section had a fruitful round table with Pakistani women entrepreneurs and ecosystem supporters.

Attendees at the event include, Acting ECON Counselor Ted Saeger, **US-Pakistan Women's Council** Country Coordinator Amy Flynn, ECON Officer Mary Harrington, and ECON Specialist Mubashar Gondal.

#GEW2016 #Islamabad #USEmbassyIsb #Pakistan #Entrepreneures



November 16 More than 190,000 students throughout **#Pakistan** are learning to read at schools USAID and the Government of Pakistan have built or repaired together. We are proud of these achievements. **#TogetherWeCan** <http://ow.ly/wAyd306djTy>



To learn more about U.S.-funded education initiatives in Pakistan, connect with USAID Pakistan. **#IEW2016 #USPak**





When the Government of Pakistan pledged to increase enrollment of school students nationwide, we promised to help. This week our two governments inaugurated the newly constructed Bedil Bekas High School in Sukkur, making us one school closer to our goal. #TogetherWeCan

U.S.-funded Bannu-Miran Shah-Ghulam Khan Road Opens

Islamabad, November 15, 2016 – The American Embassy congratulates the people of Pakistan, the FATA Secretariat and the Frontier Works Organization on the opening of the Bannu-Miran Shah-Ghulam Khan road inaugurated today by Pakistani Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif. The United States is proud to have partnered with the Pakistani government to restore key trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Bannu-Miran Shah-Ghulam Khan road was constructed with 8.7 billion rupees of funding from the United States Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The 82 kilometer road, which is one of the four major cross-border trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, facilitates access from Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to Miran Shah in North Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and onwards to Ghulam Khan,

which borders Afghanistan.

“This road symbolizes and is a benefit of the partnership between Pakistan and America. Together, we are helping to fulfill the Pakistani goal of restoring public infrastructure in remote communities... To date, America has funded the construction and rehabilitation of over 1100 kilometers of roads in Pakistan, through similar gifts... These partnerships demonstrate our long-term commitment to Pakistan’s people, prosperity, and stability,” said American Ambassador David Hale in a video message for the event.

USAID partnered with the FATA Secretariat and the Frontier Works Organization to complete the road.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-201-5427, 051-201-4423)

November 15, Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) launched a three-day international climate change conference “**Changing Minds for Climate Change**” in Islamabad. More than 250 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs from across Pakistan and South, Central and East Asia gathered in Islamabad for the event, which was jointly sponsored by the **U.S. Embassy Pakistan, United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, and PUAN.**

Read to full story in **The Nation**: <https://goo.gl/qSNrnr> ...

[See More](#)



Exchange Alumni Call for Coherent Efforts to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change in South, East and Central Asian Nations



Islamabad, November 14, 2016 – On Saturday, the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) launched a three-day international climate change conference “Changing Minds for Climate Change” in Islamabad. More than 250 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs from across Pakistan and South, Central and East Asia gathered in Islamabad for the event, which was jointly sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan and PUAN.

The Government of Pakistan’s Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Samina Baig, Pakistan’s first female to summit Mount Everest and the Seven Summits attended the conference’s opening ceremony to kick off a program of interactive workshops, panel sessions, keynote speeches, and community outreach events. The conference brought together climate change professionals, activists, students, teachers, and policy makers, to share knowledge and experiences.

American Ambassador David Hale addressed the conference participants: “No one country can tackle climate change alone, we must all work together. Governments and scientists, businesspeople and civil society must harness every aspect of a nation’s resources to address this global crisis,” he said. The United States, along with partner nations around the world including Pakistan, is working to

reach common ground on the climate agenda. Notably, Pakistan has recently made great progress on the path to adopting the Paris Agreement. Pakistan has also agreed to an amendment to curb greenhouse gases (hydrofluorocarbons/HFCs). What's more, the United States and Pakistan are working together to encourage private sector investment in new clean energy generation (such as wind, solar, and hydro) through technical assistance, grants for transmission infrastructure, and financing.

Through USAID, the Department of Energy, and our national laboratories, the Clean Energy Partnership now includes technical assistance for energy efficiency in support of Pakistan's climate goals. Finally, the U.S. Government and Pakistan have been working to support the Center for Advanced Studies in Energy at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad, and its satellite center at University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar, together with Arizona State University, with a focus on renewable and alternative sources of energy.

The United States invests approximately PRK 419 crore annually in exchange programs for Pakistani citizens and sends more than 1,300 Pakistanis to the United States each year to participate in academic and professional exchange programs. PUAN is the alumni network of these students and professionals who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. With more than 19,000 alumni across Pakistan, PUAN is one of the largest alumni networks in the world. PUAN regularly organizes events across Pakistan, including service projects, leadership training, roundtable discussions, and community engagement activities. To find out more about PUAN and the conference,

visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pakalumni> and <http://www.pakusalumninetwork.com>

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-201-5427, 051-201-4423)

November 13 Did you know that a Fulbrighter has captained two different Pakistani national sports teams?

Meet Sana Mahmud!

She is the current Pakistan National Women's Basketball Team captain and a former captain of the Pakistan National Women's Football Team.

What's more, She is a proponent of using sport to empower women and young children, while also working with underprivileged children using sports as a means of reaching out to them.

Sana is a Fulbright alumna. She completed her Master's in International Development with a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies and a specialization in Sport, Gender and Development, from Ohio University.

Since returning to Pakistan, Sana also serves as Sports Development Coordinator at Total Football and works full time with Muslim Aid, as a Training Officer.

Watch full version here: <http://bit.ly/2fUeYsw>

Ambassador Hale's Climate Change Conference Remarks

November 13, 2016. Thanks to Senator Mushahid, Samina Baig, and PUAN Country President Faisal Malik, Haseeb Kiyani, and the planning committee for their hard work organizing this conference bringing together bright exchange alumni from nine countries, in person and by video.

Being part of an exchange program is a life-changing experience. I first learned this growing up in New Jersey, where my family hosted exchange students from South Asia and the Middle East. It had a big impact on my life and opened my eyes to the rest of the world. I am sure the time you spent in America also had an impact on each of you, as well as those who met you, who gained a more favorable impression of Pakistan.

Exchange and English language programs are a priority for America, here in Pakistan and throughout the region. They provide pathways to a better life for individuals and a more prosperous future for their nations. While government-to-government relationships have their ups and downs, these ties create strong and lasting people-to-people connections between countries. For this reason, we are proud that PUAN is the largest network of alumni of U.S. government programs in the world.

And that is why President Obama and Prime Minister Sharif committed to expand people-to-people and educational ties when they met last October at the White House. The United States already puts more funding toward Fulbright scholarships in Pakistan than anywhere else in the world. We welcomed Pakistan's commitment earlier this year to invest 2.6 billion Rupees over five years in Fulbright as well.

The topic you have come together to discuss, climate change, jeopardizes the security and prosperity of Pakistan and all the other countries represented here today. No one country can tackle climate change alone; we must all work together. Governments and scientists, businesspeople and civil society must harness every aspect of a nation's resources to address this global phenomenon.

America and China, the world's two biggest greenhouse gas emitters, ratified the Paris Agreement in September. All the countries you represent have also signed on. Congratulations on Pakistan's ratifying of the Paris Climate Change Agreement – and on Pakistan's commitment to tackle this global challenge. This agreement will slow global warming and help nations affected most by rising seas and temperatures.

As with many of the challenges that nations face today, the impact of climate change crosses borders. The response has to be transnational. This conference, which brings together so many young leaders from across the region, builds on your experience as exchange alumni. It is an excellent opportunity to use your alumni network to discuss regional and global solutions to addressing climate change.

Thank you.

November 12

"We condemn
the brutal attack
on the Dargah Shah Noorani
shrine in Hub
and send
our deepest condolences
to the victims' families.
We stand with Pakistan
in protecting
religious diversity."
Ambassador David Hale

November 10 Earlier this week, baby Holstein Friesian cows strutted their stuff on the red carpet to help promote investment in the dairy sector in Punjab. The USAID-funded Punjab Enabling Environment Project (PEEP) and University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) hosted a beauty pageant of imported dairy cows and calves at UVAS, Ravi Campus, in Pattoki. The event showcased imported cattle in a traditional setting. Speaking at the event, U.S. Consul General Yuriy Fedkiw underscored the socioeconomic benefits of investing in higher-yielding dairy breeds



American Embassy Celebrates National Day and the Democratic Process



Islamabad, November 9, 2016 – Approximately 1,000 guests gathered at the American Embassy this morning for a National Day celebration and to view the results of the November 8 American presidential election.

Although Americans traditionally celebrate their National Day on July 4, the American Embassy chose to hold its reception in November to emphasize the importance of elections and the democratic process in American culture.

“At the White House last year, President Obama and Prime Minister Sharif reaffirmed that a mutual commitment to democracy is a key pillar of the U.S.-Pakistan partnership,” said American Ambassador David Hale. “Today we are here to watch our democracy in action.”

Representatives from the diplomatic corps, Pakistani government, businesses, and civil society watched live television coverage of the American elections and also enjoyed a performance of jazz tunes by renowned Lahore-based musical ensemble Sachal Studios.

“We enjoyed the opportunity to introduce our fellow Pakistanis to American jazz through our performance today,” said Sachal Studios sitarist Nafees Khan. “Throughout our career as an ensemble, we have found music is one of the best mediums to communicate and share new ideas between people from different cultures and backgrounds.”

Photos from this event are available

at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembpak/albums/72157676338008925>

U.S. Embassy Encourages Pakistani Students to Apply for Exchange Programs

Islamabad, November 8, 2016 – U.S. Embassy Islamabad and its partners are currently accepting applications from Pakistani students for several U.S. exchange programs. Interested students should apply immediately, as deadlines are approaching quickly. Students accepted into these programs are not responsible for any program costs; the U.S. government will pay for international airfare and other program-related expenses for selected students.

Study of the U.S. Institutes Program: Undergraduate students interested in public policy can apply for a five-week Study of the U.S. Institutes program in summer 2017 focusing on local, state, and federal public policymaking. Applicants must have at least one semester remaining in their undergraduate studies after the program concludes. Interested applicants should carefully review eligibility criteria and complete the application form available on the U.S. Embassy's website at: <https://pk.usembassy.gov/education-culture/susi-program/> . Applications for this program are due by November 29.

2017 Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program: Undergraduate students age 25 and younger also may apply for the 2017 Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program. Selected participants spend one semester in the United States pursuing full-time, non-degree academic study. Applications are due to the U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan by November 23; more details are available at www.usefpakistan.org.

Summer Sisters Exchange Program: Gifted female high school students are encouraged to apply for the Summer Sisters exchange program, which allows them to study science, leadership, and international affairs, among other topics, at U.S. universities. Applications for the Summer Sisters program are due to iEARN Pakistan by November 20, and the application instructions are available online at <http://iearnpk.org/ss/ss.htm>.

Community College Initiative Program: Young professionals who wish to complete one year of non-degree study at a U.S. community college should apply for the Community College Initiative Program. Applicants must be young professionals working in one of the following fields: Agriculture, Applied Engineering, Business Management and Administration, Media, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Public Safety (Rescue/Disaster Management Services), and Early Childhood Education. Applications are due November 30, and more details can be found at www.usefpakistan.org.

The U.S. Department of State sponsors programs that send approximately 1,000 Pakistanis on exchange programs to the United States each year. For news about future exchange program

opportunities, follow the Embassy on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pakistan.usembassy> or visit the Embassy's website at <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

U.S. Announces 'Integrated Energy Resource Planning' Activity



Islamabad, November 08, 2016 — The United States is strengthening Pakistan's energy sector through improved sector-wide planning. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate on integrated energy planning in Pakistan. Through the MOU signed today, the integrated energy planning process will help policymakers understand the impacts of different energy policy options and support effective short-term decisions that are consistent with long-term energy and economic objectives.

With the support of USAID, the United States Department of Energy and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are bringing their technical expertise and experience to work with ministries, provincial governments, and others to improve energy planning in Pakistan.

Speaking at the ceremony, USAID Mission Director John Groarke said, "Through the improved planning process, governments and utilities will evaluate a range of feasible policy and resource options and assess them against a common set of planning objectives and criteria. The integrated energy planning process will help policymakers understand the impacts of different energy policy options."

The U.S. government has supported private investment in Pakistan's energy sector through two large

investment conferences, new energy sector guarantees through private Pakistani banks, and helped distribution companies, such as K-Electric, adopt commercial practices.

For more details regarding the energy sector: <https://www.usaid.gov/pakistan/energy>

INL Director Signs Agreement to Enhance the National Accountability Bureau's Ability to Combat Corruption



Islamabad, November 08, 2016 – On November 8, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement-Pakistan (INL-P) Director Katie Stana signed an agreement with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to provide \$125,000 worth of forensics equipment and training to enhance NAB's capacity to investigate and examine documents, contributing to NAB's mission to eradicate corruption in Pakistan. Acting Chairman Mr. Muhammad Imtiaz Tajwar and senior NAB leadership thanked INL for its support, noting that he "hopes this and future assistance will improve the NAB's capability" in their efforts to fight corruption.



The National Accountability Bureau is Pakistan’s apex anti-corruption organization, responsible for the elimination of corruption through a three-pronged approach of awareness, prevention, and enforcement.

During the signing ceremony, Ms. Stana commended the NAB’s commitment to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy that focuses on awareness, prevention, and enforcement. Ms. Stana noted that fighting corruption is a global imperative for the U.S. government, and “the mission of INL is to minimize the impact of international crime and illegal drugs on the United States and its citizens by providing effective foreign assistance and fostering global cooperation. INL’s Rule of Law Program has previously provided training and equipment support to NAB investigators and NAB courts, and the INL-funded ICITAP Program currently provides specialized training to NAB investigators.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs works in more than 90 countries to help countries combat crime and corruption, counter drug-related crime, improve police institutions, and promote laws and court systems that are fair and accountable. Find out more about INL at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/>.

Meet the career civil servant who built Pakistan’s first Solar Power Plant!

Najam Ahmed Shah served as CEO Quaid e Azam Solar Power Pvt. Ltd., Pakistan’s first 100MW solar power plant inaugurated in 2015.

Najam graduated from Harvard University with a Master’s in Public Administration on a Fulbright Scholarship.

He currently serves as Secretary Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department, Government of Punjab.

This is his story...Watch the full version here: <http://bit.ly/2eTdHhM>

<https://www.facebook.com/USEFP/videos/1246936845368875/>

U.S. Statement – Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference

October 26, 2016 Islamabad, Pakistan

President Nakao, Finance Minister Dar, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank the Asian Development Bank and Pakistan for organizing this conference. The United States has strongly supported CAREC since its inception. It is an honor to be here today with others who are building a stable and prosperous Central Asia – one more connected to its neighbors and the world.

It is well known that Central Asia includes some of the globe’s vital historical transit routes. The region was a nexus of global trade and commerce, from the days of the Roman Empire and Imperial China, through the breakup of the Mongol Empire and the rise of Italian trading cities.

Today, we see once again the rise of trade in the region. Overland routes carry goods from Asia to Europe. They bring valuable resources and new products to companies and consumers from Shanghai to Stuttgart. The countries of the region are embracing a rules-based order for international trade. Seven out of ten CAREC countries have joined the World Trade Organization. The United States wants a more vibrant, connected region. A connected Central Asia, with dynamic and growing economies, would benefit the world economy and therefore all of us. Our interest is in ensuring that CAREC’s projects are coordinated regionally, and implemented according to global standards for transparency, while factoring in social and environmental considerations.

Regional connectivity is also critical to our efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan’s location offers it an opportunity to serve as a hub for regional energy and trade, through north-south links to Central Asia and South Asia, and through east-west routes to markets in China, the Caucasus, and Europe. CAREC can play a vital role in connecting Afghanistan with its neighbors in ways that promote economic opportunities for the entire region, and support the goals established at October 4-5 Brussels Conference on financial support for Afghanistan.

In 2011, the State Department launched our New Silk Road initiative. We work with the countries of Central Asia to develop regional energy markets, improve trade and transit routes, streamline customs and border crossings, and create new linkages between businesses and people.

Thanks to Secretary Kerry’s leadership, we also have created a new diplomatic platform with Central Asia, C5+1. It had its second ministerial meeting in Washington in August. The C5+1 countries agreed to launch several joint projects, including transportation corridors. These efforts will help facilitate trade, improve productivity of transport, and strengthen competitiveness in the region.

These regional connectivity efforts will lead to economic growth, more jobs, and greater trade and

investment opportunities. The United States Government believes that economic development and security are mutually reinforcing. A prosperous, stable, and secure Central Asia and broader region, with strong trade and cooperation with its neighbors, will be better able to address global challenges, including threats to security and violent extremism, environmental and economic disruptions.

The United States appreciates CAREC's efforts to realize this vision. We look forward to continued cooperation with all of our international partners to reach our common goals.

Thank you.

U.S. Consulate celebrates Daniel Pearl World Music Days



Karachi – A festive crowd of more than 600 music lovers celebrated Daniel Pearl World Music Days with musical performances at the former U.S. Consul General's Residence in Karachi this evening. Featured were two of Sindh's own, Sounds of Kolachi, led by the talented Ahsan Bari, and The Sketches, led by master fusionist Saif Samejo.



"Daniel Pearl promoted respect and understanding with his love of different cultures, friendly smile, and appreciation of music," said U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Pratt. "I think everyone here

tonight can identify with that.”

“I listened to The Sketches last week in Hyderabad and was moved by the music and its ideas of love and harmony. I am really excited people this evening can hear that message, which is interwoven with the beautiful fusion of Sindhi traditional and contemporary instruments and rhythms.” added U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton. “Pakistanis and Americans are once again standing together tonight to promote a message of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.”

Daniel Pearl World Music Days is an international network of concerts that celebrate the life and work of journalist and musician Daniel Pearl, who was killed while on assignment in Karachi. Across the world, journalists like Daniel Pearl are working to strengthen democracy and promote peaceful understanding between people, often at great personal risk. In recognition of this important work, performances have been held since 2002 in more than 140 countries around the globe. The theme of Daniel Pearl World Music Days concerts is “Harmony for Humanity,” which supports diversity and the belief that the power of music can bridge differences.

The head of Regional English Language Office (RELO) [U.S. Embassy Pakistan](#) talks about the importance of English as a language.

Connect with [RELO Pakistan](#) and [American English at State](#) to learn more about English Access Microscholarship and other opportunities for students and teachers in [#Pakistan](#) and to find a wide variety of free resources for teaching and learning English.

[#AmericanEnglish](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/RELOPakistan/videos/693855184123268/>

Joint Statement from the Seventh Meeting of the U.S. – Pakistan TIFA Council



Ambassador Michael Froman and Pakistan's Minister of Commerce Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, met in Washington DC to discuss a variety of trade and investment issues and to chart a path forward on improving bilateral trade and investment flows over the next five years. The United States – Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is the primary mechanism for both Parties to discuss trade and investment issues and focus on ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship.

The United States and Pakistan announced agreement on a Joint Action Plan to expand bilateral trade and investment flows over the next five years. Among the areas of cooperation included in the Joint Action Plan are:

- 1) diversifying agricultural production;**
- 2) enhancing intellectual property protection;**
- 3) implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement;**
- 4) engaging on Pakistan's accession to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement;**
- 5) increasing trade in services;**
- 6) outreach to U.S. State and Local Governments;**
- 7) promoting entrepreneurship; and**
- 8) increasing dialogue between our respective private sectors.**

Both governments will immediately begin work on implementing the Joint Action Plan. As noted in the Joint Action Plan, the United States and Pakistan established a bilateral working group to meet regularly to oversee implementation of the Joint Action Plan and to monitor progress in specific areas.

At the TIFA Council Meeting, the United States and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Joint Efforts to Empower Women and to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship. This is a historic MOU that will provide a mechanism for discussion on how to help ensure that women participate fully in the economy and have access to economic, as well as trade and investment, opportunities. Key elements of the MOU include exploring ways to:

- 1) ensure strong interagency and inter-ministerial support for, and coordination of, policies and programs aimed at the economic empowerment of women;
 - 2) promote access to information about laws, regulations, policies, including information on international trade rules, requirements and preference programs; and
 - 3) address and remove the impediments that women and women entrepreneurs generally face.
- The United States and Pakistan intend the MOU to be a standing item on the agenda for all future TIFAs and intend to begin discussions immediately on an implementation plan for the MOU.

At the TIFA Council Meeting, both governments discussed market access opportunities and exchanged views on how to enhance those opportunities. On the margins of the TIFA Council Meeting, private sector representatives from the United States and Pakistan met to discuss trade and investment opportunities in the textiles and apparel sector, as well as in the information and the communications technologies sector.

The Parties plan to host the next Business Opportunities Conference in Pakistan in 2014 and to hold the next TIFA Council Meeting in Pakistan in 2015.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Advanced Civilian Security and Justice Cooperation with Pakistan



Islamabad, October 24, 2016 – Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) William R. Brownfield traveled to Pakistan from October 20-22 to advance U.S. cooperation in the fight against transnational crime, launch a new program to prevent and respond to violence against women, and enhance justice sector cooperation and reform with Pakistani counterparts. The meetings he participated in, the remarks he gave and his presence attested to America’s commitment to increasing access to justice and support for security sector reform in Pakistan.

Assistant Secretary Brownfield traveled to Islamabad on October 20 where he delivered remarks at the launch of a \$3.5 million UN Women project funded by the Department of State’s INL Bureau. This project aims to improve access to justice for women in Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh through increased access to protections, services, and support. The project will also continue to raise awareness in Pakistan of the violence against women that occurs all too frequently in many areas of the country.

In Islamabad the Assistant Secretary met with the Pakistani Ministry of Interior Secretary Arif Ahmed Khan and Narcotics Control Division Federal Secretary Ajaz Ali Khan regarding U.S. support for law enforcement, border security, and counternarcotics efforts and cooperation.

Assistant Secretary Brownfield then traveled to Lahore to meet with Chief Minister of Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Inspector General of Police Mushtaq Ahmad Sukhera. They discussed law enforcement training and reform, as well as counternarcotics assistance and cooperation.

For more information about INL or Assistant Secretary Brownfield please contact INL-PAPD@state.gov or follow INL on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/StateINL and Twitter via

@StateINL.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-201-5427, 051-201-4423)

"We condemn in the strongest terms the cowardly attack on police cadets in Quetta, another futile attempt to undermine Pakistan's rule of law.

We will continue to support the government and people of Pakistan in their fight against terrorism here and in the region.

We extend our deepest condolences to the victims and their families at this painful time."

Ambassador David Hale

U.S. Exchange Program Alumni Honored for Contributions to Local Communities



Alumni Organization Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

Islamabad, October 22, 2016 — More than 700 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs gathered in Islamabad to recognize the extensive contributions members of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) have made to their communities and the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. The sixth annual reunion of the PUAN Islamabad-Rawalpindi Chapter brought together politicians, parliamentarians, scholars, journalists, businessmen, and students – all of whom are alumni of U.S. exchange programs – to share their experiences and renew their commitment to strengthening ties between the United States and Pakistan. PUAN alumni have led dozens of community service activities in the Islamabad area in the past year, taking active roles in the fields of education, leadership development, counter-narcotics, and women’s empowerment.

U.S. Mission Pakistan’s Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Pratt thanked the exchange alumni for their dedication to a strong U.S.-Pakistan relationship. “It was great to see that PUAN leadership organized a job fair in this year’s reunion program. There are some noted multinational corporations and local organizations here today who can perhaps provide an opportunity for alumni to excel professionally.” He also acknowledged PUAN’s extensive community service programs and distinguished alumni who made significant contributions to Pakistan.

PUAN President of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Haseeb Kiyani, encouraged participants to volunteer for the network’s philanthropic activities to spread the knowledge they gained in the United States throughout Pakistan. The network also recognized several prominent alumni and volunteer mentors who have given back to their communities with Distinguished Alumni and Emerging Leader awards.

The U.S. government invests more than \$40 million annually on exchange programs for Pakistani citizens to visit and study in the United States. Over 1,200 Pakistanis participate each year in high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional U.S.-sponsored exchanges.

Pakistan has one of the largest U.S.-alumni communities in the world, with more than 19,000 students and professionals who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs.

PUAN organizes events across Pakistan through 12 regional chapters, including community service projects, leadership training, roundtable discussions, and community engagement activities.

Learn more about PUAN at <http://www.facebook.com/pakalumni>.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-208-2911, 051-208-1136)

USAID-funded Balochistan Agriculture Project Improved Incomes for 16,000 Households



Islamabad, October 19, 2016 – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted a joint event to commemorate the successful completion of a \$32 million, USAID-funded Balochistan Agriculture Project that was implemented by the FAO. The project encompassed agricultural development activities in eight districts of Balochistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan.

Speaking at the closeout ceremony in Islamabad, USAID Pakistan Mission Director John Groarke said, “USAID is very proud of the successful partnership we had in Balochistan with the government, with the local people and with FAO. We are pleased with the tremendous progress the project made in improving livelihoods of the people in the project areas.”

Through this project, USAID established 826 community organizations, improving incomes for 16,000 households. The project helped communities and individual farmers increase the production, sale, and revenues from crops and livestock. The farmers learned about new approaches for farming, better breeds of livestock, better seeds, and more efficient water management techniques. The project helped establish and train community organizations, farmers’ marketing collectives and mutual marketing organizations in grading, packaging, and helped them find better paying markets. The project also increased the participation of women in income-earning activities, supported improvement in provincial agricultural policies and the legal and regulatory framework for market-led and community-driven investments.

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-208-2911, 051-208-1136)

U.S. funded PhD scholars return aiming to transform education in

Pakistan

Islamabad, October 19, 2016 – Twenty Four PhD scholars who received their degrees in the United States with U.S. government assistance shared their experiences at an event in Islamabad. Upon graduation, the scholars returned to Pakistan to serve as faculty members at Pakistani universities. In total, the U.S. government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded 35 scholars to receive their PhD degrees in education.

Two scholars reflected on their experiences during the event. In their remarks, the scholars discussed the gap between traditional Pakistani teaching practices and internationally standardized teaching methodologies promoted in their PhD programs. Both scholars expressed their commitment to using their training to improve the quality of education instruction and curriculum development in Pakistan. They discussed the value of the “multiplier effect model,” where academic leaders unleash the genius of their students and colleagues.

The event was attended by USAID Pakistan Mission Director John Groarke and representatives from Higher Education Commission.

Mr. Groarke encouraged the graduates to think about their futures as educators.

“You have experienced first-hand some of the best teaching and educational resources the world has to offer,” Mr. Groarke said. “I encourage you to use your experiences as a launching pad to create meaningful change that will serve future generations.”

The PhD scholarship program is one of several USAID initiatives that strengthen the quality of education and research in Pakistan. Through the Training for Pakistan project, USAID has committed US\$33.9 million to provide training to Pakistani professionals across sectors, including education. The program also serves other sectors, including economic growth, agriculture, health, energy, and governance.

For more details on USAID’s education interventions, please

visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/pakistan/education>

Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-208-2911, 051-208-1136)

INL Supports UN Women Initiative to Prevent Violence Against Women in Pakistan

Today INL signed an agreement to support UN Women Pakistan’s initiative “Prevention and Protection of Women from Violence Through Access to Justice, Services and Safe Public Spaces.” The program focuses on enhancing women and girls’ access to justice, services and safe spaces across several pilot districts including Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces. Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield spoke the event. In his remarks, Assistant Secretary Brownfield expressed the U.S. State Department's commitment to partnering with UN Women to end violence against women in Pakistan. “This program will not only help bring justice to the women and girls of today’s Pakistan, but help prevent violence in the future. Pakistani professionals will now have the tools, resources,

and facilities they need to ensure that the good intent of recent laws can be translated into actions that positively impact lives,” he said.





U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman Reaffirms Commitment to Trade and Investment with Pakistan

Islamabad, October 19, 2016 –United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Michael Froman led a delegation to Islamabad to discuss the ongoing U.S.-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) on October 18 with the Government of Pakistan. The TIFA Council meeting, hosted by Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan, covered a broad range of trade and investment-related issues, including expanded market access for Pakistani goods in the United States, cooperation on labor reform, business-to-business ties, and intellectual property, among others.

“The U.S. greatly values its economic relationship with Pakistan. That relationship is a strong one that is responsible for the livelihoods of many thousands of people and their families. We have accomplished much, but much remains to be done,” Ambassador Froman said. “We believe that the best years of our relationship are in front of us as we work to more fully take advantage of the enormous opportunities that lie before us.”

Both sides highlighted specific ongoing cooperation related to expanding trade and investment. They noted, for example, the September launch of a 15-year partnership between USAID and five Pakistani banks to make approximately \$88 million available for private sector clean energy development in Pakistan, under the U.S.-Pakistan Clean Energy Partnership. The United States noted that initial investments in Pakistan will be made this year under the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative (PPII), three investment funds that match USAID funding with private sector funds to invest at least \$150 million in Pakistani small- and medium-sized businesses. Between PPII, the new energy initiative, and the U.S.-Pakistan Partnership for Access to Credit (\$60 million), USAID will make nearly \$300 million in access to financing available in Pakistan in coming years. Ambassador Froman also pledged to continue to support Pakistan’s strategy to improve its ranking on the World Bank’s Doing Business index.

Ambassador Froman also noted the good cooperation under the U.S.-Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding on Women’s Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, which was signed at the 2014 TIFA Council meeting. It was codified in a comprehensive plan in June and includes the efforts

of the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council.

In addition to the TIFA meeting, Ambassador Froman also called on Pakistani officials to discuss issues of bilateral interest. During his meetings, Ambassador Froman emphasized that the United States remains committed to working with the Government of Pakistan and the private sector to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties.

The United States is the largest country destination for Pakistani exports and is one of the country's primary sources of foreign direct investment. In 2015, bilateral trade between Pakistan and the U.S. surpassed \$5.5 billion.

The U.S-Pakistan TIFA provides a strategic framework and principles for dialogue on trade and investment issues between the two nations. For more information about the TIFA, please visit: <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/trade-investment-framework-agreements>. The factsheet, "The United States and Pakistan – Strong and Enduring Economic Partnership", can be found at the following link: <http://www.state.gov/p/sca/rls/fs/2016/263216.htm>

The Summer Sisters Institute, launched in 2013 by the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council, aims to provide a unique educational experience and mentoring to promising young Pakistani female students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In summer 2016, 19 female Pakistani students studied at various U.S. universities such as American University, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University through the this program.

Dania is one of approximately 1,000 Pakistanis who participate in U.S. exchange programs each year ... stay tuned for future announcements on social media and on the Embassy website about exchange opportunities! #ExchangesAre #SummerSisters #USEmbassyIsb



U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton visits Pakistan Stock Exchange



October 13, 2016. Karachi – U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton participated in the gong ceremony (ringing the bell) during her first visit to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSE) this morning. Consul General Shelton also held a meeting with the Exchange’s Board of Directors, led by Chairman Muneer Kamal and Managing Director Nadeem Naqvi.



Speaking on the occasion, Consul General Shelton said, “I am here today to express the U.S. government’s deep commitment to Pakistan’s private sector and economic growth. I join the list of American ambassadors and consul generals to participate in the gong ceremony.” She added, “The Pakistan Stock Exchange is an important symbol of Karachi’s role in that pivotal growth.”

To learn more about how to do business in Pakistan or the United States, please visit <https://pk.usembassy.gov/business/>.

Colonel Zia, Deputy Director of Pakistan Coast Guards, accepts delivery of reverse osmosis units from ODRP Commander Santiago.

Karachi, September 27, 2016 – U.S. Embassy Islamabad personnel Gerald Santiago and Ross Conley from the Office of the Defense Representative Pakistan (ODRP) presented three reverse osmosis units valued at USD \$29,000 to the Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) in Karachi. The PCG, a Ministry of Interior entity with its headquarters in Karachi, is responsible for countering illegal immigration and sea-based smuggling of contraband and narcotics into Pakistan. The reverse osmosis units, which convert brackish water into potable water, enable PCG forces to deploy for extended periods of time along the 650-mile Makran coastline.



USAID Celebrates Pakistan's Teachers on World Teachers' Day



Islamabad, October 7, 2016 – Islamabad, October 5, 2016 – Today, the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is celebrating World Teachers' Day. In

Pakistan, the day is known as ‘Salam Teachers’ Day’, which fosters awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the vital contribution teachers make to education and development.

As a part of this year’s celebration, USAID, in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, is paying tribute to teachers, course writers, and recent graduates from teacher education institutions by awarding certificates, books, and tablet computers. Chairmen of the Higher Education Commission Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar, Additional Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Allah Bakhsh Malik, and USAID Mission Director John Groarke joined Vice Chancellors from several universities, representatives from federal and provincial departments of education, teachers and students at a ceremony in Islamabad Oct. 5. .

“Caring well-trained teachers are critical to the future of Pakistan,” stressed USAID Mission Director John Groarke. “Our priority is to train a new generation of teachers, capable of helping students across Pakistan reach their full potential.”

Dr. Allah Bakhsh Malik, Additional Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, lauded the efforts of the United States Government in assisting Pakistan to improve the overall quality of teaching standards through professional development.

The USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project is designed to support federal and provincial departments of education to improve the reading skills of Pakistani primary school children across the country. The project provides reading instructional materials to classrooms, training teachers in new reading instruction techniques, and encouraging schools to dedicate more classroom time for reading. The Pakistan Reading Project also provides small grants to local civil society organizations and community leaders to create a culture of reading and to improve reading skills among girls. Through this project, USAID has trained more than 20,000 teachers with instructional techniques. To date, more than 400,000 primary school children have received reading intervention in public schools across Pakistan.

For more information on the United States assistance for education in Pakistan, visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/pakistan/education>.

USAID and Ministry of Finance Renew Ongoing Partnership for Development in Pakistan



Islamabad, October 4, 2016 – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Finance on September 16 signed the latest amendment to the Pakistan Enhanced Partnership Agreement (PEPA), the document through which the U.S. government provides development assistance to Pakistan. This agreement provides an additional \$407 million to support U.S. and Pakistan government initiatives to improve critical infrastructure, create economic opportunities, and pursue economic and political reforms that promote prosperity.

The USAID programs to be supported through this agreement were developed in consultation with the Pakistani government and support the Government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025, which sets forth a roadmap for a prosperous Pakistan.

Over the past decade, the United States, through USAID, has provided Pakistan with nearly \$7.7 billion of funding for development and humanitarian relief, making Pakistan one of America’s largest recipients of foreign assistance.

For more information about USAID programs in Pakistan, please visit www.usaid.gov/pakistan.
Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-208-2911, 051-208-1136)

Consul General Grace Shelton visits U.S.-funded Makli preservation project



Thatta – U.S. Consul General in Karachi Grace Shelton toured the World Heritage Site of Makli necropolis to observe the restoration of the tombs of Sultan Ibrahim and Amir Sultan Muhammad as part of the U.S.-funded Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) project. The historical monuments in the Thatta area have outstanding value to not only Pakistanis but also to humanity.



“AFCP is the centerpiece of America’s partnership with Pakistan in the area of art and culture,” said Consul General Shelton. “Our investments in these cultural preservation projects demonstrate our respect for the rich heritage and diversity of Pakistan,” she said.

The restoration of the 400 year-old tombs of Sultan Ibrahim and Amir Sultan Muhammad was made possible through a funding of \$260,000 (Rs. 27 million); one of the two AFCP cultural preservation projects in the province of Sindh. US Consulate Karachi is also working with the Sindh Government for the rehabilitation of Varun Dev Temple on Manora Island with a cost of \$250,000 (Rs. 26 million).

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) supports preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects, and forms of traditional cultural expression in more than 100 countries around the

world. Projects include restoration of ancient and historic buildings, conservation of rare manuscripts and museum collections, preservation and protection of important archaeological sites, and documentation of vanishing traditional craft techniques and indigenous languages.

American Ambassador David Hale Unveils New Contemporary Art Collection



September 30, 2016, Islamabad – American Ambassador David Hale unveiled a new collection of contemporary art at his official residence during a reception last night. Approximately 80 artists, students, teachers, and other friends of the arts gathered to view the works by artists such as Imran Qureshi, Murad Mumtaz, Javier Romero, Tom Bamberger, Sabah Husain, Adeela Suleman, and William O’Brien.

“Art reminds people to take a second look at the world around them, and look deeper than face values,” said Ambassador Hale. “Art transcends national borders and connects peoples. This collection highlights some of the best of American and Pakistani creativity.”

Renowned Lahore-based artist Imran Qureshi personally introduced his mixed-media art that is featured at Ambassador Hale’s residence.

“For me, this project was extremely exciting,” Qureshi said. “Representation of Pakistani contemporary art in such an important place will definitely project a positive image of my country to the outer world.”

Renowned musical artist, Arie Azhar, performed Sufi and Pakistani folk songs to the delight of the guests to complete the evening.

Art gives form to our values and beliefs. The American Embassy spends over 100 million rupees annually to fund arts programming in Pakistan, introducing Pakistanis and Americans to each other's artistic traditions. Images of some of the new works of art in Ambassador Hale's residence, by both American and Pakistani artists, can be seen at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskEvYCyI>.

BridgeUS is nonpartisan and an effort to share and publish news of diversity, harmony and mutual understanding to bridge between nations and inform people directly about how humanitarian aid is positively changing lives in Pakistan.

Dedicated to



Daniel Pearl

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Special thanks to: Shagufta Naeem, Julian Dickenson and
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