

# Bridge Communications & Research – BCR

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## Bridge-Europa - July 2014

**Part of Pakistan Awareness Initiative -PAI**

Connecting People -Building Bridges –Spreading Harmony-Voicing against injustice

### CONTEXT

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June 20<sup>th</sup> marked as the World Refugee Day. Pakistan is the world's largest host of refugees. By the end of 2013, Pakistan continued to host the largest number of refugees in the world (1.6 million), nearly all from Afghanistan, according to a report released by United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). In the wake of the Armed Forces Operation 'Zarb-e-Azb,' internally displaced persons

(IDPs) could reach to 600,000 as quoted by the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Abdul Qadri Baloch. Conversely, minorities and commoners in Pakistan looking for the safe refuge in the countries where they could feel protected and raise, save their families from death and infamous blasphemy law.

The ramification of 9/11 and compressed global economy has resulted in tightening of Asylum laws leaving hundreds and thousands of people to watch and wait helplessly either for a bullet or miracle. Two recent events unfolded in Pakistan made people wary of the situation of how fake Asylum seekers brazenly orchestrating violence, extortion and damaging the economy of this penurious country. People are surprised that after the reality as clear as crystal that Altaf Hussain and Tahirul Qadri are well protected in Pakistan by their armed gangs, being part of the government for more than a decade (Altaf Hussain), why their citizenships obtained through fake Asylum are not revoked? Both

**individuals using foreign lands for collecting extortion money in Pakistan, no employment history, their strike calls stripped this poor country of almost \$600 million a day combined with multiple dead bodies. People of Pakistan expect from both Canada and the UK not to let their countries be used for the people who spark violence, murders and strikes in their home countries. How come they are protected when one of their calls can turn the big cities into the ghost towns?**

**Tahir Qadri, in his brief hijacking stunt, refused to trust the representatives of the elected government and choose to end the drama with the other party's governor, as both parties leadership have faked asylum, now joined by situation. How could they be faithful to the new countries if they are not faithful to their homelands?**

**The unfortunate fact is that the minorities in Pakistan are begging for the protection in different countries including Europe, Australia, America and Canada. Hazara, Ahmadiya, Shiite and Hindu minorities living in Pakistan are faced with mass murders, arson and forced conversions. In Pakistan, 66 per cent people see religious extremism as a serious threat to their country, says a new survey released by a US think-tank.**

**According to The South Asia Terrorism Portal, Sectarian Violence in Pakistan has claimed 656 live in 2013 and 2014; as this year has yet to be finished. 82 percent people think the government is a failure to curb sectarian violence**

**A large number of Pakistanis including Journalists, Women, Children and Minorities living a life full of fear and abuse; And have no place to go, but to wait for the death. The dangers they face are not hidden under the rug, but as clear as a sunny day. The whole world know that Taliban, Religious Affiliations (Minorities), Honour Killings, Freedom of Expression, scarcity of basic needs, extreme Poverty and Draconian Laws like Blasphemy and the recent passed Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (PPO), which allows a law-enforcement agency official or police officer of grade-15 or above to order to shoot a person on suspicion are strong enough for people to look for the safe refuge around the world.**

**The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has long been voicing concern over the Extra Judicial Killings, Police Encounters and Missing Persons in Pakistan. Now PPO has all what rampant Police need in Pakistan. People will have to choose between Bribe and Bullet.**

**Recently arrested 142 Pakistanis-Minorities in Sri Lanka is a shameful reminder for Pakistan that a war torn and economically stressed country is far better than Pakistan. Human Right Watch –HRW has asked Sri Lanka to withheld the deportations temporarily.**

**Instead of PPO, the Parliament was supposed to be passing a bill to designate area for civilised protest like Hyde Park, stiffer penalties for disrupting public peace at the Highways, Airports and Public Places,**

creating riot police.

We appeal to the UNHCR and the civilised world to soften the policies towards refugees and asylum seekers; and hardened the policies against those who use foreign land to support and plan violence, anarchy and criminalities in the countries they seek refuge from. Two self-exiled leaders from Pakistan are the recent example to that and if a witness protection program had been in place in Pakistan, these leaders would have been penalised long ago.

Real refugees play a vital role in diversity, economy and emerge as Civilian-Ambassadors. Giving a cold shoulder and closing the doors to the people in need, would result in more violence indeed.

Another DAWN Survey also finds out enormous public support for Operation Zarb-e-Azb. 87.86% people support to this operation is a loud clamour that Pakistanis are peace loving citizens hijacked by some fanatics; Pakistanis all over the world contributing immensely in Economy, Politics, Charities and Communities and it's time for the civilised world to look at 88% peace loving Pakistanis and give them a chance if they really need protection and not politicians.

Sincerely

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## **The objectives and Why Bridge-Europa?**

Create awareness in general public about the EU/Western support and lifesaving efforts in Pakistan.

Promote more cooperation and harmony among citizens of Pakistan and EU/Western through awareness and public diplomacy.

Connect donors and people for the maximum usage of funds and eliminate corruption

Aware Pakistani youths/ professionals and general public about scholarships, professional/ career development opportunities and exchange programs.

Withstand against increasing hate crimes and faith division

## **Why Bridge-Europa?**

Despite the colossal and continuing EU aid, sacrifices of the NATO troops and journalists, EU role to save lives in disaster and help Pakistan from toys to advanced technology, anti-western sentiments are all time high. This is because people do not know about all of it and EU media campaigns worth millions of dollars seem to achieve no results. Bridge-Europa will reach to the underprivileged people where poverty and fanaticism is preying on youth to radicalism. Bridge-Europa is free and our demographic research and email access will deliver Bridge-Europa where it's really needed and also to the places with public access to send out a message of harmony, acceptance and dialogue. A safer Pakistan is a step towards better world. As long as animosities exist nobody can work to improve

pathetic conditions to poverty, disease, human rights, corruption, strong democracy climate, Iced Himalaya and wild life in Pakistan.

### **Present & Past Memberships**

- The American Political Science Association - APSA
- International Political Science Association - IPSA
- Institute for Cultural Democracy – ICD
- European Journalism Centre - EJC
- Canadian Association of Journalists – CAJ
- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression – CJFE

### **Denmark**

#### **The Embassy Hosts Seminar on Wind Energy in Karachi.**

02.06.2014 12:22

This afternoon, the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen opened one of the biggest ever wind energy seminar held in Karachi, where he gave the opening remarks as around 120 participants gathered to learn more about the clean energy solutions that Vestas can offer to Pakistan. Among the audience are representatives from the energy sector, financial institutions, government officials and media.

The seminar is organized jointly by the Embassy of Denmark and Vestas.

You may read the opening remarks of the Ambassador [here](#)

#### **Call for Research Applications 2015 - Deadline is 5 September 2014.**

10.04.2014 10:45

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark's international development cooperation.

The objective of the Danish support to development research is to generate new knowledge capable of alleviating development problems and strengthening research capacity in Danish priority countries.

Applications can only be submitted by an institution, e.g. a governmental institution, private-sector enterprise or private organization in Denmark – however only with a partner from one of the Danish Priority countries – like Pakistan.

The call for applications 2015 has just been published. The deadline for application is September 5, 2014.

You can only apply within the below themes:

Theme 1: Sustainable peace and state building – causes of conflict and new approaches for development effectiveness

- Theme 2: New development actors and changing partnerships

- **Theme 3: ICT for development**

Research collaboration is considered an important means to strengthening research capacity of institutions in priority countries. In order for research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should be equal, and partners should be able to contribute actively to the preparation of research applications both in Phase 1 and Phase 2. Research applications which have been prepared without the active involvement of partners in priority countries or Denmark will not be approved. Other important aspects of equal partnerships include joint fieldwork, joint publishing, knowledge sharing, access by south partners to databases and libraries, etc. In particular, perspectives and preliminary plans for joint field work should be clearly indicated.

You can download the Call for Applications [here](#):

For more please also see: <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/partners/research/cons-research-com/> and <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>

Link to Danish Universities: <http://www.dkuni.dk/English/The-Danish-Universities>

## **France**

**Pakistan – Attacks against Karachi airport Excerpts from the daily press briefing by Romain Nadal, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Development’s Spokesman (Paris, June 10th 2014)**

**“France strongly condemns the attacks that targeted Karachi airport during the night of June 8 to 9 and then again on June 10.**

**It extends its condolences to the victims’ families and wishes the injured a speedy recovery. France reaffirms its solidarity with the Pakistani authorities and people in the fight against terrorism./.”**

## **Visit to France of a High-Level Pakistani trade delegation**

**(29 May 2014)**

**The Embassy of France in Islamabad in close cooperation of PBC (Pakistan Business Council), PFBA (Pakistan France Business Alliance), Pakistan France Business Council (PFBC) and the Embassy of Pakistan in Paris is constituting a trade delegation to Paris, France from 2 – 5 June 2014. The program is being carried out under the supervision of MEDEF International (French Business Council) with the cooperation of Ubifrance (French Trade Promotion Agency).**

**The Pakistani Minister for water and Power M. Muhammad Asif KHAWAJA has consented to join the delegation to Paris as well as, the special Assistant to the Prime Minister / Chairman, Board of Investment, Dr. Miftah ISMAIL. They will participate at the presentation on a plenary format that will take place on Thursday June 3rd at the MEDEF. On the occasion of his visit to France the Pakistani minister for water and power will have a meeting with the French Minister for external trade.**

**The objective of the trade delegation is to provide opportunities to Pakistani entrepreneurs in search**

of equipment, technologies and expertise and explore possibilities of setting up joint ventures with French companies in the backdrop of the GSP Plus status recently granted to Pakistan by EU. The number of participants stands at about 30 companies among them prominent industrial groups acting in various sectors of activity: energy – inclusive of oil & gas exploration and production, power generation and distribution, infrastructure development and logistics – including ground transportation, highways and water, agri business / food processing (dairy products, fruit and vegetable), pharmaceutical products.

With these objectives in view, B2B meetings have been organized at the MEDEF head office, at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, at UBIFRANCE head office in Paris and at the offices of various French companies.

The Pakistani Embassy in Paris will give access to its premises on June 3rd in the afternoon and June 4th to all the Pakistani delegates willing to arrange business meetings on their own but also to the French companies willing to meet with the Pakistani delegates.

This initiative led by the private sector will trigger new dynamics in Pakistan/France business relationship and will be conducive to more investment and partnerships between companies of our two countries. As a reciprocal gesture, a visit of a French business delegation to Pakistan is planned for the second half of this year.

## **Pakistan – Attack against journalist Hamid Mir-Statement made by the Spokesperson of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

(Paris, April 22, 2014)

France condemns the attempted assassination on April 19 in Karachi of Mr. Hamid Mir, a journalist for "Geo News." It wishes him a speedy recovery and assures him of its sympathy.

We call on the Pakistani authorities to bring those responsible for this attack to justice and assure them of our support in the fight against terrorism and all forms of intolerance.

Attacks against journalists threaten the freedom of expression and the freedom of information, i.e. the very foundations of democracy. France attaches the utmost importance to ensuring that journalists are able to work in safety everywhere. This is the aim of the resolution on the protection of journalists that we supported and which was adopted in November 2013 by the UN General Assembly.

## **AFD pledges US\$16 million loan for expansions at the Aga Khan University**

(Karachi 21 April 2014)

Agence Française de Développement, the French finance institution for development, will be loaning US \$16 million to the Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College Foundation to support its expansion of



**infrastructure facilities on the Stadium Road Campus in Karachi.**

**A Memorandum of Understanding confirming the pledge was signed by Mr Denis Cassat, Country Head AFD, and Mr Al-Karim Haji, Director General and Chief Financial Officer, AKU, on April 21, 2014.**

**Ambassador Philippe Thiébaud and Mr Firoz Rasul, President, AKU presided over the ceremony. This investment will refinance and fund infrastructure projects. Infrastructure financing include the induction of a third 1.75MW gas generator to reduce dependency on erratic city power and a 16MW grid station – to be completed this year – that will become the primary source of electricity for the University and its teaching hospital. There are also plans to recover waste heat from the gas generators and to increase the efficiency of the existing plant from 37 per cent to more than 75 per cent.**

**As part of its continued efforts to ensure the safe disposal of infectious waste, the University Hospital has installed a sophisticated incinerator that minimizes exposure to waste while meeting European Union clean air emission standards; by-product heat from the incinerator is used to generate almost 50 per cent of the hot water requirements for the campus. To meet the needs of the ambitious plans to expand health care services, a second incinerator is planned for 2015.**

**Proceeds from the refinancing will be used to fund a new ambulatory care building, neonatal, medical and paediatric intensive care units, a centre for innovation in medical education, a centre for early childhood development, a new private wing, and a new office building.**

**This loan is part of AKU's US \$150 million investment in expanding academic programmes and improving access to quality health care in Pakistan, a visible statement of commitment to the country.**

## **About Agence Française de Développement**

**AFD is the French international development agency providing development financing. AFD finances sustainable development projects carried by government local authorities, public companies, and the private and associative sectors on five continents with primacy given to Africa which receives two-thirds of AFD commitments—and in overseas France.**

**AFD Group finances development projects in more than 90 countries on four continents. The Group boasts a network of 70 in-country field offices and bureaus, including nine offices in France's overseas provinces and one in Brussels. Among the Group's 1,742 employees, 711 work in the field offices. In Pakistan, since 2006, the AFD Group has approved a total of €232 million (€186.5 million by AFD and €45.4 million by Proparco, its private sector subsidiary) in loans and €3.9 million in grants.**

**AFD is aware of the severe energy crisis in Pakistan and has emerged as a major contributor to this sector with a mandate to increase the supply (through renewable energies) and reduce the demand (through energy efficiency). AFD has been supporting the rehabilitation or construction of hydropower stations such as Jabban, and Munda; capacity building through a center of excellence for hydropower,**



the Mangla training institute; and running an energy efficiency programme.

## About Aga Khan University

Chartered in 1983, the Aga Khan University is a private, autonomous university that promotes human welfare through research, teaching and community service initiatives. Based on the principles of quality, access, impact and relevance, the university has campuses and programmes in Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Afghanistan. Its facilities include teaching hospitals, Faculties of Health Sciences consisting of Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, and Medical Colleges, Institutes for Educational Development, an Examination Board and an Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations. A Graduate School of Media and Communications, an East African Institute and an Institute for Human Development are under development; and liberal arts-based Faculties of Arts and Sciences and several Graduate Professional Schools will be set up in Pakistan and East Africa. Through its needs-blind admissions policy, the University imbues the most promising leaders and thinkers of tomorrow with an ethic of service and the skills to help communities solve their most pressing challenges.

The Aga Khan University is one of nine agencies in the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of private development agencies with mandates ranging from health and education to architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private-sector enterprise and the revitalisation of historic cities.

## France provides 61 Million Euros (8.5 Billion PKR) funding for two Pakistan Hydropower Projects

**MOHMAND HYDROPOWER PROJECT (740 MW) LOCATED IN MOHMAND AGENCY, KPK**

**HARPO HYDROPOWER PROJECT (35 MW) IN THE GILGIT-BALTISTAN, SKARDU REGION**

On April 2nd, 2014, Ms. Nargis Sethi, Secretary of Economic Affairs Division (EAD), His Excellency Mr. Philippe Thiébaud, Ambassador of France, and Mr. Denis CASSAT, Country Director of the French Development Agency (AFD), signed the Credit Facility Agreements (CFAs) for the establishment of Pakistan 02 Hydropower projects.

This financing aims at completing the 02 hydropower projects with a total capacity to produce 785 MW.

- The Mohmand / Munda Hydropower project (740 MW) is located in the MOHMAND AGENCY, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). The Phase- I of the project being financed by AFD will enable the Government of Pakistan to complete the detailed engineering design, preparatory works and financial closure for construction of the project.
- The Harpo hydropower project (35 MW) located in the Gilgit-Baltistan, Skardu region will enable the Government of Pakistan to meet the future demand of the region and also to establish the local

distribution and transmission network which will benefit the local community to get the uninterrupted power supply. This project is being financed with German Government and KFW.

These projects upon completion will ensure:

- Adaptation of climate change (droughts and floods) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially in the Peshawar & Noshawara region;
- Improve the resilience, safety and profitability of hydropower projects;

Besides these projects France, through AFD, contributes to address the current national energy crisis and emerges as a major contributor, in line with the pledge made by the French Government at the Tokyo Conference in April 2009 (i.e. 300 millions Euros in the energy and water sectors - currently committed at 93% i.e. 280 Million Euros).

The AFD is also supporting the development of renewable energies in order to improve the power supply in Pakistan. There are three projects currently being developed:

- Jabban Hydropower Project (22 MW run-of-river hydroelectric power plant near Dargi, KPK, 26.5 million Euros)
- Jaggran II hydropower projects (48 MW run-of-river hydroelectric power plant on the Jaggran river, Neelum Valley, AJK , 68 million Euros);
- Hydropower Training Institute (HPTI) at Mangla (Grant of 2.5 million Euros to establish centre of excellence for hydropower in Pakistan).

In addition, to reduce the power demand and improve energy efficiency, AFD is also co-financing with the Asian Development Bank a programme on energy efficiency in the domestic and industrial sectors. For future, AFD is also working with Pakistani authorities and is exploring additional potential projects to fund the rehabilitation or the extension of hydropower plants in various places in association with Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and provincial operators like Power Development Organization (PDO) - AJK, Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization (PHYDO), KPK, etc.

## Germany

### German Culture in Pakistan

[http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/11\\_EducationCulture/1\\_Cultural\\_Projects\\_ISLA/PTV.html](http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/11_EducationCulture/1_Cultural_Projects_ISLA/PTV.html)

**PTV's "Classic Show" is showing a double episode on German Culture. Dr Dan Tidten, Head of Press and Cultural Section of the German Embassy in Pakistan, discusses German literature, music and film with Hasan Ali. The first episode includes a discussion of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's novel 'The Sorrows of Young Werther'; musical excerpts are from Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony 9 and Felix Mendelssohn's Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream. Finally, Dr. Tidten and Mr Hasan talk about the award-winnig movie "Das Leben der Anderen" (The Lives of Others) directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. The second episode, in which further pieces of literature and music will be discussed, will be aired on Monday 6.05 pm on PTV world.**

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1zpfic\\_the-classics-show-germany-part-01-ep-11\\_news](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1zpfic_the-classics-show-germany-part-01-ep-11_news)

## **Additional funding of Euro 70,000 for WASEP**

**Some 300 villages in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral now have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. This has been made possible by a Euro 9.4 million Grant from the German Federal Foreign Office, extended through the KfW Development Bank.**

**This project called WASEP (Water & Sanitation Extension Program) was initially funded by the Germany Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ) in the mid-1990s. It is being implemented by the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Project targeted the remote villages where women and children had to walk long distances for fetching water for their daily needs in these rugged mountain areas. The poor quality of water was the major cause of many diseases that even caused increased child mortality.**

**As of now, WASEP has covered over half of the population of the Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral areas. The robustness of the design can be gauged from that fact that almost 98% of the schemes constructed since mid-1990s still continue to serve the target communities.**

**The German support and AKDN's participatory development model has led to significant reduction in water borne diseases, and saved a lot of water-hauling labor and time for the women and children. In addition, the Projects has brought communities together in jointly safeguarding and using the limited water resources, thus ushering in a new era of peace and harmony amongst the communities.**

**On June 18, 2014, WASEP received an additional funding of Euro 70,000 for completing the remaining component of the Chitral water supply scheme, possibly within the 3rd quarter of this year. A supplemental agreement for this was signed by Dr. Karim Alibhai, Chief Executive Office Aga Khan Foundation, and Dr. Anna-Christine Janke, Director KfW Office Islamabad. Those present on the occasion included Ms. Mandy Zeckra, Counsellor, German Embassy in Pakistan.**

## **EU Ambassador visits EU/GER/NED vocational training for disabled**

**LAHORE, May 28, 2014: Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Lars-Gunnar Wigemark on Wednesday visited avocational training center run by the Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (LABARD). H.E. Mr. Lars-Gunnar Wigemark was briefed about the overall interventions undertaken by LABARD, which works under the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), with a specific focus on a special project called "Vocational Training for the Disabled in Punjab, Lahore."**

**This project is co-funded by the the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic**

Cooperation and Development, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through a Fund for Innovative Training, created under a five-year Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Support Programme. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing this programme.

The president of LABARD, Muhammad Parvaiz Malik, who is also a member of the National Assembly, welcomed Ambassador Wigemark and briefed him about the different aspects of the project. He appreciated the role of the EU and the EU memberstates in promoting vocational training and assisting in reforming the overall TVET sector of Pakistan, especially supporting the short-term training programmes for the marginalized segments of the society.

The project was launched in Nov 2012 and by its end in May 2015 would have trained nearly fifteen hundred men and women with disabilities in different markets-oriented vocational training courses. The courses range from three to six months in duration. After successful training, most of the people already trained from this project have started working in different enterprises or become self-employed.

After visiting various sections of the training institute and briefly speaking to the trainees, Mr. Wigemark appreciated that handicapped boys and girls were obtaining training with dedication that would ensure employment and a dignified life.

## **Halal butchery training - Employability for landless rural families**

**LAHORE, May 23, 2014:** The Punjab Vocational Training Council has introduced a new programme to train certified halal butchers in order to meet the growing domestic and international demand of skilled workers in this profession.

This Halal butchery training targets landless rural families and is being supported under a Fund for Innovative Training (FIT), which has been created under the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Support Programme, co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

“Halal butchery is an emerging profession, which has massive prospects for employability, not only in Pakistan, but also in many European countries”, said Faisal Ijaz Khan, chairman PVTC, while briefing a high level delegation from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) visiting Lahore. The German delegation, led by BMZ Head of Division Afghanistan and Pakistan Dr. Stefan Oswald, visited a number of German-assisted projects to get a first-hand

impression of the realities on the ground.

PVTC has been one of a trusted partners for the FIT projects, which have been set up under the TVET Reform Support Programme to train about 100,000 trainees through innovative training projects. PVTC has set up seven state of the art labs and class rooms of Welder / Fabricator and Industrial Garments Stitching trades in central and southern Punjab through seven FIT projects, which have already been completed. Under the Halal butchery training project, the PVTC will train 240 men and women to become Halal butchers, while 600 traditional butchers will also be given training on hygiene and safe health practices by May 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Khan lauded the support from Germany, European Union and the Netherlands for supporting the TVET sector of Pakistan. He said Pakistan has a huge potential with its young population, which needs to be equipped with employable skills, and underlined that this challenge cannot be met without active external support. He mentioned that the FIT training initiatives had helped PVTC to start some new and innovative training approaches in Pakistan, which not only transformed the lives of thousands of Pakistanis, but also helped institutions like PVTC to foster sustainable training delivery in the future.

## **Germany Pakistan Training Initiative - a window of opportunity in Punjab**

LAHORE, May 24, 2014: A delegation from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on Saturday visited the Government Technical Training Institute (GTTI), a training facility of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab which delivers vocational training to young people under the Germany Pakistan Training Initiative (GPATI). GPATI is a new training approach towards creating a demand-driven technical and vocational education and training system in Pakistan, which is based on the German Dual Training System. The German system has been modified and developed into an appropriate model of cooperative training to match Pakistan's needs for a highly skilled workforce.

The delegation, led by Dr. Stefan Oswald, Head of BMZ Division Afghanistan / Pakistan, visited different workshops and met with trainers and trainees enrolled in different courses that are offered under GPATI. The pilot phase of GPATI is carried out in Karachi and Lahore. The TVET Reform Programme is funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union as well as the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while its implementation is managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

TEVTA Punjab introduced GPATI in Lahore in December last year, after it had started in Karachi with

active participation of national and multinational companies. In Lahore, over 56 national and multinational companies are participating in the GPATI programme, run by TVET Punjab. At the moment, 500 trainees are enrolled for different training programmes at three of the TEVTA Punjab training institutes.

The Chief Operating Officer TEVTA Punjab, Mr. Jawad Ahmed Qureshi lauded the support from Germany and other European countries for the overall reforms in Pakistan in the technical and vocational education and training. He said poor linkages between industry and training delivery organizations is one of the major challenges in the TVET system of Pakistan, adding the GPATI programme has opened a window of opportunity to meet this challenge.

## **Ground for Strategy 2014-2020 of Safe Blood Transfusion Programme Prepared**

On May 21st and 22nd , the Government of Pakistan Safe Blood Transfusion Programme (SBTP) organised two days of round table discussions to lay the grounds for the third strategic framework of the programme. Germany, through financial and technical cooperation, implemented by KfW Development Bank and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, has been supporting the Government of Pakistan since 2009 in establishing the Safe Blood Transfusion Programme.

The Health Sector Support Programme provides advice on shaping the legal framework for safe blood transfusion services as well as on the practical implementation of those services in the provinces. In the management field, business plans are being drawn up and a harmonised information system is being developed to record relevant data for blood transfusion service. In addition to the development and delivery of training for health workers, possible approaches for setting up a blood bank system based on voluntary donations are being examined.

During the round table, experts and representatives from all provinces and regions had lively and productive discussions, analysing not only previous achievements, but also current weaknesses serving as a valuable information input for the finalisation of the strategic framework.

In his welcome speech for the workshop, Prof. Hassan Abbas Zaheer, National Coordinator of the SBTP programme, acknowledged the ongoing GIZ support to the programme on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and encouraged active participation in the discussions. Key decision makers and participants from the public and private sector, academia, WHO, UNAIDS and the Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine (AATM) were then introduced to the



objectives and methodology of the round table discussions by Prof. C.Th. Smit Sibinga and Dr. Aftab Khawaja, jointly representing the Health Sector Support Programme.

The outline for the third strategic framework was agreed upon by all the stakeholders. It was further decided to verify the reality of the progress against the background of the verbal information received during the two days. This will be done through field visits to provinces and regions planned in Mid-June 2014.

More information:[http://www.sbtp.gov.pk/Technical\\_Cooperation\\_C](http://www.sbtp.gov.pk/Technical_Cooperation_C)

## **Study Tour to Germany on Prevention of Violence against Women**

A high level delegation from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) went to Germany from 30th of March to 4th of April 2014 to get to know approaches and measures of preventing violence against women.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the Result Area Prevention of Violence against Women of the Support to Good Governance in Pakistan Programme is supporting the Social Welfare Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Social Welfare Directorate of Social Sectors Department of FATA in designing and implementing measures on prevention of violence against women.

Led by two Secretaries, Cptn. (Rtd.) Sardar Muhammad Abbas from Social Sectors Department of FATA Secretariat and Syed Hidayat Jan from Social Welfare Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the delegation met representatives from various organisations. The visits to different government and non-government organisations provided a good example of how well defined responsibilities and tasks can be shared between the different institutional levels, how resources can be channelled in a meaningful way and how implementation can be organised. In sight of the surprisingly high prevalence of violence against women in Germany, lively discussions became a reality of this study tour.

In contrast to Pakistan, Germany has a Women Protection Law (2002) framing all aspects of violence against women. At present, domestic violence is still very high: 25% of all women residents in Germany have experienced forms of physical and/or sexual abuse independent of age, ethnicity or social status. For a long time treated as a private issue, violence against women entered the political mainstream in the end of 1990s. Some of the basic provisions of services in Germany are 350 women shelters, whereas up to 34.000 women (with children) escape to the shelters every year. In 2013 in 15.971 cases of domestic violence were reported to the police of the capital Berlin. Preventive measures at municipal level are especially focusing on institutions of early education of children in kindergarten and schools.



Services existing for female victims of violence cover legal aid, psycho-social counselling and skill development. Whereas the approach of service provision does not distinguish between Pakistan and Germany, cultural differences exist in reintegration matters. In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in FATA, emphasis lies in reconciliation with the family which in most cases also gets the permission to visit women shelters. In contrast to Pakistan, restrictions on women shelters in Germany are much stronger ensuring the anonymity of the shelter, hardly giving any other person permission to enter a women shelter.

## **Germany provides high-tech research instrument for CIIT Abbottabad**

Abbottabad, 15 May 2014 – FLUOstar omega, a multi purpose high-tech research instrument worth Rs.2.6 million was today officially handed over to CIIT Abbottabad by Dr. Dan Tidten, head of the cultural section of the German Embassy Islamabad, and Ms Ursula Saarbeck, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) representative. The instrument was provided as an equipment grant of DAAD to COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) Abbottabad. Professor Dr. Shahid Khattak and Professor Dr. Jamshed Iqbal expressed their gratitude on behalf of the faculty members.

FLUOstar omega is a multipurpose scientific equipment that will be used by faculties of chemistry, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences. CIIT agreed to share ten percent of the overall costs and to provide services to various universities of Pakistan like Quaid-i-Azam University (Islamabad), Forman Christian College University (Lahore), Hazara University (Mansehra), and others.

‘Pakistan’s scientists are continuously among the best of the world. First league scientists need first league equipment,’ Dr. Tidten said. ‘We hope this grant will further deepen the strong ties between scientists in our two countries,’ Ms Saarbeck added.

Germany and Pakistan have a long-standing tradition of academic and scientific exchange, which is strongly supported by DAAD as well as the HEC. At present, about 2000 Pakistanis are studying in Germany, and there are currently more than twenty bilateral cooperation projects between Pakistani and German universities.

## **German President of Parliament visits Vocational Training project for Disabled**

May 1, 2014 LAHORE: A delegation of senior German parliamentarians on Thursday visited a vocational training institute run by the Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (LABARD) to see a special project aiming at equipping the disabled men and women with employable skills in Punjab.

Members of the delegation, which was headed by Professor Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag (Parliament), were briefed about the overall interventions undertaken by LABARD, which works under the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), with a specific focus on a special project called “Vocational Training for the Disabled in Punjab, Lahore.”

This project is co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through a Fund for Innovative Training, created under a five-year Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Support Programme. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing this programme.

The president of LABARD, Muhammad Parvaiz Malik, who is also a member of the National Assembly, welcomed the visiting German parliamentarians and briefed them about the different aspects of the project. He appreciated the role of Germany in promoting vocational training and assisting in reforming the overall TVET sector of Pakistan, specially supporting the short-term training programmes for the marginalized segments of the society.

In Pakistan, over 5 % of the population are affected by disabilities. Most of them, particularly the poor, are socially and economically disadvantaged and struck by discrimination. In addition, young people with disabilities face considerable challenges to access education and vocational training. Parents are often helpless in dealing with the situation. To address this serious concern, LABARD provides vocational skills development programs and information on employment opportunities for people with

The project was launched in Nov 2012 and by the end in May 2015 will have a total of 1485 men and women with disabilities trained in different market-oriented vocational training courses ranging from three to six months in duration. Currently, a total of 535 persons have been trained, while 951 are going through the training process. After successful training most of the pass outs from this project have gotten jobs in different enterprises or become self-employed.

Appreciating the work of LABARD, Dr. Lammert underlined the importance of equipping the marginalized segments with employable skills, saying with relevant skills people with disabilities can earn decent livelihoods, and they can be economically empowered. He said that such types of projects are good examples to be replicated at a wider scale to offer access to the vocational training to the target group of population.

Earlier, Dr. Julie Reviere, Programme Director GIZ Education, also briefed the delegation about the TVET Reform Support Programme and its main achievements in reforming the TVET system of Pakistan.

## **Governance and Public Policy Making – A Eurasian Dialogue**

[http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/11\\_\\_EducationCulture/1\\_\\_Cultural\\_\\_Projects\\_\\_](http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/11__EducationCulture/1__Cultural__Projects__)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in close cooperation with the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) ran a conference and workshop series in Islamabad and Lahore from 10 March to 14 March. The four events attracted around 350 graduate students and faculty members. Speakers came from Germany, the UK and various universities and institutes in Pakistan. The funds had been allocated by the German Federal Foreign Office.

In his welcome address to the conference „Challenging Governance? - Issues of Informality, Subsidiarity and Participation“, the German Ambassador Dr. Cyrill Nunn said that every country in the world has to ensure good governance for the sake of its development and economic growth. He also pointed out that Germany supports a number of projects on good governance within the framework of the German-Pakistani development cooperation. The Executive Director HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, at the same event, stressed the importance of governance skills in the higher education sector and added that he would welcome a cooperation with German universities in developing trainings for university administrators. The very lively debates focused on the impact of informal governance rules, the challenges of governance interventions and women’s participation in governance.

The following conference at LUMS on 13 March was titled “Experiences of Transcending Governance – Policy Making, Interventions and Migration in Multilevel Governance Contexts”. The VC of LUMS, Prof. Dr. Sohail Naqvi, in his welcome address pointed out that Pakistan still faces challenges in governance and administration and expressed his hope that other countries share their experiences in this regard. Presentations were given by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Waseem (LUMS), Dr. Jochen Hippler (University Duisburg-Essen / Germany), Professor Knerr, Dr Sanaa Alimia, Dr. Rubina Saigol, Prof. Dr. Akbar S. Zaidi (University of Karachi) and Mr Kristof Duewaerts (Hanns Seidel Foundation). Dr. Andrea Fleschenberg and Ms Asma Faiz (LUMS) participated as moderators. Contributions addressed amongst others the economic, political and social impact of migration and the role of a national government in a globalized world.

On 10 and 14 March, Early Career Researcher Workshops were held at Quaid-i-Azam University and at the Regional Center of HEC in Lahore. More 100 graduate students were trained in using theoretical frameworks and designing research projects in social sciences. Relevance, feasibility and ethics of social addressed. The participants enthusiastically responded to this offer.

**Italy**

**Books on Pakistan given to La Sapienza University, Rome**

**(2014-06-10)**

<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/italy/pr-details.php?prID=2028>

**Rome, 10 June 2014: Ambassador Tehmina Janjua handed over, today, to the Vice Rector of Rome's La Sapienza University and its Deputy Rector for Asian Affairs, books and CDs on Pakistan. This occasion provided the opportunity to discuss collaboration between Pakistan and La Sapienza University.**

**The Ambassador handed over one hundred books and forty-one CDs on Pakistan's history, politics and culture as a gift from the Pakistani Embassy to the University with the request that these be placed in a dedicated section on Pakistan in the library of the University's Oriental Department.**

**The possibility of offering Urdu language classes at the University was also discussed. The Vice Rector said that the classes could be commenced by October this year and would be helpful in promoting interest in Pakistan's culture and literary heritage.**

**The number of Pakistani students at Italian universities has been increasing in recent years. There is a large and active body of Pakistani students in Milan and Turin.**

**Collaboration with La Sapienza University, especially by starting Urdu language classes, will not only introduce an important and widely spoken language, at one of the foremost Universities in Italy, but also help present Pakistan among Italians through its rich literature.**

## **Pakistan Women's Association Rome, held a Cultural Show**

**(2014-04-10)**

<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/italy/pr-details.php?prID=1923>

**Embassy of Pakistan Rome, in collaboration with the Pakistan Women's Association Rome, held a Cultural Show on 10 April, 2014.**

**Formal and bridal Pakistani dresses were presented to the accompaniment of Pakistani music. The event also included performances by Italian artists to the Sufi music sung by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The couture and the accompanying music and performances were greatly appreciated and won enthusiastic applause from the audience.**

**The all-women audience included representatives from the diplomatic community, Italian official circles and the general public. Wives of the Italian Chief of Defence General Staff and the Chief of Air Staff were also present.**

**Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, who is also the President of the Pakistan Women's Association in Rome, said that Pakistan had a rich and vibrant culture. She added that**

Pakistani textiles were recognized all over the world for their excellent quality and Pakistan's fledgling, but fast developing, fashion industry had also attracted international attention; and that Pakistani fashion designers were competing for centre stage at the global level. She also referred to Pakistani musicians of world fame, including the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who had won international acclaim.

The audience were captivated by the show and also enjoyed the Pakistani cuisine served at the end of the event.

## **Ambassador Participates in the Conference on "Women in Politics and Democracy" (2014-03-05)**

<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/italy/pr-details.php?prID=1849>

To mark the International Women's Day, Ambassador Tehmina Janjua was invited to be part of a distinguished panel organized by the Italian national TV and Radio channel RAI on 5 March 2014. The panel discussed "Women in Politics and Democracy". The event also commemorated the 90th and 60th anniversaries of RAI's radio and television broadcasting. The panel discussion was broadcast live. Chairman of the Italian Senate Mr Pietro Grasso was the chief guest and former Prime Minister of Finland and current Member of the Finnish Parliament, Ms. Mari Johanna Kiviniemi, was the keynote speaker.

In her remarks, Ambassador Janjua highlighted the important role that Pakistani women continued to play in politics and government. She said that women were also in the forefront of Pakistan's independence struggle and there had a women presidential candidate in Pakistan, Ms. Fatima Jinnah, as early as 1964. She added that Pakistan also had the distinction of electing the Islamic world's first woman Prime Minister.

Women, the Ambassador said, were more "consensus-driven" and their participation in politics generally led substantive political outcomes that resulted in the strengthening of democratic structures. In this context, she also enumerated the important steps which Pakistan had taken to empower women and to increase their representation at all levels of government.

## **Norway**

### **11 UNESCO awards to rehabilitation projects in Pakistan,**

supported by Norway

[http://www.norway.org.pk/News\\_and\\_events/News/11-UNESCO-awards-to-rehabilitation-projects-in-Pakistan/Norway/#.U6mMc IdXQg](http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/News/11-UNESCO-awards-to-rehabilitation-projects-in-Pakistan/Norway/#.U6mMc IdXQg)

For ... years the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad has had a constructive cooperation with the Aga Khan foundation. We have been partners in several areas, but particularly we have cherished our good

cooperation in the field of cultural heritage conservation.

The Pakistani people has an outstanding old and rich history. Around the country you can find historic relics from great civilizations dating back to 2500 years BC. Norway has as a partner with Agha Khan foundation focused more on the civilizations in the northern parts of Pakistan, in addition to Lahore.

We have become fascinated by the rich and particular cultures in the narrow valleys in the mountain areas. We have seen the value of rehabilitating forts, palaces and other buildings that tell an important story. Through meticulous work and highly skilled experts building after building have found their old glory. Not only have these building become a pride for the villagers, and also for the country, they also have become a source of income for the locals. To rehabilitate old buildings you have to be dedicated and skilled. The experts in the Aga Khan foundation have proved just that. We are proud to say that this has been thoroughly proved by the 11 UNESCO awards that have been rewarded to the Aga Khan foundation for projects carried out in cooperation with Norway. The first award of Distinction was announced in 2002 for Ganish Historic settlement in the Hunza valley. Later UNESCO awards have been granted for the rehabilitation of the Baltit Fort, the Altit Fort and the Altit settlement in Hunza. Further rewards have been granted for the rehabilitation of the Shigar Fort, the Amburiq Mosque and the Khilingrong Mosque in Shigar. Latest in 2013, an award of distinction was granted for the rehabilitation of the Kaphlu Palace. Kaphlu is an idyllic valley in the eastern Gilgit-Baltistan with the range of majestic mountains all around. It takes about 4 hours to reach there from Skardu. Here the Raja (local emperor) Saulat Ali Khan set up a palace in 1840. The history of the people of the valley however goes way back in time. The palace was constructed in the traditional way, mixing mud bricks, clay and soil mortar with timber. The carved woodwork is exquisite. However, over the years started the decay, and when the Aga Khan Trust for Culture found it, it was almost falling down. In 2005 started the rehabilitation work started with Norwegian funding. In 2011 it could open as a museum and hotel with all the good historic artistic work intact. In 2013 the palace was awarded the "Award for Distinction by UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards. Norway believes in making the people of Pakistan proud of their rich heritage. This can be done by promoting historic sights through rehabilitation and positive presentation to the public.

Free local engaged position at the Norwegian embassy in Islamabad

Last updated: 13/06/2014 / /

Are you a neat and organized person who enjoys working with numbers?

If so, maybe your job as an accountant at the Norwegian embassy in Islamabad for you?

The responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Payments of bank and bank

- Payroll Calculation / payments
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- Budget and consumption reporting
- Invoicing
- Registration, control and reporting (telephone, travel and more)
- Other administrative tasks as required

We are seeking a Nordic citizen and Scandinavian speaking person (Norwegian - Swedish - Danish), with a good command of English spoken and written, basic knowledge of accounting and IT tools, good sense of order and administrative tidiness, are adaptable and can interact colleagues with respect and humor.

There will be trained in accounting Agresso.

We offer a good working environment and salary as agreed / qualifications on local conditions.

If you are interested please send an application with CV to the Norwegian Embassy - emb.islamabad @ mfa.no by 25 July 2014.

## Norwegian funding for polio eradication increased

[http://www.norway.org.pk/News\\_and\\_events/News/Norwegian-funding-for-polio-eradication-increased/#.U6mOzPldXQg](http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/News/Norwegian-funding-for-polio-eradication-increased/#.U6mOzPldXQg)

Last updated: 04.06.2014 // Norway is increasing its annual support for efforts to eradicate polio from NOK 50 million (USD 8,3 mill) to NOK 240 million (USD 40 mill) annually for the next six years. The funding will be channelled through the GAVI Alliance.

'I am very pleased that we have signed an agreement with the GAVI Alliance to support its efforts to eradicate polio. We have an unprecedented opportunity to eliminate this infectious and crippling disease, but a concerted effort is needed if we are to succeed,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende.

The World Health Organization (WHO) fears a new polio epidemic after outbreaks in conflict-affected areas such as Syria and Somalia. In Somalia alone, more than 500 000 children have not been vaccinated because the security situation makes it impossible to reach them. According to WHO, international travellers have also spread the virus, resulting in outbreaks in countries that had previously eliminated polio. These include Iraq and Equatorial Guinea.

The extra NOK 190 million (USD 31,7 mill) per year is to be spent on vaccination against polio in 73 of the world's poorest countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan og Nigeria, where the spread of polio is



not under control. The extra funding agreed with GAVI will total NOK 1.14 billion (USD 190 mill) over the period 2014 to 2019.

'The additional Norwegian funding will contribute to permanent eradication of polio by ensuring that polio vaccination is included in the routine immunisation programmes in countries that receive support from GAVI. This is essential if we are to achieve our goal of stamping out the disease,' said Mr Brende. CEO Seth Berkley of GAVI is in Oslo to meet the Foreign Minister and sign the agreement. 'The international community is at a pivotal moment in its efforts to eradicate polio. Norway's support to the GAVI Alliance is critical in our efforts to strengthen routine immunisation and contribute to the polio end-game strategy, both of which will protect future generations of children,' said Mr Berkley.

## **Norway helps build crime scene unit in Gujrat**

Last updated: 03.06.2014 //

[http://www.norway.org.pk/News\\_and\\_events/News/Norway-helps-build-crime-scene-unit-in-Gujrat/#.U6mOd\\_lDXQg](http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/News/Norway-helps-build-crime-scene-unit-in-Gujrat/#.U6mOd_lDXQg)

**GUJRAT**Norwegian ambassador Cecilie Landsverk on Friday 30 May, inaugurated a modern crime scene unit of the Gujrat police at a ceremony at the Police Headquarters in the district. This is part of a cooperation programme between the Norwegian embassy and the UN agency: UNODC, to improve the quality of crime investigation by the police in Punjab, with particular focus on the needs in the Gujrat district.

There is good cooperation between the Norwegian and Gujrat police in many cases that relate to both countries. By improving the quality of equipment and training through this cooperation programme, the Gujrat police can in the future succeed in solving more cases, of which some of them relate to Pakistani expatriates in Norway. In the first face of the programme, Rs 5 million have been provided for this purpose.

## **Norwegian health authorities recommend vaccination against polio before traveling to Pakistan**

[http://www.norway.org.pk/News\\_and\\_events/News/Norwegian-health-authorities-recommend-vaccination-against-polio-before-traveling-to-Pakistan/#.U6mPQPlDXQg](http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/News/Norwegian-health-authorities-recommend-vaccination-against-polio-before-traveling-to-Pakistan/#.U6mPQPlDXQg)

Last updated: 15.05.2014 //

"On the basis of the recommendations of the WHO (World Health Organization) that you find in the attached document, the Pakistani authorities are taking steps to ensure that any person, who resides in Pakistan for more than one month, should be able to prove that he/she has been vaccinated against the virus of poliomyelitis (polio), while boarding at airport and for all international travels. It is therefore strongly recommended to the members of the Norwegian community in Pakistan to bring their vaccination book with them, with reference to vaccination against polio. For those among you, who have been already vaccinated in Norway, you have received the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and polio (DTP) another vaccination should be done every 10 years for adults.

Do not hesitate to contact your doctor to make sure that you are up to date regarding vaccination against polio, in order to avoid any inconvenience during your next trip abroad, while travelling from Pakistan. Keep yourself informed, through press, of any possible evolution of checking that could be implemented at airports. It is strongly recommended to use the yellow vaccination book issued by WHO

## Norway supports Conference on Disaster Prevention and Management in Islamabad

[http://www.norway.org.pk/News\\_and\\_events/News/Norway-supports-conference-on-Disaster-Prevention-and-Management-in-Islamabad/#.U6mPmPldXQg](http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/News/Norway-supports-conference-on-Disaster-Prevention-and-Management-in-Islamabad/#.U6mPmPldXQg)

Last updated: 14.05.2014 // Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, supported by Norway, organized an international conference on Disaster Prevention and Management in Islamabad 12-13 May. The conference was an event under the Confidence Building Measure on Disaster Management in the regional Heart of Asia process. Main guests included Minister of States and Frontier Region, Lt. Gen. Abdul Quadir Baloch, Chairman of NDMA, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Saeed Aleem and Norway's Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Leif Holger Larsen. The aim of the conference was to share experiences and look at possibilities for regional cooperation mechanisms in disaster prevention and management. Chairman of NDMA, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Saeed Aleem, underscored in his speech the importance of this work in lieu of the recent tragic landslide in Badakhshan province in Afghanistan. Norway's Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Leif Holger Larsen promised continued support from Norway for this important work. Norway also contributed with expert participation, and representatives from Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate and Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection shared Norwegian experiences in the disaster management area.

About the Heart of Asia process:

The Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan, held in November 2011 in Istanbul, adopted a declaration and enlisted several Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for implementation by 15 Heart of Asia countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE and Uzbekistan). In the first phase, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are co-lead in the Disaster Management CBM. Several countries and organizations, including Norway, signed up to support the Heart of Asia countries and this important regional process.

## UK

### British High Commissioner wishes NUST Students 'Good Luck'

A team of students from the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) visited the British High Commission ahead of their trip to the UK to compete in a 'cars of the future' rally

Accompanied by NUST officials and sponsors of the 'Formula Student Pakistan', the students briefed the British High Commissioner, HE Philip Barton CMG OBE, about their locally-designed and manufactured racing car "NAS14". They explained NAS14's innovative features and about the efforts that have gone into producing this car in Pakistan. The students also shared their excitement and enthusiasm with the High Commissioner on hearing the news of qualifying to take part in the upcoming Formula Student competition at the home of British motorsports, the Silverstone Race Circuit, in Northamptonshire next month.

Speaking at the occasion, the British High Commissioner said:

I am delighted to see the students' efforts in producing this fantastic vehicle, and to meet the officials from NUST and the sponsors who have helped these budding engineers get to this stage.

It is great news that Formula Student Pakistan will take part at the home of British Motorsports, the Silverstone Race Circuit in the UK. More Grand Prix cars are made in Britain than any other country because the world chooses the United Kingdom for advanced engineering.

With these young and bright students participating in the 'Formula Student' competition, I hope to see Pakistan's role in the world of motor sports grow.

I wish the Pakistan Formula Students the very best of luck in competing and showcasing their innovative work in the United Kingdom.

Speaking at the occasion, CEO of O3B Mr. Nadeem Safdar said:

The Interactive Group will continue to play its role in encouraging healthy activities in Pakistan. On behalf of Interactive Group, I would like to extend my gratitude to Honourable British High Commissioner, Mr. Philip Barton for being here with us and appreciating the endeavours of these young students of Pakistan.

I am also taking this opportunity to wish all the best to the NUST team that will participate in the race at Silverstone next month.

The NUST students' team leader Shah Talha said:

The NUST car has been named after martyred Naval Captain Nadeem Ahmed (Shaheed), and will participate in Formula Student motorsport competition to be held at Silverstone, UK. The project is powered by the Interactive EZY Racing under the newly formed partnership between Interactive Group and EZY Racing.

A team of NUST students comprising of the 29 brilliant students designed and manufactured this car and have commissioned 600cc engine and other technical specifications to comprehend with the standards and criteria of Silverstone Formula Student racing.

We are really thankful to Mr. Philip Barton who has taken time out of his busy schedule and his

appreciation and wishes are more than important for us. We are also thankful to our sponsors EZY Racing and Pakistan's leading IT and technology enabling company O3B and Interactive Group for all of their support and cooperation that has made this possible.

## Want to know how the UK visa process works in Pakistan?

June 24, 2014 at 4:35pm

For a UK visa application, you'll need to apply and pay online at [www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk](http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk). However before you do this you are strongly encouraged to visit the UK Visas and Immigration pages of the GOV website [www.gov.uk/ukvi](http://www.gov.uk/ukvi) where you will find all the information you need regarding the type of visa you need to apply for (and the conditions and restrictions of the visa), what documents you should submit with your application, and how long processing is likely to take.

Once you have applied and paid online, you'll need to make an online appointment to visit one of our visa application centres (VAC) so that you can submit your application in person along with your passport and supporting documents. You will also need to submit your biometric data (fingerprints and photograph) as part of the application process. There are four visa application centres in Pakistan, based in Lahore, Karachi, Mirpur and Islamabad. They are operated by our commercial partner, Gerry's International (<http://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/Pakistan/>).

Once you have done this, your application and documents are sent to the UKVI team for consideration by a trained Entry Clearance Officer. UKVI are committed to processing visa applications within our advertised processing targets (<https://www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times>), but sometimes applications can take longer to conclude if additional checks are required. Once we have processed your visa application, we will return your passport and documentation to Gerry's. They'll contact you when everything is ready for collection at the visa application centre.

If you've got further questions in making your visa application with us, check out our list of Frequently Asked Questions (<https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/Home/ViewFAQ>).

### Did you know...?

Theme: Education

'UK development investment will benefit 4 million children in Pakistan to get an education by 2015.'

### Did you know...?

Theme: Education

**'By 2015, there will be 800,000 children supported by UK aid completing their primary education'.**

## **British High Commissioner Visits Sialkot**

The British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Philip Barton CMG OBE, visited Sialkot. During his time in one of Pakistan's largest industrial hubs, the High Commissioner held a range of trade related meetings with prominent business leaders.

The British High Commissioner visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries and met officials including the Chamber's President, Dr. Sarfraz Bashir, to talk about potential trade opportunities for British firms. He also visited the Surgical Instruments Association of Pakistan and the M. H. Geoffrey & Company, famous for manufacturing Scottish Bagpipes, and Malik Sports, one of Pakistan's largest manufacturers of cricket and hockey equipment.

Speaking on his visit, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Philip Barton said:

I am very pleased today to be visiting the vibrant industrial city of Sialkot, the birthplace of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the national poet of Pakistan. This city has an important trading role in Pakistan's economy and after Karachi ranks second in earning foreign exchange through its exports and remittances."

"I have been impressed by Sialkot's business leaders, striving to boost Pakistan's economic and trade links with the world. The businesses community in Sialkot can use the United Kingdom as a springboard to access the wider EU market, after the signing of a trade agreement under GSP+. The innovative products manufactured by skilled artisans here are also famous around the UK. The Scottish bagpipes produced by M. H. Geoffrey & Company are one example of the strong cultural and business links between the UK and this part of Pakistan.

After the memorable London 2012 Games in the UK, Scotland is all set to host another major sporting event in July: the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. I wish team GB and team Pakistan all the very best for the Commonwealth Games."

## **Britain honours Pakistani Heroes from the First World War**

The plaque remembering the three Pakistani recipients of the Victoria Cross will be presented to the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad later this year.

As part of the British Government's First World War Centenary Programme, HRH The Duke of Kent and Senior Foreign Office Minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, unveiled commemoration plaques for the 175 men from overseas who won Britain's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, for service in the First World War. Three soldiers from Pakistan received the military honour and they

were amongst those being honoured in the ceremony.

The 11 bronze memorial plaques, which were displayed to the public for the first time in London this week, are inscribed with the names of the Victoria Cross holders and will be sent to the recipients' home countries and displayed at a prominent location as a symbol of the gratitude that is felt towards them by the people of the United Kingdom. The plaque remembering the three Pakistani recipients of the Victoria Cross will be presented to the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad later this year.

Speaking about the event, Senior Foreign Office Minister Baroness Warsi said:

It is important to remember this was a truly global war, one which pulled in people from every corner of the earth. Sacrifices were made not only by people in the United Kingdom but by many millions across the world: whether it was the large proportion of Australian men who volunteered to fight in a war far from home, the 1.2 million troops from the Indian Subcontinent who took part in the war, or the essential support which came from the islands of the West Indies. It is truly inspiring that so many countries came together 100 years ago to uphold our way of life. This was a war which saw extraordinary courage and sacrifice from an entire generation.

This year, we are marking our gratitude to 175 men from 11 countries, including Pakistan, who demonstrated the utmost bravery "in the face of the enemy" during the First World War. These extraordinary men were awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for valour for their actions during the War. We shall honour them by engraving their names on bronze memorial plaques, to be presented to their home countries, sending out a powerful message that people of all backgrounds and faiths can unite in the name of a common cause."

"I am determined that we ensure that people of all backgrounds and of all generations learn about the courage and heroism of their forefathers a hundred

## Government issues first Islamic bond

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-issues-first-islamic-bond>

Britain becomes the first country outside the Islamic world to issue sovereign Sukuk.

The government has today (25 June 2014) cemented Britain's position as the western hub for Islamic finance by becoming the first country outside the Islamic world to issue sovereign Sukuk, the Islamic equivalent of a bond.

The government confirmed that £200 million of Sukuk, maturing on 22 July 2019, have been sold to investors based in the UK and in the major hubs for Islamic finance around the world.

The UK's first sovereign Sukuk received very strong demand, with orders totalling around £2.3 billion, and allocations have been made to a wide range of investors including sovereign wealth funds, central

banks and domestic and international financial institutions.

Investors from the major centres for Islamic finance in the Middle East, Asia and Britain were all represented in the final allocation.

The profit rate on the Sukuk has been set at 2.036% in line with the yield on gilts of similar maturity.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said:

Today's issuance of Britain's first sovereign Sukuk delivers on the government's commitment to become the western hub of Islamic finance and is part of our long term economic plan to make Britain the undisputed centre of the global financial system.

We have seen very strong demand for the Sukuk, resulting in a price that delivers good value for money for the taxpayer. I hope that the success of this government issuance will encourage further private sector issuances of Sukuk in the UK.

By issuing sovereign Sukuk, the government has demonstrated that it is possible to create a successful British base for Islamic finance.

Britain's sovereign Sukuk uses the Al-Ijara structure, the most common structure for sovereign Sukuk, with rental payments on property providing the income for investors. The Sukuk is underpinned by three central government properties. Today's issue will settle on 2 July 2014, and will be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

#### Background

In October 2013, the Prime Minister announced that HM Treasury was working to issue UK sovereign Sukuk worth around £200 million.

In January 2014, HSBC and Linklaters were appointed by HM Treasury as structuring and legal advisers respectively, to work with it to issue UK sovereign Sukuk in financial year 2014-15. As set out in the tender process, the structuring bank was also appointed to act as a Joint Lead Manager at the later syndication stage.

An open and competitive process to appoint a syndicate of banks as Joint Lead Managers (alongside HSBC) was launched on 23 May 2014. On 12 June 2014, the government announced that it intended to issue the Sukuk in the coming weeks, subject to market conditions, and confirmed the appointment of Barwa Bank, CIMB, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Standard Chartered as Joint Lead Managers for the sale alongside HSBC.

Following a series of roadshows beginning on 17 June 2014, at which officials from HM Treasury and the DMO met with potential investors in the Middle East, Asia and London, HM Treasury UK Sovereign Sukuk PLC (the Special Purpose Vehicle solely owned by the government) decided to launch the sale on 25 June 2014.

The order book managed by the Joint Lead Managers opened at 8.30am on 25 June 2014 with indicative price guidance for investors at a spread of 0bps to 2bps above the reference gilt, 1¾% Treasury Gilt 2019. The Joint Lead Managers announced around 10am that the value of orders in the book was approaching £2 billion. At 10.30am the Joint Lead Managers announced that the value of



orders in the book was in excess of £2 billion, that the price guidance had been tightened to flat to gilts (0bps) and that the book would close at 10.45 am. The book closed with 75 orders totalling around £2.3 billion.

At 12.45pm the profit rate, which corresponds to the cost of servicing the Sukuk for the government, was set at 2.036%.

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