

# Bridge Communications & Research - BCR

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## Bridge-Europa - October 2013

**Part of Pakistan Awareness Initiative -PAI**

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

### CONTEXT

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**Editor's Note**



Our first issue of Bridge-Europa surprised us with widespread and encouraging feedback from dignitaries, people and organisations. Within three days of online publication, Bridge-Europa had more than 1000 likes.

Unfortunately, we can't discuss the success of first Bridge-Europa as tragic twin church bomb blast in Pakistan saddened all of us.

I offer my condolence to the victims and the bereaved families who have lost their love ones and struggling to cope with the tragedy following coward twin church bomb attacks on September 22, 2013, in Peshawar – Pakistan.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the victimised families. This is the time for the government of Pakistan to stop rhetoric about the safety of citizens, minorities, worship places and take tangible steps to protect innocent people from the brutal bloodbaths in Pakistan, repeal blasphemy laws and increase the number of minorities in the civil service, parliament and the judiciary.

Besides blasphemy laws, *The Constitution of Pakistan, Part III: Chapter 1, The Constitution of Pakistan, Notes for Part III: Chapter 3 and The Constitution of Pakistan, Part VII: Chapter 3A, Federal Shariat Court* are discriminatory and in overt violation of religious freedom, freedom of expression, equality and justice. All of these existing laws in Pakistan are used as motivations and foundations for hate crimes and human right violations.

The government of Pakistan must take immediate steps to bring minorities out of fear, they are living with and they feel vulnerable to blasphemy laws – A licence to kill. I strongly suggest that no country should be accepted as “democratic” as long as laws such as blasphemy are not repealed. If the government of Pakistan fails to do so, the fanatic parliamentarians and their families should be banned to enter the EU zone, the United States and Canada and their assets should be seized. An embargo or sanction on Pakistan will only harm the poor citizens already under attack by terrorists, corruption, energy crisis and living costs.

According to Farahnaz Ispahani, a Public Policy Scholar at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a former member of the Pakistani parliament, “At the time of partition in 1947, almost 23 percent of Pakistan’s population was non-Muslim citizens. Today, the proportion of non-Muslims has declined to approximately 3 percent”.

The first lady of Pakistan, Ra'anna Liaqat Ali Khan, was a converted Muslim – whose struggle for the creation of Pakistan and later for a better Pakistan spanned over six decades. She is remembered as the most devoted and progressive lady in the history of Pakistan who laid the foundation of women empowerment in Pakistan through All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) and Pakistan Women National Guards (PWNG).

Either for the struggle to create Pakistan or to make a better Pakistan of today, minorities have enormous role in Pakistan. Some of them are: Jogendra Nath Mandal, Sir Victor Turner Alvin Robert Cornelius, Pothan Joseph, A. R. Cornelius and Peter O'Reilly. Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry and Wing Commander Mervyn Middlecoat sacrificed their lives for Pakistan in the 1971 war. Then there are also eminent citizens like Justice A R Cornelius, Justice Rana Bhagwandas, Justice Dorab Patel, Ardeshir Cowasjee, Julius Salik and Bapsi Sidhwa. We all need an action other than silence against the parliament shielding behind the curtains of democracy before we see more attacks, blood and bodies of innocent citizens. Democracy is being used as a pretext to please the international community. If the parliamentarians are democratic, they would have resigned on the failure to protect citizens.

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.

### **Denmark's New Ambassador Takes Charge:** We are happy to welcome Ambassador Jesper Moller

Sorensen as the new Ambassador to Pakistan.

"Being appointed Ambassador to Pakistan is a great honor for me, but it is also a role which holds great responsibility. Parallel to our support for social cohesion and peace development in Pakistan, it is equally important that we develop relations which are based on equal opportunities and knowledge sharing." -

Ambassador Sorensen.

For more, please click:: [www.pakistan.um.dk/en/about-us/the-ambassador/](http://www.pakistan.um.dk/en/about-us/the-ambassador/)

### **Danish Ambassador encourages Youth Parliamentarians to Work for Democracy in**

**Pakistan:** *"Democracy is not something that only the West talks about or demands. The people of Pakistan want democracy too"* – Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen, Danish Ambassador to Pakistan.

Islamabad, PK September 22, 2013 – How do we build democracy? How do we make democratic principles thrive? These were some of the questions posed by the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Jesper M. Sorensen to a group of young aspiring parliamentarians, who have just completed the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of the Youth Parliament of Pakistan program (YPP). The YPP is supported by the Government of Denmark in collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency (PILDAT).

Speaking to the young members, Ambassador Sorensen said that "As a politician, it is never easy to make everyone happy. Compromise is the essence of decision making in a democratic society. And as politicians, you have to make decisions that have an impact on millions of people. That is no small responsibility. But when you believe in a democracy, you believe in listening to other's opinions. You believe in giving people the freedom to choose. You do not always have to agree with them. But you learn from others. And most importantly, you learn to seek the truth."

He further added that in Denmark, the education system teaches the youth that their opinion matters and can determine the influence on policy and decision makers. "And that is why we are supporting the Youth Parliament Program in Pakistan; because you cannot talk about democracy or civil empowerment without engaging the youth."

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT shared that the YPP provided a platform to Pakistani youth across provincial, religious, political and linguistic divides. “This is where youth learns to express its point of view with reason and listen to other point of views with tolerance and patience. Eventually the Youth Parliament members, despite differences, agree on a position and pass a resolution or in some cases agree to disagree and continue the discussion. In either case they learn to practice democracy and articulate their views in a structured manner”.

Mr. Bilal appreciated the Government of Denmark for supporting the Youth Parliament for the last two terms, and termed it as “a solid contribution towards inculcating the democratic values among the Youth of Pakistan.”

Facilitated by PILDAT, the Youth Parliament is patterned after the National Assembly of Pakistan. Its membership is drawn from young Pakistanis aged between 18-29 years from Balochistan, KP, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and FATA.

PILDAT has earlier conceived, planned and facilitated 3, year-long batches of Youth Parliament Pakistan in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> batch is supported by the Danish International Development Agency, Government of Denmark.

**Danish Ambassador aims to expand trade between countries - sees 40 percent increase in Danish Export:** Islamabad: Denmark aims to increase trade ties with Pakistan. To better assist Danish companies on the Pakistani market, the Embassy of Denmark in Islamabad will open a commercial section later this year. This information was shared by Ambassador Sorensen during his meeting today with Mr. Qasim Niaz, Secretary of Commerce.

Ambassador Sorensen stated:

“My goal is to increase Danish exports of goods to Pakistan by 40 per cent over the next three years. This is an ambitious goal, yet I believe it is realistic. Pakistan is planning vast investments in areas, where Danish companies offer advanced and high-tech solutions. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, health care solutions and food production are some of the areas, where Danish companies have strong holds. Pakistan has a huge potential with its large population, low labour cost, rising middle class and young population. At the Embassy, we will work to attract more Danish companies to Pakistan. We will open a commercial section later this year. I also would like to see more partnerships between Pakistani and Danish companies to the benefit of both our countries.”

**Background**

In CY 2012, the total Danish export of goods to Pakistan was USD 93 million. The main areas were machinery, pharmaceuticals, food stuff and raw materials. In CY 2011, Denmark’s export of services to Pakistan amounted to USD 94 million, almost all related to the maritime industry.

In CY 2012, Pakistan’s total export of goods to Denmark was USD 95 million. Around 40 per cent was related to the textile industry. In CY 2011, Pakistan’s export of services to Denmark amounted to USD 81 million, of which 45 per cent was related to the maritime industry.

The Danish Embassy in Pakistan will open a commercial section on 1 December, 2013, headed by a commercial advisor. This is a one year trial period. If it turns out that the arrangement is successful and requested by Danish companies, the plan is to make the arrangement permanent.

**Danish toy brand LEGO keen to support education in Pakistan:** With only a few months since its first store opening in Karachi, the Danish toy brand LEGO is all set to expand its operations in all major cities in Pakistan. The giant toy company, which is known all over the world for inspiring children and young responsible members of society through fun, learning and high-quality creative play activities, also aims to implement its education program for local schools across Pakistan.

Mr. Bilal Saleem, Country Head-LEGO Pakistan stated that “Children are our role models. They reinvent the world and themselves in it over and over again, surprising themselves and others in what they can create and do. In Pakistan, there is a great need to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals, especially within education. As we seek to expand our operations in Pakistan, we want to make our contribution by setting up educational institutes across the country. These institutes will deliver teacher-tested, classroom –ready solutions for engaging and inspiring young learners and combine the unique, inspiring qualities of LEGO bricks with subject-specific tools and curricula so classroom teachers can meet key learning objectives. The Embassy of Denmark has also expressed its interest in supporting LEGO’s education program in Pakistan. During a visit to the LEGO Store, the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Jesper M. Sorensen expressed great pride in having LEGO come to Pakistan by opening its First Flagship store in Karachi. "This is an exciting time for us, and we are in discussion with LEGO on how we can support their education program for Pakistan. It is not only a great platform to enhance the trade relations between our two countries, but also a great support to our current and future development program, which is providing quality education to underprivileged children in Pakistan”, said Ambassador Sorensen.

**More Women needs to be included in media for balanced reporting and gender mainstreaming:** Denmark supports ‘More women in Media’ program, because it not only aims to advocate and engage with media on highlighting gender issues, but also focuses on sensitizing the media on how to ensure that any report is in a balanced manner so it leads to solutions and not stereotyping or marginalization.” – Ole E. Moesby, Danish Ambassador.

Islamabad: UKS Research in joint collaboration with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) today launched a report which addresses the imperative need for greater women participation in media along with the need for more gender sensitivity in media.

The report titled ‘Who’s Telling Our Story: A Situation Analysis of Women in Media in Pakistan’ was launched under the presence of prominent personalities from both media and civil society and commenced with the showing of a documentary that laid out a detailed description of the project, its various stages and important milestones. Followed by this documentary, a panel discussion was held, in which Ms. Tahira Abdullah, a well known human rights activist and also the author of the report spoke on the topic “Trust your Daughters”, while senior journalist Ms. Farzana Ali addressed the phenomenon of ‘glass ceilings and sticky floors’, as she talked about “Moving up the Ladder” in media.

The report, which is based on data and interviews from various news monitoring exercises, media trainings and consultations over a period of two years, is a detailed assessment of women’s portrayal and representation in the media, delineating the causes and potential solutions for the problem.

Addressing the audience and panel members, Danish Ambassador Ole E. Moesby stated that Pakistan has indeed some extremely talented and inspiring female journalists, who have made their mark and who have through their journalistic expertise advocated for gender-based issues and thereby sensitized the society on gender perspectives. “I personally believe that some of the positive changes, which we see in Pakistan today, are partly due to their struggle and “voice in media”. This voice needs to be further strengthened”.

The report, along with the revised 'Gender Sensitive Code of Ethics for the Media' and another report 'Fair, Balanced and Unbiased: A Gendered Analysis of Pakistan's Media reporting on Election 2013' was launched simultaneously in Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar, which are all part of the 'More Women

**France honours Pakistan Science Foundation's Chairman: (9 July 2013)**, The French Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Philippe Thiébaud, awarded the Chairman of the Pakistan Science foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro with the Order of Academic Palms ("Les Palmes Académiques") in recognition of his major contributions between France and Pakistan in the field of science and technology.

The ceremony was held at the French Embassy in Islamabad in the presence of the guest of honor, Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Zahid Hamid, and more than 30 guests from the scientific community.

The Academic Palms is a distinction initiated by Napoleon in 1808 to reward scholars from the Universities of Paris, it was subsequently extended to individuals who contributed to the French culture and education. Since 1955, the French Ministry of Education has the responsibility to reward personalities in the educational field who, by their actions, have shown outstanding devotion and accomplishments for the promotion of education.

The appointment of Prof. Dr. Soomro as Officer of the Order of Academic Palms is intended to recognize an exceptional career dedicated to the promotion of science and an active contribution to the collaboration between France and Pakistan. Under his leadership, the cooperation between the Pakistan Science Foundation, the French Embassy, and several French Academic Institutions has flourished.

The annual travelling exhibitions and the inquiry-based science programmes are some of the remarkable success of this collaboration. Those projects have aimed at bringing state-of-the-art scientific knowledge to the Pakistani public and encourage students to continue their studies and contribute to research and development. This program is yet another facet of the promotion of higher education in Pakistan, which France strives to promote through numerous fellowships for promising students and academics.

Due to Mr Soomro's contribution to the field of science, the activities implemented and the values defended by his organization, this award to Manzoor H. Soomro is aimed at valuing commitment to tolerance, open-mindedness and modernity. For details and pics

<http://www.ambafrance-pk.org/France-honours-Pakistan-Science>

**Inauguration of the Jabban Hydropower Plant**

**Quick facts:**

- ▶ Jabban Hydropower plant (KPK) is the oldest large hydropower plant in Pakistan. Its activities were stopped in 2006 after a fire.
- ▶ A soft loan agreement of 26.5 millions of Euros (nearly 3.5 billion Rupees) was signed in 2010 between the French Development Agency and Government of Pakistan to rehabilitate this plant and to build capacities in the Hydropower sector.
- ▶ The Ambassador of France, H.E. Mr Philippe Thiébaud, the Vice-President Asia of the French Development Agency, Mr Grégory Clément and and Syed Raghیب Abbas, Chairman Water and Power Development Authority inaugurated this sustainable development project on June 26th and are planning for more such cooperation in the near future.

**1. A partnership between France and Pakistan**

"On June 26th, 2013, Syed Raghیب Abbas, Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (AWPDA), His

Excellency Mr Philippe Thiébaud, Ambassador of France and Mr Grégory Clément, Vice-President Asia of French Development Agency (AFD), inaugurated the Jabban Hydropower plant in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPK). Senator Nisar Muhammad, Member of Senate Standing Committee on Water & Power was also present on this occasion. Jabban Hydropower Project is located on Swat canal in Malakand Division. This run-of-river hydropower plant was built in 1937, and as such it is the oldest large hydropower plant in Pakistan. It discontinued its production after a fire broke out in November 2006. With the participation of highly qualified engineers from WAPDA & NESPAK the infrastructure was rehabilitated and the capacity increased from 19 MW up to 22 MW. During construction, 200 people were employed at the worksite, directly benefitting local population of Malakand District. After rehabilitation, the plant will employ 50 workers, and will provide electricity to more than 240,000 people.

The total cost of the project was estimated at 25 M.Euro (3.4 bn PKR). On July 2009, AFD signed with Govt of Pakistan a soft loan of 26.5 M.Euro, out of which 25 M.Euro is allocated for the Jabban Project, and 1.5 M.Euro for building capacities on the hydropower sector. This loan is being implemented by WAPDA, AFD's main partner in the country. The Jabban Project, constructed by a Pakistani company, should deliver its full capacity to the grid by September 2013, without expected overcost or delays.

## **2. A renewable energy project**

The Jabban Hydropower Project generates renewable energy, and therefore mitigates climate change, by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. As a rehabilitation project, it did not entail negative environmental & social impacts, and no land acquisition or relocation of people was necessary. Finally, and most importantly, it answers to the need of reducing the cost of energy generation, and adds capacity to the national grid, therefore directly addressing the current energy crisis in Pakistan.

As a member of the group of Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP), France is very sensitive to the welfare of the Pakistani population and is committed to implementing sustainable development projects in renewable energy and in water sectors. The exceptional potential of the country in terms of hydropower, as well as the success of this first operation, encourages France and Pakistan to jointly engage in other projects in the future. AFD Group is fully committed in promoting sustainable hydropower in Pakistan, in close cooperation with public and private operators, through co-financing with, among other donors, European Union and German cooperation. AFD has already committed funding for the studies of the multipurpose Mohmand / Munda dam project, as well as for the construction of the Jaggran-II and Harpo hydropower projects. In addition, AFD has a portfolio of identified hydel projects under study, for a total capacity of more than 1,100 MW

France, through AFD, is fully committed to contribute to resolve the energy crisis, and also looks forward to continuing interventions in KPK, a province in need of support for its social and economic development./.”

Details and pics <http://www.ambafrance-pk.org/Pak-French-Hydropower-Project>

## **Germany: Ground-breaking Ceremony for Safe Blood Transfusion and Tuberculosis Control Projects:**

On September 9, 2013 the foundations were laid for a state of the art Bio Safety Level-III Laboratory as well as Regional Blood Center (RBC) at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar. These are two vital initiatives in the health sector of Khyber Pakhtukhwa supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented through KfW Development Bank.

Dr. Stefan Oswald, Head of Division Afghanistan/Pakistan, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development appreciated the efforts and ownership of the Department of Health in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expressed his expectations and hope that this German support will contribute to strengthening the Health care services in Pakistan especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Next to Dr. Oswald, Ms. Mandy Zeckra, Counsellor Development at the German Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Julian

Pfaefflin, Desk Officer Pakistan, Division Afghanistan/Pakistan, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and (Ms.) Dr Masuma Zaidi, Project Coordinator Health, KfW Office Pakistan were present at the occasion. Distinguished guests from the Government of KP included the Provincial Minister for Health Mr. Shaukat Ali Yousafzai and Dr. Dr. Fakhar e Alam, Secretary Health, Government of KP, who also expressed his gratitude for the support of the German Government and mentioned that "advanced scientific solutions to the emerging challenge of the hour". The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also felt pride that construction of Regional Blood Center (RBC) will initiate and ensure safe blood transfusion in the province, which will be a remarkable service to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Construction of state of the art Bio Safety level-III laboratory in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one of its kind, a most advanced diagnostic facility for TB in the province wherein wide range of tests including Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST), Culture and GeneXperts etc will be performed. The Peshawar Blood Centre is one of the 10 blood centres which will meet the needs of 6 existing Hospitals. The construction work is expected to be completed by mid 2014 for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to have a quality and standardized safe blood transfusion system.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development reaffirmed the commitment of the German Government towards improving health and quality of the life of Pakistan's population by providing additional funds in various Health projects in the country and especially for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the Bilateral Governmental Negotiations held on September 6, 2013.

### **Germany to continue support for democratisation and economic reforms in Pakistan:**

Germany and Pakistan successfully concluded their government negotiations on bilateral development cooperation in Islamabad on 6 September. Good governance, energy, education/vocational training and health will continue to be the priority areas of cooperation. Traditionally, this development cooperation focuses on the particularly disadvantaged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). At the request of Pakistan, programmes will now be expanded to the most populous and economically important province of Punjab and to the Karachi metropolitan area.

The negotiations were held against the backdrop of increased reform efforts undertaken by the new government, elected in May 2013, under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), passed by the Executive Board in Washington on 4 September, complement the reform efforts. Pakistan, in return, has committed to comprehensive and measurable reforms, for instance in the energy sector and in the tax system.

"The German government is helping Pakistan master enormous economic and social challenges," said Federal Development Minister Dirk Niebel. "Germany and Pakistan both believe that promoting the economy and employment contributes significantly to reducing poverty."

One of the goals of the new government is to raise the country's comparably low tax ratio from 9 to 15 per cent. Germany is assisting the tax authorities in implementing the fiscal pact that parliament has adopted.

"Clearly, I expect Pakistan to increase its tax ratio so as to be able to invest more in education, health care and infrastructure," said German Development Minister Dirk Niebel.

The vocational training programme, which the Netherlands and the European Union are cofunding, will be expanded. The authorities in charge of the national vocational training reforms will, for their part, benefit from advisory services. In the health sector, the health ministries at federal and provincial level will receive support for human resources development and further training, and for introducing a national health insurance scheme and a safe blood bank system. Pledges were also made for programmes that promote renewable energies and energy efficiency and will, for instance, benefit the textile industry, a key industry for the national labour market that is particularly vulnerable to repeated power shortages.

Germany committed additional funds for the construction of a hydropower plant, which is to provide urgently needed power for 1.5 million households. "In view of our long-standing commitment in Pakistan's energy sector, I support the reform efforts of the Pakistani government under Nawaz Sharif. I expect the new government to swiftly implement the energy act in

consultation with all stakeholders, thus putting the country in a position to meet the growing energy demand in the medium term."

Further support was pledged for developing basic public services such as education, health care and infrastructure in the traditional priority area – the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region – and in the tribal areas, thus covering the poorest regions of Pakistan. Swiss, British and European Union activities complement the German projects in these areas.

Funding to support Afghan refugees in the border region in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was stepped up once more by 7.5 million euros. The German government is helping Pakistan achieve long-term development in the region that borders Afghanistan, which will positively impact stability in the neighbouring country, too.

**Germany funds relief measures for flood victims Punjab and Sindh:** The German government provides 854,000 Euro (approx. 117 million PKR) for flood relief in the provinces Punjab and Sindh.

Through the German organisations humedica e. V., Caritasverband e.V. and HelpAge Germany e.V., different projects will be implemented to support the flood victims through emergency humanitarian aid, food supplies, medical and social assistance as well as reconstruction of damaged houses.

**Germany supports peace education and inter-religious harmony:** On July 25, the German Ambassador Dr. Cyrill Nunn signed an agreement with Father Emmanuel Y. Mani to strengthen the cooperation with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP). The organisation will receive 49,000 Euro (approximately 6,237,000 PKR) for its work to promote peace education, inter-religious harmony and the eradication of hate speech from educational material.

The organisation is based in Lahore and works in major cities of the Punjab. They regularly organize interactive seminars with colleges and universities as well as artistic and musical events to promote inter-religious harmony. Moreover, they support religious minorities in their educational career.

[http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/08\\_\\_Develop\\_\\_Cooperation/2\\_\\_FFO\\_\\_Projects/Catholic\\_\\_Commission\\_\\_Justice\\_\\_peace\\_\\_2013.html](http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/08__Develop__Cooperation/2__FFO__Projects/Catholic__Commission__Justice__peace__2013.html)

**Germany increases support to IDPs from KPK:** Through the *World Food Programme (WFO)*, the German Government increases its engagement to support Internally Displaced Persons in KPK originating from FATA with 750,000 Euro (approx. 94.5 million PKR) aiming to enhance food and nutrition security as well as to rebuild social cohesion.

**Germany supports medical and social assistance in the district of Peshawar:** Through *Malteser International* - a worldwide relief organisation of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid in close cooperation with UNOCHA - the German Government is funding medical and social assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons in the district of Peshawar with 360,000 Euro (approx. 45 million PKR) aiming to improve the health situation in the refugee camps.

**Germany supports women directly effected by terrorism:** The German government supports the Islamabad based NGO *Individualland (IL) Pakistan* towards the project "Mother testimonials" with 54,000 Euro (approx. 6.8 million PKR).

Individualland Pakistan's initiative revolves around focusing on women as peace agents. It seeks to visually document the strong women directly effected by terrorism. IL also, attempts to dispel the myths around militancy by developing a comprehensive, searchable database on the subject.

**Norway allocates NOK 10 million to the Emergency Response Fund Pakistan:** 03.09.2013 //

Norway announces a contribution of NOK 10 million (approx. US\$ 1.6 million) to the Emergency Response Fund Pakistan. The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an in-country mechanism administered by the United Nations Office for the

**Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.** Its aim is to ensure rapid and flexible funding in response to urgent short-term humanitarian needs. Since 2010 more than 181 projects have been approved and more than US\$ 43.5 million from various donors have been allocated through the ERF.

Norway is the third largest contributor to the ERF having contributed NOK 45 million in total (approx. US\$ 7.5 million). Norway is also the fund's most consistent contributor having allocated funding every year since the creation of the ERF in 2010.

In 2012 Norwegian funds were channeled to non-governmental organizations working on food security, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

**Did You Know?** *In 2013 Norway has also allocated NOK 5.5 million to support a capacity building project with the NDMA, coordinated by UN OCHA. .*

**The Kalash people - a pride to Pakistan:** The Kalash people represents a very unique culture in Pakistan and they represent a proud part of the country's heritage. Only few of the Kalash people are left, living according to their old traditions. They need our attention for their culture to survive. Norway is pleased to be able to support the Kalash people and help them preserve their unique traditions.

The Kalash people live in three narrow valleys in the mountainous area of Chitral, in North-western part of Pakistan. Only around 3500 are left living according to old traditions. It has been claimed that they derive directly from Alexander the Great and his army that came to this part of the world nearly 2500 years ago. There is however, no evidence of this and also other theories are discussed. Both their language and their religion are however, unique. Their culture has been able to survive until today, but just barely, as their traditions are quite different from the muslim traditions that dominate the culture in Pakistan. Living is tough in these areas with harsh winters, little farmland and unpredictable river-floods.

The culture of the Kalash people, the strong position of women in their society and their beautiful traditional dresses have become famous. However, they need support for these traditions to survive. They need schools, teachers, access to health facilities and electricity. More can also be done to collect and develop data about their culture and history. Norway is contributing its share to do this. We are proud to support the Kalash people through the CIADP-THRIVE program in Chitral.

**Sweden: Call for applications: Young Connectors of the Future 2013:** Are you a young leader with a vision? Do you want to make a change? Then apply to the new Swedish Institute leadership programme Young Connectors of the Future (YCF)!

Young Connectors of the Future (YCF) is an intercultural leadership program that aims to lay a foundation for dialogue, mutual understanding and knowledge sharing among young leaders from selected countries in South Asia. The programme invites young leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, representing different sectors of society, and who are actively working for social change in their respective contexts. Intercultural leadership training is combined with theory and practice in the fields of transparency, democracy and human rights. The programme aims at building young leaders and connectors of the future in the region, promoting dialogue, knowledge-sharing and openness.

The YCF programme is designed to provide the participants with new skills, networks and innovative tools to strengthen their work to drive social change in their respective contexts. The participants are visionaries who are in a position to make a difference.

**Who can apply?**

Young (20-32 years old), dynamic and open-minded leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan actively working for democracy and human rights within the spheres of society, culture, politics, entrepreneurship and media: project managers youth leaders, youth politicians, government civil servants, lawyers, journalists/bloggers, entrepreneurs, cultural workers etc. The program will be held in English: proficient command of both written and spoken English is therefore a requirement.

Submit your application by using the online application form together with an updated CV. You will find the application instructions at [www.si.se/yfcf](http://www.si.se/yfcf)

**There is no fee for the program. Travel, hotel and food expenses are included in the program.**

### **Important dates**

- Application period: August 5 – 25, 2013
- Deadline for applications: August 25, 2013
- Skype interviews: September 16–27, 2013
- Accepted applicants will be informed by: October 4, 2013
- YCF module in Sweden: Nov. 25 – Dec. 4, 2013

For more information about the leadership programme Young Connectors of the Future, go to [www.si.se/ycf](http://www.si.se/ycf) or send an email to [ycf13@si.se](mailto:ycf13@si.se). E-mail: [ambassaden.islamabad@gov.se](mailto:ambassaden.islamabad@gov.se)

## **The United Kingdom: British High Commission announces launch of 2014/15**

**Chevening Scholarships:** Over the past 30 years the Chevening scholarship programme in Pakistan has enabled more than 1200 Pakistanis to study in the UK.

Applications for 2014/15 Chevening Scholarships, the prestigious global scholarship programme of the UK government, are now open.

Candidates can now register their interest and find out details of the scholarship through Chevening website [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org), read the online guidance and demonstrate how they meet the Chevening selection criteria before submitting an application.

Further details of closing dates and priority subject areas (which vary from country to country) can be found on the country page [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/british-high-commission-announces-launch-of-201415-chevening-scholarships>

## **British Home Secretary visits Lahore, discusses close cooperation and bilateral ties:** The Home Secretary meets Chief Minister and Governor of Punjab, visits Punjab forensic science agency

On the second day of her visit to Pakistan, the British Home Secretary, Theresa May, met the Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar and the Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

After her meeting with Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the Home Secretary said:

This is my third visit to Pakistan as Home Secretary and the ties between our countries feel stronger than ever. I also know that our close cooperation has never been more important.

The lives of our citizens are connected through travel and trade, family and culture. There is constant and meaningful contact between our governments, institutions and civil society organisations as well. This is the bedrock of our partnership.

We also share a powerful interest in fighting the extremism and terrorism that threatens people in both countries. The UK is committed to working jointly with Pakistan to combat the shared threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Increasing the rate of successful terrorist prosecutions forms a central element of UK-Pakistan cooperation.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm the UK's commitment to Pakistan's fight against extremism. Just as our histories are woven together so too will be our future.

The British Home Secretary, accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, also visited the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) in Lahore. The PSFA services all of the Punjab's forensic needs, from crime scene investigation to testing forged cheques for banks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/british-home-secretary-visits-lahore-discusses-close-cooperation-and-bilateral-ties>

**Be a part of the World Islamic Economic Forum:** From 29 to 31 October 2013 the UK will be hosting the first WIEF held outside of the Muslim World.

The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation is a Kuala Lumpur based organisation which grew out of the business conference of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It brings together government leaders, captains of industry, academic scholars and regional experts to discuss opportunities for business partnerships in the Muslim world and beyond.

WIEF has been hosted annually since 2005 in destinations including Jakarta, Islamabad and Kuwait. One of its aims is to promote dialogue and foster co-operation among international businessmen - in the belief that business partnerships can become genuine bridges towards peace and prosperity between the Muslim and non-Muslim world.

Delegations to the WIEF are expected from across the Islamic world and beyond, representing more than half of UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI's) priority high growth markets and over 30 major international projects identified under UKTI's **High Value Opportunities programme**. The WIEF has invited a number of Heads of State and Government to the WIEF, those confirmed to attend include:

- the Chairman of the WIEF Foundation the Hon. Tun Musa Hitam
- the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Patron of WIEF Foundation H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
- Prime Minister David Cameron
- the Mayor of London Boris Johnson
- a number of ministers from the UK Government

**DFID - UK Department for International Development:** Every year in #Pakistan, 12,000 women die during pregnancy and 423,000 children die under the age of five - the fourth highest rate in the world. These are shocking figures - all the more so as many of these deaths are the result of preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Our support to Pakistan will help to improve and expand basic health services with a focus on family planning, nutrition and healthcare for women and children, and make it easier for people to get the skilled help they need from community midwives and birth attendants.

**Last minute update: Consultation on Setting Priorities for the EU Thematic**

**Programme 'Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities'** (25/09/2013) The European Union Delegation to Pakistan is currently in the process of setting the priorities for its Thematic Programme Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) in Pakistan for the period 2014-2020. Through this online consultation the EU Delegation seeks input from civil society organisations and any other interested stakeholders. Your input will help the EU Delegation to Pakistan in ensuring informed and participatory decision-making regarding the priorities and strategies for the upcoming period.

The EU Delegation to Pakistan would be grateful for your time and input. [Please click here to download the consultation form](#) [146 KB] and kindly send the completely filled in document to the following email address: [DELEGATION-PAKISTAN-NSALA@EEAS.EUROPA.EU](mailto:DELEGATION-PAKISTAN-NSALA@EEAS.EUROPA.EU) by Friday, 4th of October 2013.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2013/20130925\\_01\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press_corner/all_news/news/2013/20130925_01_en.htm)

**Background of Bridge Communications and Research – BCR:** Bridge Communications & Research – BCR <http://bridgecommunicationsandresearch.com/index.html> started in 2001 from Memphis, TN, The United States. BCR is working to promote our core values Diversity, Policy, Awareness & Human Rights using social media, coverage, lectures, articles, book referrals, talk shows, interviews and coverage of the events promoting such principles. BCR interviewed

leading figures in Canada to have them convey their message to the politicians in Pakistan to deliver for what they are in the office.

In 2011, BCR initiated Pakistan Awareness Initiative – PAI form Canada for both people and incumbents in Pakistan. We recommend books, lectures, links, published research based articles and general discussion for social and community awareness. BCR is member of The American Political Science Association – APSA, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy – ICD, Germany, Canadian Association of Journalists – CAJ, European Journalism Centre – EJC, The Canadian Journalists for Free Expression – CJFE, Nomination for the Commercial Appeal’s 2005 Jefferson Award, U.S.A , participated in Proliteracy America (formerly known as Laubach Literacy Action) US Program Division, U.S.A and actively participated in several issues related to diversity and human rights and has intervned in 11 cases of Human rights, Policy and racial discriminations worldwide. In Pakistan, we are working with Wejournalist

*Bridge-Europa 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.*

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