

BridgeUS – Oct 2016

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In dedication to Daniel Pearl

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[U.S.-Pakistan Energy Partnership – U.S. Announces 15 Year Partnership with Banks](#)



Consul General Grace Shelton presided over the signing of a partnership agreement between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Habib Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, Faysal Bank Limited, Meezan Bank Limited and JS Bank Limited today. Through U.S. funding, this 15 year partnership will provide up to a 50 percent guarantee for loans made for clean energy projects.



“The U.S. Government is excited to partner with some of Pakistan’s leading private commercial banks and support the banks’ efforts in promoting clean energy” said USAID Assistant to the Administrator

for Afghanistan-Pakistan Affairs William Hammink during his remarks. “Under the program, smaller scale clean energy projects will be able to access long-term, Pakistani Rupee financing. The facility is expected to significantly improve access to financing for these smaller scale projects and encourage private investment in clean energy,” he added.

Through this agreement, approximately \$88 million in financing will become available to support the development of the clean energy sector in Pakistan. Partner banks will be able to extend debt financing to smaller scale clean energy projects, developers, and companies or to households and businesses purchasing clean energy equipment.

The United States and Pakistan cooperate to support their efforts in energy growth, including through the U.S.-Pakistan Energy Working Group under the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. Under the U.S.-Pakistan Clean Energy Partnership, announced by President Obama and Prime Minister Sharif in October 2015, U.S. assistance supports increased energy generation, its transmission to Pakistan’s national grid, improved distribution, management, and revenue collection, as well as policy reform.

US Consul General hosts volleyball clinic for Dawood girls



Karachi – U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton engaged with young Pakistani girls at a volleyball clinic held at her residence. Renowned Pakistani volleyball coaches Farah Sarfaraz, Nouma Faridi, and Fozia Naz trained more than 40 girls from Dawood Public School as their parents watched from the sidelines.



“Volleyball shows us the importance of teamwork and inclusivity,” said U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton, speaking to the girls, coaches and parents. **“Just as volleyball teams need players with different skill sets – bumping, setting, and spiking – so do communities need people with different backgrounds, expertise, and perspectives,”** she added. U.S. Consulate General Karachi organizes sports diplomacy events to promote friendly relations and increased understanding between Pakistanis and Americans. For more information on U.S. government cultural and educational activities, please visit www.eca.state.gov or visit the Consulate’s web site at <https://pk.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/karachi/>.

American Ambassador David Hale Meets with Pakistani “Let Girls Learn Ambassadors”



Islamabad, September 26, 2016 – American Ambassador David Hale welcomed back from the United States Pakistan’s Let Girls Learn Ambassadors Summayka Qadir and Deepa Kumari who represented their country in New York City during United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) week. The women participated in the “Broadway Shines a Light on Girls’ Education” event on September 19, part of the Let Girls Learn initiative, which encourages world leaders to provide education opportunities to an estimated 62 million girls globally who do not attend school.

Hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama, the program was convened as a side event to coincide with the gathering of world leaders in New York for the opening of the 71st UNGA. At the event, three young women from Pakistan, Jordan and Malawi spoke about their personal educational experiences, highlighting the importance of girls’ education. Dignitaries, including several spouses of the heads of government participating in this year’s UNGA, attended the event.

Ms. Qadir, 19, told her story on stage: “I came from an impoverished single-parent household. Despite financial hardships, I was accepted into medical school and granted a full scholarship from USAID for my studies.” She has aspirations to become a doctor to help others. “To me, girls’ education is very important, as girls deserve the education as much as the boys do.”

When greeting Ms. Kumari and Ms. Qadir upon their return to Pakistan, Ambassador Hale stated, “Girls with dreams become women with vision. Let’s create a world where this vision runs free. Educated girls like Summayka and Deepa will become women who can ultimately strengthen their

families, communities, and countries. This important initiative will be transformative for Pakistan, empowering young women to overcome barriers and lift themselves out of poverty.”

The two young women were selected from the many beneficiaries of the USAID-funded Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program which is implemented in partnership with Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission. With the help of this program, talented yet economically disadvantaged Pakistani youth are earning bachelor’s or master’s degrees at 31 partner universities across Pakistan. The program is also a part of USAID’s Let Girls Learn initiative.

USAID’s Let Girls Learn in Pakistan program was announced last year on October 22 by Michelle Obama and First Daughter Maryam Sharif in coordination with the Government of Pakistan as a commitment to advance girls’ education. The program will provide an additional 200,000 Pakistani girls access to education and the tools they need to succeed in life. This initiative demonstrates the importance that both countries attach to girls’ education. Building on Pakistan’s commitment to double its spending on education, the United States will invest \$70 million to educate adolescent girls in Pakistan.

For details about the LGL initiative, please visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/pakistan/let-girls-learn-pakistan>

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

U.S. Consul General Grace Shelton pays homage to Quaid-e-Azam



U.S. Consul General in Karachi Grace Shelton visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and paid her respects to the founder of Pakistan. Consul General Grace Shelton laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum and signed the guestbook on behalf of the U.S. Consulate General in

Karachi.

Consul General Shelton noted, “The United States shares Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s vision of a democratic, tolerant and progressive Pakistan. My visit to his mausoleum has offered me the opportunity to reflect upon his everlasting vision and accomplishments and their continuing importance to all of us as we work toward a strong and peaceful Pakistan.”

Grace Shelton later visited the adjoining museum and took a keen interest in the artifacts related to the life of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



19 Pakistani Students Return Home from U.S. Embassy-Funded “Summer Sisters” Exchange Program



Islamabad, September 22, 2016: Yesterday, U.S. Embassy and iEARN Pakistan staff welcomed home 19 female Pakistani students who recently participated in the Summer Sisters Exchange Program at U.S. universities, including Harvard, American University, and Smith College. The students, ages 15 to 18, spent the summer studying science, leadership and international affairs.

“The U.S. Embassy sponsors this program because all children – no matter their gender or their economic background – have the potential to develop into community leaders and deserve a quality education,” said U.S. Embassy Deputy Cultural Affairs Officer Maureen Mimnaugh. “I look forward to seeing the participants in this program inspire other students in their communities and implement their new leadership skills.”

The Summer Sisters Institute, launched in 2013 by the U.S.-Pakistan Women’s Council, aims to provide a unique educational experience and mentor promising young Pakistani female students from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. Since 2013, a total of 42 Pakistani girls have participated in this exchange program.

“Exchange programs like Summer Sisters are intensive, structured, and powerful,” said iEARN Pakistan Executive Director Farah Kamal. “Through this program, students develop lifelong friendships and gain knowledge, enthusiasm, and passion to make the world a better place.”

“Summer Sisters was the best summer of my life,” said 2015 program alumna Kainat Kanwal, who attended American University’s Community of Scholars program. “I especially enjoyed the opportunity to do community service alongside my American friends, and I used my new volunteering

skills when I came home to set up a hygiene camp for mothers and children in Sialkot.”

The Summer Sisters Exchange Program is one of many exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Every year, more than 1,300 Pakistanis travel to the United States on academic and professional exchange programs. For more information about American educational and cultural exchanges, please visit: <http://www.eca.state.gov>.

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

American Embassy Celebrates Achievements of Pakistani Women with Disabilities



Islamabad, September 22, 2016 – American Counselor for Public Affairs Christina Tomlinson joined members of the National Assembly and nongovernmental organization representatives today to celebrate the achievements of Pakistani women with disabilities. At the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) Conference, she emphasized the importance of supporting the rights of women with disabilities so they can fully participate in all aspects of society.



“Promoting disability rights is an integral part of our efforts to promote human rights more broadly,” she said. “We want to remove barriers and create a world in which disabled people everywhere enjoy dignity and full inclusion. We work with governments and organizations like STEP to protect and promote the rights of disabled persons, and provide practical support to ensure their inclusion and full participation in society.”

This conference marks the conclusion of a one-year, \$375,000 program to support Pakistani women with disabilities funded by the American Embassy and implemented by STEP. Throughout the past year, STEP has organized more than 90 training sessions, TV talk show discussions, and provincial workshops to increase public and Pakistani government awareness about the rights of women with disabilities and to provide livelihood training for women with disabilities.

“Women with disabilities face disadvantages in several key areas when compared with other women, men with disabilities, and society as a whole,” said STEP Programs Director Abia Akram. “STEP, with the support of the American Embassy in Pakistan, initiated Supporting Women with Disabilities project to refine the approach of stakeholders and to help fully realize these women’s rights.” As this program comes to a close, the American Embassy and Mobility International are beginning collaboration on a new program to empower Pakistanis with disabilities and their allies. For more information about the American Embassy’s work in Pakistan, please visit <https://pk.usembassy.gov/>. Contact: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (051-208-2911, 051-208-1136)

USAID’s Initiative Succeeds in Increasing the Use of Research for Policy Reforms in Pakistan

Islamabad, September 21, 2016 – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has helped Pakistan strengthen its institutional capacity and policy making by fostering evidence-based decision-making on public policy issues.

USAID partnered with the International Food Policy Research Institute from July 2011 to July 2016 on the Pakistan Strategy Support Program. Working with the Ministry of Planning, Reforms and Development they shaped a policy research agenda for Pakistan to achieve economic growth and reduce poverty.

“The objective of this project was to help government leaders design and implement evidence-based policy reforms and to encourage public investments in agriculture,” Mission Director USAID John Groarke explained. “Some of the successes of the program include developing a new agricultural seed law, charting pathways to reform fertilizer subsidies, reforming the national water policy, and refining poverty measurements,” he added.

Under this program, USAID also awarded 71 competitive grants to Pakistani researchers to work the Government of Pakistan’s development objectives including those under Vision 2025. These grants resulted in four PhD dissertations, 16 Journal Articles and 23 Working Papers. More publications are in process even after the closing of the USAID project.

Some of the awardees notably influenced policy. A study on medicinal and aromatic plants led to a new chapter in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Act of 2011 that regulates collection and harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants without harming the ecosystem. Additionally, several surveys, including the Pakistan Rural Household Panel and Production Surveys, the Pakistan Cotton Production Survey, and the Migration Tracking Survey provided data that will aid the policymakers for drafting future policies.

Dr. Nadeem Amjad, the Chairman of the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council stated, “The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) acknowledges the efforts of the USAID in promoting agricultural research in Pakistan through its various programs. We especially appreciate USAID’s support through Pakistan Strategy Support Program for the Independent Third Party Evaluation of PARC in 2012 that resulted in many institutional reforms and a business plan, which has led to efficient allocation of resources and better monitoring systems at PARC.”

Through Pakistan Strategy Support Program, USAID also developed programs and modules to train more than 900 government and academicians on economic modeling and simulation techniques; geographic information systems; data analysis; poverty mapping; and monitoring, evaluation, and survey techniques.

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

New U.S. Embassy Website Offers Information on Programs and Resources

Islamabad, September 9, 2016 – American Ambassador David Hale officially launched the U.S. Mission to Pakistan’s new and improved website with an online greeting for all virtual guests. In his message, Ambassador Hale invites everyone to the website to see “all of the different ways America and Pakistan are working together ... and see how cooperation between our two nations makes our enduring partnership grow even stronger.” You can view the Ambassador’s message and all of the features of the website at: <http://pk.usembassy.gov>.

The official website has a wealth of resources, including information about applying for a U.S. visa, job vacancy announcements, and official press releases. American citizens in Pakistan will find resources about passports, businesspeople can learn about doing business in Pakistan and the United States, and students can find more information about studying in America. The new website also has information about the three U.S. Consulates and the services they provide, as well as information about Lincoln Corners in Pakistan.

Follow the Embassy and U.S. Consulates on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and Instagram. Links can be found at <https://pk.usembassy.gov/social-media/>. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

U.S.-supported English-language alumni help clean Karachi’s beaches

Karachi – Over 50 alumni and teachers of the U.S. government funded English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) came together earlier today to clean Karachi’s beaches. American and Pakistani volunteers including the U.S. Consul General Brian Heath and incoming Consul General Grace Shelton joined the young volunteers in the clean-up.

“Today’s event has showed the value of keeping this city clean, and the shared role we all can play in improving our communities” said Consul General Heath while talking to the volunteers. “We can learn a lot from the civic spirit of these young volunteers who are helping to keep Karachi’s beaches clean for everyone to enjoy.”

In advance of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry’s third “Our Ocean” conference September 15-16, 2016, Americans and Pakistanis came together to highlight the joint commitment to protecting the ocean and fighting marine pollution.

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access), a two-year after-school English-language proficiency program, trains talented 13-20 year olds from disadvantaged communities. Throughout the world, the Access Program has reached over 115,000 students in 80+ countries. When Access

came to Pakistan in 2004, it first began in Karachi and has reached over 13,000 students in Pakistan to date. Through community service projects like the beach cleanup, Access students develop awareness of social problems in their own communities; they also develop positive civic attitudes, empathy for the less privileged, and youth leadership skills.

More information about the U.S. Department of State's Office of English Language Programs can be found at AmericanEnglish.state.gov.

U.S. Embassy and The Indus Entrepreneurs Congratulate StartUp Cup Finalists

Islamabad, September 6, 2016 – Today the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Islamabad Chapter concluded the 2016 Pakistan StartUp Cup, a nationwide business model competition. Over the past six months, more than 950 teams from Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad, and Islamabad competed for a top prize of 1 million rupees. The winning team, "Cowlar," hailing from Islamabad, developed a startup plan to sell smart collars for cows designed to help farmers improve herd health, optimize dairy operations, and boost milk yields.



U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Pratt congratulated the members of the top 12 teams and encouraged them to continue pursuing their startup dreams beyond the conclusion of this competition. "As President Obama said, 'I believe that entrepreneurs like you can make the world a better place, one idea at a time,'" Pratt commented. "Tonight, we've seen that Pakistani women and men are doing just that, by developing plans to help farmers optimize their operations, to provide affordable clean drinking water, and to create prosthetic devices for amputees."

The 2016 StartUp Cup in Pakistan built on the success of the 2013 and 2015 competitions and continued to strengthen partnerships with the Higher Education Commission and entrepreneurship centers across Pakistan, including the Women's Entrepreneurial Center of Resources, Education, Access, and Training for Economic Empowerment (WECREATE) in Islamabad, the Lahore University for Management Science Center for Entrepreneurship, Lahore-based government-supported incubator Plan 9, Karachi-based technology incubator "The Nest I/O," and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Technology Incubation Center.

The partnerships between StartUp Cup and these centers will ensure that newly established

businesses receive sustained support, mentoring, and essential tools for long-term success. Various U.S. Embassy programs assist Pakistani entrepreneurs by increasing their access to financial resources, supporting opportunities for entrepreneurship education, and nurturing an entrepreneurial culture.

“I wish all the bright minds we saw here the very best on the road ahead,” said TiE Islamabad President Sarah Hashwani. “TiE Islamabad is both proud and humbled to be a part of this revolution in Pakistan’s entrepreneurial landscape.”

For more information on StartUp Cup Pakistan, please visit <http://pakistan.startupcup.com/>.

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

The United States Invites Pakistani Businesses to U.S. Woodworking Trade Show

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

Islamabad, September 01, 2016 – Representatives from Pakistani businesses traveled to the United States to participate in the 2016 International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. The IWF is one of the world’s premier furniture manufacture, architectural woodwork, custom and general woodworking trade shows, and hosts more than 1,000 exhibitors specializing in all areas of woodworking supply and technology.

“Through this trade delegation, Pakistani and American businesspeople had the opportunity to explore new markets and build connections between their businesses,” said Cheryl Dukelow, Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. “This delegation had the opportunity to learn about the latest products and technologies in their fields, and will be able to improve their businesses as a result.”

Each year the U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) recruits and leads 150 to 200 members of Pakistan’s private business sector to trade shows in the United States as part of the International Buyer’s Program. Thus far this year the USCS has led delegations to trade shows focusing on consumer electronics, poultry and processing equipment, concrete natural homeopathic products, and smart grid and electricity transmission and distribution technology. Upcoming programs will include the Farm Progress Show and Solar Power International.

Delegation members pay a fee to join the official Pakistan delegation and their own expenses, and in return, receive specialized services and facilitation through the USCS, tailored according to their business objectives and interests. For more information about the USCS and the International Buyer Program, please contact your local Chamber of Commerce, or visit: <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/us-commercial-service-pakistan.html>

Ambassador Hale Urges Public and Private Sector Representatives to Foster Women's Entrepreneurship

Islamabad, August 31, 2016 – American Ambassador David Hale encouraged public and private sector representatives to continue their efforts to support women's entrepreneurship in Pakistan during a workshop in Islamabad today.

Ambassador Hale's remarks occurred during the final conference of the one-year Women Can Do Project, funded by the U.S. Embassy and carried out by the Shaor Foundation. Through this project, over 3,000 women have received entrepreneurship training at public universities and madrassas across Pakistan. Shaor Foundation staff also have coordinated a series of policy discussions with government officials, educators, business representatives, and others to identify and address the barriers to women's entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

"Through this project, we have found that so many women across Pakistan have a dream of establishing their own businesses, but many didn't know where to begin," said Women Can Do Project Manager Durreshawar Mahmood. "While training and inspiring women currently in universities and madrassas to pursue their goals, we also have worked with officials and others to ensure future generations of Pakistani women have more resources and fewer challenges when seeking to start their own businesses."

Supporting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan has a ripple effect on families, villages, and cities across Pakistan. Successful entrepreneurs create jobs for other women and men. They offer innovative solutions to problems. They deliver essential services. And they support their families. The Women Can Do Project is one of many entrepreneurship-related initiatives supported by the American Embassy. For example, the American Embassy sends Pakistani entrepreneurs to the United States on exchange programs, supported the establishment of the WECREATE Center for women's entrepreneurship in Islamabad, and sponsored the travel of Pakistani delegates to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in June.

Senior U.S. Official Reaffirms Commitment to Trade with Pakistan

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

Islamabad, August 30, 2016 – Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) for South Asia Michael Delaney led a delegation to Islamabad to discuss the ongoing U.S.-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, known as TIFA, from August 28-30 with members of the government of Pakistan. The intersessional meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, covered a broad range of trade and investment-related issues, including expanded market access for Pakistani goods in the United States, business-to-business ties, intellectual property, and progress on the Augmented Joint Action Plan for Trade and Investment, as agreed by President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during the Prime Minister’s October 2015 visit to Washington, DC. “Pakistan and the United States share a relationship based increasingly on trade and investment, and have a five-year action plan to continue to do so,” AUSTR Delaney said. “The United States sees Pakistan’s prosperity as good for the region and good for the United States.”

AUSTR Delaney met with members of the government of Pakistan and discussed issues of bilateral interest. During his meetings, AUSTR Delaney emphasized that the United States remains committed to working with the Pakistani government and private sector to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties.

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

The U.S-Pakistan TIFA provides a strategic framework and principles for dialogue on trade and investment issues between the two nations. For more information about TIFA, please visit: <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/trade-investment-framework-agreements>

USAID helping Pakistani mango farmers access world markets 22 August, 2016

Thatta – U.S. Consul General Brian Heath visited a mango farm in Tando Hafiz Shah to inspect automated mango graders and processors provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID Deputy Mission Director Denise Herbol and Deputy Provincial Director Patrick Brady were also present.

“The United States is helping Pakistan boost domestic and international sales of Pakistani agricultural products, including mangoes,” said Consul General Heath. “We want to make Pakistani mangoes as competitive as they can be in international markets,” he said. Pakistan is the fifth largest mango-producing country in the world, but exports less than 8 percent of its production. “Pakistani mango

exports to the U.S. doubled last year, setting a record at 184 metric tons, and there is even more potential in this area,” said Mr. Heath.

USAID, through its Agricultural Market Development (AMD) project, is increasing access to new markets for Pakistani mango farmers, while ensuring better prices through improving compliance with international grading standards and export protocols. USAID supplied top-of-the-line automated mango graders imported from one of the world’s leading manufacturers as well as training farmers how to use them to the best advantage.

USAID launched the U.S.-Pakistan Partnership for Agricultural Market Development in February 2015 to increase production and sales of products, including meat, vegetables, mangoes and citrus. This partnership promotes cooperation among farmers, processors, exporters and buyers of agricultural products from Pakistan.

For more information on USAID programs in Pakistan, please visit the following web site:www.usaid.gov/pakistan/economic-growth-agriculture.

US Consul General hosts baseball Clinic for Karachi youth

Karachi – U.S. Consul General Brian Heath hosted a baseball clinic for English Access students at his residence. Sindh Baseball Association President Mohsin Khan and well-known baseball personalities Amir Saleem, Jawad Ali, Shakeel Ahmed and Nadeem Zaheer attended as did U.S. Consulate Cultural *Attaché* Adam Jagelski.

The baseball players and coaches guided and trained 30 boys on the basic techniques of the game. After the sports clinic, a mini-scrimmage allowed the boys to put the skills they had learned into practice.

“Baseball is, perhaps, the sport most closely associated with America, where it remains popular with people of all ages,” said U.S. Consul General Brian Heath. “Pairing these enthusiastic boys with some of Pakistan’s greatest baseball players and coaches is an opportunity to learn more about the game and each other, while having a lot of fun.” said Mr. Heath.

“Sports can play a very important role in a young person’s life,” said Ms. Lo. “We wanted this to be an occasion to also recognize the major contribution of the volunteers and coaches that serve as such important role models and mentors in their communities,” she said.

U.S. Consulate General Karachi organizes sports diplomacy events to promote friendly relations and increased understanding between Pakistanis and Americans. For more information on U.S. government cultural and educational activities, please visit www.eca.state.gov or visit the Consulate’s web site at <https://pk.usembassy.gov/>

The U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs funds the English Access Microscholarship Program. The Access program in Pakistan is among the world’s largest. Since its

inception in 2004, more than 95,000 students in more than 85 countries have participated. Access provides a foundation of English-language skills to talented 13-18 year-olds from economically disadvantaged areas through after-school classes and intensive enrichment activities. Participants gain skills that may lead to better jobs and educational prospects; they can also compete for and participate in future exchanges and study programs in the United States.

200 Access Students Graduate in Hyderabad

Hyderabad — Some 200 enthusiastic Access students graduated in Hyderabad, yesterday. They are part of a U.S. Department of State-funded English-language program. Attending the ceremony were U.S. Consulate General Karachi Cultural Attaché AJ Jagelski, Consulate Officer Bria Mathews, Society for International Education Executive Director Farah Kamal and General Manager Saleem Ibrahim.

“The United States,” said Mr. Jagelski, is very proud to enable young people throughout Pakistan to develop English skills. “The effort you put in over the last two years to learn English will help you achieve your academic goals and enhance your career prospects, while enabling you to better understand the world around you,” said Mr. Jagelski.

The best part, in Mr. Jagelski’s view, is that “In achieving these things for yourself, you are also contributing to your country. Your hard work means that Pakistan is strengthened as a nation and so is the friendship between our countries. Your community service activities were powerful experiences and truly make a difference.”

Since its inception, more than 95,000 students in more than 85 countries have participated in Access. In the recent past, U.S. Consulate General Karachi has sponsored Access programs in Karachi, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Tharu Shah, Kandiaro and Hyderabad.

The U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs funds the English Access Microscholarship Program. The Access program provides a foundation of English-language skills to talented 13-18 year-olds from economically disadvantaged areas through after-school classes and intensive enrichment activities. Participants gain skills that may lead to better jobs and educational prospects; they can also compete for and participate in future exchanges and study programs in the United States.

For more information on how to participate in Access, please go to the following web site:www.learnpk.org.

USAID and Aga Khan University join hands to fight malnutrition

Karachi – American Ambassador David Hale witnessed the signing of a partnership agreement between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) and Aga Khan University’s Human Development Program. The effort will support nutrition-related activities for children ages 5-9 in CMP schools in seven northern

districts in Sindh and five towns in Karachi.

“Education plays a vital role in improving children’s health and nutrition,” said Ambassador Hale. “No nation can reach its full potential if its people are not healthy and educated,” he said.

As part of the USAID-funded Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) — in partnership with the Sindh Education and Literacy Department — CMP is linking schools and health facilities to fight malnutrition. CMP also screens children and creates awareness among parents regarding the benefits of improved nutrition. Malnutrition affects children’s ability to learn. In Sindh, the situation is most severe in districts affected by the 2010 floods.

USAID also awarded a grant to Aga Khan University to mainstream education for children with special needs and increase enrollment for girls in government and private schools. The effort is part of the “Let Girls Learn” initiative in Pakistan to ensure girls receive the education they deserve, announced by Michelle Obama and Maryam Nawaz Sharif at the White House in October 2015.

U.S. Consul General Brian Heath, Sindh Health Director-General Hassan Murad Shah, Education and Literacy Department Curriculum Wing head Fouzia Khan, Aga Khan University Hospital CEO Hans Kedzierski, and AKU Medical College Dean Farhat Abbas attended.

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

Ambassador Hale inaugurates Flagship Lincoln Corner in Karachi

Karachi — American Ambassador David Hale and Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah inaugurated the Lincoln Corner at Liaquat Memorial Library in Karachi today. The Karachi site will serve as the flagship Lincoln Corner in Pakistan. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of the Sindh Culture and Tourism Department Sharmila Farooqi, Director of Liaquat Memorial Library Bashir Ahmed Abro, U.S. Consul General Karachi Brian Heath, and U.S. Regional Information Resource Officer Marcy Carrel also attended.

“Lincoln Corners are places where Pakistanis can connect with and learn about American culture and values, access information, and enjoy contemporary English-language books,” said Ambassador Hale. “We make these investments because we firmly believe that investing in education strengthens our relationship, builds friendship between our peoples, and fosters stability, prosperity, and opportunity,” he said.

Since 2012, U.S. Consulate General Karachi has worked closely with the Sindh Department of Culture to establish Lincoln Corners throughout Sindh. Lincoln Corners are now operating in Karachi, Hyderabad, Khairpur and Larkana.

Lincoln Corner Karachi offers a children’s corner, meeting room, computer facilities, free wi-fi, a performance area and a collection of books, magazines and DVDs. Liaquat Memorial Library — the

largest in Sindh — is located near several schools and universities, meaning students, teachers, and others will have easy access to the Lincoln Corner's resources and programs.

Lincoln Corners provide access to current and reliable information about America through books, magazines, videos, internet access, databases, and programs for the general public. Currently, there are 18 Lincoln Corners located in and around Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Karachi, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Multan, Khairpur, Larkana, Hyderabad and Skardu.

Pakistani Businesses Attend Major U.S. Healthcare Trade Show to Build Business Opportunities August 5, 2016

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

Islamabad, August 5, 2016 – Eleven Pakistani businesses recently attended the 68th American Association for Clinical Chemistry Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo in Pennsylvania. At the Expo, the delegation learned about the latest healthcare technology and attended sessions on topics ranging from infectious diseases to developments in clinical lab testing. The program provided Pakistani and American businesspeople an opportunity to get acquainted with new market opportunities and explore ways to build business-to-business connections between the two countries.

“An important focus of our work in the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad is building connections between Pakistani and American businesses in order to increase trade between our two countries,” said Cheryl Dukelow, Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

Each year the U.S. Commercial Service recruits and leads 150 to 200 members of Pakistan's business community to trade shows in the United States as part of the International Buyer's Program. This year the Commercial Service has led Pakistani delegations to U.S. trade shows focusing on consumer electronics, poultry and processing equipment, restaurants, construction, natural homeopathic products, smart grid technology, and electricity transmission, distribution, and technology. Upcoming programs will include the International Woodworking Fair, the Farm Progress Show, and Solar Power International. These trade shows are an essential part of the continued U.S. commitment to increase economic growth and stability in Pakistan.

For more information about the USCS and the International Buyer Program, please contact your local Chamber of Commerce, or visit: <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/us-commercial-service-pakistan.html>.

Pakistani Students and Faculty Travel to the United States to Conduct Energy Research August 4, 2016

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

Islamabad, August 4, 2016 – U.S. and Pakistani officials gathered today to recognize 33 Pakistani graduate students and two faculty members who will soon travel to the United States to spend a semester at Arizona State University and Oregon State University. During their exchange program, which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), these individuals will conduct research relating to Pakistan’s most pressing energy challenges.

This academic exchange is associated with USAID’s five-year, \$127 million investment in the U.S.-Pakistan Centers for Advanced Studies Program, which aims to harness applied research to find innovative and practical solutions to Pakistan’s energy, water, agriculture, and food security challenges. As part of this program, approximately 200 Pakistanis will spend a semester at American universities over the next four years. Faculty will have the opportunity to enhance their teaching skills and to learn how to build successful partnerships between academia and the corporate sector, while students will focus on research and industry awareness.

“Over time, USAID expects each Center for Advanced Studies will form public-private partnerships and networks to bring together the best minds in academia, government, and the business community and drive innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth,” said USAID Deputy Mission Director James Peters. “The centers will also set new standards for supporting the success of women and disadvantaged youth in the engineering profession.”

Under the umbrella of the Higher Education Commission, the U.S.-Pakistan Centers for Advanced Studies in Energy at the National University of Sciences and Technology and at the University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar are expected to become Pakistan’s premier sustainable energy research centers. American and Pakistani officials have also collaborated to establish a Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in partnership with the University of California-Davis, and a Center for Advanced Studies in Water at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro in partnership with the University of Utah.

For more information about USAID’s work in Pakistan, please visit <http://usaid.gov/pakistan>.

U.S. Embassy’s E-Teacher Program to Expand

Contact: U.S. Embassy

For Immediate Release Public Affairs Section

051-201-5427, 051-201-4423, Islamabad, July 26, 2016 –

Twenty-eight E-Teacher Program alumni from across Pakistan gathered in Islamabad for focus group discussions on expanding the U.S. Embassy’s E-Teacher Program for teachers of the English language. They also received training to promote and use Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in Pakistan focusing on English language skills.

“We are planning to double the size of our E-Teacher Program from 38 teachers in 2016 to more than 75 in 2017, so this workshop has offered a valuable opportunity to receive feedback from our previous program participants,” said Regional English Language Officer Jen MacArthur. “I was pleased to hear about our alumni’s successes in teaching English from primary schools to universities all across Pakistan, and I look forward to seeing them use new tools like MOOCs to reach even more students.”

Muhammad Rashid, Assistant Professor of English at the Islamabad Model College for Boys, commented, “The E-Teacher workshop provided us the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with other Pakistani E-Teacher alumni and to learn from each other’s experiences. This will help us to plan future collaboration for our professional development.”

Since 2006, the U.S. Embassy has provided full scholarships through the E-Teacher Program for hundreds of Pakistani teachers to complete eight-week graduate-level English-language teaching courses online through U.S. universities. For more information about the E-Teacher Program, visit <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/AE-E-Teacher-Program>. For more information about other English language programs supported by the U.S. Department of State, visit AmericanEnglish.state.gov.

Ambassador Hale pays respects to family of Abdul Sattar Edhi 25 July, 2016

American Ambassador David Hale paid his respects to the family of Abdul Sattar Edhi, praising the late humanitarian for his philanthropy and “compassion for humanity.” He said Edhi “promoted human rights through his tireless work assisting the needy, regardless of ethnicity or religion, and his philanthropic work reached many communities across the globe, including in America.” “Edhi was an inspiration beyond Pakistan.” said Ambassador Hale. “His legacy is his generosity, his humility, and his humanity. His loss will be felt throughout the world and we join the people of Pakistan and the Edhi family in mourning the passing of this great man.”

Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network Looks to the Future of Education at International Conference 23 July, 2016

The Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) launched a three-day international conference on “Mapping Education in the 21st Century” at the Serena Hotel today. Over 200 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs from across Pakistan and South Asia gathered in Islamabad for the event, which was jointly sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and PUAN. Former Higher Education Commission Chairperson and University of Karachi Professor Emeritus Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman was joined by current HEC Chairperson Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed at the conference’s opening ceremony to kick off a program of interactive workshops, panel sessions, keynote speeches, and community outreach events. The conference brought together education professionals from a range of fields including teachers, administrators, policy makers, community activists, and

development workers to share knowledge and experience that will allow them to better serve their communities.

American Ambassador David Hale addressed the conference participants, “As educators, you play a particularly crucial role in preparing young Pakistanis to tackle future challenges. Whether you are a teacher, an administrator, a legislator, an activist, or a development worker, your work is critical to improving Pakistan’s education sector. Thank you for your commitment and your service.” He also highlighted President Obama and Prime Minister Sharif’s commitment to expand education cooperation through the U.S.-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor established in 2015, which will foster research, innovation, and educational exchange between our countries. He praised the Government of Pakistan for its commitment of \$25 million to fund up to 125 PhDs through the Fulbright program. The United States invests approximately \$40 million annually in exchange programs for Pakistani citizens and sends more than 1,300 Pakistanis to the United States each year to participate in academic and professional exchange programs. PUAN is an alumni network of students and professionals who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. With more than 19,000 alumni across Pakistan, PUAN is one of the largest alumni networks in the world.

PUAN regularly organizes events across Pakistan, including service projects, leadership training, roundtable discussions, and community engagement activities. To find out more about PUAN and the conference, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pakalumni>.

USAID Helping Pakistan Solve Water Issues 19 July, 2016

Jamshoro – U.S. Consul General Brian Heath congratulated 20 Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) students and faculty who are part of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded U.S. Pakistan Centers for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W). The delegates are heading to the University of Utah to do research as part of the organization’s exchange program. “We are proud to empower scientists and researchers in Pakistan so they can contribute to solving the country’s water scarcity problems,” said Consul General Heath.

MUET Vice Chancellor Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, USPCAS-W Program Director Bakshal Lashari, University of Utah Chief of Party Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry and USAID Deputy Director Craig Buck also attended.

USAID signed a \$14.8 million (1.55 billion rupees) cooperative agreement with MUET as well as \$9 million (943 million rupees) one with the University of Utah to establish a Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (CAS-W) at MUET. The program aims to help resolve Pakistan’s water crisis in cost-effective and sustainable ways. As part of the program, the University of Utah is providing technical assistance to improve MUET’s technical and institutional capacities to deliver high-quality education and applied research to Pakistan’s next generation of water sustainability leaders.

Over the next three years, some 250 USPCAS-W graduate students and faculty will spend a semester at universities in the United States to do water research in state-of-the-art laboratories. The exchanges will help upgrade teaching skills, enhance industry awareness and build corporate relationships. The partnership also encompasses curriculum development, research and establishment of new laboratories in Pakistan. USPCAS-W is part of USAID's \$127 million (13.3 billion rupees) investment to develop innovative, practical solutions to Pakistan's energy, water, agriculture, and food security challenges.

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

U.S. Embassy English Language Program Alumni Develop Leadership Skills

19 July, 2016

Seventy-five alumni of the U.S. Embassy's English Access Microscholarship Program gathered in Islamabad July 16-17 for Pakistan Access Alumni Reconnect, a two-day conference focused on building skills to enable participants to successfully lead community development initiatives and to promote the study of the English language in their communities across Pakistan.

"These English-language teachers and students have already demonstrated impressive leadership skills and a passion for their communities," U.S. Embassy Regional English Language Officer Jen MacArthur said. "Each of them has the potential to make a lasting, positive impact on communities across Pakistan, and I look forward to seeing what they achieve in the coming years."

The conference participants, who hailed from all across Pakistan, gained new technical and problem-solving skills relating to community development, engaged in team-building activities, and completed a community service project at Daman-e-Koh garden.

"I am excited to connect with old peers again and conduct alumni activities to benefit our communities," said Shan Elahi, who participated in the Access Program from 2014 to 2016 in Kasur. Nearly 3,000 students across Pakistan currently participate in the U.S. Embassy's English Access Microscholarship Program. Since the program's launch in Pakistan in 2004, more than 11,000 talented 13- to 20-year-olds from all over Pakistan have received after-school English language classes and other intensive training through the program. Participants gain the ability to compete for and participate in future exchanges and study in the United States. More information about the U.S. Department of State's Office of English Language Programs can be found at AmericanEnglish.state.gov.

American Ambassador Congratulates 171 Pakistani Students for Participating in Year-Long Academic Exchange

17 July, 2016



American Ambassador David Hale awarded certificates of completion yesterday to 66 students from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and northern Pakistan who recently returned from a yearlong academic exchange in the United States. Ambassador Hale also met with 105 Pakistani secondary school students who will spend the 2016-2017 academic year in the United States.

“I have seen firsthand how exchanges can generate new ideas, challenge old stereotypes, build mutual understanding, and spark new friendships,” Ambassador Hale said. “Together, the American and Pakistani governments are committed to expanding our educational cooperation, fortifying Pakistan’s education system, and building connections between people.”

The 171 students from all across Pakistan earned the opportunity to participate in the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program on the basis of written applications, English proficiency tests, and interviews. The YES Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, gives secondary-school students from 37 countries the opportunity to study at American high schools and live with American host families for one academic year. In addition to attending academic classes, participants also engage in extracurricular activities such as community service projects and youth leadership training. Participants also act as cultural ambassadors, helping Americans gain a better understanding of other countries and cultures.

The International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) Pakistan selects YES program participants in coordination with the American Embassy. For more information about the YES program, please visit www.earnpk.org. The YES program is one of a wide range of exchange programs supported by the American Embassy in Islamabad; every year, more than 1,300 Pakistanis travel to America on academic and professional exchange programs. For more information about American educational and cultural exchanges, please visit <http://www.eca.state.gov>.

Statement of American Ambassador David Hale on the Passing of Abdul Sattar Edhi 11 July, 2016

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Abdul Sattar Edhi. His compassion for humanity was reflected in every aspect of his life's work. He came from humble beginnings and saw great suffering around him in his youth, and used those lessons to help others.

In the course of more than sixty years of philanthropy, he shaped charitable giving in Pakistan. With his wife Bilquis Edhi, he created the Edhi Foundation, which has provided humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of people in need, both in Pakistan and abroad. Whether creating the world's largest ambulance service, providing free and low cost medical care, training nurses, or building rehabilitation and welfare centers throughout the country, Edhi's life work was devoted to providing assistance and care anywhere there was a need. In the United States, his Foundation gave \$100,000 for relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina. His legacy is his generosity, his humility, and his humanity.

His loss will be felt throughout the world. We join the people of Pakistan and the Edhi family in mourning the passing of this great man.

Building a Stronger Future for Pakistan and America by Ambassador David Hale 4 July, 2016

As America celebrates its Independence Day, we at the American Embassy and Consulates are pausing to reflect on the shared values of our two countries. The people of Pakistan and the United States share a fundamental desire for peace and prosperity. Working together since Pakistan's own independence, our two countries have achieved great successes in fields ranging from energy to education to security, and have built the foundation for our long-term partnership.

Over the decades, the United States and Pakistan have become strong economic partners, with two-way annual trade of over \$5 billion. Last October in Washington, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Barack Obama highlighted this economic partnership, announcing a Joint Action Plan on Trade and Investment and a U.S.-Pakistan Clean Energy Partnership. On June 2-3 in New York City, the United States hosted the fourth annual U.S.-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference, bringing together over 250 industry representatives, investors, and government leaders from our two nations. We also recently launched the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative, a partnership between the U.S. Government and Pakistan to invest over \$150 million in small- and medium-sized enterprises in Pakistan. Moreover, I have made it a priority for the Embassy to support entrepreneurial efforts of Pakistanis, particularly among women and youth.

In both Pakistan and the United States, there is a recognition of the critical importance of a stable energy supply to power economic growth. That's why energy is a centerpiece of our civilian assistance program in Pakistan. American and Pakistani cooperation has added enough power to the national grid to benefit 28 million Pakistanis. We also are focused on attracting private sector

investment to develop Pakistan's rich, renewable solar, wind, geothermal, and water resources for sustainable energy. Together, we can build Pakistan's energy capacity not just for today, but for the future.

Whether in the United States or Pakistan, a successful economy and society also require the participation of engaged and educated citizens. As the first American President, George Washington, once said, "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness." From primary school to post-graduate research, our nations are collaborating to develop the knowledge and skills of Pakistani youth. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Pakistan Reading Program aims to improve the reading ability of over one million children. The Fulbright Program has made it possible for thousands of students from Pakistan to pursue advanced degrees in the United States. Our two nations also are partnering through the Let Girls Learn-Pakistan initiative to support girls' access to education throughout Pakistan.

Security and counterterrorism efforts are another key element of our partnership to build a prosperous and peaceful future. Pakistan has suffered greatly at the hands of terrorists and violent extremists, and America stands in solidarity with the people of Pakistan and all who fight the menace of terrorism. To support Pakistan's efforts, America provides financing for military equipment and infrastructure, strengthening the Pakistan military's combat and operational capabilities. Pakistan is in fact the largest recipient worldwide of International Military Education and Training funds, which invest in the professional and human resource development of Pakistan's military and is among the top five recipients worldwide of American Foreign Military Financing. Beyond military support, America has been a longstanding partner with Pakistan's law enforcement professionals, providing millions of dollars annually since 1982 to strengthen Pakistan's law enforcement and criminal justice systems and its capacity to fight illicit narcotics.

In each of these fields, and many others, the length and breadth of our cooperation has seen us through challenges, and I look forward to seeing our cooperation flourish as our enduring partnership grows. Through our joint efforts, we can build a stronger future for both Pakistan and America.

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

Dedicated to



Daniel Pearl

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