

Bridge-US

Message from the Chief Editor



Bridge-US is nonpartisan and an effort to share and publish the 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.

Please let us know about problems faced by your neighbourhood and little clues of solution. We would take your message to the organisations working day and night for better delivery of services in Pakistan. If you are a donor or NGO, let us know about how your efforts have made a visible change in people's life.

Bridge-US is published by Bridge Communications and Research -BCR, working to promote Diversity, Policy, Awareness & Human Rights.

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United States and Pakistan Announce Funds for Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation

U.S. Charge d' Affaires Ambassador Richard Hoagland announced \$4 million in new grants for Pakistani and American researchers to collaborate on projects in science and technology. Together with Executive Director Sohail Naqvi of the Higher Education Commission and Secretary Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ambassador Hoagland praised the successes of over 70 joint projects funded over the previous four phases, and encouraged Pakistani scientists and researchers to apply for the Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation funds before the November 30, 2012 deadline, with on goal in mind: improving life for Pakistani people throughout the country.

"The U.S.-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Program is one of the highlights of the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship. This opportunity will not only support joint U.S.-Pakistan research across a wide range of topics, but will also help bring the fruits of research into the hands of the private sector, increasing technology transfer opportunities and supporting broad-based economic growth in Pakistan," Ambassador Hoagland stated. During the event, a select cadre of scientists shared their innovative work with the U.S. Embassy guests. Ambassador Hoagland was

impressed to see the impact of a telemedicine project at Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi that brings doctors to remote areas of Pakistan through the use of teleconference technology. Speaking to scientists working on a solar energy project housed at COMSATS Institute of Information and a sewage treatment project at Quaid-e-Azam University, the Ambassador praised these projects for improving access to energy and clean water for residents of the community.

Please visit <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/dsc/pakistan/index.htm> for more details on the cooperation program and how to apply for funding. The program welcomes proposals across a wide range of topics, including but not limited to education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture, democracy and governance, environment, energy, social sciences, and economic development. Proposals focused on technology transfer, entrepreneurship, innovation, and commercialization will be given special consideration.

U.S. Government Trains Pakistan's Police to Save Lives

Police officers are saving lives across Pakistan thanks to the skills and knowledge acquired in a U.S. Government-sponsored training program on first aid. This program teaches working-level police officers and constables the life-saving techniques they need to successfully treat victims of traumatic events.

At a graduation ceremony for the most recent group of first aid trainees, held at the National Police Academy in Islamabad, one student became emotional when he told the audience how, after just a day and a half of training, he was able to use what he learned in the course to save the life of a motorcycle rider who was in a severe accident.

"It is stories like this, where police officers apply the techniques learned in this classroom to save the lives of their fellow citizens, that make our training programs so valuable," said Richard Sacks, Director of the U.S. Government's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) Office which funds police training programs for Pakistan out of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of U.S. Government training programs on a range of topics for Pakistan's Police Force. We are proud to say that we have now trained more than 16,000 police officers in this country over the past decade."

INL promotes reform and capacity building for Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. It has trained police officers from KP, Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab provinces, the Islamabad Capital Territory, FATA Levies, and other civilian law enforcement entities in areas such as leadership, criminal investigations, human rights, civil disturbance management, and police command and control.

INL also donates equipment and builds infrastructure to improve policing in Pakistan. It has provided 11 armored personnel carriers, more than 3,000 protective vests, hundreds of mobile and handheld radios, 100 motorcycles, and a water tanker to police forces in KP and FATA.

Message for Bridge-US



“Bridge-US is a great source and information about U.S. efforts to help people of Pakistan. This was needed to bring people together. It's also carrying tremendous information for the NGO's working in Pakistan and trying to reach donors”.

Jaffar Memon

Jaffar Memon is an undisputed advocate to promote interfaith dialogues and diversity in Sindh. He is also one of the nominees of Bridge Communications and Research - BCR's Diversity Award FY 2012. Jaffar is the Ex-president of Hyderabad Press Club and Chairman of Wejournalists.

United States Helps CDA Save Electricity, Improve Water Supply in Islamabad

USAID will fund replacement of 187 CDA water pumps with more efficient models, to save approximately two megawatts of electricity and improve water supply

The United States government has joined the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to replace nearly 200 outdated electrical pumps in order to improve water supply for Islamabad, reduce energy consumption, and decrease electricity bills for CDA. This initiative was launched by Jonathan M. Conly, Country Director for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and CDA Chairman Farkhand Iqbal at the Fatima Jinnah Park, where the first pump was replaced in front of the media and government officials.

USAID Country Director Jonathan M. Conly said, "I would like to thank CDA for being a pioneer in promoting energy efficiency in the public sector. We hope that this initiative will inspire other municipalities across the country to join

our efforts, in partnership with distribution companies and the Ministry of Water and Power, and reduce the energy consumption through more energy-efficient technologies, which shrinks the gap between the energy demand and supply.

CDA has 187 tubewell pumps throughout Islamabad, only 132 of which work. These pumps operate with less than 30 percent efficiency, resulting in increasingly large electricity bills for CDA. In addition, these pumps fail to provide adequate water for Islamabad residents. Many residential areas have no potable water for weeks at a time. The replacement of the CDA pumps will save approximately two megawatts of electricity. This amount is sufficient to power to 4,500 households. The new pumps will also ensure improved water supply for the city and reduce electricity bills for CDA.

The replacement of municipal water pumps is a new USAID energy efficiency

initiative that builds on USAID energy efficiency efforts in the agriculture sector.

Over the past two years, USAID, in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Power, has helped more than 2,600 farmers replace their pumps, saving more than 18 megawatts for the national grid and significantly reducing farmers' electricity bills. To ensure that farmers are getting energy-efficient pumps, USAID certified several local tubewell pump producers for compliance with the international energy efficiency standard ISO 9906.

This energy efficiency effort is yet another example of the U.S. government's long-term commitment to support Pakistan's energy sector priorities. U.S. assistance focuses on supporting the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to increase the availability of energy and promote reforms to help the power sector function more efficiently.

U.S. Applauds Role Women Play in Promoting Pakistan's Interfaith Harmony

Dr. Marilyn Wyatt, wife of the former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, participated in a women's interfaith dialogue at a local shrine. Participants included over 40 women religious leaders from various faiths, as well as teachers, and civil society activists. Dr. Amineh Ahmed Hoti, an anthropologist, author, and noted women's

rights activist, moderated the dialogue. During the dialogue, the participants discussed the role of faith in daily life, the importance of interfaith cooperation, and the important role women play in promoting religious tolerance and interfaith harmony.

Dr. Wyatt noted that women especially understood the importance of tolerance,

dialogue, and service to humanity. Here in Pakistan, where there is such a diversity of peoples and faiths, you have long experience in promoting religious tolerance and fighting those negative forces that want to judge and punish faiths that are different from their own," Dr. Wyatt said. "It is precisely this that I hope to learn

from you today: how faith in action can be a force for the good, and how we as women -- as daughters and mothers, as professionals and civil society leaders -- have a special role to play in ensuring that our communities, and our children, are dedicated to respecting each other's faith."

First of Eight Partnerships between American and Pakistani Universities Initiated

The first of eight University Partnerships between American and Pakistani Universities was initiated at Fatima Jinnah Women's University (FJWU). The partnership between Fatima Jinnah Women's University and the University of Texas at Austin will concentrate on the professional development of FJWU faculty members, who will travel to Austin to work directly with their American counterparts.

In her remarks, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Kathryn Schalow underscored the U.S. Embassy's focus on initiatives aimed to improve the quality of education in Pakistan at all levels. "Our goal is to unlock Pakistan's extraordinary potential," said Schalow, who also noted the significance of beginning the first partnership agreement with a top-tier women's university. She

praised FJWU's history of providing a quality education to the women of Pakistan, and quoted Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who said, "No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men."

U.S. Embassy Islamabad will invest \$8.5 million in eight university partnerships over the next three years. Each partnership includes a faculty exchange and research component, and will be tailored to the needs of the specific programs and universities involved. The partnerships will focus on a range of liberal arts subjects, including: American Studies, Business Administration and Management Sciences, Mass Communications and Media Studies, Psychology, Social Anthropology, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Underprivileged KP Students Celebrate Graduation from U.S. English Language Scholarship program

Peshawar, May 21, 2012 -former U.S. Consul General Dr. Marie Richards congratulated 125 underprivileged students from the tribal areas for successfully completing a U.S.-sponsored English language scholarship program at IM Sciences University today. The scholarship program provided two years of intensive, after-school instruction and summer learning activities to the group of all-female students.

"It's inspiring to see the progress these girls have made, not only in their language skills, but in their level of confidence and their future

aspirations," remarked Dr. Richards on the occasion.

Program Coordinator Zainab Azmat noted "One could summarize the success of the program by quoting a student who said that before she had no hope of anything good happening in her life, but after being part of Access now she dreams of a successful life and venturing on new paths."

The U.S. government supports five English language scholarship programs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa benefitting 500 students in the region.

Young Citizen Journalists Conclude Training

The first-ever Youth TechCamp in Pakistan concluded after three days of hands-on, interactive training in civic journalism and social activism. "I am really excited about Youth TechCamp because I believe I can help my community and my country as a whole through social media and citizen journalism," said a young boy named Ali from Quetta, beaming with excitement. Iqra from Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa agreed: "As I belong to a small city where the resources to learn about technology are rare, this TechCamp is helping me to learn what I had always wanted to, but never had the chance before."

A signature series hosted by the U.S. Department of State to increase digital literacy, Youth TechCamp Pakistan provided 40 young Pakistanis with three days of training with top Pakistani technology experts who are experts in civic journalism and social activism. The young participants are alumni of the U.S.-sponsored Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, through which Pakistani high school students spend one academic year living and studying in the United States. Ambassador Richard Hoagland, Charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, visited the Youth TechCamp Pakistan to meet the students and hear about their expectations for the Camp. "Youth TechCamp Pakistan encourages young people - yourselves - to leverage connection technologies to make a positive impact in your communities and around the world," said Ambassador Hoagland. "These sessions will give you the tools you need to be citizen journalists and give a voice to your generation -- be brave and use these skills," he said. Youth TechCamp is sponsored in collaboration with iEARN, and is a signature part of Secretary Hillary Clinton's 21st Century Statecraft policy which seeks, among other things, to build the technical capacity of civil society worldwide. Youth TechCamp Pakistan is the third such TechCamp ever held in the world, after similar events in Washington, DC and Bangladesh.

U.S. supports good corporate citizenship in Pakistan

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Richard Hoagland visited Teradata Pakistan, to highlight Global Economic Statecraft Day. Teradata is the world's leading analytic data solutions company.

Organized by the U.S. Department of State, Global Economic Statecraft Day recognizes that a sustainable future rests on a foundation of economic prosperity and international cooperation.

During his visit, Ambassador Hoagland recognized Teradata presence at the forefront of the information technology industry in Pakistan. He highlighted Teradata's commitment to corporate citizenship, gender balance and geographic

diversity in its employment practices, and development of the next generation through its university and apprenticeship program.

"A sustainable future for Pakistan requires a flourishing private sector," said Ambassador Hoagland. "The U.S. Embassy applauds Teradata's exemplary demonstration of corporate citizenship and social responsibility through its consistent contribution to the development of Pakistan and its citizens. We continue to encourage more U.S. companies to consider Pakistan as a site for future investments and development."

U.S. and Pakistan Convene Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism Working Group

Ambassador William Brownfield, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and Pakistani Minister of Interior Rehman Malik co-hosted the latest round of the U.S. - Pakistan Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism Working Group in Washington, DC on October 5. The working group discussed means to disrupt the illicit networks that supply the components and financing for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The U.S. and Pakistani delegations emphasized the importance of taking action against the threat posed by IEDs to their respective civilian, law enforcement, and military personnel. The U.S. delegation reiterated the danger these devices pose to Pakistan as well as Afghan, U.S., and coalition forces working to establish stability and security in Afghanistan. The U.S.

delegation noted the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to combat IEDs. Both sides recommitted to pursuing practical solutions for improving joint efforts to combat IEDs and work with the Government of Afghanistan to improve security along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The U.S. and Pakistani delegations each agreed to take specific steps to: strengthen coordination and communication; improve enforcement of existing laws on the transport and storage of IED precursors; increase public awareness of the threat posed by IED networks and facilitators; disrupt financial flows that support these networks; and improve interdiction efforts. The U.S. delegation included senior representatives from the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Treasury Department.

United States Connects Pakistani Young Entrepreneurs to U.S. Mentors

The United States partnered with forty Pakistani universities to connect thousands of Pakistani entrepreneurs with leading American entrepreneurs and investors through video technology to exchange experiences and discuss business trends. Prominent university business incubation centers around Pakistan hosted the event, along with Pakistani entrepreneurship associations and the MIT Enterprise Forum-Pakistan. American entrepreneur Jeff Hoffman and Pakistani-American venture capitalist Faysal Sohail shared their advice on how to turn an idea into a thriving business with the next generation of Pakistani entrepreneurs.

At the event, U.S. Embassy Economic officer Brandon Possin said "This video conference is the latest example of U.S. efforts to increase the links between Pakistani

entrepreneurs, the Pakistani-American Diaspora community, and American entrepreneurs and businesspeople. Connections like these are important because entrepreneurs unlock growth." In November, the United States will organize events throughout the month aimed at building the skills of young entrepreneurs across the country.

These efforts are just some of the tangible ways in which the United States is working to expand economic engagement with Pakistan. Recognizing both countries' desire for "trade, not just aid," the goal of these activities is to build a relationship based less on interactions between two governments and more on the ingenuity of American and Pakistani businesses and entrepreneurs.

U.S. Promotes Efficient Water Management in Pakistan

Nine Government officials from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan provinces on a ten-day study tour to the United States sponsored by the U.S. government to learn about irrigation water management practices. The study tour is being organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support Pakistan's provinces establish efficient water management policies, design high efficiency irrigation systems, and enhance agricultural productivity and marketing linkages. "Pakistan is facing an extreme water crisis that hinders food production and economic growth. This initiative is designed to boost Pakistan's economy by introducing international best practices in the water management in the agriculture sector," said USAID Acting

Deputy Country Director, Jeff Bakken. "This initiative is just one small part of the U.S.'s commitment to supporting Pakistan's agricultural sector."

The study tour will be hosted by the Colorado State University (CSU), a University internationally renowned for its research and educational programs related to water management solutions, farm water management, efficient irrigation systems, and water policy reforms. Participants will visit an irrigation project, a land cooperative, packing sheds, agri-businesses, and farms where they will learn various aspect of water management in the agricultural sector.

U.S. Supports the Reconstruction of the Peshawar-Torkham Highway

The United States through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide up to \$70 million to support the reconstruction of the Peshawar-Torkham Highway. The project will be managed by the FATA Secretariat and monitored by the National Highway Authority (NHA).

"For centuries, the Peshawar to Torkham route has served as the most famous trade path between Pakistan and Afghanistan," said USAID Mission Director Jock Conly. "Reconstruction of the highway will not only boost the trade between these countries but also improve their economies by serving as the trade-gateway to the Central Asian states."

The 46 km Peshawar-Torkham road is part of Pakistan's N-5 highway (identified by the NHA as Grand Trunk [G.T.] Road). It was originally built by Emperor Sher Shah of Sur in the 16th century and

remains the shortest route to Afghanistan and the Central Asian states.

The current road's outdated design has sustained substantial wear. The new design will feature improved specifications that will widen the roadbed, straighten out sharp turns, and reduce steep gradients. The plans also include rebuilding bridges and culverts to make it an all-weather road.

This road complements a network of roads that the U.S. government has supported the Government of Pakistan to rebuild. Since October 2009, the United States has helped build over 226 km of roads in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the recently inaugurated Tank-Makin and Kaur-Wana roads in South Waziristan. The Peshawar-Torkham Highway and other ongoing U.S.-funded road projects will add over 400 km of additional roads in the coming years.

U.S. Embassy Sponsors Pakistani Teacher Training

The U.S. Embassy hosted an orientation for 40 Pakistani public school English teachers, half of them women, at a local hotel. The teachers will travel to the United States for six weeks of intensive training as part of the U.S. government-funded Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program. The teachers were selected from hundreds of Pakistani public secondary school teacher applicants. The TEA program provides educators a unique opportunity to develop subject expertise and enhance their teaching skills. Participants will engage in group training seminars and internships at U.S. secondary schools. The U.S. Department of State pays for all travel, living stipends, health insurance, and tuition for the entire period of study.

U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer, Brent Beemer, encouraged the teachers to take advantage of the opportunity granted them and to return to Pakistan prepared for a challenge: "to teach your students to write and speak excellent English, nothing less." Beemer told the teachers that the TEA program is part of the U.S. government's commitment to education in Pakistan, and in particular the enhancement and encouragement of its teachers. "With 70 percent of its population under age 30, the future of Pakistan, and its role in the world, is dependent on the success of its children in school right now. The job of educating

that generation relies on teachers like you, and what an opportunity. Imagine tens of millions of educated, multi-lingual young Pakistani men and women serving as soldiers, politicians, diplomats, engineers, lawyers, doctors, scientists, businessmen, and teachers: what a great nation and a great world they-through you- will build."

For more information on educational opportunities to study in the United States, students and parents can contact the United States Educational Foundation of Pakistan (USEFP) at <http://www.usefpakistan.org/>. USEFP, a bi-national commission established in 1950 by the governments of Pakistan and the United States, is one of 51 'Fulbright Commissions' located throughout the world. Since its inception more than 61 years ago, nearly 4,000 Pakistanis and more than 800 Americans have participated in USEFP-administered exchange programs. In addition to the Fulbright program, USEFP administers a number of scholarship programs for undergraduates, teachers, journalists, and other professionals. In addition, USEFP offices in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi assist students interested in applying to study in the United States by offering free advising services. USEFP also runs testing centers in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi administering the TOEFL, SAT, GRE, and other standardized examinations.

UNITED STATES SUPPORTS EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Gilgit, July 10, 2012 - Ongoing U.S. support for education and job creation in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was the theme of a three-day visit to the region by United States Agency for International Development Deputy Director Karen Freeman that concluded today. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has invested approximately \$1.2 million over the last two years in local civil society organizations and community groups in the GB region through the U.S. government's Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund Programs. The projects support existing community initiatives to restore flood damaged schools, build new dormitories to improve student's access to secondary education, improve the community library, stimulate jobs, and improve agricultural production through irrigation.

Freeman met with women bee keepers of GB who are beneficiaries of a joint USAID-Hashoo Foundation project called "Plan Bee." The project provides training and materials to women bee-keepers, and helps them find lucrative markets for their products. "The American people believe in entrepreneurship. This project not only improves incomes for 450 women, but it also has a ripple effect as women invest their income in their families, particularly the children's education, which helps the wider community and the future of Pakistan. We are proud to partner with the Hashoo Foundation, which plays such a vital role in giving back to the community

and serves as a model for others in philanthropy," said Freeman.

During her visit, Freeman also visited two education projects, one in Gulmit and another in Gilgit Village Singal. In Gulmit, Freeman visited with students, parents, and teachers who are benefitting from the construction of a hostel for female students in a disaster-hit area of Hunza. At least 40 female students will stay in the hostel every year. Freeman toured the school and met with students, where she emphasized that the United States government is committed to not only helping communities rebuild after disasters like the 2010 floods, but also to improving access to quality education and teachers.

"Through USAID's Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund Programs we work together to identify projects that will not only directly benefit the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, but will also be developed, led, and implanted by the communities. We see these funds as a way to recognize and empower local heroes.

We are proud to stand with you as you lead the way to a brighter future for Pakistan," said Freeman. The United States Government's Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund Program in Pakistan supports civil society organizations by providing grants for social and economic development at the grass roots level. The Ambassador's Fund and Small Grants programs will provide \$45 million over a period of five years all across Pakistan.

U.S. helps Pakistani agri products compete in international markets

USAID-sponsored training in international food standards to boost Pakistani exports-Fifteen public and private sector food safety experts from across Pakistan completed, a U.S.-sponsored training program on international standards for Good Auditing Practices and Legal Requirements in the agriculture sector. The three-day training was organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to help Pakistani products compete in international markets by introducing international food standards for agricultural products. Despite the increasing growth of the fruit and vegetable exports over the recent years, Pakistan's share in the global trade of fresh and processed food items is still very low. To increase the ability of the Pakistani agricultural goods to compete in the international markets, USAID is working with Pakistan's agricultural sector to introduce modern agricultural practices and international export certifications, such as Global GAP, International Featured Standards

(IFS), and others. Training on Good Auditing Practices and Legal Requirements is one such effort.

"The phenomenal increase in global trade has created many new market opportunities for agricultural producers and processors worldwide," said Dr. William Patterson, Director of the Economic Growth and Agriculture Office at USAID, addressing the training participants. "USAID is committed to helping Pakistan's agriculture sector capitalize on these new market opportunities for the better future of all the people of this country."

The training was organized by USAID's Agribusiness Project. This project works to improve the competitiveness of horticulture and livestock value chains in Pakistan. The project is helping to increase the awareness about supply and market chains and about the market requirements for product quality, continuity of supply, and other best practices.