

PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Education Applauds Training of Pakistani Teachers at the Plymouth State University USA & Seeks an Active Database of Trained Teachers Across the Country

Mr. Shahid Ahmed, Additional Secretary Ministry of Education lauded the efforts of the US Government, Plymouth State University and Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) for providing training to Pakistani teachers, pre-dominantly from the public sector. He suggested that a debriefing is essential upon return of the 20 secondary level teachers from USA in August 2009, as is a third party evaluation of the 120 total educators who have received training in USA since 2004.

Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi hosted its sixth pre-departure orientation ceremony in Islamabad on Friday, July 3, 2009 as a send-off for a group of 20 educators leaving for the US. They will participate in the Pakistani Educational Leadership Institute (PELI), at the Plymouth State University (PSU) from the 4th July to 4th August 2009. This is the 6th batch of educators going for PELI. PSU has trained 100 Pakistani educators so far in five summer workshops.

Each PELI is a well crafted Summer Institute to match the needs of education in Pakistan, on themes such as conflict, environment, culture, heritage and leadership woven across the subjects of science, maths and English. PSU mobilizes the resources of its College of Graduate Studies and taps into innovative and best practices in environmental education, interdisciplinary curriculum and science education. The Program trains participants to apply the content to their own unique Pakistani context in creative ways with a 6-8 week in-country implementation of master action plans.

This Program is funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, a national NGO is the Pakistani technical partner organization with the Plymouth State University in the US. According to data collected by the ITA, the 100 PELI alums have acted as master trainers and trained a total of 125,000 educators to date.

The participants have been selected on merit basis from all over Pakistan. It is a diverse group of men and women from Lasbella & Gwadar in Baluchistan, from FATA, NWFP, Bagh AJK, Chiniot, D. G Khan and other cities of Pakistan including but not limited to Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore

In the morning session of pre-departure orientation ceremony the 20 selected participants were given important pre-departure information to equip them with necessary skills so that they may benefit from this opportunity to the fullest.

The closing session in the afternoon was attended by Ms. Constance Jones, United States Cultural Attache to Pakistan, Mr Shahid Ahmed, Additional Secretary Education, Pervez Iqbal, Joint Educational Advisor and Dr. Haroona Jatoti, Director Academy of Educational Planning and Management and the PELI-PSU Alumni from the previous years. The alumni shared their experience of being at the institute and the participants of 2009 shared their expectations of the program, hoping that the program

will help them build their competencies, enable them to appreciate each other's culture and create opportunities for professional networking across Pakistan & USA.

Baela Raza Jamil, Chairperson ITA, spoke on the occasion about the potential of the participants to act as ambassadors of Pakistan to build bridges with the international community by interacting with the American people with openness and dynamism.

Ms. Constance Jones, United States Cultural Affairs Officer to Pakistan and Mr Shahid Ahmed, Additional Secretary Education distributed the tickets and training kits among the participants. They appreciated the efforts of ITA and suggested that the alumni should work as a strong force of educators all around the country for quality education.

