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UNESCO's Regional Director visited Peshawar Museum, distributed equipment and certificates among RAHA Community in Peshawar.

“Youth makes 18% of the world population, involvement of youth in skills training programmes can contribute largely towards the socio economic development of the country.” Dr. Gwang – Jo Kim

Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim, Director, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, on his one-day visit to Peshawar expressed his views on the importance of skill development programmes for youth from Refugee Affected Hosted Area (RAHA) Communities.

Dr. Kim visited Peshawar to express UNESCO's support for ongoing vocational skills development programme for youths from Refugee Affected Hosting Areas (RAHA II). He was also accompanied by Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Country Director/Representative, UNESCO Islamabad.

Dr. Kim distributed certificates among the group taking part in this programme. He emphasized on the need for Education for All, referring to the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in 2000, wherein 164 countries committed themselves to the goal of providing quality basic education for all by 2015, with special emphasis on the learning needs of children with disabilities. He regretted that we were nowhere close to achieving this target. He elaborated that situation in respect of children with disabilities was even worst, around 95 % children with disabilities in developing countries are not attending school.

He also appreciated the achievement of the young men, women and persons with disabilities, who had actively taken part and had benefitted from the training programme. He congratulated the youths for successfully completing the skills training courses, which aimed at helping them to find better livelihood opportunities to support themselves and their families. UNESCO with its implementing partner Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP), organized series of workshops and trained 125 male in Mobile Repairing, Welding, Plumbing, Computer Hardware and Electrician and 75 girls trained in Tailoring, Adda Work and Beautician in Peshawar and neighboring areas.

The event was attended by Mahmood Khan, Provincial Minister for Sports, Culture, Museum and Youth Affairs, Yousaf Rahim, DG projects FATA Secretariat, Munawar Hamayun, Chairperson, SRSP, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director/Country Representative UNESCO Islamabad and other distinguished guests.

Provincial Minister, Mahmood Khan extended his gratitude to UNESCO, SRSP and the provincial skill development Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for imparting such useful trainings.

As part of extending support towards inclusive and barrier free education, UNESCO is also implementing a programme to provide of barrier-free access to the learners with disabilities in non-formal sector. Dr. Gwang Jo Kim during his visit met with the partners and handed over Wheel Chairs, Hearing Aids, etc. among the disable students from FATA. Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim said that UNESCO is working to build inclusive knowledge societies, where persons with disabilities must be included at all levels. He further stressed on the need of having assistive technologies, with personalized disability-

friendly features, to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities. He said, “better access to information and knowledge is crucial to provide education and healthcare as well as for the employment of persons with disabilities.”

The second event was organized by the Basic Education Community Schools Project (BECS), which is implementing UNESCO project in FATA.

Dr. Gwang-jo Kim, also visited the Peshawar Museum and was briefed on the historical aspects of the museum. Dr. Kim hugely admired the main collection of Peshawar Museum including Gandharan sculptures, coins, manuscripts and copies of the Holy Quran, besides presence of inscriptions, weapons, dresses, jewelry, Kalash effigies, Mughal era and later period paintings, household objects, local and Persian handicrafts. Dr. Kim appreciated the rich Gandharan culture well preserved by Department of Culture, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He met with senior officials from culture ministry during his visit and ensured UNESCO’s support for the preservation of moveable cultural properties.

UNESCO already engaged 3 museums of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar Museum, SSAQ Museum and Swat Museum, in a project aiming at Preservation of endangered, moveable, cultural assets of Gandhara art in Pakistan, in 2004-06. Under this project inventorying system for museum objects was established, museum staff members were trained and equipment to facilitate inventorying of Museum objects was provided.

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