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## **Youth skills training programmes may contribute in development: UNESCO**

PESHAWAR: UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education Dr. Gwang – Jo Kim, Thursday, said that youth skills training programmes could contribute to socio economic development of the country. 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.

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