

Thursday, 21 November, 2013

World Science Day for Peace and Development observed in Pakistan

Islamabad: To mark the World Science Day for Peace and Development, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Pakistan Science Foundation have organized an event at the International Islamic University, Islamabad. Students, officials of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and professors of International Islamic University, Secretary for Ministry of Science and Technology and representatives of UNESCO participated in the event.

Addressing the inaugural session, Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary for Ministry of Science & Technology said that the World Science Day is an important day as science is playing an important role in our day to day life and no one can deny the importance of science. He appreciated UNESCO's cooperation in celebrating this day every year since 2001. Referring to the theme this year "Science for Water Cooperation" he added that water cooperation is an important need of our future era in order to save the global world for the upcoming water challenges. He said that without science no development can be taken place.

The theme for this year is "Science for Water Cooperation" that urges sharing of knowledge, data, innovations and approaches to sustainable management of water. To this effect the message issued by UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova underscored the importance of sustainable management of water as it is one such precious resource which is absolutely essential for life and human development.

Dr. Khalil Ahmed, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation in his welcome remarks extends his gratitude to Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director/Representative UNESCO Islamabad for providing full cooperation in organizing to observe this event. He said that Pakistan Science Foundation is working for the promotion of science and in this regard, PSF is organizing different programmes regarding the social issues which are related to science. He said that UNESCO always selects topics that are concern for resolving the main global requirements of the people with special acknowledgement and participation of the young students.

The International Year of Water Cooperation aims to promote Water conservation and cooperation, which is an important aspect of water management and sharing that has become increasingly challenging a task globally and more so in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, UNESCO and its partner, Pakistan Science Foundation are working together to promote the global programmes in Natural Science sector. The joint intervention of Man and Biosphere programme in this context has provided a good opportunity to showcase an approach to sustainable development through a scientific intervention. The cooperation has produced good results, e.g. Ziarat Juniper Forest in Balochistan is declared as Biosphere Reserve and included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director/ Representative, UNESCO Islamabad in her speech on this occasion said that the fulfillment of basic human needs today such as poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection and economic prosperity is fundamentally an issue of management and shared use of water resources. She said that science is our best asset for supporting inclusive and equitable development, and for building environmentally sustainable world.

She informed the gathering that UNESCO Islamabad has developed a Human Security Fund Project to be implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in which introduction and implementation of rain water harvesting systems in the local communities is one of the key activities.

Speech and poster contest of students from different educational institutes further highlighted the importance of the day.

At the end of the ceremony, the chief guest distributed medals and certificates among the winning students.

#####