

Improved disaster reporting and a flood vigilant community role critical to enhance efforts for flood mitigation in Pakistan

Islamabad – 25 September, 2014: To strengthen and enhance the capacity of communities residing in the flood prone areas in the time of disasters and media in disaster reporting, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), organized a two day international workshop on *capacity building of community elders and media towards flood vigilance and disaster reporting in NUST, Islamabad.*

The workshop was organized as part of series supporting national capacity building in flood forecasting systems and hazard mapping of the flood plains along the Indus River, initiated in 2011 by UNESCO with the support of the Government of Japan.

The recent floods in Pakistan further increases the workshop's significance, building on UNESCO's efforts to strengthen flood forecasting, early warning systems and information dissemination through media to local communities for reducing the human and socioeconomic impacts of flooding. In collaboration with NUST, the UNESCO is helping to streamline the standard operating procedures for the media on disaster reporting.

During the workshop, training on the use of hand crank radios was imparted to the participants. UNESCO handed over 1565 radio sets to the National Disaster Management Authority for distribution in the local communities residing in the flood plains for receiving flood warnings and information during the monsoon season.

