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Minister highlights inequalities giving rise to unease



ISLAMABAD: Unfortunately there is huge global disparity in terms of trained human resource in science related fields.

Most scientific potential is still concentrated in a limited number of countries which as a result are holding for themselves the keys to major further developments especially in advanced fields, said Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mir Changez Khan Jamali at the inaugural ceremony of the World Science Day (WSD) celebrations at COMSTECH.

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and UNESCO jointly organised the event

WSD is observed all over the world on November 10 to mark the achievements of people in science and technology.

Minister said profound inequalities continue to divide peoples and the future itself sometimes seemed full of contradiction, uncertainty and doubt.

He said the theme for 2012 'Science for global sustainability: inter-connectedness, collaboration, transformation' throws light on globally interconnected and interdependent economic, social, cultural and political system.

UNESCO Islamabad Director Dr Kozue Kay Nagata said Pakistan needed a broad base of scientific knowledge and it should pay attention to an increased allocation of budget for science and technology to get the benefits of science.

PSF is key partner of UNESCO in natural sciences, Man and Biosphere (MAB) as well as Museum up gradation programs. She called for using science for the benefit of mankind not for war.

Federal Secretary for Science and Technology Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar said some the UNESCO Director

raised some particular issues and I assure her that government of Pakistan was trying to address these issues by constituting some working groups.

PSF Chairman Prof Dr Manzoor Soomro said developing countries generally spend well below 1 percent of their GDP on scientific research, whereas rich countries devote between 2 percent and 3 percent.

The number of scientists per million population in the developing countries is 10 to 30 times smaller than in developed countries, he said.

About 44 percent of Pakistan's population does not have access to health facilities, 50 percent are without safe drinking water and 66 percent are deprived of basic sanitation facilities.

PSF plans to develop a future road map, which would be in line with the Planning Commission's Vision 2030 and the new Science Technology and Innovation Policy both of which stress on knowledge and inventiveness as key drivers of future progress.

Federal Minister Mir Changez Khan Jamali awarded medal to a winner-student at the ceremony