

## **‘Pakistan should allocate more budget for science and technology’**

**ISLAMABAD, Nov 14: Unesco Country Director Dr Kozue Kay Nagata on Wednesday said Pakistan needed a broad base of scientific knowledge and it should increase budget allocation for science and technology to get the benefits of science.**

Addressing the inaugural ceremony in connection with World Science Day (WSD) celebrations at Comstech, the Unesco director called for using science for the benefit of mankind and not for war. She also threw light on some hot issues of disaster management, environmental degradation, etc.

The day was observed globally on November 10.

Addressing on the occasion, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mir Changez Khan Jamali said most scientific potential was still concentrated in a limited number of countries, which were holding the keys to further major developments especially in advanced fields.

“That explains why there is huge global disparity in terms of trained human resource in science related fields,” said the minister while addressing the inaugural ceremony in connection with World Science Day (WSD) celebrations at Comstech.

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Unesco jointly organised the event to mark the WSD to renew commitment to using science for peace and development. The event was attended by students, scientists, academicians and general public.

The minister said profound inequalities in the field of science continued to divide peoples. Nations were closer to each other than ever before, and humankind had enormous resources to improve its living conditions, but the prevailing imbalances and inequalities were giving rise to unease, he added.

The theme for 2012 was ‘Science for global sustainability: inter-connectedness, collaboration, transformation’ throws light on globally interconnected and interdependent economic, social, cultural and political systems.

PSF Chairman Prof Dr Manzoor H Soomro said developing countries generally spent less than one per cent of their GDP on scientific research, whereas rich countries devote between two per cent and three per cent.

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

He said about 44 per cent of Pakistan's population did not have access to health facilities, 50 per cent were without safe drinking water and 66 per cent deprived of basic sanitation facilities.

Pakistan was 121st in the world on health expenditure per capita and 95th in respect of percentage of population with access to safe drinking water, he maintained.

On this occasion the Chief Guest awarded ZA Hashmi Research and Development Gold Medals to Dr Ikramul Haq from Governemnt College University, Dr Aslam Baig from Quaid-i-Azam University and Ms Shaheena Fiaz from Karachi University for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 for their contributions in the field of science.

Medals were also awarded to students who stood winners of science essay and poster competitions to acknowledge their contribution to science.