



PRESS RELEASE

“UNESCO URGES SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR GRASSROOTS ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD SCIENCE DAY 2012”

Islamabad – 14 November 2012: To confirm the potential of the sciences for building better life, progressive societies, and sustainable development United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology, and Pakistan Science Foundation celebrated World Science Day for Peace and Development today in Islamabad, at COMSTECH. The theme of the World Day this year is “Science for Global Sustainability Interconnectedness, Collaboration, and Transformation”.

A cadre of scientists, researchers and educationists attended the event from the whole country. “Our position is clear – for a sustainable future, we must build inclusive and equitable ‘knowledge societies’. This involves a more holistic approach to the developmental agenda. It also involves sustaining positive social transformations, individual innovation and sustainability policies,” highlighted by Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Islamabad in her opening remarks.

Addressing the participants, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Mir Changez Khan Jamali said, “ We are geared to have democratic systems, where education, science and technology is integrated in institution as guiding stones for development, peace and tolerance”. Taking the opportunity of the occasion, the Federal Minister strongly recommended to increase the budget of Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) from 0.6% to 1% of GDP by year 2015, further taking it to 2% as share of GDP by 2020.

Concurring to the recommendation of increase of science and technology share in GDP Federal Minister emphasized that researchers, academia and private sector needs to show synergies and interconnectedness in their planning and execution. He said that he hopes that by 2020, the share of science and technology may increase to even 3%.

National level experts and scientists facilitated various technical sessions on innovative strategies and sustainable development. In his presentation on ideas on grassroots level, Syed Arsalan Zaidi, National Program Officer, Natural Sciences Sector -- UNESCO gave different examples of transformations in societies through introducing

ideas of social innovation at grassroots level. It was also shared that the national science and technology policy will be officially launched in next few weeks for Pakistan.

World Science Day for Peace and Development was initiated to be celebrated world wide on the recommendations of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed-- a prominent scientist from Pakistan.

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