

Media Update

14 February 2017

United Nations

Press Release

United Nations in Pakistan strongly condemns the terror attack in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, 14th February 2017: The United Nations Country Team in Pakistan is shocked at the brutality of the terror attack on peaceful protestors and police in Lahore yesterday. The targeted murder of police personnel was an attack on their efforts to implement the rule of law in Pakistan. The UN family in Pakistan shares the grief of all Pakistanis at this loss and expresses condolences to the families and colleagues of all affected. The bravery of the police was sadly highlighted also yesterday in Quetta by the loss of two officers in an effort to dispose off a bomb.

“We condemn the violence used and stand in solidarity with fellow Pakistanis in this time of grief,” said Mr. Neil Buhne, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan.

FAO

Press Release

Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan: FAO launches two day consultative workshop in Multan

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) inaugurated a two day provincial consultative workshop on Disaster Risk reduction in Multan.

Provincial Minister of Disaster Management Mr. Maher Ijaz Achlana inaugurated the workshop which is being held between February 13-14 in Multan. Various public sector stakeholders also attended the inaugural session.

Under the DFID funded Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP) programme, FAO together with UNDP, WFP and with consortium partner Concern Worldwide and WWH will work to improve resilience of crisis-affected communities through risk assessment, planning, mitigation, preparedness measures and emergency response.

This inception workshop provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to come together and share their experiences and knowledge and highlight the exact needs of the communities.

Provincial minister Mr. Maher Ijaz Achlana reiterating the government's support for the successful implementation of BDRP in Punjab said: "In Pakistan, agriculture is one of the sectors that is most affected by natural disasters. There is a growing need to understand and mitigate risks in this hazard prone country. Disasters most adversely impact the poorest households and a large percentage of these are involved in the agriculture sector, hence the impact of disasters on the poor is devastating.

The workshop was attended by provincial and district government officials along with representatives of the community. Mr. Razi Latif, Advisor Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction from DFID and Mr. Francisco Gamarro, Deputy FAO Representative were also present on the occasion.

UN Women

Press Release

UN Women and Morango Films to roll-out Pakistan's first-ever 'Izhar by Film Fellowship'

14 February 2017 - Islamabad, Pakistan: Pakistan's first-ever 'Izhar by Film Fellowship' (IBFF) programme - an initiative of Morango Films, with support from UN Women (the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women) - will commence its four-day filmmaking course in Islamabad from 16-19 February 2017. The IBFF in its first round, early this year received 200 applications following which 60 aspiring filmmakers aged 18 and older were selected from across Pakistan interested in raising their voice to create awareness regarding social issues, and promote the spirit of responsible citizenship through visual media.

The first IBFF on 'social and political rights of women' focuses on four areas: (i) harassment-free workplaces/educational institutes; (ii) women's access to safe public spaces; (iii) internet safety for women; and (iv) women's political rights.

In using filmmaking as a tool to positively impact in redressing gender inequality, renowned music video and commercial film directors Amena Khan and Sohail Javed will be joining IBFF and provide rigorous training and mentorship sessions to all trainees on the 'how to' of using the medium of film to narrate social issues towards shaping public opinion.

Speaking of the partnership, Mr. Jamshed Kazi (Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan) said, "What we see on-screen reflects the off-screen realities of women's lives all too well, whilst media images continue to form a strong impact on our perceptions. With a new generation of aspiring filmmakers benefiting from the first-ever Izhar by Film Fellowship programme, we look forward to seeing a move beyond tired stereotypes that constrain women's access to and participation in social and political activities, a move that simultaneously inspires public action against gender inequalities."

Mr. Abrar Ul Hassan (Founder, Morango Films) shared, "Izhar by Film Fellowship is more than just a fellowship programme. The youth will be using filmmaking as an agent of change regarding the social and political rights of women. The message will stretch out not just in Pakistan but beyond the boundaries."

At the end of the fellowship, the best 10 films will be selected and the filmmakers will be declared the first batch of fellows of the IBFF programme who will ultimately be contesting to take the top 3 positions and scholarship grants. The best films will be screened at a national-level event in Islamabad, next month.

This collaboration between UN Women and Morango Films falls under UN Women's project on "Women's Peace, Security, Rights and Voice: safe public spaces, community outreach and empowerment, and political awareness and advocacy" with support of the Government of Australia.

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About Morango:

Morango is a digital media content marketing organization which has been helping clients connect with their consumers for over 10 years. It focuses on activities pertaining to education and awareness in an effort to inculcate social values like peace, tolerance and constructive conformity in the society and encourage civic participation in this regard.

About UN Women:

UN Women is the UN agency for gender equality and women's empowerment, established to accelerate progress on meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide.