

Media Update
17 January 2017

United Nations

Secretary-General Message

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10.00 am (NY TIME), TUESDAY 17 JANUARY

VIDEO REMARKS TO HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON COMBATING ANTI-MUSLIM DISCRIMINATION AND HATRED New York, 17 January 2017

I thank all of you for coming together to take on the challenge of anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred.

Anti-Muslim hate crimes and other forms of bigotry are on the rise. The same applies to xenophobia, racism and anti-semitism. In addition, many people are victims of intolerance and suspicions that may not appear in statistics – but degrade people’s dignity and our common humanity.

In times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats.

We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbors as “the other”.

Discrimination diminishes us all. It prevents people – and societies – from achieving their full potential.

Let us draw strength from the values of inclusion, tolerance and mutual understanding that are at the heart of all major faiths and the United Nations Charter.

As the Holy Quran states: nations and tribes were created to know one another.



People everywhere need to feel that their cultural identities are valued – and at the same time to have a strong sense of belonging to the community as a whole.

As societies become ever more multi-ethnic and multi-religious, we need political, cultural and economic investments in cohesion, so that diversity is rightly seen as a richness, not a threat.

The United Nations is launching an effort to promote respect, safety and dignity for all. We call it the Together campaign.

Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights.

Together, let us build bridges.

Together, let us transform fear into hope.

For our Muslim brothers and sisters – and for all humanity. Thank you.

Download Link Video Message - English:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/downloads2.unmultimedia.org/public/tv/SG_Message_CombattingAntiMuslimBigotry_EN.mp4

UNICEF

Press Release

Distribution for CHC/UNICEF School Art Contest held in Bahawalpur

Bahawalpur – January 17, 2017: A prize distribution ceremony for a School Art Contest jointly organized by the High Commission of Canada in Pakistan and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), was held at the Government Girls Sadiq Model High School in Bahawalpur yesterday. The High Commissioner of Canada, His Excellency Perry John Calderwood, and



the UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Angela Kearney presented prizes to the winners of the competition and the three participating schools.

The objective of the contest was to give young girls and boys a chance to express their artistic creativity around the theme: 'How does the elimination of violence and use of technology positively affect the lives of girls and boys and their families?' The theme reflected two important elements of the Sustainable Development Goals for national development.

After colorful performances of the students, in which the younger ones performed "the dance of the butterflies" and the older ones a choreography calling for tolerance and peace in the world, the Representative of UNICEF in Pakistan, Ms Angela Kearney thanked the Canadian people for their extraordinary commitment to the cause of children in Pakistan: "We at UNICEF and the children of Pakistan know that we can always count on the continuous support of Canada."

The contest was second of a series organized to acknowledge the generous support of Canadian Dollars 41.4 million from the Government of Canada to UNICEF for implementing its programmes in Pakistan including polio eradication, support for Temporarily Displaced Population and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Schools. The first contest was organized in 2015 in three schools of Peshawar.

A total number of 90 students of primary to secondary high level from three schools of South Punjab, two from Rajanpur district and one from Bahawalpur, participated in the contest. An art kit including colour pencils, crayons, markers etc. was given to each student by CHC and UNICEF prior to the contest. The selected artwork from the contest has been used to develop a joint CHC/UNICEF table calendar and wall planner 2017 and distributed amongst participating schools, students and respective partners of the CHC and UNICEF.

To the great surprise of the pupils High Commissioner, Mr Perry John Calderwood gave his remarks partly in Urdu and said: "I congratulate all of the students who participated in the poster competition. The posters demonstrate great artistic creativity and the keen interest of the students to contribute to progress in their communities and country."

The winning students and the school received a variety of books and encyclopedias as prizes.



About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

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UNIDO

Press Release

UNIDO Investor Connect – Cleantech Innovators sign Agreements with Investors

Islamabad: An Investor Connect event was held in Islamabad by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to help startups and entrepreneurs to grow and commercialize their idea at large scale. The Cleantech innovators met with investors and got an opportunity to sign agreements to commercialize ten startups during the first ever Investor Connect in clean technologies. The activity was organized under the auspices of Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) for SMEs and Startups in Pakistan.

In Pakistan many innovations in the area of Clean Technologies are not commercialized but remain in various academic and research institutions due to lack of investments opportunities. This Investor Connect session is panacea to this problem; which has been introduced for the first time focusing on clean technology in Pakistan. This will go a long way in promoting and commercializing innovations at SMEs level.



The event is a part of GCIP programme of UNIDO, GCIP is a global competition aimed at promotion of Innovations in the area of Clean Technologies. This competition is simultaneously been carried out in twelve countries around the world, the main aim of this competition is to foster innovations in Renewable energy, Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Waste to Energy and Green Building. The target market of GCIP competition is SMEs and Startup companies.

Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest Mr. Syed Abu Ahmed Akif, Federal Secretary of Climate Change inaugurated “Industry Challenge Award” together with Mr Alois Mhlanga from UNIDO HQ, to resolve industry specific issues of pharmaceutical and steel industry in Pakistan. He appreciated the achievements of GCIP programme highlighted significance of the new initiative to mitigate harmful impact of climate change. He assured his ministry’s continued support in creating this culture which is helping entrepreneurs as well as promoting the environmentally friendly products.

Mr. Niel Buhne, the Resident Coordinator of United Nations in Pakistan marked this day as a landmark in the history of industry-academia linkage for commercialization of innovative technologies. He wished that this effort goes a long way in promoting this culture and will help in the growth of entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

The event provided an opportunity to the women participants and change agents of the DRT-F project to present their green industry focused innovations to the investors. Mr Mhlanga highlighted UNIDO efforts in bringing gender parity in the industrial sector by raising awareness and empowering women. He distributed certificates to the women completed their training in green industry startups under DRT-F initiative.

Mr Esam Alqararah shared that **more than 50 Investors** from all five categories of clean technologies dedicated their time to assess potential of GCIP innovators for possible investments and joint ventures. He highlighted that based on the joint interest of supporting startups in Pakistan, UNIDO and Islamabad Chamber decides to organize such Investor Connect together in future on regular basis.

UNIDO

Press Release

UNIDO Announces Awards for Cleantech Innovators in Pakistan

Islamabad, Pakistan, Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister for Climate Change, presided the UNIDO Cleantech awards distribution ceremony that was held in Islamabad, today. The Minister handed over prizes to five winners in a graceful ceremony. The awards were distributed under Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) of UNIDO.

GCIP is a global programme, aimed at supporting and converting the innovations in the field of clean technologies into successful businesses. The innovations focused on the five categories of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste to energy and green buildings.

During third cycle of the programme this year, GCIP supported Eighty Two SMEs and Startups in Pakistan through a comprehensive programme of extensive mentoring, training, access to investors and showcasing opportunities. Winners received awards ranging from US\$ 20,000 (National Winner) to US\$ 15,000 (4 Runner-up Prizes), including a prize for the most promising woman-led business. As part of the package, all winners will receive a funded opportunity of mentorship and training during their exposure visit of Silicon Valley, USA.

Speaking at the occasion, the Federal Minister Mr Zahid Hamid stressed the importance of innovation in clean technology in mitigating harmful impacts of Climate Change. The Minister specifically appreciated the role of the UNIDO and its partners in arranging this competition to foster cleantech startups and introduce viable solutions to the current energy crisis in Pakistan. He reiterated his ministry's continued support to this endeavor.

The Chairman of PCST, Prof. Dr. Anwar ul Hassan Gilani, highlighted the role of PCST in supporting entrepreneurship in Pakistan particularly in clean technologies to ensure sustainability of the ongoing initiatives. He also



reiterated possible role of PCST as hub of activities of National Cleantech Platform of UNIDO.

At this occasion, Mr Alois Mhlanga, Project Manager from UNIDO HQ highlighted the significance of innovations in Clean Technologies and appreciated the achievements of GCIP in Pakistan. He launched National Cleantech Platform (NCTP) of Pakistan to promote clean technology innovations and Competitiveness in SMEs in Pakistan to deliver global environmental benefits. He shared that during last three cycles of the call for awards, GCIP Pakistan has mobilized public and private sector along with academia and civil society which can play a vital role in ensuring sustainability of the initiative through national institutions. NCTP will comprise of federal, provincial and regional chapters with a diverse group of members committed to promote cleantech innovations in Pakistan in their respective fields.

The UNIDO Representative to Pakistan, Mr. Esam Alqararah, while addressing the ceremony, shared UNIDO's vision on energy and environment and the efforts UNIDO in promoting renewable energy and clean technologies in Pakistan. Mr. Alqararah pinpointed the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the development of the country. He reiterated UNIDO's commitment to further strengthen the cooperation with the Ministry of Climate Change.

The ceremony was attended by more than 250 high ranking officials and dignitaries, Ambassadors, international donor agencies, Rectors and Vice Chancellors of Universities, Representatives from government institutions including allied departments of MoCC, representatives from Industries, Investors, Ministry of Industries and production, Climate Change Division, Chambers of Commerce and industry and private sector stakeholders and GEF cell.