

Media Update

2 August 2016

UNICEF

Media Advisory

Breastfeeding: A key to sustainable development

Every year the first week of August is celebrated as World Breastfeeding Week, designated for raising awareness regarding the benefits of breastfeeding, promoting breastfeeding practices, improving the health status of children and for the prevention of stunting in their early life. Early initiation of breastfeeding strengthens the immunity of a baby, reduces the risk of neonatal sepsis and respiratory infections, and is also associated with higher rates of exclusive breastfeeding and lower rates of diarrhea throughout the first six months of life.

Pakistan has 38% rate of exclusively breastfed children under six months of age, while bottle feedings and use of formula are at all-time highs as manufacturers ramp up their marketing to the public.

To deliberate the importance this issue, which is critical for the health and well-being of Pakistani children, UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination is organizing an event on the 3rd of August to commemorate World Breastfeeding Week.

Programme:

Date: Wednesday 3rd August, 2016

Time: 1000hrs – 1200hrs

Venue: Ramada Hotel, Islamabad



Minister of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination **Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar** will be the Chief Guest

Invitation Attached

For more information on WBW 2016, please see:

<http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/News-and-Research/News/World-Breastfeeding-Week-2016/>

UNIDO

Press Release

First International Conference and Expo on Biomass Gasification Technologies

Islamabad July 29, 2016: The first International Conference & Expo on Biomass Gasification Technologies”, held at Jinnah Auditorium, NUST, Islamabad on July 27-28. The two-day conference was jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Pakistan and the U.S.-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E), under a GEF-funded UNIDO project “Promoting Sustainable Energy through Biomass in Pakistan”. Federal Minister for Science & Technology Rana Tanveer Hussain graced the occasion as the chief guest in opening session on Wednesday July, 27.

U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) at NUST and United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Pakistan (UNIDO), are collaborating on fostering Entrepreneurship on clean technology



innovation, with special focus on indigenous manufacturing of biomass gasifiers. Pakistan has immense biomass potential estimated at 5000 MW. The Forum brought together a collation of eminent statesmen, diplomats, academics, practitioners, and students to deliberate on issues confronting the energy sector in Pakistan.

The Minister of Science and Technology in his address said “The Conference theme is related to the ongoing and anticipated challenges within energy sector that affects the lives of Pakistanis and impede economic growth. This forum should form public-private partnerships and interest-specific networks by bringing together the best minds from across the globe, government and the business community to produce tangible solutions for Pakistan’s greatest challenges in energy security.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Country Head, said that UNIDO was pleased to work in collaboration with NUST and that the conference would pave the way for more self-reliant and productive energy and industrial sectors in Pakistan. “Our project ‘Sustainable Energy Production and Use from Biomass in Pakistan’ endeavors to help industries transition from expensive oil-based power generation to clean and renewable resource of biomass that is present in the country abundantly as a means to strengthen the SME industrial sector of Pakistan,” he added. During the opening session of the conference, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mr. Neil Buhne congratulated NUST and UNIDO on organizing such an event underlining the fact that such gatherings allow for a real mix of international experience and local knowledge that would no doubt help develop the biomass sector in Pakistan. He further elaborated on how events such as these are working towards the achievement of the 'Sustainable Development Goals'.

Earlier in his address, Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar emphasized on the importance of Biomass Gasification Technologies. He said that the UNIDO-NUST project on promoting BGT systems aimed at addressing the energy challenges by combining capacity building and demonstration of projects that had high replication potential with interventions that sought to establish a market environment conducive to investment in this important energy sector. He added that the conference would provide a robust platform

for shared learning experiences and exchange of ideas between local and international experts to implement efficient utilization of biomass in this otherwise non-commercial energy sector.

The two-day event encompassed 6 technical sessions along with panel discussions on a diverse range of topics related to BGTs. The panel sessions were designed to address the Industrial applications of BGTs as alternative and efficient sustainable fuel for our future. The international speakers from across the globe along with national experts in the area delivered multiple talks on the pressing issues of energy crises with a view to adopt BGTs at the SMEs, industries and rural community levels. The primary themes of the Conference comprised of Current Research and Development Trends of BGTs, BGTs Lessons for Developing Countries: Strategic Overview for Technology Transfer, BGTs for SMEs & Rural Communities: Resource, Economics and Business Aspects, BGTs Integration with Other Technologies: Options and Sustainability, Policy & Regulatory Considerations for Promotion of BGTs in Pakistan and Financing Biomass Technologies: Role of public, private and international agencies.

The conference sessions were concluded on Thursday July, 28, Chief Guest Federal Secretary for Science and Technology, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken in his closing comments expressed his profound gratitude to U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies at NUST and UNIDO for providing this great platform to promote renewable energy activities in the country. Further, he added that the aim should be to address Pakistan's energy challenges by influencing Policy Making, developing human resource, promoting Applied Research, protecting our environment and mobilizing communities to contribute to sustainable future.

The forum was finally concluded with “Islamabad Biomass Declaration” made by Prof. Dr. Carlos Rufin (Harvard Kennedy School) on behalf of the participants on the two-day conference calling for all stakeholders working together for the promotion and indigenization of biomass gasification in Pakistan. Lastly memoranda of understanding were signed between Purdue University, USA, NUST and UET Peshawar for cooperation in renewable energy and biomass gasification research and the Dutch company, Knoef

Consulting and K-axis Engineering pertaining to cooperation biomass gasification technology.

UNIDO

Press Release

UNIDO Project “Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan” gets kick started

The launching ceremony event of this important project which is funded by GEF was held in Islamabad and was widely attended by stakeholder, both from the industry and relevant Government officials from ministry and line departments. Among the prominent dignitaries participating in the event were the Ambassador of EU delegation in Pakistan, UN resident co-ordinator in Pakistan and senior officials of Ministry of Industries and Production and Climate change and representative of various organization like alternative energy development board AEDB, National Productivity Organization, NPO, Small and medium Enterprise developmebnt authority SMEDA etc. Mr. Neil Buhne , UN Resident Co-ordinator in Pakistan speaking on the occasion mentioned that the sustainable development goals called SDGs are very important for Pakistan and this project in particular is important as it not only directly addresses SDG 9 i.e industry , innovation and infrastructure which in fact falls under the domain of UNIDO , but it is going all the way taking care of other SDGs such as no poverty , food and hunger and even others. He posed full confidence in UNIDO'S team for smooth and effective sailing of the project. Mr. Khizar Hayat Gondal, Federal Secretary of Industries and Production messaged through his representative about the significance of this energy related project, saying that given the level of energy crunch in PAKISTAN, it is important that UNIDO through its energy portfolios in Pakistan is coming all out to technically assess Pakistan in this sector. He further said that it is very timely that UNIDO has stepped in helping the industrial sector to explore the options of alternative energy which could be a



breakthrough technology for Pakistan giving boost to overall industrial sector development. He further said that the government of Pakistan has provided full support directly and through its specialized technical department for this endeavor.

Mr. Esam Alqararah, UNIDO representative in Pakistan welcoming the participants shed light on the role of UNIDO during its 40 years of presence and highlighted some hallmark achievements of UNIDO which has assisted in sustainable development of Pakistani Industrial sector. He stressed upon the importance of Renewable Energy and energy efficiency in Pakistan and emphasized it is very promising that this project is going to be owned by the private sector industry from the very beginning. In his introductory remarks about the project, Mr. Alois Mhlanga, the visiting Project Manager, highlighted about various the approaches which has been successfully applied to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in other parts of the world. Additional secretary MoIP/ CEO SMEDA , Mr. Sher Ayub , spoke on the occasion that SMEDA is delighted to be the part of this project which is addressing energy that is currently a most acute and critical issue in Pakistan. He hoped that soon this project would be in a position to transfer the tested technology for using alternative energy sources at commercially viable scale that will provide tempting results for the other industries to follow. On the occasion, Mr Ishrat Ali, representing Ministry of Climate Change said that in this global world, all economies are interdependent and to thrive in this competitive world, countries like Pakistan has to move fast specially in coping with its energy shortfalls and by building the capacity of its manpower in efficient usage of energy. He further said, given this background this energy project holds significant promise for Pakistan. The follow-up events included presentations highlighting the very objectives of the project, presented by National Project Manager which followed a very healthy discussion providing further insight to the project.
