

Media Update

21 March 2016

ILO

Media Advisory

International Women's Day Conference On Theme: "Pledge for Parity"

What: The Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will hold an International Women's Day Conference with the theme: "Pledge for Parity", which is the global slogan for this year's International Women Day. EFP will also give away excellence awards to best performing companies in terms of empowering Women in the world of work. There will also be a panel discussion on the topic "Pledge for Parity" during the programme to sensitize the employers and the participants in particular, to act positively to promote gender equality and equity, gender mainstreaming, entrepreneurship and address such issues like Harassment at Workplace and embracing the principles of Women Empowerment.

The EFP also intends to outreach maximum number of Employers for advocating the Theme "Pledge for Parity" through Media coverage. Representatives from the government, employers and workers organizations especially representatives from those companies who have signed the Gender Policy will be invited. UN Women and Global Compact Network Pakistan are also supporting this event.

When: Tuesday, 22nd March 2016

Where: Marriott Hotel, Karachi

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Background:

EFP has been commemorating International Women's Day by promoting Gender Equality at Workplace since 2009. The excellence award is a new feature added this year to encourage the companies in terms of empowering Women in the world of work



Programme:

- 1- Speeches by the President of the Employers Federation of Pakistan, Women Rights campaigners, delegates from ILO, UN-Women, ADB and Global Compact.
- 2- Panel discussion on 'Pledge for parity' (panellists: representatives of Industry, Academia, Civil Society and the Media)
- 3- Awards distribution ceremony.

RSVP: Fasih ul Karim Siddiqui, Secretary General, Employers Federation of Pakistan
2nd Floor, Building No.2, Wallace Road off I.I Chundrigar Road, Karachi, Pakistan
Cell: 0300-8237979, Email: [fks@efp.org.pk](mailto: fks@efp.org.pk)

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World Water Day: Better Water, Better Jobs 22 March 2016

What: The Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Pakistan is organizing a seminar to commemorate this year's World Water Day in Tandojam, Sindh under the theme: "Better Water, Better Jobs." The United Nations has declared 22 March as the World Water Day (WWD) in order to magnify the international focus on water related issues and to inspire people and organizations to think about the link between the Water and Jobs. The ILO Director General, Mr. Guy Ryder, who is the ex-officio chair of the UN-Water Secretariat will launch the World Water Development Report on the same day in Geneva.

This year's theme is "Water and Jobs." The theme highlights how both water and jobs have the power to transform people's lives: water is essential to human survival, the environment, and the global economy. Safe working conditions and a living wage can provide workers with sustainable income and pave the way for broader social and economic advancements. A wide range of experts will discuss the inter linkages between the water and the jobs and how the labour markets will adversely affect from the water shortages in Pakistan that have started happening and will aggravate further as the time passes.

When: Tuesday 22 March, 2016
Where: Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
Time: 9 am to 4 pm



Background

Nearly half of the world’s labour force works in water-related sectors, but this figure doesn’t even account for the countless women and children who participate in non-paid work revolving around water every single day. Millions of women and children in developing countries spend significant portions of their days gathering water for their family’s drinking, cooking, cleaning, and bathing needs.

The Sindh Province, with its population of 34 million forms one-fifth of Pakistan’s total population of 180 million. Approximately 51 percent of Sindh’s population is rural, primarily depending on agriculture for their income and livelihoods. Sindh was the most severely affected province of the 2010 floods with close to 970,000 households suffering agricultural losses estimated at USD 2,301.6 million. The impact of water bound disasters has, over the last five years, adversely affected Sindh Province of Pakistan resulting in poor income and vulnerable livelihoods.

The One-UN Livelihood Restoration Project implemented jointly by the ILO, FAO and UN Women has improved the water courses and the irrigation infrastructure through labour intensive methods. These initiatives have improved the irrigation efficiency, bettered the drainage system, created short term employment for the poorest peasant communities and sustainably improved their income levels through increasing their agriculture and livestock productivity.

The seminar aims to bring to light the knowledge generated on the subject and inspire collective thinking on the important issue of jobs in relation to water.

Programme

Morning Session:

9AM to 11:30 AM

Statements delivered by:

Speaker	Subject
Mr. Ali Akbar Rahimoon, CEO, AWARE Thar (Association for Water, Applied Education & Renewable Energy)	Status of Ground Water Resources in Thar: Issues and Challenges
Mr. Mustafa Ujjan, Director NARA Canal Area Water Board	Water security and jobs related to water
Chairman, Land and Water Management Department, SAU Tandojam	Impact of Climate Change and Water Resources Pakistan Perspective
Mr. Nazeer Essani, General Manager, SIDA	1.4 Sindh Irrigation Reforms from Policy to

(Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority)	Governance
Mr. Irshad Ahmed Bohyio, General Manager, WAPDA South (Water & Power Development Authority)	1.5 Water Scarcity: Issues and Challenges
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saffar Mirjat, Dean, FAE (Faculty of Agriculture Engineering)	1.6 Water for Sustainable Agriculture

2. Panel discussions and Question and Answer Session: 12 noon to 2 PM

RSVP: By 5:00 pm on 21th March by email: khanabid@ilo.org

