

Media Update

6 April 2016

United Nations

Press Release

United Nations, Pakistan Olympic Association, Higher Education Commission and NUST celebrate sport for development and peace

Islamabad: UNIC Islamabad, the Higher Education Commission, the Pakistan Olympic Association and NUST joined hands to celebrate the International Day of Sports for Peace & Development on 6 April.

The ceremony was part of a series of events held across different cities of Pakistan aiming at empowering Pakistani youth through education and sports and at promoting the Sustainable Development Goals related to healthy lifestyles, peace, tolerance and partnership.

The celebration at NUST opened with a friendly badminton match and was followed by panel discussion on sport for development and peace with a focus on gender equality and people living with disabilities. Panellists included: Shamsa Hashmi, head of Women's Cricket at Pakistan Cricket Board and Additional Director Sports at the University of Punjab; Sana Mahmood, captain of the Pakistan National Women's Basketball Team and former captain of the Pakistan National Women's Football Team; Suleman Arshad, a visually impaired athlete who established the first para-climbing club of Pakistan; Fisa Hussain, Director General Sports at the Higher Education Commission.

Vittorio Cammarota, Director UNIC, moderated the discussion and stated: "I'm grateful to all our partners for joining hands for this impressive program."



Sport is a powerful tool for driving change in societies and an effective platform for bringing forward the Sustainable Development Goals. Through events like these, we aim at portraying the positive contribution of Pakistani youth and I encourage all young people to use sports as a platform for promoting peace, dignity and equal rights for all human beings.”

During the debate Sana Mahmood said:” Sport plays a vital role in creating a third space for women and girls outside the home or school, therefore providing an extended platform for self-discovery, community engagement and an entry into the public sphere” and Suleman Arshad added that “sport can contribute to establishing peace between conflicting nations. As well as through sports we can empower people with disabilities.”

The debate was followed by an award ceremony presented by Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Asghar, Rector NUST and General Arif Hasan, Chairman Pakistan Olympic Association, who said: “Sport plays a pivotal role in youth development and helps young people understand key core values and life lessons in a healthy environment. It is therefore but natural that a partnership has evolved between the UN and the IOC for the utilisation of sports for the promotion of human values, and address issues of health, education, social inclusion and inequality. Sports will therefore continue to play a role in advancing the global agenda within the Sustainable Global Agenda and within this, the Pakistan Olympic Association will play its role as an active enabler. We thank the UN Office in Pakistan for the opportunity.”

Media Contact: Vittorio Cammarota, Director, UN Information Centre,
cammarota@un.org Mobile: 0300 8540058

ILO

Media Advisory

Inauguration of Migrant Resource Centre- Islamabad

What: The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MoOP&HRD) has established the country's first ever Migrant Resource Centre in Islamabad to increase the accessibility to general and specific information on migration, providing potential migrants with information and counselling on safe migration, as well as raising awareness on irregular migration and the related serious risks.

Who: **Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Khizer Hayat Khan** will officially inaugurate the Migrant Resource Centre along with the **Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Mr Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan, H. E. István Szabó, Ms. Ingrid Christensen, Country Director, International Labour Organization Country Office for Pakistan and Ms. Sedef Dearing, Senior Regional Advisor, Silk Routes, International Centre for Migration and Policy Development.**

When: Tuesday, 12 April 2016, 11:00 AM

Where: Kohinoor Hall, Marriott Hotel Islamabad

How to Participate: If you are interested to attend the event, please send your name, CNIC number and your media affiliation, to naimaa@ilo.org, not later than 1200 noon 11 April 2016.

Labour Migration from Pakistan:

Pakistan has a long history of labour migration to the Middle East, and is the second largest labour sending country (after India) in South Asia. During the period of 1971-2015, more than 8 million Pakistanis have officially proceeded abroad for employment. Out of this total labour migration, about 96% have proceeded to the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states - the key destination countries are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In terms of professions-in



2015, of all emigrants from Pakistan, 41 per cent were skilled, 16 per cent semi-skilled and 40 per cent un-skilled. Less than 3 per cent were highly qualified or highly skilled. However, the emigration of Pakistani women is negligible, and during the last decade, approximately 8,000 female workers moved abroad for employment, primarily in the field of health services, finance sector, beauty care and fashion designing.

Migrant workers bring substantial benefits – remittances in origin countries and human capital in destination countries but unfortunately the official channels for migration are failing to distribute the benefits equitably among employers, intermediaries and workers. It is also a well-known fact that malpractices including high costs and fees, misrepresentation, failure to meet placement obligations and contract substitution are fairly common among licensed agencies and employer in the destination country. These are some of the abuses that Migrant Workers face during the recruitment process and during employment. Unidentified and unregistered sub agents in the recruitment business is another issue which further contributes to migrant workers vulnerabilities, human smuggling and trafficking in some cases.

The lack of awareness on, and access to various support mechanisms available to migrant workers and their families and absence of timely and accurate information about safe migration are major constraints to the protection and welfare of migrant workers.

Realizing the challenges that migrant workers face, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has established the first ever Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Islamabad with the support of the ILO “South Asia Labour Migration and Governance” project and ICMPD’s “Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process” project. Both projects are funded by the European Union.

Note: Please find the detailed program attached.