

Media Update

7 April 2017

United Nations

Media Advisory

We the Peoples, We the Arts

Promoting Zero Hunger through Visual Arts

What: You are cordially invited to the opening ceremony of the art exhibition “We the Peoples, We the Arts, featuring the cause of zero hunger in Pakistan through visual art. ‘We the Peoples, We the Arts’ is organized by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Embassy of Switzerland in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre to mark the 50th year of SDC's cooperation with Pakistan.

When: Monday, 10 April 2017, at 14:00 hrs (Refreshments to follow)

Where: Zahoor UI Akhlaq Gallery, National College of Arts Lahore

Who:

- Ms. Stefanie Burri, Head of Cooperation Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director, United Nations Information Centre
- Mr. Quddus Mirza, Head of Department Fine Arts, National College of Arts Lahore

Background: Last year, the Embassy of Switzerland celebrated the 50th year of its cooperation with Pakistan through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). To mark the occasion, the SDC joined forces with United Nations Information Centre to promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan through visual arts. Young artists studying at five art schools of Pakistan participated in a competition to highlight the SDG on “zero hunger” in categories of sculpture, painting and miniature painting. A jury comprising Swiss and international art experts, the Embassy of Switzerland and the United Nations selected a winner for each

category. All entries have been judged using the same criteria: creativity, composition, theme and technique. The SDGs were set by the UN member countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all over the next 15 years.

For information contact: Noman Burki, United Nations Information Centre
Phone: +92 303 5000041, Email: consultant3.unicislamabad@unic.org

FAO

Press Release

Prime Minister directs the Mayor to establish a food authority in Islamabad

The Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif has directed the Mayor of Islamabad and Chairman Capital Development Authority, Mr. Ansar Sheikh to establish a food authority in Islamabad.

He said this at the launch of Pilot Street Food Safety Programme (PSFSP) for Islamabad at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) premises in Islamabad.

Mr. Ansar Seikh, welcoming the collaboration with FAO to launch PSFSP, said that in Pakistan 300,000 children under the age of 5 die every year from diarrhoea resulting from unhygienic conditions including food contamination which was a matter of great concern. He pointed out that there was an urgent need to control the situation.

To mark the launch, an inception workshop was held at FAO Representation premises in Islamabad with the collaboration of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

This workshop was organized to bring all stakeholders on board to help identify ways to work together to develop a locally tailored food safety policy, its implementation and adopting food safety measures.

Mr. Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative in Islamabad stressed that combined efforts are required to make street food a safe option for consumers.

He also said: “We have to work together to make needs assessment, raise awareness, build capacity and effectively monitor in order to improve livelihoods of those involved in the street food business.”

Participants from the health and education sector highlighted that with growing trade, industrialization, urbanization and economic prosperity eating behaviours and lifestyles have changed from cooking and eating at home to frequent dining out. Majority of the vendors are ignorant of personal and food hygiene and use substandard food additives (colors, flavorings etc.), adulterants and contaminants, result in serious threat to human health. Food associated diseases are a source of substantial burden on households, hospitals and medical providers compromise the work efficiency of the population and consequently causes huge economic losses to the country.

Mr. Yousaf Zafar, Chairman PARC , Director General National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), Dr. Azeem Khan and Dr Hasan Orooj, Director General Health, Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad were also present at the inception workshop.

Background

Food safety is an important pillar of food security and health more often ignored due to lack of awareness and weak regulatory mechanisms. It plays an important role in ensuring health and averting preventable foodborne diseases, alleviating sufferings of the people and minimizing the enormous losses of financial and human capital. Foodborne diseases are one of the preventable public health issues affecting a large proportion of the population around the world.

Realizing the fragile food safety situation of the country, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Pakistan in collaboration with Ministries of Planning, Development and Reform, National Food Security and Research and Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation has launched a Pilot Street Food Safety Programme (PSFSP) for Islamabad. Salient features of the programme are:

- i. Mapping of the street food vendors in Islamabad

- ii. Conducting a field survey to assess the food safety situation of street food vendors
- iii. Development a food safety training manual for street food vendors
- iv. Capacity building of street food vendors and other stakeholders
- v. Development a food safety policy for Islamabad
- vi. Establishing Islamabad as a model for the food safety system and recognizing as a resource center for other parts of the country
- vii. Dissemination and replication of food safety policy and programs in provinces and regions
