

Media Update

10 May 2018

UNODC

Press Release

Japan contributed \$3,730,935 to UNODC Country Office Pakistan

For enhancing air cargo security, combatting transnational organized crime, strengthening border security against illicit trafficking and response to counter terrorism in Pakistan

Islamabad, 10 May 2018 – The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan and the Embassy of Japan hosted a play up media event for UNODC projects aimed at enhancing air cargo security, combating transnational organized crime, strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and response to counter terrorism at Serena Hotel today. This is to be implemented under the UNODC Country Programme for Pakistan (2016-2019) through the financial support of the Government of Japan. In total, the generous contribution of the Japanese government for four projects will be amounting to about 3,730,935 US dollars for duration of one year. Officials from the Ministry of Narcotics Control, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were present at the occasion.

Four (04) one-year projects will receive the funding from April 2018 to March 2019.

- 1) Combatting Transnational Organized Crime and strengthening borders in Pakistan - **US\$ 2,545,335**
- 2) Strengthening the response of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism Financing (CTF) - **US\$ 500,000**
- 3) Improving Forensic Capacity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Investigate Terrorism Cases' - **US\$ 300,000**



4) Enhancing Air Cargo Security through establishment of Air Cargo Control Unit at Lahore Allama Iqbal International Airport in Pakistan - **US\$ 385,600**

Background

Pakistan has been facing border management challenges at its western border with Afghanistan, which is used for not only but also legitimate trade and movement of people but is also a much preferred route for drugs and human trafficking. In recent years, the challenges alluded to have become more complex with the changing geo-political environment in the region, and this is particularly so with respect to transnational organized crime, illicit narcotics trafficking as well as human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The security situation across Pakistan remains fragile and terrorists are regularly targeting civilians and law enforcement officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. The primary focus of the efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in Pakistan for countering terrorism has been on intelligence, investigation and operations against suspected individuals and organisations without considering the financial mechanisms exploited by terrorists to fund their activities. An effective approach to countering terrorism is to diminish the strength of the terrorism economy, through all possible ways including tracing the financial sources of funding used by terrorists, seizing those sources, preventing individuals and organizations from raising funds nationally and internationally.

Criminals constantly look for opportunities where they can exploit the flaws, gaps or deficiencies of laws and regulations in place. For more than two decades now, the overwhelming volume of global trade has made it more and more difficult for regulatory bodies and customs enforcement to control the actual content of thousands of millions of consignments moving across the world. This provides the criminals the opportunity to mask their illegal transshipments by legitimate trade cover.

During his opening remarks, Mr. Cesar Guedes, the UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan, thanked H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai and highlighted that through the financial support of the Government of Japan, the projects will contribute to the vision of creating “a safer community, free from the threats posed by illicit narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime.” He also said, “UNODC is leading global efforts against drug trafficking and is

the sole guardian of all international conventions on drugs and transnational organized crime. The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan has been active for over 35 years and works in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, its mandate is to empower the Government in its efforts to overcome the challenges associated with transnational organized crime, thereby contributing towards the nation's stabilisation and development.”

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to help Pakistan eradicate all types of transnational organized crime including illicit drug trafficking. Mr. Kurai stated that the Government of Japan stands committed to combating international criminal syndicates, which through their illicit activities hinder the economic development and prosperity of the Pakistani people.

For further information and confirmation, please contact:

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UNIDO

Press Release

UNIDO and Govt of Gilgit Baltistan join hands for piloting cherry, apple and trout value chain development through private sector collaboration

The UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the UN that strives to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability around the world through the promotion and acceleration of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Recently UNIDO and Agriculture Department of Gilgit and Baltistan convened the very first Steering Committee meeting for Pakistan Agribusiness and Agroindustry development project for Gilgit Baltistan, followed by the Validation Workshop



in Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr. Babar Aman Babar, Secretary, P&D Department of Gilgit-Baltistan. The main objective of the deliberations were to finalize the agricultural value chains which needs to be addressed in the project and subsequently finalize the scope of the project and PC1 to acquire government resources for various interventions. Addressing the Steering Committee member the Secretary Planning and Development Gilgit-Baltistan, said that climate and abundant water resources make Gilgit-Baltistan region ideally suitable for fruit crops like cherry and apple etc. as well as trout fish, however, the farmers and traders are unable to harness the best value of these crops both due to lack of good ideas and technology thereof areas like pre and post harvesting, processing and packaging etc UNIDO's this initiative will help to overcome the hurdles faced by the farmers through Agribusiness and agro-industry development assistance in Pakistan (PAAID) – Initiative for Gilgit-Baltistan. The event took place in Islamabad with the participation of high-level representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the Planning and Development Department of Gilgit-Baltistan as well as the representatives of ILO, IFAD, Agha Khan Foundation and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as other federal agencies.

UNIDO outlined the principles to be considered for formulating the project and briefed the house, about how UNIDO developed the concept of the project and subsequent flow of information through various departments of Gilgit-Baltistan for this project to delineate the state of the art situation in each of these commodities. UNIDO conducted a baseline and feasibility study of Cherry, Apple and Trout Fish these meetings were moderated by the Secretary Agriculture, Mr. Sajjad Haider The purpose of the event was to present the preliminary findings of the value chain assessments and feasibilities studies of selected sectors, namely trout, apple and cherry. As part of the event, UNIDO also presented its agro-food value chain approach and potential intervention scope for the selected value chains. In addition, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan encouraged the development partners in the province to join forces thus ensuring the local needs of farmers. As an outcome of this event, the Steering Committee members have agreed on the intervention approach for this initiative as well as the timeline to finalize the Trust Fund Agreement and governmental approval between the two parties.

Mr. Ali Badarneh, Project Manager of PAAID project form UNIDO HQ in Vienna brainstormed the participants of the meeting by the available approaches for development that could be followed for developing certain agricultural value chain in Gilgit Baltistan comparing vertical approach from

horizontal approach, he elucidated the benefits and limitation of the two approaches based on this, the Steering Committee agreed to follow the vertical approach for developing Value chain in Gilgit Baltistan and they also agreed that rather than going in a big way with one fruit or fish value chain it would be more appropriate that, the project should undertake activities in 3 Value Chains i.e. Cherry, Apple and Trout starting at Pilot level selecting one or more model farm where the development could be showcased for these commodities so that a follow upscaling could be done through subsequent projects, investments or public private partnership.

Nadia Aftab, Country Representative of UNIDO in Pakistan referring to the background of the project commended the provision of seed money from UNIDO and funds from One UN for initiating the project activities, she thanked the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan for continuous support and their vigour for developing the selected fruit and fisheries sector. She especially praised commitment of Government of Gilgit-Baltistan in year marking funds for this project for technical assistant from UNIDO. She especially praised the keen interest shown by the progressive formers, women associations and women farmers and small fruit businessmen of Gilgit-Baltistan shown in UNIDO's pursuit for providing technical assistance to the stakeholders. .

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