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AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Winter Newsletter: *Pakistan edition*



His Highness the Aga Khan inaugurates state-of-the-art healthcare education centre in Karachi

15 December 2017: His Highness the Aga Khan inaugurated the Aga Khan University's (AKU) Centre for Innovation in Medical Education (CIME), a state-of-the-art facility for technology

based learning for health professionals, at the University's campus during his state visit to Pakistan in December.

In his inaugural address, His Highness spoke of the many contributions of AKU towards the advancement of healthcare in the country stating that, civil society was underserved in education in Pakistan. Expressing his gratitude to all those who had sustained the University, he said, "we should position this institution in its correct place in service to Pakistan."

CIME's mission is to transform the education of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals through the use of simulation and virtual reality technology which will enable them to develop essential knowledge and skills before they treat patients. The 80,000-square foot, Rs. 1.6 billion (\$15 million) CIME comprises three buildings: the Mariyam Bashir Dawood Building, the Ibn Sina Building and the Shiraz Boghani Building. It offers multi-purpose teaching spaces, high-fidelity simulators, and specialty environments such as the phantom-head dental lab, a cardiac catheterisation lab and telemedicine clinics. High-speed communications technology allows video connectivity throughout CIME and with international experts, offering a truly "global classroom", with students able to learn from specialists anywhere in the world in real-time. This same connectivity allows CIME to work with remote and rural populations within Pakistan and neighbouring countries to expand access to quality healthcare.

"In everything we do, as our Chancellor says, 'we must look to the future, seeking always to think creatively, to innovate and to improve,'" said AKU President Firoz Rasul. "Technology-enabled learning has the potential to transform how we prepare students and professionals to face society's most pressing issues. By giving today's health professionals the most advanced facilities to work and learn together at CIME, we give them the best chance of becoming leaders capable of solving tomorrow's healthcare challenges."

His Highness laid the foundation stone for the three buildings of CIME during his previous visit to Pakistan in 2013.



His Highness the Aga Khan delivering the inaugural address



His Highness the Aga Khan touring the buildings of CIME along with President AKU Mr. Firoz Rasul and President National Council Mr. Hafiz SherAli

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat organises international workshop on disaster risk reduction for vulnerable communities in Pakistan

8 January 2018: The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan (AKAH, P) held an international planning workshop in Islamabad on 8th and 9th January, 2018 to design comprehensive, community-centric programmes for reducing the disaster risk vulnerability of communities situated in hazard-prone areas in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. The workshop was organised in light of the challenges posed by climate change to human lives and public and private infrastructure, particularly for the communities living in the mountainous regions of northern Pakistan which have prompted civil society actors to not only respond to the frequently occurring disasters but also to build sustainable mechanisms for improved preparedness and adaptation against future disaster risks. The workshop was attended by over 70 international and national stakeholders including representatives from AKAH's Global Office, AKAH's Regional Offices in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, AKDN agencies in Pakistan (Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, and Aga Khan Culture Services), financial institutions (First MicroFinanceBank Ltd and Habib Bank Limited), academic institutions (Punjab University and NED University of Engineering and Technology), community representatives and civil society actors.



Participants at the workshop

Though multiple plenary sessions and interactive discussions, the workshop laid key parameters to ensure safety and resilience of communities living in hazard-prone areas, and to provide these communities with access to social and financial services that can lead to greater opportunities and a better quality of life. Appreciating the contributions made by the participants of the workshop, the CEO of AKAH, P, Mr. Nawab Ali Khan, said, “enhancing the disaster risk resilience of vulnerable communities is the cornerstone of AKAH's mandate; however, to make our programmes successful it is important that all stakeholders synergise their resources to ensure that such communities are able to look towards a future of hope and prosperity. We hope that learning from this workshop will become a stepping stone to achieve these objectives”.

Meet the young innovators from Chitral

16 October 2017: Caroline Arnold, Director Education and Andrew Cunningham, Global Adviser Education from the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Geneva met two young innovators during their visit to schools in remote Chitral to review the progress of the AKDN School Improvement Programme (SIP). They were amazed to see how much progress in terms of creative and innovative thinking had been made in government and community schools after just a few months of training.

In a visit to the remote Government Primary Schools Khot Payeen and Khot in Chitral, they met the two innovators who had started to experiment with making toys using low-cost or no-cost materials. Mohammed Yunus, a student from grade five had created a truck using hydraulics: when he pumped the syringe the container moved up and down. Another young student, Fahimullah, also in grade five, had created a helicopter operated with batteries. AKF, Geneva staff and the local staff were astounded at the creativity and ingenuity of Mohammed Yunus and Fahimullah. Other students had made dolls, bean bags and other toys while parents had made many mini shalwar-qameez and wooden ladders for the home corners in early years' classrooms in both Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral.



Muhammad Yunus from Chitral pumping the syringe to start the truck he created using hydraulics

These changes to the teaching and learning in schools in Khot were a result of the training provided by the Aga Khan University-Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), Professional Development Centre (PDC), Chitral, in collaboration with the Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES, P), in Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED), which included the use of low-cost or no-cost materials. The course is part of the AKDN-led School Improvement Programme, which commenced in mid-2016. SIP seeks to improve student learning outcomes through a whole school approach to school improvement implemented at all levels of the government system.

Serena: Benefitting people and places

15 September 2017: Serena Hotels launched Raabta, a public diplomacy initiative, to commemorate the 70th Independence anniversary of Pakistan. His Excellency Thomas Drew, the British High Commissioner, delivered the keynote address at the launching ceremony. Other notable panelists included Mr. Kamran Lashari, Director General, Walled City of Lahore Authority, Mr. Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz, and Mr. Patchamuthu Illangovan, Country Director, World Bank discussing the 'Pakistan of tomorrow – Culture & Heritage, Economy and Future of Pakistan'. Raabta aims to foster valuable engagement of academic, corporate and development communities through regular public events with the three focus areas of dialogue being Culture, Economy and Future.



Launching ceremony of Raabta

Serena Hotels also inaugurated the Serena Park on 7th October 2017. Sheikh Ansar Aziz, Mayor of Islamabad & Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels joined hands in the inauguration of the 8-acre

Park. The Park will provide the residents of Islamabad with a safe space to exercise and relax. The development of this large tract of land is an example of how Serena Hotels, cognisant of its environmental responsibility, has been championing eco-friendly practices and taking steps to minimise its carbon footprint. During this year, 'Be the Next Serena Photographer', an architectural photography competition, was also held under Serena Hotel's cultural diplomacy banner to promote new talent amongst the photographer community. The winner, Minhaj Ahmad from Karachi, and the runner-up, Sakina Hassan from Karachi, were selected from over 1,200 submissions. They were honoured during a ceremony in November. The jury members consisted of Mr. Mobeen Ansari, a photojournalist and artist, Mr. Syed Mehdi Bukhari, a professional photographer and writer, and Mr. Wajahat Malik, a documentary filmmaker.

AKDN and Government of Canada celebrate 35 years of partnership in Pakistan

20 October 2017: To celebrate the partnership between AKDN and Government of Canada and to mark 150 years of Canadian confederation, His Excellency Perry Calderwood, High Commissioner of Canada and Akhtar Iqbal, CEO of Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF, P) hosted an event at the High Commissioner's residence for members of the diplomatic community, government officials, and civil society. In his remarks, High Commissioner Calderwood said, "We continue to value greatly our partnership with AKDN in Pakistan, which ... has transformed health and education in local communities, empowering women and youth." Since the early 1980s, AKDN and Government of Canada have worked together to help people in Pakistan improve their quality of life. From the earliest investments in irrigation and drinking water infrastructure, roads and bridges to massive improvements in literacy and education attainment, especially by women, to today's expansion of an e-Health system that is revolutionising the way patients can access care and health professionals learn in remote areas, the AKDN-Canada partnership has left its mark across Pakistan, from Gilgit-Baltistan all the way to Karachi.

Iqbal Walji, Chairman AKF, P, echoed the High Commissioner's words, and added a note about applying lessons from the partners' joint experience to the future: "If there is one thing that AKDN has learned from our more than 100 years of working to improve quality of life in Pakistan, it is that the diversity of voices in this country is one of our great strengths. But not all those voices are speaking at the same volume,



Iqbal Walji, Chairman AKF, P National Committee talking about the partnership of AKDN with Canada



Khalil Shariff, CEO, AKF Canada addressing guests at the event

and therefore it is incumbent on us to lend our support towards those who society may have quietened and assist them in reasserting their voice and regain their place in the chorus.” The event also featured remarks by Khalil Shariff, CEO, Aga Khan Foundation Canada, as well as two young women who founded a now flourishing flower arrangement business after winning a micro-grant from a Canadian-funded AKDN project. The women expressed their appreciation for the ways in which AKDN has improved their lives and those of their families and neighbours over the decades.

Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit expands capacity to provide quality care to critical patients

November 2017: A high dependency unit (HDU) was established in the Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit, (AKMC, G) with the support of the Global Affairs Canada-funded Central Asia Health System Strengthening (CAHSS) project. CAHSS provided capacity building of nurses and provision of monitoring equipment to ensure quality care and vigilant monitoring of critical patients. The establishment of the HDU and capacity building of the nurses in AKMC, G has resulted in the recovery of many critical patients.



AKMC, G nurse providing treatment to a patient in the HDU

Ms. Meher Kiza, a 55-year-old woman, was transferred to AKMC, G from another local hospital with sepsis and respiratory distress after 20 days of hospitalisation. She was admitted in the HDU under the care of the internal medicine team. Medical treatment was immediately initiated which included antibiotics, oxygen administration, nebulisation and nasogastric (NG) intubation and feeding. Initially her condition was declared as very critical, however day by day her condition started improving. After one week in the HDU, her condition improved dramatically and she was shifted to general ward. A week later she was discharged from the hospital in stable condition. Her family and the medical team both were very much satisfied with the hard work and competent care provided by trained nurses in the HDU. Another patient, 45-year-old Mr. Bakhtawer, was transferred to AKMC, G HDU from military hospital after a traffic accident. He had fractured bones and head injuries and was in a very critical condition. AKMC, G doctors operated upon him and he was kept in HDU for critical care for five days before being moved to the general ward. He stayed for a month in AKMC, G and was discharged in stable condition.

Profit Distribution from Shigar Fort and Khaplu Palace

18 August 2017: A special ceremony for distribution of profits with the local communities of Shigar Town Management and Development Society (STMDS), Khaplu Town Management and Development Society (KTMDS) and Baltistan Culture and Development Foundation (BCDF) was organised by the Aga Khan Cultural Service-Pakistan (AKCS-P) and Serena Hotels at Islamabad

Serena Hotel. His Excellency Mr. Tore Nedrebo, the Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

A sum of PKR 10 million was distributed at the ceremony to the respective groups: PKR 2.5 million to BCDF, PKR 3.4 million to STMDS, PKR 1.6 million to KTMDs, and PKR 2.5 million to AKCS-P. These groups were formed as part of agreements signed with communities surrounding the Shigar and Khaplu forts during the restoration of the Shigar and Khaplu forts by AKCS-P and their establishment as Serena-operated hotels. The presidents of the Shigar and Khaplu Town Management and Development Societies, Wazir Fida Ali and Mohammed Iqbal; Syed Mohammed Iraqi, Vice-President STMDS; Wazir Ejaz Hussain, Manager BCDF and Salman Beg, CEO AKCS-P received the funds on behalf of their organisations.



His Excellency Mr. Tore Nedrebo, Leaders of AKDN Pakistan and the Presidents of the Town Management and Development Societies

Leveraging AKDN expertise, AKCS-P had restored the two major landmark monuments of Baltistan, the 400 years old Shigar Fort and 200 years old Khaplu Palace, opening them for re-use in 2005 and 2011 respectively, as exclusive heritage properties managed by Serena Hotels in a sustainable manner while ensuring the highest standards of hospitality. The Royal Norwegian Embassy provided essential funding of \$1.6 million for the restoration work. This has allowed for the forts to become anchor points for local economic and social development. The restoration and adaptive re-use programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) envisages active community participation to ensure local enduring sustainability through cultural development. The BCDF was established in late nineties, with Shigar and Khaplu TMDS as its local chapters, to ensure community based conservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Baltistan. In order to develop a common understanding of local development and conservation of heritage, AKCS-P entered into a Framework for Collaboration with BCDF in 2005, allowing for a profit sharing mechanism (20% to TMDS and 10% to BCDF) to finance community based development. 2016 was the first year that the properties turned a profit.

Synergies and local energies

18 October 2017: Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, the founding General Manager and Board Member of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), visited different villages of Gilgit and Ghizer districts from 18th to 20th October 2017. Attributing AKRSP's success to its reliance on indigenous communities, he spoke highly of the knowledge and capabilities of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, emphasising the importance of focusing on basic units (at the household level) as a means of bringing about change in society. During his visit he also met with the Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Secretary Planning and Development of Gilgit-Baltistan.

In his meetings he stressed the need to create linkages between the government and AKRSP fostered social institutions of the rural communities. He regarded these institutions to be great

sources of social capital which can be substantially increased by the government with investments in the development of these local communities. He said it was crucial for the communities to organise themselves into Village Organisations (VO), Women Organisations (WO) and Local Support Organisations (LSO) in order to work with the government to ensure that development efforts have a positive impact at the household level. He advised AKRSP to help VO's and WO's to spend their institutions savings through LSO's. Additionally he also emphasised the need for having Union Council level plans, micro development plans and a revolving fund plan. The meeting with members of community organisations and government officials should pave the way for creating new partnerships for the development of the region. He was very pleased that communities have almost over 2.5 billion PKR savings in VO/WOs. He emphasised on women taking lead and forming women organisations. He shared his experience from India and Pakistan for poverty reduction and emphasised on the fact that women leadership is critical and important for development.



Members of LSO, VO and WO in Sherqilla, Ghizer meeting with Shoaib Sultan Khan and senior AKRSP staff

Mr. Muzaffar Uddin, General Manager of AKRSP, further commenting on the strengthening of these community organisations said, "this visit will help in the strengthening of the linkages between government and these community organisations and will formalise the working relation between government and community organisations/line departments. A large number of communities are doing active savings and AKRSP in collaboration with other AKDN agencies will support to develop a digital platform for saving, managing and utilisation of these funds and formally link and leverage these community saving with financial service providers to get credit micro insurance and other financial service from the market."

No electricity or internet, but still connected to the world

Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES, P) has provided eight schools in Gilgit-Baltistan with Internet via Satellite (IVS), connecting more than 4,000 students and teachers with valuable educational resources available online. A Regional School Development Unit in Gilgit-Batistan, which previously did not have internet connectivity, has also been provided with IVS, enabling it to stay connected with regional and central offices. In addition, two schools in Chitral and three in Sindh were provided with mobile computer labs, which are essentially trollies stocked with tablets. As a result,



Internet via Satellite at a school in Chatorkand, GB

1,500 more students now have access to computers. Some of these labs are solar-powered as electricity via grid is not available in remote locations.

The mobile labs allow for the classroom to come to students instead of students going to a designated computer lab for their ICT lessons. With the help of IVS and pre-loaded content such as Khan Academy tutorials and digital books for different age groups, students who previously were not able to benefit from ICT are now able to do so. In addition to their regular lessons, students and teachers are able to make use of innumerable online resources as they learn computer and information technology. Teachers are also able to improve their pedagogical skills with the help of pre-loaded lesson plans, supplementary content for use in teaching, and teaching aids. Cost-effective and relatively faster to set up than traditional stationary labs, AKES, P plans to expand the provision of mobile labs to more schools without computers in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. Meanwhile, schools which have been provided with mobile labs but are in areas without internet connectivity will be connected through IVS.

AKAH, P and UNOCHA join hands to train the Disaster Assessment and Response Team

26 December 2017: The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan (AKAH, P), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), held a three day training session for its Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART) from the 26th to 28th December 2017 in Islamabad. DART is part of AKAH, P's Emergency Management Department, which oversees a number of programmes on disaster preparedness, response and capacity building of communities. In order to build the capacity of DART, it was revitalised with the inclusion of new members from AKDN agencies and the Government.



Participants at the DART training

The training was held to give the restructured DART team a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of disaster response and to equip them with the requisite strategy and tools, like the Multi Sector Rapid Assessment (MSRA) tool developed by UNOCHA and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to be implemented across Pakistan for disaster data collection. The training was attended by 28 participants from Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, Karachi and Islamabad. The first day focused on the differences between the response of humanitarian agencies and other development agencies. Day two addressed humanitarian approaches and coordination. The final day of the training dealt with tools of assessment. The training will allow the participants to utilise their knowledge at the regional level for better data collection during times of disasters in the future.

Young Pakistan rises to the AKU Challenge

27 October 2017: Forty-five students from across 24 cities and towns in Pakistan came together to attend the Aga Khan University's (AKU) Challenge (Scholarship) Programme which aims to prepare youth for higher education. The Challenge (Scholarship) Programme, a two-week residential boot camp, gave students the opportunity to be coached by well-known professionals and academics, conduct community research and explore complex topics from critical thinking to gender and ethics, while gaining valuable life skills including first aid training. One of the highlights of the programme was a dialogue with Pakistan's first Oscar-winning filmmaker,



Participants at AKU's Challenge Scholarship Programme

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. The programme also included a field trip to Rehri Goth, an old fishing village on the outskirts of Karachi, which was intended to raise awareness amongst the students as to the role they can play in advocating for solutions to local problems. Amtul Wadood, from Chenab Nagar said, "Seeing people and the conditions they were living in encouraged us to do something for them. It inspired me to try and make a difference in the world." Waseem Jamil, from Parachinar, enjoyed the critical thinking seminar the most "because it encouraged you to ask questions, which I had never experienced before." And Inam Ullah, from Dera Ghazi Khan, felt he has become a new person after this experience. "Back at home my principal would always call me on stage to speak, but I used to shy away. After this experience I will go back home and tell my principal that I want to go speak on stage," he said.

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for taking the time to learn about AKDN's work in Pakistan.

If you have any questions about the articles, please contact Laila Naz Taj, Manager Partnerships and Communications, AKF Pakistan, at laila.taj@akdn.org.

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Please look for the next volume of the AKDN Newsletter in Spring 2018. For more information, visit our website: www.akdn.org/Pakistan