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Chair



Report - UNESCO Chairholders' Coordination Meeting in Pakistan

Hosted by UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) Wah Campus

12 September 2024

Executive Summary

The UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Wah Campus, with technical support from the UNESCO Office in Pakistan, organized the inaugural UNESCO Chairholders' Coordination Meeting on September 12, 2024. This meeting, held in connection with International Literacy Day, brought together seven of the eight UNESCO Chairs in Pakistan, the UNESCO Office in Pakistan, and the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU) to discuss collaborative opportunities, knowledge sharing, and the future direction of their initiatives. Participants represented various fields, including education, sciences, culture, and technology, with a focus on advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fostering international cooperation.

Introduction

In the first-ever meeting of UNESCO Chairs in Pakistan, the event was a significant step towards enhancing the collective impact of UNESCO's work across diverse sectors in the country. The platform facilitated the exchange of information, knowledge, and ideas among the Chairholders, promoting collaboration for sustainable development and educational advancement.

Participants

The meeting was attended by the following key stakeholders:

1. Mr. Antony Kar Hung Tam, Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO
2. Mr. Imran ul Haq, Assistant Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU)
3. Mr. Shahbaz Ullah, Assistant Secretary General, PNCU
4. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., Director Campus/UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for IWRM, CUI Wah Campus
5. Prof. Adnan Noor Mian, UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technology for Development, Information Technology University (ITU), Lahore
6. Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Regions, Nadirshaw Edulji Dinshaw (NED) University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi
7. Dr. Ayesha Hakim, Assistant Professor, representing Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Chairman, National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA), UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef (MNS) University of Agriculture, Multan
8. Prof. Dr. Nadeem Shaukat, Assistant Professor, representing Dr. Muhammad Tariq Siddique, UNESCO Chair on Light for Health, Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad
9. Ms. Rohma Khan, Director of Programs, representing Prof. Dr. Rashid Ali Rana, Dean, Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts & Design, UNESCO Chair on Inclusion through Art, Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore

10. Ms. Humna Kazi, Content Writer, representing Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zahra, UNESCO Chair in the Conservation and Management of Historic Towns and Urban Centers, The National College of Arts (NCA), Lahore
11. Syed Muhammad Raza Shah, National Professional Officer (Natural Sciences), UNESCO
12. Ms. Alima Bibi, National Professional Officer (Education), UNESCO
13. Dr. Cristina Menegazzi, International Expert – Culture and Heritage, UNESCO
14. Mr. Hamza Swati, National Professional Officer (Communication and Information), UNESCO
15. Mr. Jawad Aziz, National Professional Officer (Culture), UNESCO

Opening Remarks

1. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid**, T.I., UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for IWRM, CUI Wah Campus in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of the UNESCO Chairholders' Meeting as a valuable platform for Chairholders across Pakistan to showcase their expertise and contributions. He expressed confidence that effective collaboration would strengthen relationships, achieve better results, and enhance the impact of their work both locally and globally. He also informed that Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-organic Natural Product Chemistry from the University of Karachi, was unable to attend the meeting.

Presentations

2. In his presentation, **Mr. Antony Kar Hung Tam**, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Office in Pakistan, outlined the UNESCO's key focus areas in the country and discussed thematic areas for enhancing quality education, providing technical and vocational training, promoting cultural heritage and creative industries, advancing sciences and improving media and information literacy. He further briefed the UNESCO dedication to Greening Education, making education systems climate-resilient, and managing water resources effectively for the community of Pakistan.
3. **Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian**, Vice Chancellor and UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICTD) at ITU Lahore introduced the key initiatives of the University as a center for research and development work under the UNESCO Chair on ICTD. He highlighted the UNESCO Chair's technological focus, impact, and achievements, under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 9, and 11 as well as its ongoing research activities and key areas of work. Prof. Dr. Mian also discussed ITU's partnerships and vision for future collaborations, particularly in the fields of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Cyber Security.

4. **Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed**, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Regions at NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi, provided an overview of UNESCO's Chair priority areas, with a focus on SDG 11. He highlighted the Chair's strong contributions to national and regional development, aiming to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Ahmed outlined sustainable practices and recent developments, coordinated activities to address issues related to achieving sustainability. He also emphasized the importance of raising community awareness through collaboration with professionals, NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders. The Chair continues to be involved in organizing lectures, seminars, workshops, technical training, conferences, and fieldwork annually in coordination with all relevant stakeholders.
5. As a representative of **Prof. Dr. Asif Ali**, UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, **Dr. Ayesha Hakim** provided a comprehensive overview of the Chair's role and activities. She detailed the ongoing research projects and the Chair's significant contributions to global climate action and biodiversity conservation. Their efforts focused on enhancing resilience in biosphere reserves and building capacity for human resource development, with a specific emphasis on SDGs 1 and 17. Dr. Hakim highlighted key research areas, including the development of an AI and Internet of Things (IoT) device for insect pest surveillance, a blockchain and AI-based system for crop production traceability and price forecasting, and initiatives aiming to empower smallholder farmers.
6. **Ms. Rohma Khan**, Director of Programs, attended the meeting on behalf of **Prof. Rashid Ali Rana**, Dean of the Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts & Design and UNESCO Chair on Inclusion through Art at BNU, Lahore. She outlined the UNESCO Chair's alignment with the 2030 Agenda principles, including integration, inter-linkages, knowledge, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Ms. Khan highlighted the achievements of the Interdisciplinary Expanded Design & Art (IEDA) program, emphasizing the Chair's commitment to advancing quality education in the arts and promoting socio-economic growth across South Asia. The program supports innovative, interdisciplinary learning, creates opportunities for decent work and artistic practice, and enhances regional mobility for scholars. She detailed how the Chair's activities contribute to SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13, and enhance the cultural landscape by actively including vulnerable communities.
7. **Ms. Humna Kazi** represented **Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra**, UNESCO Chair in the Conservation and Management of Historic Towns and Urban Centers from NCA, Lahore. She outlined the Chair's activities in advancing cultural research on historic towns and fostering global academic engagement, including the significant achievement of establishing the Gilgit-Baltistan Campus. Ms. Kazi also highlighted efforts in historic structure restoration, curricular expansion, and

academic strengthening at NCA. The key upcoming activities are the archival exhibitions, research publications, and events for NCA's 150th Anniversary in 2025.

8. On behalf of **Dr. Muhammad Tariq Siddique**, UNESCO Chair on Light for Health, **Prof. Dr. Nadeem Shaukat** from PIEAS provided the aim of the Chair. He outlined the Chair's mission to advance photodynamic therapy for cancer treatment and its broader goal of serving humanity. Prof. Dr. Shaukat highlighted an update on the establishment of five photodynamic therapy (PDT) clinics across four provinces and the federal capital of Pakistan. He also presented the Chair's activities, including conferences, seminars, and meetings, attended and detailed collaborations with research partners in Laser, Photomedicine, and BioPhotonics at PIEAS. Additionally, he discussed plans to boost the Chair's progress and enhance community health and education through advancements in open science and technology.
9. Finally, **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid**, T.I., Director of the UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for IWRM at CUI, Wah Campus, provided an overview of the university. He introduced the UNESCO Chair, detailing its activities, goals, and strategies aligned with SDGs 5 and 6, and discussed ongoing efforts towards SDGs 4, 8, 13, 14, and 17. He outlined various research initiatives, including snowmelt analysis and the prediction of rainfall, floods, and droughts, conducted in partnership with Baltistan University, Pakistan. His key research efforts also include surface and groundwater modeling, water quality assessment, climate modeling, and sedimentation studies, all aimed at advancing integrated water resource management. These initiatives are executed in collaboration with both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Capacity building is being enhanced through workshops, seminars, and specialized training in cooperation with local and international academic institutions and industries. Dr. Abid also provided an update on the development of Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in IWRM, Marine Engineering, and Sciences, in partnership with Harbin Engineering University, China. He concluded by discussing future collaborative opportunities with all Chairholders to strengthen UNESCO's impact and promote community development in Pakistan.

These presentations demonstrated the depth of collaborative projects, knowledge sharing, and strategic partnerships, and set the stage for future discussions.

Discussion

In the discussion session, Syed Muhammad Raza Shah, National Professional Officer (Natural Sciences) from UNESCO, posed a follow-up question: "How can UNESCO collaborate with the Chairs to help them perform their activities, and how can Chairs contribute to each other's work?"

- Dr. Noman Ahmed proposed regular meetings to facilitate communication and collaboration among the Chairs. He also stressed the importance of establishing a robust information-sharing mechanism supported by UNESCO.
- Dr. Adnan Noor Mian emphasized the need for timely dissemination of calls for proposals and suggested that UNESCO organize workshops on science diplomacy to enhance global cooperation.
- Dr. Muhammad Abid advocated for engaging youth in positive activities, encouraging UNESCO and the Chairs to focus on educational initiatives and skill development programs for young people.
- Dr. Ayesha Hakim called for better access to policymakers, stressing that despite the valuable research being conducted, there was limited engagement with decision-makers, which hindered the impact of their work.
- Ms. Humna Kazi highlighted exploring collaboration on archival and art education research.
- Syed Muhammad Raza Shah suggested that chairs' projects and initiatives be linked with UNESCO sites and proposed reviving the U-Inspire Program, which had been previously active at NED University. He also recommended involving stakeholders from the National MAB Committee, National IHP Committee, National IGGP Committee, Archaeology Departments, and the National Information for All Programme Committee, UNESCO Category II Centre in future collaborations.

Action Areas for 2024-25

1. UNESCO to engage bilaterally with UNESCO Chairs to explore any potential collaboration. The same things can be done between chairs.
2. The chairs to discuss and identify one or two areas to which the members can collectively contribute to.
3. UNESCO to explore the possibility of establishing an online information-sharing mechanism.






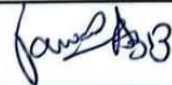

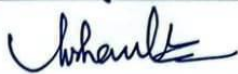
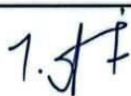


Future Meetings



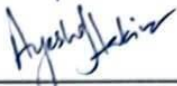





- Similar meetings will be scheduled to share the progress on collaborative efforts and explore new opportunities for cooperation among the UNESCO Chairs. At least one meeting in a year will be organized.
- The next meeting in 2025 will be hosted by the UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef (MNS) University of Agriculture, Multan.
- The event was deemed a success, with participants looking forward to continuing their collaboration and enhancing the impact of their initiatives both in Pakistan and globally.
- The meeting concluded on a positive note, with participants expressing a strong commitment to continue collaboration. In the end, the UNESCO Chair on

Knowledge Systems for IWRM presented souvenirs to the participants. He acknowledged their valuable participation and contribution with a vote of thanks.



**UNESCO Chair Holder's Coordination Meeting and
International Literacy Day
September 12, 2024
Attendance Sheet**

S.No.	Attendees	Signature
1	Mr. Antony Kar Hung Tam Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Islamabad	
2	Syed Muhammad Raza Shah National Professional Officer (Science), UNESCO Islamabad Office	
3	Ms. Alima Bibi, National Professional Officer (Education), UNESCO Islamabad Office	
4	Dr. Cristina Menegazzi, Culture Expert, UNESCO Islamabad Office	
5	Mr. Hamza Swati, National Professional Officer (Communication and Information), UNESCO Islamabad Office	
6	Mr. Jawad Aziz, National Professional Officer (Culture), UNESCO Islamabad Office	
7	Ms. Ayesha Nisar, Programme Assistant, UNESCO Islamabad Office	
8	Mr. Adnan Ahmad, Programme Assistant, UNESCO Islamabad Office	
9	Mr. Imran ul Haq, Assistant to Secretary General of the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU)	
10	Mr. Shahbaz Ullah, Assistant to Secretary General of the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU)	
	<u>Chair Holders</u>	
11	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), CUI Wah Campus	
12	Prof. Adnan Noor Mian , UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technology for Development Information Technology University, Lahore	
13	Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Regions NED University of Engineering & Technology University Road, Karachi	

S.No.	Attendees	Signature
14	Prof. Dr. Nadeem Shaukat, on behalf of UNESCO Chair Light for Health, PIEAS, Islamabad	
15	Ms. Rohma Khan, Director Programs, on behalf of UNESCO Chair on Inclusion through Art Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore	
16	Dr. Aysha Hakim, on behalf of UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	
17	Ms. Hamna Qazi on behalf of UNESCO Chair in the Conservation and Management of Historic Towns and Urban Centers, The National College of Arts, Lahore	
18	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-organic Natural Product Chemistry, University of Karachi	
19	Dr. Summera Fahmmi Khan, Member UNESCO CUI Wah Campus	
20	Engr. Sarmad Manzoor, Member UNESCO CUI Wah Campus	
21	Engr. Waleed Tariq, Member UNESCO CUI Wah Campus	
22	Ms. Asma Ilyas, Member UNESCO CUI Wah Campus	

Agenda of the Meeting

Time	Details
09:50 - 10:00	Opening Remarks by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management, COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah Campus
10:10 - 10:20	Presentation by Mr. Antony Kar Hung Tam, UNESCO Islamabad
10:20 - 10:30	Presentation on Contributions by Representative from Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU)
10:30 - 10:40	Presentation by Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technology for Development, Information Technology University, Lahore
10:40 - 10:50	Presentation by Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Regions, NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi
10:50 - 11:00	Presentation by Prof. Dr. Ayesha Hakim, UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan
11:10 - 11:20	Presentation by Prof. Dr. Nadeem Shaukat, UNESCO Chair Light for Health, Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad
11:20 - 11:30	Presentation by Ms. Rohma Khan, UNESCO Chair on Inclusion through Art, Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore
11:40 - 11:50	Presentation by Ms. Hamna Kazi, UNESCO Chair in the Conservation and Management of Historic Towns and Urban Centers, The National College of Arts, Lahore
11:50 - 12:00	Presentation by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah Campus
12:00 - 13:00	Round Table Discussion Session
13:00 - 14:00	Group Photo and Lunch

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