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AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

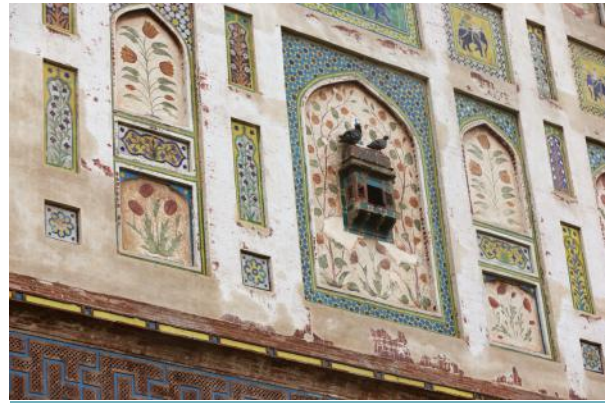
Summer Newsletter: *Pakistan edition*



Prime Minister of Pakistan inaugurates restored Lahore Fort Picture Wall

4 May 2019: The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan inaugurated the restored western facade of the 400-year old "Picture Wall" of the Lahore Fort and opened the restored Imperial Kitchens, during a ceremony held in Lahore. The Picture Wall is one of the principal features of the UNESCO World Heritage site. Together with the Shah Burj Gate (Hathi Pol), the Picture Wall,

which is exquisitely decorated, forms the original private entrance to the Fort and is one of the largest murals in the world. The conservation of the 240-foot-long western facade has been carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), and its country affiliate, the Aga Khan Cultural Service-Pakistan (AKCS-P), in collaboration with the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA). The restoration of the wall, which was initiated in 2017, was supported with funding from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Government of Punjab, the Federal Republic of Germany and AKTC.



Closeup of the features of the restored western facade of the Picture Wall

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for educational institutions to develop archaeology as a discipline and the importance of preserving heritage sites in Pakistan. Citing sustainable conservation models from other countries, where heritage sites are made economically viable by converting them to hotels, the Prime Minister applauded the successful implementation of the model by the Aga Khan Development Network in northern areas of Pakistan. Mr. Kamran Lashari, Director General WCLA, also addressed the audience and spoke highly of the longstanding partnership between WCLA and AKTC stating that without the AKTC the projects would not have been possible. The ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries including His Excellency Mr. Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen, Ambassador of Norway; Mr. Vibeke Jensen, Country Director UNESCO; Mr. Sardar Ahmad Buzdar, Chief Minister of Punjab; and several federal and provincial ministers.



Restored western facade of the Picture Wall of Lahore Fort

President of Pakistan speaks at a conference organized by Serena Hotels

27 June 2019: The Honorable President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, addressed the participants at an International Conference on Mountaineering, Eco-Tourism and Hospitality organized by Serena Hotels in Hunza. The conference was organized in partnership with Karakoram International University (KIU) and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan. In his address, the Honorable President spoke about the immense potential for eco-tourism and mountaineering in Gilgit-Baltistan which needed to be promoted to benefit the people of the region. He appreciated His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan's role in the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. During his address, he also said that the conference provided a unique learning opportunity to the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan. Mr. Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan; Mr. Khurram Aga, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan; members of the Gilgit-Baltistan

Legislative Assembly; foreign delegates and officials along with people from various walks of life attended the conference. Dr. Moin Uddin, Corporate Director Tourism Promotion Services, Serena Hotels shared his thoughts on shifting from destination economics to experience economy. This event was sponsored under the Public Diplomacy initiative of Serena Hotels which aims to develop a timely, inclusive and informed discourse on subjects and creates a culture of understanding through informed and diverse opinions. International and national keynote speakers addressed the conference with technical and thematic sessions on ground.



The Hon. President addressing the audience at the conference

China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Eco-Tourism workshops were the main focus but exhibitions on travel, tourism and hospitality were also part of the three-day event along with an excursion tour to Khunjerab Pass.

AKRSP and AKF(Pak) organize LSO Convention

27 April 2019: The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) and the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan (AKF(Pak)) organized a two-day Local Support Organization (LSO) Convention in Gilgit. Representatives from more than 80 LSOs convened to share their experiences and best practices. The inaugural session was attended by the Honorable Mr. Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan; Her Excellency Ms. Wendy Gilmour, Canadian High Commissioner; Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa, CEO Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund; Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman Rural Support Programme Network; Mr. Javed Iqbal, Vice Chairman AKRSP; Mr. Muzaffar Ud Din, General Manager AKRSP; and key representatives of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) agencies, LSOs and civil society organizations.



Panelists at the inaugural session. (L to R) Qazi Azmat Isa, Shoaib Sultan Khan, H.E Wendy Gilmour, Hon. Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman, Javed Iqbal and Muzaffar Ud Din

Welcoming the guests and participants at the convention, Mr. Javed Iqbal spoke about the philosophy behind AKDN, the achievements of its institutions and the participatory development approach of AKRSP. H.E Ms. Wendy Gilmour, shedding light on the longstanding support of Canadian government to rural development in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral said, "Canada is very proud to be a long-term partner of the AKDN since 1982 in the development of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Truly inspiring work is being done to support community empowerment, youth and women by AKRSP and the LSOs. Canada's development assistance policy aims to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world by promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls." The Honorable Mr. Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman also appreciated the community-led development approach that enabled local communities of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral to organize for collective development. The inaugural session was followed by five thematic sessions on institutional development and partnership building; poverty and social protection; renewable energy; natural resource development; and employable skills. The convention also featured an exhibition of products from LSOs and service providers across the region. Towards the end of the two-day convention, a tribute was given to Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan for his efforts and dedication in the field of rural development.

Advisor to Prime Minister appreciates AKDN in a visit to Gilgit-Baltistan

19 April 2019: The Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan (AKF(Pak)) facilitated a visit of Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change, to Gilgit-Baltistan to inaugurate the Prime Minister's 10 Billion Tree Tsunami plantation drive and visit key Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) project sites in the region. The delegation, which included Irshad Abbasi, Director Rural Development, Civil Society and Habitat AKF(Pak), toured Altit Fort and visited CIQAM Women's Social Enterprise and the Leif Larsen Music Centre. They also visited intervention sites under the AKF(Pak) and AKRSP implemented Satpara Development Project (SDP) and participated in plantation drives near Satpara Dam and Khunjerab National Park. Mr. Amin Aslam, in a ceremony celebrating Hunza's ban on the use of plastic bags, declared Hunza as the first district in Pakistan to imposed such a ban - a measure which he said will be replicated across other districts in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Malik Amin Aslam inaugurating a plantation drive in the presence of Muzaffar Ud Din, GM AKRSP, and Irshad Abbasi, Director Rural Development, Civil Society and Habitat, AKF(Pak)

During his visit, Mr. Amin Aslam praised AKDN's development efforts in the region, in particular, AKRSP's model of community-led development and expressed a resolve to partner with AKRSP on the tree plantation drive and the construction of microhydels - the PC-1 for which is under-consideration. He was receptive to a request from the Ahmedabad Local Support Organisation for the installation of a new turbine and asked for cost estimates to be sent. He also directed Mr. Khurram Aga, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan to repair the village's infrastructure for pumping water to plantation zones. During the visit, Mr Khurram Aga directed the local administration to undertake necessary measures for removing tariffs on the transmission of electricity from the Ahmedabad microhydel and also directed Secretary Law to table the Skardu and Satpara Area

Water Board Act and the Agriculture and Livestock policies, developed under the SDP, before the Cabinet of Gilgit-Baltistan for approval.

Accelerate Prosperity: AKDN's enterprise growth acceleration initiative

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development's Industrial Promotion Services (AKFED-IPS) launched Accelerate Prosperity (AP) as a global initiative in 2017. The objective was to catalyze creation of sustainable small and growing businesses across Pakistan, through trainings and advisory, technical assistance and investment intermediation. This was done to address gaps in the support available to start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to thrive. AP's direct investments are geared towards making businesses bankable and investable for private sector. Investment decisions are based on set criteria, including a clear market niche, competitive advantage, strong revenue and profit models, potential for growth and employment creation, and potential to promote gender equality.



In the two years since inception, AP Pakistan has engaged 12,434 entrepreneurs, and provided select startups and existing businesses relevant trainings and business advisory. It has incubated 97 startups and provided financing-readiness services to 41 existing businesses. AP Pakistan has provided direct finance and intermediated external investments for 29 businesses and leveraged its finance to unlock four times its investments for these businesses from business owners and the private sector. It has also facilitated more than PKR 50 million worth of external financing commitments for these businesses. AP Pakistan's support has enabled these businesses to create 172 new jobs and improve 2,350 existing jobs. AP Pakistan supported businesses have experienced an average year on year increase in revenues of around 18.5%. Over the next five to seven years, AP Pakistan intends to engage around 15,000 entrepreneurs, provide training and business advisory to around 900 businesses, and extend financing or intermediate investments to around 300 businesses across Pakistan.



Session on value-investing for AP supported businesses by Arif Habib Group and Silk Bank Investments

AKES,P schools striving to improve quality of learning

In 2019, two Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES,P) schools from Gilgit-Baltistan and one from Chitral, have been affiliated with the Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) bringing the number of AKU-EB affiliated AKES,P schools to 25. Each year, AKES,P affiliates more of its 69 secondary and higher secondary schools with AKU-EB to improve the quality of learning. Students of four schools, affiliated last year, also sat for their first examinations under the new board this year. AKU-EB affiliation is a key quality intervention, designed to improve the teaching and learning experience in Aga Khan Schools. Ms. Gulzar Afaqi, Head Teacher Diamond Jubilee Model High School, Oshikandas in Gilgit-Baltistan, affiliated with AKU-EB in 2017, has had three years to observe the changes in her school. The greatest change she has observed in her students is increase in self-regulated learning. “They (students) now look at different books and other materials to learn more about a particular subject,” she says, “rather than rote-learning their textbooks. They know that the examination will be wide-based and test their understanding. This encourages them to explore subjects in depth”. Not just students, but teachers too are pushed to go beyond what was traditionally required and improve their knowledge to better guide their students. They are now making use of the internet to keep up to date about teaching and pedagogy and integrating information and communications technology into their classes.



AKES,P students during a group exercise in a lab

AKAH,P partners with KIU for scientific programs

28 May 2019: The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan (AKAH,P) has signed an MoU with Karakoram International University (KIU) Gilgit, to collaborate on scientific and technical programs to improve the living conditions and reduce the vulnerability of mountain communities to natural disasters. AKAH,P also plans to upgrade the Water Quality Research Lab and Built Environment Research Lab at KIU to facilitate researchers through the provision of tools, equipment, centers for learning and conducting research studies, and the exchange and training of relevant personnel in the field of disaster management, socio-economic vulnerability assessments and climate change-induced disasters. In his remarks, Prof.Dr.Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, KIU pledged a commitment towards “social development and evolution of peaceful and pluralistic societies in the mountainous areas of Pakistan. This formal linkage between AKAH,P and KIU will be considered vital to boost research and technical cooperation by sharing of knowledge, expertise, and resources”.

“Ensuring safer habitats for communities living in disaster-prone areas, those exposed to climate-induced disasters, is the top priority of AKAH,P. We believe that awareness raising and skills and capacities will make these communities resilient to the hazard and risks” emphasized Mr. Nawab Ali Khan, CEO AKAH,P, while speaking at the occasion. He further added that “Scientific and applied research in areas of disaster management and climate change

adaptation, will make us achieve the goals of reducing disaster vulnerability and improve built environment. This partnership with KIU, the leading academic institution in Gilgit-Baltistan, will assist our teams in conducting research studies that will contribute for innovation as well as value addition to the existing indigenous knowledge, for disaster management and building safer habitats.” In the past AKAH,P and KIU have worked on the assessment of selected glaciers and the development of skilled craftsmanship in Gilgit-Baltistan through joint programs.



Exchange of MOUs between AKAH,P and KIU at the signing ceremony

AKHS,P health workers saving lives and changing mindsets

Fatima is a Community Midwife (CMW), who along with other midwives across Chitral, was selected to be part of the Global Affairs Canada funded Access to Quality Care through Extending and Strengthening Health Systems (AQCESS) Project, implemented by the Aga Khan Health Services, Pakistan. Under AQCESS, these CMWs are provided with trainings as well as medical supplies. The story below is just one of many instances where Fatima has had to overcome seemingly insurmountable hurdles to deliver quality care to locals.

Sifat Bibi is a resident of Washich Valley in Chitral. When Sifat became pregnant for the sixth time, she went to Fatima for her prenatal visits. Fatima provided Sifat with information on proper nutrition and advised her to get an ultrasound. Even though Sifat had the Sehat Sahulat card under which she could avail free treatment, her husband refused to take her to a health center. As a result, despite giving birth to a healthy baby girl, Sifat faced complications post-delivery as her placenta got retained and she started bleeding. When Fatima found out about Sifat's condition, she pleaded with Sifat's husband to take her to a hospital but the family refused deeming it an internal matter. Fatima did not lose hope and continued to treat Sifat at home via intravenous infusions. However, Sifat's condition continued to deteriorate. Fatima eventually reached out to a Training Officer under the AQCESS project who, with the help of an employee of a sister Aga Khan Development Network Agency, convinced Sifat's family to let her seek medical treatment at a hospital. Sifat was moved to the Rural Health Center Shagram where she underwent a free-of-cost procedure to remove the placenta. Dr. Irum, the Lady Medical Officer who treated Sifat, termed her survival a miracle and praised the life saving treatment provided by Fatima and her efforts to counsel the family. Sifat's



Fatima, a community midwife changing lives in Chitral

family also thanked Fatima for her unrelenting sense of duty and conceded to the importance of safe birthing practices.

FMFB,P celebrates ground breaking of regional HQ

21 June 2019: The ground breaking ceremony of The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd, Pakistan's (FMFB,P) Regional Headquarters building was held in Gilgit. Mr. Sultan Ali Allana, FMFB's Founding Chairman and current Chairman of Habib Bank Limited (HBL), graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, President HBL; Mr. Rayomond Kotwal, Chairman FMFB; Mr. Amir Masood Khan, President FMFB; and key representatives from ARCOP Pvt Ltd, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan (AKAH,P), local



Unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the ground breaking of FMFB's regional headquarters by Sultan Ali Allana and Rayomond Kotwal (R) and Muhammad Aurangzeb and Amir Masood Khan (L).

community, and law enforcement agencies. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sultan Allana, said “37 years ago when AKRSP came about under a vision of His Highness the Aga Khan for promoting credit and savings in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, a lot of people were skeptical whether such a program would succeed. Today, that very credit and savings component has matured into a functioning micro-finance sector of the country and we should be proud that FMFB is a product that is emerged from the brilliance of the people of this great region”.

Mr. Rayomond Kotwal said “On this historic day, we give back to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan this symbol of our gratitude for their unwavering support and loyalty.” The building will be a state-of-the-art LEED-certified environmentally-friendly structure. Spread over 11,505 sq ft, the building will be completed in two years and will house a bank branch, bank offices, training development centre and regional and area offices. ARCOP (Pvt) Ltd have been designated as the principal architects of the project while AKAH,P will act as the project manager for its planning, construction and completion.

Finding the ‘Nur’: the role of mothers in their children’s education

Samina Batool, who lives in Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan, started taking an interest in her children’s education when the Government Girls’ Middle School Hyderabad, joined the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) School Improvement Programme (SIP) in 2018. She says that the sessions held for parents, particularly for mothers, not only encouraged her to engage with her children on their homework, but also motivated her to tell stories to her children using picture books. Prior to SIP, Samina had not visited her children’s school to meet their teachers as she thought that education was the teachers’ job. However, she now considers herself equally responsible for her children’s education and visits their school on a monthly basis to meet

teachers and the head teacher. During mothers' and parents' meetings in schools, Samina talks about the inspiration she gained following the cluster-based sessions on School Development Planning, Early Childhood Education and Development and Reading for Children. She has also learnt techniques like picture reading, storytelling and interacting with children regarding day to day experiences. According to Samina, these SIP sessions have turned her life from darkness to light because she strongly believes that education is Nur. Her passion towards her children's education has contributed significantly towards the progress of her children and has made her famous as a proactive and responsible mother.



Samina reading with her children at home

AKU faculty leads national malaria eradication efforts

Professor Asim Beg, who heads the Malaria and Parasitic Diseases Research Group at the Aga Khan University (AKU), will lead AKU's partnership with the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) - a regional expert group spanning 22 countries - in advancing research, policymaking and capacity building initiatives to eradicate malaria from Pakistan. Pakistan is one of five countries that account for 95 per cent of global cases of malaria, according to the World Health Organization. Government statistics state that six out of ten people in the country are at high risk of contracting the preventable disease. "Malaria is preventable and treatable and was eliminated in many countries decades ago," said Professor Beg. "There are still a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Asia Pacific with a heavy burden of the disease. Regional and national partnerships represent an effective way to eradicate these remaining hubs of the disease."



Prof. Asim Beg will lead AKU's partnership with APMEN towards eradicating malaria

He will undertake collaborative research projects in significant areas including trends in drug and insecticide resistance, initiatives to advance treatment through clinical trials, biomedical research on the disease, and the use of research insights to enhance patient outcomes. He will also cooperate with public health authorities in neighboring high-burden countries of Afghanistan and Iran on a regional malaria elimination drive. These initiatives will facilitate the sharing of expertise between researchers from different countries and generate knowledge which would enable each country to achieve its anti-malaria targets.

Need for alternative models of curriculum stressed

29 June 2019: The Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) organized a seminar to disseminate findings of a year-long study which examined the efficacy of non-formal basic education (NFBE) curriculum and materials for quality teaching and learning processes. AKU-IED carried out the study in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the 16 newly established NFBE centres set up by JICA and NGO World. Under the research project, eight centres were categorized as intervention centres which followed specially designed accelerated primary school curriculum for NFBE, whereas eight were categorized as non-intervention centres following regular primary curriculum. All 16 centres catered for 7-16 years-old out-of-school children. The comparative analysis of both groups revealed that whilst all learners had improved their overall scores, the arc was significantly higher for intervention centres' learners. These findings are particularly important as Pakistan has more than 22 million out of school children who need flexible and alternative models of curriculum and education delivery to engage them. "The need for non-formal education in Pakistan has arisen because the formal system has been unable to cope with the growing demand of basic literacy education in the country," said Dr. Dilshad Ashraf, Project Lead, AKU-IED. She called for extensive and consistent use of NFBE curriculum and curriculum materials, tailor-made professional development of teachers, community-led NFBE provision and active partnership between researchers and development practitioners for generating evidence for effective implementation of NFBE curriculum.



Dr. Dilshad Ashraf addressing the participants at a seminar on the efficacy of non-formal basic education

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about AKDN's work in Pakistan. If you have any questions about the articles, please contact Maria Hayat Khan, Programme Officer Partnerships, AKF Pakistan, at maria.khan@akdn.org.

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Please look for the next volume of the AKDN Newsletter in Autumn 2019. For more information, visit our website: www.akdn.org/Pakistan