



## PRESS RELEASE

### Teachers' finalize Recommendations for Education Policy on World Teachers Day 2008

#### 5 Social Dialogues Held in Pakistan for WTD 2008

“Education is the top priority of Government of Pakistan and addressing the challenge of teacher education and standards is a major focus which is already being integrated within the upcoming National Education Policy. A great deal of work has been done by the Ministry in the area of teacher education standards, accreditation and networks in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNESCO through a project called *Strengthening Teacher Education in Pakistan (STEP)* with valuable studies as building blocks for a formal Teacher Education Framework,” this was shared by Mr. Zaeem Chaudhry Joint Education Adviser Training Wing, Mr. T. M Qureshi, Deputy Education Adviser (DEA) Policy & Planning Wing, and Dr. Mohammad Saleem DEA Projects Wing, Ministry of Education, in the opening session of a day long social dialogue entitled *Exploring Spaces and Modalities for Professional Development*.

Held in Islamabad, the workshop was a culmination of five social dialogues facilitated by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) Public Trust held across all provinces (October 7-21, 2008) in collaboration with important apex teacher education institutions and private sector bodies. These included the Departments of Education in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and NWFP; University of Education Lahore; Aga Khan University – Institute of Education (AKU-IED); and the Federal Ministry of Education. The comprehensive recommendations from the five dialogues across the country with 500 stakeholders were finally endorsed by the 80 stakeholders.

Dr. Syed Fayyaz Ahmed, the Joint Education Adviser, Policy and Planning Wing agreed to host the draft recommendations on the Ministry of Education’s website ([www.moe.gov.pk](http://www.moe.gov.pk)) for public feedback and finalization. Dr Fayyaz noted, “Ministry welcomes suggestions and recommendations from all the stakeholders.” He reiterated that the Ministry works inclusively with all partners to meet the challenges of EFA and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The joint Education Adviser Mr. Zaeem Chaudhry on the occasion of World Teachers' Day 2008 paid tribute to his teachers who influenced him with their profound work and contributions to society, Qazi Abdul Rahman who

proposed the name for Islamabad and Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Professor of Economics.

Experts from the Government, NGOs, Universities, Education Foundations, teachers' networks and unions, INTEL, iEARN and other private sector companies in each of the provinces presented their experiences and lively debates were held on vital concerns with respect to teachers' professional development

Selected key recommendations by the participants during the day long discussion included:

- Planning and implementation of standards and accreditation mechanism for quality assurance of teacher education program.
- Creating and strengthening multiple teachers' networks, from both government and the private sector, at regional, national and global level for continuous professional development across countries and within Pakistan.
- Creating allocations for teachers' continuous professional development programs by the government rather than following ad-hoc teachers training under donor driven projects.
- Establishing and sustaining Teacher Resource Centers equipped with required resources while addressing the issue of accessibility to all teacher educators/teachers.
- Introducing a merit-based selection process.
- Availability of the revised national curriculum in national and regional languages to teachers and teacher educators.
- Promoting of ICTs in teacher education programs by devising need-based curriculum.