

## **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ARE A GREAT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN**

**5 October** is a day to celebrate teachers and the central role they play in guiding children, youths & adults through the life-long learning process. Idara-Taleem-o-Aagahi organized this event in collaboration with Oxfam, Dubai Cares & Pakistan Collation for Education. ITA has been leading social dialogues on WTD each year since 2004 along with a survey to influence policy makers at all levels through focused recommendations.

As a series of planned celebrations from 5<sup>th</sup> October, to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 a program was held at Institute of Education & Research, Punjab University focusing on awareness about National Professional Standards for teachers in Pakistan. The program was attended by 140 students, teachers, head teachers, faculty members, NGOs, representatives of Pakistan Collation for Education, UNICEF & other teacher training institutions. The program was focused on sharing information about the significance of World Teachers Day and status of teacher according to the UNSCO recommendations of 1966 & 1997 as well as the 10 National Professional Standards for teachers in Pakistan. These are:

1. Subject matter knowledge
2. Human Growth & Development
3. Knowledge of Islamic Values/ Social Life Skills
4. Instructional planning & strategies
5. Assessment
6. Learning environment
7. Effective communication and proficient use of information communication technologies
8. Collaboration and partnerships
9. Continuous professional development & code of conduct
10. Teaching of English as second/foreign language (ESL/EFL)

Each standard was discussed with recommendations for effective implementation and a survey was filled by the participants. The program was addressed by Prof.Dr. Muhammad Akhter Chairman Islamic Education department & professor of education in Punjab University and in the chair Ms.RubinaTtariq (Board member ITA), Ms.Rabia Khan from PCE & Alif Laila Book Bus Society & Ms.Baela Raza Jamil chairperson ITA. Mr. Muhammad Akhter concluded the lively interaction by committing to support awareness raising and implementation of the 10 standards and pro claiming these standards as a great milestone in the history of education

The social dialogue was appreciated by all the participants as an opportunity to contribute in promoting quality education.