

Press Release July 2, 2011

Pakistani Teachers Prepare for Exchange Program to the United States

Islamabad, July 2, 2011 – The Closing Ceremony of the Pre-Departure Orientation of Pakistani Educational Leadership Institute (PELI) sponsored by in US Department of State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs will be held on Saturday July 2, 2011 at the Serena Hotel, Kehkashan Hall I from 3:00 -5:00 pm. Prominent guests on the occasion include the Chief Guest Mr. Mark H. Davidson, Counselor for Public Affairs United States Embassy, Islamabad, Ms. Julia Fendrick Deputy Attache Cultural Affairs, Provincial Education Secretaries and Directors including Muhammad Farid Qureshi Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education KP, Khalid Mahmood Ramay Additional Secretary (Education Reforms) Punjab, Muhammad Sadiq Dar Secretary School AJK, Muhammad Raja Nasir Director Education Gilgit-Baltistan, Fazal-e Manan Director Education FATA and Prof. Talat Khurshid Adviser Higher Education Commission. They will be joined on the occasion by eminent civil society organizations, Academia and development partners. .

The 34 teachers, include 28 women and 6 men, coming from all regions of Pakistan from FATA to Sindh, are participating in the Pakistani Educational Leadership Institute (PELI). Since 2004, Pakistani teachers taking part in the PELI program have traveled to Plymouth State University (PSU) in New Hampshire USA. Idara Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) is the local partner, responsible for the selection, preparation of the participants as well as for monitoring and supporting participants on their return.

Teachers participating in PELI this year will be engaged in the theme of, Leadership in A Climate of Change. The key areas of work will include: 1) educational leadership as a keystone of civil society; 2) ethical decision-making and advocacy for change; 3) best practices and innovations in science education, incorporating environmental models; and 4) strategies for the effective delivery of environmental literacy in English. The teachers will also develop Master Action Plans for implementation upon their return to Pakistan. 16- Alumni of previous PELI programs since 2004-10 have contributed immensely to their institutions and communities through professional development activities for teachers; awareness raising; advocacy, and involving students in co-curricular activities.