



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Subject: EU hands over Sindh Education Reform-Technical Assistance project to Government of Sindh**

13<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Karachi: The European Union's funded Sindh Education Reform - Technical Assistance project, (SER-TA) managed by the British Council, was completed and handed over to the Government of Sindh at an impressive ceremony here in Karachi today. This €4.6 project has contributed to the eradication and alleviation of poverty throughout the province, through accelerating progress and reforms in achieving its goal of "Education for All".

SER-TA came into being in December 2006 after the Government of Pakistan and European Commission signed the Sindh Education Plan Support programme. Since its inception, the SER-TA project has aimed to improve capacity at the school, district and provincial level in Sindh. It has aimed to support the delivery of quality elementary education services in an equitable way. It also went a long way in improving management and governance of the education sector across Sindh and providing access to quality schooling, particularly for girls and in rural areas. In addition, the project also helped improve the quality of teaching and learning through capacity building of teachers.

Representatives from as the European Union, British Council well as from the Government of Sindh were present at the occasion and briefed the audience about their current support and plan for the future.

Pierre Mayaudon, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, said on the occasion that "The EU is committed to promoting higher education standards in Pakistan. Sindh being the gateway to Pakistan, the youth of this province should be fully prepared to come up to the challenges of globalization. EU is confident that the SERTA Project has truly served this purpose. We are grateful for the cooperation of our implementing partners. No doubt that all those who have the responsibility of educating the youth will remain dedicated to this noble cause."

Martin Fryer, Director Programmes, British Council Pakistan said "Education is central to the British Council's work in Pakistan. We have been proud to manage this important project which reflects the UK's commitment to sharing ideas and experience in education, the English language and the arts as part of our cultural relations work in Pakistan. Our work linking Pakistani schools to their UK counterparts and focusing on the importance of leadership skills for head teachers, teachers and aspiring young people we hope play a role in the improvement of capacity in education".

The British Council consortium, that managed SER-TA, included two national partners, Leadership for Environment And Development (LEAD) Pakistan and the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) as well as international partners, Overseas Development Institution (ODI) UK, and PROMAN Luxembourg.

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