



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: European Union and NUST organize awareness seminar on EU Research and Innovation Programme HORIZON 2020

Islamabad, 25th April, 2014: The European Union Delegation to Pakistan and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad organized an awareness seminar on the new EU Research and Innovation Programme HORIZON 2020 on 25 April at NUST Auditorium.

The HORIZON 2020 aims to consolidate the EU's position as a world leader in research and innovation. It allows significant funding to non-EU Member States including Pakistan. It calls for international participants to promote joint high profile scientific projects through collaborative consortia together with EU science and technology partners. The Programme has an impressive envelope of € 79 billion for funding such collaboration worldwide for a seven-year term (more than € 10 billion per year).

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Zahid Hamid was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Professor Mukhtar Ahmad also addressed the audience.

The Rector of NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar welcomed the participants who came from different walks of life representing academicians, researchers, corporate sector, students, politicians and media. The Rector emphasized on the need for adopting quality research and innovation to meet the challenges that Pakistan faces today.

On the occasion, the Acting EU Ambassador Mr. Pierre Mayaudon stated that the HORIZON 2020 Programme will bring together the EU and Pakistani communities through research and innovation in various fields ranging from agriculture, energy, climate change to biotechnology, safety and security. Moreover, since an objective of the program is to promote "from lab to market" processes, improved cooperation between Pakistan and the EU in the area of science and technology can also help facilitate Pakistan entering the age of the knowledge-based economy through attaining quality research and innovation. He stated that HORIZON 2020 can enhance the integration of Pakistan in the world economy through a more diversified and high quality delivery of products and services as well as provide longer term benefits such as much needed job creation.

The Regional Scientific Counsellor Mr. Denis Dambois gave a detailed presentation on the modalities of the HORIZON 2020 Programme. He also led the discussion with the participants on the HORIZON 2020 Programme and answered questions.

The objective of the HORIZON 2020 Programme is to develop Pakistan's ability to take advantage of the vast opportunities offered by improved access to increasingly knowledge-based international markets. It is up to Pakistani society in general and the academia and private sector in particular as to how and at what pace do they reflect upon HORIZON 2020 Programme and turn it into a "a bridge of science" between the EU and Pakistan.

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