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USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project

پاکستان ریڈنگ پراجیکٹ



Event	Standards Setting Workshop
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Venue	Marriott Hotel, Kohinoor Hall, Islamabad
Organized by	USAID funded Pakistan Reading Project
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United States Assisting Pakistan to Develop Standards for Urdu Reading Skills

Founder Editor Tazeen Akhtar..

Islamabad, June 12, 2015 - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training concluded a week-long workshop to establish national standards for Urdu reading skills. The program was led by the Pakistan Reading Project, a program funded by USAID. Thomas LeBlanc, USAID Pakistan's Education Office Director, and Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, the Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training presided over the closing ceremony.

"These new reading standards will enable teachers across Pakistan to track the progress of their students and provide clear benchmarks for measuring the children's development. Setting this standard will also support the Government of Pakistan to objectively monitor the children's early grade reading abilities and adopt more effective approaches for improving their reading skills," said Thomas LeBlanc. The five-year, \$160 million Pakistan Reading Project aims to improve the reading skills of children in grades one and two through changing classroom learning environments, strengthening education policies and systems, and garnering community support for reading. Over 65 educators, linguists, and government officials spent the week developing reading standards and creating tools to assess students' fluency in Urdu. Participants discussed the factors that indicate fluency in Urdu at each grade level. During the closing ceremony, Minister of State Baligh-ur-Rehman thanked the U.S. government and USAID for its support.

Our correspondent adds - Minister of State for Federal Education & Professional Training Engr Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman attended the "Urdu Reading Skills Program" of Ministry of Federal education and Professional Training with the collaboration of USAID at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad today.

It is an occasion of honor for me to be present at the closing session of Standard Setting Workshop, said the State Minister. This tripartite collective effort of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and Provincial/Areas Education Departments and USAID is an important addition amongst the various initiatives to facilitate moving ahead of education agenda.

Minister of State stated that in Pakistan, standards for different reading skills are yet to be worked out. "I am confident that the experts during five days workshop on standards setting would have been able to develop the Reading Standards", said the Minister. Certainly, standard development process is neither simple nor readily available but benchmarks and standards are generally developed to measure the performance against set of standards.

Provision of quality education is one of the most important task and we are committed to evolve minimum National Education Standards to ensure access to quality Education in Pakistan, articulated the State Minister. It is a fait accompli that standards work as beacons to determine the collective benchmarks to monitor the functioning of schools.

Minister of State emphasized that reading is a fundamental component of learning: students who do not learn to read at grade level by the end of grade 1 tend to fall behind in all other areas of cognitive development. If students fall behind on academic outcomes and do not achieve their full academic potential, they are often less able to contribute positively to the economy.

Minister of State has assured that he would discuss the proposed recommendations which have been presented in the workshop in coming IPEMC (Inter Provincial Education Ministers' Conference), so that it can be implemented in true letter and spirit.

In the end Minister of State again said hopefully that he is confident that this five days' Standard Setting Workshop provided an excellent opportunity by taking this holistic initiative for developing reading standards for Urdu.



<http://www.pakistanintheworld.com/content/united-states-assisting-pakistan-develop-standards-urdu-reading-skills>

USAID-funded workshop held on Urdu reading skills


ISLAMABAD: The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training jointly conducted a weeklong workshop to establish national standards for Urdu reading skills.


The USAID-funded programme was led by the Pakistan Reading Project. USAID Pakistan Education Office Director Thomas LeBlanc and Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Balighur Rehman jointly presided over the closing ceremony.


Speaking on the occasion, LeBlanc said that these new reading standards would enable teachers across Pakistan to track the progress of their students and provide clear benchmarks for measuring the children's development. He added, "Setting these standards will also support the Government of Pakistan to objectively monitor the children's early grade reading abilities and adopt more effective approaches for improving their reading skills."

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 Staff Report

 June 13, 2015

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<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Jun-2015/usaaid-funded-workshop-held-on-urdu-reading-skills>

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<http://moent.gov.pk/gop/index.php?q=aHR0cDovLzE5Mi4xNjguNzAuMTM2L21vcHR0bS8%3D>

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<http://pk.shafaqna.com/EN/PK/265095>

Govt committed to develop minimum education standards'

Sunday, June 14, 2015
From Print Edition



Islamabad

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The minister said certainly, standard development process was neither simple nor readily available but benchmarks and standards were generally developed to measure the performance against set of standards.

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<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-6-323493-Govt-committed-to-develop-minimum-education-standards>

—Pakistan Telegraph—

Publishing down through the years

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<http://www.pakistantelegraph.com/index.php/sid/233790533>



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by - Jun 14, 2015

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The Frontier Post



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