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Success Stall at EU Development Days



Ms. Shandana Khan CEO RSPN with Syeda Sultana Rizvi, Ms. Nadia Junejo Community Organizer of SUCCESS Programme, Mr. Fazal Ali Saadi Programme Manager, SUCCESS, and Mr. Omar Hameed Minister Economic Embassy of Pakistan.



Chairman RSPN Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (in the middle) with Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shoro Team Leader SUCCESS, Ms. Nadia Junejo Ms. Sultana Rizvi Mr. Fazal Saadi and Journalist Unib Rashid.

This year Pakistan participated in European Union Development Days held on 5th and 6th of June 2018. Three speakers represented Pakistan on panel discussions: renowned development practitioner and Chairman Rural Support Programme Network of Pakistan (RSPN) Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, former Minister for Information Technology Ms. Anusha Rahman Khan and Pakistan's permanent representative to WTO Dr. Tauqeer Shah. A stand of Sindh Union Councils and Community Economic and Social Strengthening programme (SUCCESS) was also set up by NRSP, where beneficiary turned Community Organizer in the programme Nadia Junejo (from a small village of Shahdad Kot) was also present to explain about the working of programme at grass roots level.

Pakistan's Ambassador also hosted a dinner for the delegation of NRSP and SUCCESS Programme. The dinner, among others, was also attended by MEPs Ms. Nosheena Mubarak, Dr. Sajjad Karim and Mr. Wajid Khan.

SUCCESS is a six-year long (2015-2021) programme funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) in eight districts of Sindh, namely: Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan.

Shoab Sultan and Anusha Rahman Speak at European Development Days



Chairman RSPN Mr. Shoab Sultan Khan, while speaking on the panel 'Transforming Women's Lives in Rural World', talked about the success of Development Model of the Rural Support Programme Network in Pakistan, which has been adopted by various countries in South Asia including India. He informed that, based on evaluations of international donors, the programme has been able to draw huge support from various quarters.

In her concluding remarks the Chairperson of the Panel Ms. Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development DEVCO made a special reference to Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS), saying that "I would like to mention the successful example of SUCCESS project in Pakistan benefitting 777,000 households are supported through 30,000 community organizations managed by the women".

Former minister for Information Technology, Anusha Rahman, while speaking on the panel on the theme of 'Empowering Women through Technology' highlighted the efforts of the Ministry of Information Technology in expanding supply as well as demand for digitalization in Pakistan. She particularly mentioned training programmes for girls which enabled them to utilize information technology to generate income while working from home. She informed that Pakistan spent 600 million dollars in the past five years for expanding digital connectivity.

Pakistan's SUCCESS Programme Participates in the European Development Days



A view of the stand of Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) at the EU Development Days. Team Leader SUCCESS Programme Jamal Mustafa Shoro with beneficiary turned Community Organizer Nadia Junejo (L). Programme Manager SUCCESS Fazal Ali Saadi presenting Ajrak to Journalist Mr. Muzzamil Ullah Maan (R)

Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) a programme of Government of Sindh, Rural Support Programme Network and the European Union was showcased at the European Union Development Days Event held at Tours and Taxis on 5th and 6th of June.

SUCCESS Programme is based on the Rural Support Programmes' (RSPs) social mobilisation approach to Community Driven Development (CDD). The RSPs under the SUCCESS Programme provide social guidance, technical and financial assistance to the rural poor in Sindh.

In 2008 the Government of Sindh had launched the Union Councils Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in four districts of Sindh through Rural Support Programmes working in Sindh. The positive results of UCBPRP through the social mobilization approach of RSP's Community Driven Development led to the scaling up of this programme. To Support the Government of Sindh to scale up the programme, the EU launched SUCCESS programme in 2015.

Ambassador Hashmi's Dinner For RSPN

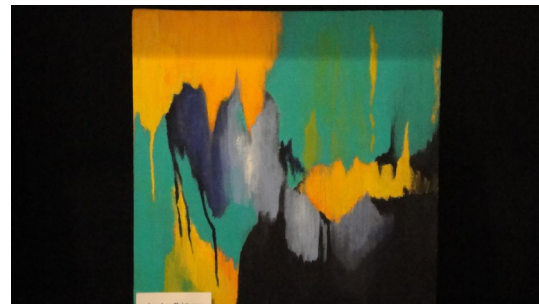
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Launch of Pakistani Artist's Exhibition in Luxembourg



Mrs. Kauser Arif is an artist of Pakistani origin based in Luxembourg. She hosts exhibition of her paintings every year. This year her exhibition entitled Synergy, was launched from 8th June through 24th June at her studio space in Steinsel Luxembourg. Press Minister of Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels Syeda Sultana Rizvi inaugurated the event on 8th June, which was attended by over a hundred guests. Arif's ever popular expressive colourful landscapes inspired by Luxembourg and painted in cubist abstractionist tradition, typify her collection of paintings. This exhibition was in continuity to many exhibitions she hosts since 1985 in private galleries in and around Luxembourg and Germany as well as in her private studio space. She has exhibited at the Chelsea and Kensington art shows in London, in the late 70s.



Kausar Arif's 'Synergy' Attracts Art Lovers



A large collection of art work by students of Kausar Arif was also on display .

Kausar Arif holds a BFA, Bachelors in Fine Arts. She graduated from the University of Punjab and has occasionally returned to take part in local exhibits. Now working full time as professional artist as well as Art Coordinateur at the European School of Luxembourg for close to two decades, she continues to teach Fine Arts to Secondary School pupils. There is frequent interchanging of student's art works with their co-partner schools including the European schools in Brussels. In its popular setting Arif's frequently visited studio space has been the harbor for young aspiring students and artists. Arif helps create portfolios for university entrance. In addition, Arif's painting entitled 'Overlooking the Grund's', is the book cover for the tourist guide book, 'Living in Luxembourg'. Her website www.Kauserarifstudio.com can be visited for continual updates about her Art Studio and exhibition, Synergy.

FIFA Official Football Made in Pakistan



Pakistan is proud manufacturer of the Telstar, the official football of FIFA 2018. The balls are manufactured in Sialkot, Pakistan. This is not the first time that the World Cup match balls are being manufactured in Pakistan, even the one used in the previous edition in Brazil – named Brazuca – came from Sialkot, the region famous all across the globe as the manufacturing hub of sports goods. Pakistan's share in the global supply of footballs in 2018 would be a staggering 10 million. Pakistan's love for manufacturing football dates back to the British times of colonialism before 1947. The football being used in 2018 tournament is technically termed as thermo bonded, which was first introduced in the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Thermo bonded balls are made by attaching the panels through heat - the latest technology adopted by Adidas and transferred in 2013 to Forward Sports, a Pakistani company that manufactures footballs for world cup. Forward Sports, which also makes footballs for the German Bundesliga, France League 1 and the Champions League, was also the official football provider of 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Before that, Pakistan had supplied hand stitched footballs for almost all the World Cups from the 1990's to 2010. Other types of footballs produced in Sialkot are glued balls and hand stitched balls.

Pakistan Plants Hundreds of Millions Trees



The change is drastic: around the region of Heroshah, previously arid hills are now covered with forest as far as the horizon. In northwestern Pakistan, hundreds of millions of trees have been planted to fight deforestation.

In 2015 and 2016 some 16,000 labourers planted more than 900,000 fast-growing eucalyptus trees at regular, geometric intervals in Heroshah-and the titanic task is just a fraction of the effort across the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Before it was completely burnt land. Now they have green gold in their hands", commented forest manager Pervaiz Manan as he displayed pictures of the site previously, when only sparse blades of tall grass interrupted the monotonous landscape.

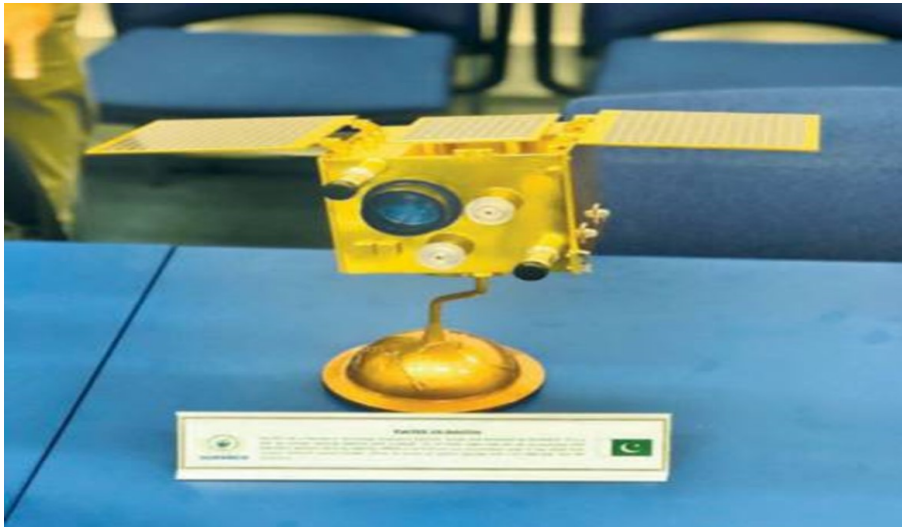
The new trees will reinvigorate the area's scenic beauty, act as a control against erosion, help mitigate climate change, decrease the chances of floods and increase the chances of precipitation, says Manan, who oversaw the revegetation of Heroshah.

Residents also see them as an economic boost - which, officials hope, will deter them from cutting the new growth down to use as firewood in a region where electricity can be sparse.

"Now our hills are useful, our fields became useful," says driver Ajbir Shah. "It is a huge benefit for us."

Further north, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat, many of the high valleys were denuded by the Pakistani Taliban during their reign from 2006 to 2009.

Pakistan Launches It's First Indigenous Satellite



In a giant leap, Pakistan will launch its first indigenous satellite next month, putting Pakistan among the nations with advanced space technology. The satellite named PakTES-1A is an indigenously developed remote sensing satellite of Pakistan. It will be launched at 610-kilometre sun-synchronous orbit in July 2018. RSS technologies are used to detect and classify objects on earth, including on the surface and in the atmosphere and oceans, based on propagated signals. Until now, Pakistan has been relying on the US and French satellites for civil and military communications.

In 2016, Pakistan and China had signed an agreement for the launch of a special remote - sensing satellite in 2018. The agreement was aimed at monitoring the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. Presently, three satellites are under design by SUPARCO in collaboration with different universities throughout the country. SUPARCO says that the first satellite of this programme has been scheduled to be launched in July 2018, and it is expected to provide help in exploiting the potentials of space technologies for natural resource surveying and environmental purpose. The launching of the satellite will support Pakistan's efforts for self-reliance.

Pakistan's All-Girls Team Develops Formula Car

Pakistan's first all-girls team from National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has developed a Formula car and are all set to represent the country in the International Formula Student competition in Silverstone England this month. "It was a challenging job, but we completed our Formula car in just five months" says Harim Akhtar, one of the members of 13 student's team who designed and built the car. The team had submitted their plans to the Formula Student competition in December last year for approval and "were among the lucky applicants to get our case approved". The team not only designed the car, but built it from scratch using local parts, including the engine, for the prototype, enabling them to keep costs down to \$4,929. The team even made some of its parts in the university workshop.

Formula Student - Europe's most established educational engineering competition - is backed by high profile engineers and global industries. Each year hundreds of competitors take on the challenge of producing a prototype single-seat racing car for sprint racing or autocross. The finished vehicle is presented to a manufacturing firm for technical evaluation. The NUST team's car can go from 0-100 kilometers per hour in just 4.5 seconds and has 90 horsepower engine and will compete against 30 cars from around the world.



Female students of NUST with their Formula car developed to compete in England in July.



The All - Girls team of Formula Car at NUST working in their lab.

Pakistan's Archbishop Appointed Cardinal at Vatican



Pakistan's Archbishop Joseph Coutts is one of the 14 new cardinals presented with traditional red hats and new responsibilities by Pope Francis at a ceremony in Vatican City on June 28. Coutts has also served as the National Director of Caritas Pakistan and is actively involved in inter-faith dialogue with Muslims. He is also the president of Pakistan Catholic Bishops Conference. The selection of the Archbishop of Karachi is a proud moment for Pakistan. The Christian community is surprised and pleased by the decision. Coutts is known as 'great promoter of dialogue between Christians and Muslims.



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