



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

PRESS RELEASE

Children studying in open street school of Islamabad city receive learning materials at the onset of the arrival of the holiday season and the New Year

Islamabad, 19 December 2013: UNESCO Islamabad in collaboration with the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO organized a goodwill event in a local street school operating with the initiative and dedication of Master Ayub Khan at Sector F-6, Hill Road, Islamabad. The event was organized to show UNESCO's solidarity to the founder head of the school and the children studying there prior to the arrival of the holiday season and New Year 2014.

Country Director/Representative of UNESCO Islamabad, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata and Secretary General of Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO, Ms. Amna Imran Khan along with other staff members visited the school.

Dr. Nagata and Ms. Khan spent some time with the children and distributed them some sets of learning resources, which included a game on disaster risk reduction popularly known as Disaster Master Game and pictorial books on numbers and alphabets. The Disaster Master Game is a package of specialized game design and developed by UNESCO for the children of middle and high school with key messages to understand the phenomenon of natural disaster and preventive measures on coping with natural disaster besides promoting critical thinking among the children player. On the occasion, children also enjoyed receiving lunch boxes to take home.

Talking to the children, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata greeted the children and extended her well wishes to the children for the upcoming holiday season and the New Year. She applauded and appreciated the dedication of Master Ayub Khan and his long standing service helping the most vulnerable and marginalized children of Islamabad to become educated.

On the occasion Secretary General of PNCU Ms. Amna Imran Khan said that both the National Commission and UNESCO work to promote education, science, culture and communication and information in Pakistan. She thanked the school head and other volunteer teachers for their selfless contribution to educating the deprived children. She wished all the children a very happy holiday season and New Year 2014.

Master Ayub Khan shed light on how the open school evolved in the past 28 years and how children graduated from the school are now absorbed in the world of work. He also introduced his team of volunteers teaching the children in the school. Most of them were the product of the school itself. The visitors found the dedication of Master Ayub Khan highly commendable and outstanding. He has converted a public park into an open school where teaching sessions are organized in 3 shifts—afternoon and night schools for young children and home school for grownup girls. “It is my passion to help as many deprived children as I can by bringing them to this school for an education. It gives me a sense of satisfaction when I see them grow educated and get jobs. I will continue working for these children till my health condition allows,” said Master Ayub. The students spoke very highly of him and were ever grateful for his dedication. A seven-year old student Shahzeb said “if Master Ayub leaves, no one will ever teach us again. He gets us books, stationary and teaches us everything.”

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