

## **Director General UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova paid two day state guest visit to Pakistan**

*Ms. Bokova received the state's highest Civil Award Hilal-i-Pakistan*

*Ms Bokova participated in and addressed strategic events and visited Taxila's historical sites during her two day state guest visit to Pakistan*

**Islamabad, February 11, 2014.**

UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Irina Bokova who arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 as a state guest concluded her visit on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Upon her arrival she was received by Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar, State Minister Health, Mr. Khalid Hanif, Additional Secretary at Ministry of Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Country Director UNESCO Islamabad and other key officials and staff.



During her two day stay in Pakistan, Ms. Irina Bokova met with key government officials and representatives of the United Nations in Pakistan, civil society organizations as well as students and media personnel. Ms Bokova's engagements included, meeting with the President of Pakistan, the United Nations Country Team, the Minister and Senior Officials of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Education, a number of other government officials and diplomats. The Director General paid visits to Islamabad College for Girls, COMSTECH, Taxila historical sites, Lok Virsa museum and Pakistan Metrological Department. She also chaired the Forum on Girls Education and exchanged views with development partners at a reception hosted by UNESCO for national-international dignitaries, diplomats and representatives of the civil society. Ms Bokova interacted with government officials at a lunch hosted by the State Minister Education.

Ms. Irina Bokova also attended a joint UNESCO-Government press conference with Mr. Baligur Rehman, Minister of State for Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education at the Education Ministry. She also gave an exclusive interview for the State Television, PTV NEWS, PTV World as well as recorded message for the World Radio Day for Radio Pakistan.

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During her two day stay in Pakistan, Ms. Irina Bokova signed two important agreements. These included Malala Funds-in-Trust for supporting better access, improved quality and safe learning environment for girls in the hard-to-reach areas of Pakistan with the State Minister Education Mr. Balig-ur-Rehman and an agreement with COMSATS rector Mr. Junaid Zaidi for the establishment of UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (Wah Cantt. Campus, Pakistan)