Call to prioritize girls' education to tackle poverty

ISLAMABAD - An education exhibition titled: "Innovating for Girls' Education" as part of celebrations for the International Day of the Girl Child 2013 held on Friday that called for prioritize girls' education to tackle crippling poverty.

The International Day of the Girl Child recognizes girl's rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The United Nations adopted this day through Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.


The minister while addressing the expo said, "Offering education to girls is the shortest way to empower them." Unesco Country Director Kozeu Kay Nagata congratulated all the participants for Malala Yousafzai's win of the European Union's Annual Human Rights Award and said that it is a moment of great pride for all Pakistanis, especially all girls of this country. She also appealed for an increase in the GDP for education.

UNICEF representative Miriam de Figueroa said that this day would provide a platform to highlight examples around Pakistan of ongoing work and what has been achieved as well as to raise the importance of innovation in advancing girls education in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Plan International Pakistan also launched the annual "Because I am a Girl" report at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) auditorium on Friday. Plan's Because I am a Girl campaign aims at supporting four million girls to get the education, skills and support they need to move themselves from poverty to opportunity. One key focus area for the campaign is education.

The campaign calls for: Girls education to be prioritized by world leaders, Girls completion of a quality secondary education to be a major focus of international action, Funding for girls education to be increased, an end to child marriage, an end to gender-based violence in and around schools, girls and boys to participate in decision making and inspire those with power to take action.

The minister on the event remarked the out of US $ 10 million contributions made by Pakistan, US $ 7 million will be used in the education sector under UNESCO's Malala Fund, while the remaining US $3 million would be used as a special fund that can be used globally by UNESCO.