Two-Day National Conference on Teachers’ Accreditation and Certification concluded in Islamabad

Islamabad: The National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) in collaboration with UNESCO organized two day conference on ‘Teachers’ Accreditation’ from 18-19 November 2013 at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. The conference aimed at bringing together stakeholders for the adoption of a uniform and harmonized strategy on teacher accreditation, certification, licensing and registration at the national, provincial and area level. The conference was the follow-up of the recommendations of the Inter Provincial Forum on Teachers Accreditation organized by both agencies in October 2011.

More than 60 participants from all over the country attended the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Professor Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi, Vice Chancellor, AIOU Islamabad along with Professor Dr. Munawar S. Mirza, Chairperson, NACTE.

Dr Sangi appreciated the work of NACTE and UNESCO for the promotion of education in Pakistan, especially for teacher education. He expressed his confidence that the participants would be able to develop and agreed on teachers’ accreditation policy framework, mechanism and tools for registration/licensing of teachers.

Professor Munawar S. Mirza highlighted NACTE work and future plans, she added that this would be possible in collaboration with all the public and private stakeholders.

Dr. Santosh Kamrani, UNESCO Education Officer, read the message of Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director/Representative, UNESCO Islamabad in which she commended the efforts of NACTE in introducing quality assurance mechanism including teachers’ accreditation, certification, licensing and registration in Pakistan. Her message also emphasized the need to take advantage of the reform that is currently underway in the education system.

The stakeholders of teacher education and training from Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK and ICT discussed and presented their planning and current status on
introduction of quality assurance mechanism in teacher education and registration, licensing and certification of teachers.

During the two day conference the participants also prepared the road map and action plan for development of registration, licensing and certification of teachers with continuous professional development in their respective provinces.

The conference created consensus and gave recommendations on the roles and responsibilities of a national level body like NACTE for accreditation of teachers. The participants recommended that registration of teachers should be done soon after the completion of the degree, pre-registration should be based on minimum standards in accordance to the national standards for teachers, licensing of the teachers should followed up by the renewal after every 3-5 years and professional development should be a continue process with the award of appropriate credit hours for the promotion and recruitment of teachers.

Professor Munawar S. Mirza concluded the two-day conference and thanked all the participants, organizations, departments, NACTE, AIOU and UNESCO for all the support and cooperation.