2-day conference on Teachers’ Accreditation concludes

ISLAMABAD: The National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) in collaboration with the UNESCO organised a two-day conference on 'Teachers' Accreditation' on November 18 and 19 at the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad.

The conference aimed at bringing together stakeholders for the adoption of a uniform strategy on teacher accreditation, certification, licensing and registration at the national, provincial and area level. The conference was the follow-up to the recommendations of the Inter-provincial Forum on Teachers' Accreditation organised by both agencies in October 2011.

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

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

Prof Mirza highlighted the NACTE's work and future plans. She said the NACTE goals would only be possible if all the public and private stakeholders collaborated.

UNESCO Education Officer Dr Santosh Kamrani read the message of UNESCO Director/Representative Dr Kozue Kay Nagata, in which she commended the NACTE efforts for introducing quality assurance mechanisms including teachers' accreditation, certification, licensing and registration in Pakistan. Her message also emphasised the need to take advantage of the reforms that were currently underway in the education system. The stakeholders of teachers education and training from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit- Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Islamabad Capital Territory discussed their planning and current status for the introduction of quality assurance mechanisms for teachers' education, registration, licensing and certification.

During the conference, the participants also prepared the road map and action plan for development of registration, licensing and certification process of teachers with continuous professional development in their respective provinces.
The conference created consensus and gave recommendations on the roles of a national-level body like the NACTE for accreditation of teachers. The participants recommended that the registration of teachers should be done soon after the completion of the degree. The pre-registration should be based on minimum standards in accordance with the national standards for teachers, licensing of teachers should be followed up by renewal every three to five years and professional development should be a continuous process with the award of appropriate credit hours for the promotion and recruitment of teachers. Professor Mirza concluded the two-day conference and thanked all the participants, organisations, departments, the NACTE, the AIOU and the UNESCO for cooperation.