UNESCO, British Council support training of schoolteachers

ISLAMABAD: A workshop on integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) pedagogy in classroom learning and teaching practices has been inaugurated in the capital.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the British Council are jointly organising the four-day workshop. The opening session took place at the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

Two education specialists from UNESCO Bangkok, Dr Jonghwi Park and Schmid Heartfried, experts supported by the British Council, and national-level educationists are part of the team of resource persons, who would be facilitating various sessions of the workshop during the next two days.

This workshop is aimed at introducing not only the schoolteachers to new dimensions of teaching and learning, but also to sensitisise education managers and policy makers about the potential role of ICTs towards improving quality of education in schools. The participants with hands-on-training will be equipped with knowledge and skills for planning and effective delivery of lessons through ICTs.

UNESCO Islamabad Director Dr Kozue Kay Nagata in her opening remarks underlined the use of innovation in classroom teaching. “Information and Communication Technologies are a rapidly expanding and evolving medium, which have revolutionised our life, including education.

ICTs have reshaped not only modes of delivery of lesson, but also transformed role of teachers,” said Dr Nagata.

This interactive workshop is designed with sessions on ICT tools and resources, planning of ICT and collaborative learning approaches. As an outcome of the workshop, the group of public and private schoolteachers trained will begin to use the ICTs in schools, and accessing the British Council and UNESCO portals, which will help them explore and organise curriculum content using international and global lens.

“UNESCO office in Pakistan is also pioneering mobile-based post-literacy project for neo-literate rural women in Punjab, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the public-private partnership between UNESCO and NOKIA,” Dr Nagata said.
The workshop will conclude on November 16 in Islamabad.

British Council Country Director Peter R Upton in his opening remarks emphasised the potential of both ICTs and teachers. “Schools are engaged in a learning revolution – it is one that redefines the role of the teacher and the learner.

Through the creative use of technology in our schools, we can increase literacy, expand access and, more importantly, learning quality and efficiency.

The experience that we have seen is that technology is a key learning tool, but it is one that needs teachers to embrace it and understand it. Technology empowers the teacher. So effective use of ICTs changes how we teach.”

Punjab IT Board DG Aamir Zafar Chaudhry and Dr Jonghwi Park from UNESCO Bangkok (Thailand) also addressed the inaugural ceremony.