“UNESCO AND BRITISH COUNCIL COLLABORATE TO TRAIN TEACHERS ON INTEGRATION OF ICT IN CLASSROOMS”

Islamabad – 13 November 2012: A workshop on integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) pedagogy in classroom learning and teaching practices was inaugurated today. The four-day workshop is being jointly organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and British Council.

Two education specialists from UNESCO Bangkok, Dr. Jonghwi Park and Schmid Heartfried, experts supported by British Council, and national level educationists are part of team of resource persons, who would be facilitating various sessions of the workshop during next 3 days. The opening session took place at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), in Islamabad.

This Workshop is aimed at introducing, not only the school-teachers to new dimensions of teaching and learning, but also to sensitize 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.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO, Islamabad in her opening remarks underlined the use of innovation in classroom teaching. “Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are a rapidly expanding and evolving medium, which have revolutionized our life, including education. ICTs have reshaped not only modes of delivery of lesson, but also they have 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 school teachers trained will begin to use the ICTs in schools, and accessing British Council and UNESCO portals, which will help them to explore and organize 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 Khyberpakhtunwa province under public-private partnership between UNESCO and NOKIA.” Dr. Nagata further added, while explaining the role of UNESCO in introducing ICT based pilot projects.

The workshop will be concluded on 16th November 2012 in Islamabad.
Mr. Peter R. Upton, Country Director British Council Pakistan in his opening remarks emphasized the potential of ICTs and teachers both. He stated that “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.”

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

For more information: Phyza Jameel (p.jameel@unesco.org)