

## UNESCO APPLAUDS PARLIAMENT ON APPROVAL OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION BILL

Achieving an important milestone of "Education for All (EFA)", UNESCO organized a special event to acknowledge the commitment of parliamentarians, civil society organizations and educationists for the "Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012", passed in National Assembly of Pakistan for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Two years back, UNESCO facilitated preparation of the draft Bill on the Right to Free and



Compulsory Education, on the request of Senate Standing Committee on Education and initiative of its Chairman, Senator S. M. Zafar. The draft Bill was reviewed and submitted to the Senate last year, which was passed by the Senate of Pakistan back on 9th July 2012. Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Islamabad applauded the efforts and commitment of parliamentarians and showed her confidence on the democratic process. She said, "This legislation is unique in the sense that it has been initiated by people's representatives supported by all political parties."

The members of the parliament who moved the Bill in National Assembly, as well as Secretary Ministry of Capital Administration Development (CAD), representatives of civil society and other United Nations agencies were present at the event. This approved Bill after president's assent will be implemented in Islamabad under Ministry of CAD. In Pakistan, UNESCO is working closely with all stakeholders for the achievement of EFA goals.