

Press Release

Anita Ghulam Ali Teachers' Award 2008 Pakistan

Federal Secretary Education , Abdur Rauf Chaudhry lauds the efforts of civil society to elevate the status of teachers in Pakistan through the Anita Ghulam Ali Teachers' Award 2008 & Receives the Recommendations of World Teachers' Day 2008

Ten Secondary Science Teachers from Pakistan became the first recipients of a newly launched national teachers' award called the Anita Ghulam Ali Teachers' Award, acknowledging a living legend and creating many more. The Chief Guest Federal Secretary of Education, acknowledged the vital importance of the award at a time, when Pakistan needs teachers of high excellence as social reformers. He appreciated Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) Public Trust for these initiatives and appreciated all its sponsors such as OUP, Female Education Trust and the Kifayat Academy. The Federal Secretary offered support for such initiatives in the future. He urged the participants to give inputs to the draft Education Policy and was appreciative on formally receiving the World Teachers' Day Recommendations 2008, from UNESCO's representative Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa, on the occasion, to inform policy on teachers' standards and professional development.

Professor Khawaja Masud, an eminent educator and former principal Gordon College Rawalpindi chaired the ceremony. He reminded teachers of the core attributes of care for students, tolerance for diversity and skills for dialogues, the classical pedagogical tool used by the world renowned Greek teacher Socrates.

| Name | District / City |
|--|---------------------|
| Mrs. Qamer Zia Iqbal – 1st | Chakwal |
| Ms. Abida Mukhtar – 2nd | Karachi |
| Ms. Saima Khusro – 2nd | Islamabad |
| Ms. Samina Saeed – 2nd | Islamabad |
| Ms. Haseen Bibi – 3rd | Attock |
| M. Gul Feroz – 3rd | Layyah |
| Mr. Nadeem Anwar – 3rd | Lahore |
| Ms. Shamim Fatima – Consolation (4th) | Muzaffargarh |
| Mr. Faiz Ullah Jan – Consolation (4th) | Quetta |
| Ms. Fouzia Abid – Consolation (4th) | Lahore |

The awards comprised cash prizes from Rs. 100,000 (1st), to Rs. 50,000(2nd) ; Rs. 30,000 (3rd.) to Rs. 15000(4th) a shield, medal and a comprehensive citation for each winner. Of the 10 teachers, 70% were from government schools and 70% were women, a reassuring trend for raising the perception of government schools and female teachers. It is vital that both systems must learn from, and share with each other about their good practices, lesson plans and approaches to assessment.

On the occasion of the AGA awards ceremony Dr. Syed Azhar Hussain , Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) paid tribute to the

winners, ITA and to Professor Anita Ghulam Ali and committed support to the teachers' and ITA through PSF's programs. These include: science clubs, research projects and competitions in schools. Professor Rafique Tahir, Director Training and Colleges Federal Directorate of Education, was honored that two of the 10 winners represented the FDE schools and was grateful to the sponsors of the award for a very powerful and much needed initiatives.

Bela Raza Jamil thanked all the winners, honorable guests and the sponsors for making a dream turn into reality. She reminded all present that this award is neither donor nor government funded, but it needs support to create an endowment for sustainability and to honor many more teachers on merit each year. She suggested that the Award should extend to other living legends in Pakistan including Professor Khawja Masood. Anyone desirous of supporting the award in the future should contact ITA at itacec@gmail.com .

Finally Professor Anita Ghulam Ali spoke to the audience telephonically from Karachi and thanked each one of the honorable guests and winners for their positive support and cooperation. She was hopeful that this award will reposition the status of teachers in Pakistan.

