



News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

“USAID Supports College Improvement Programs in Pakistan”

Lahore, April 24: A training workshop on innovative classroom practices for elementary and secondary teachers was held here Saturday by the Forman Christian College, with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) support, as part of its four-year bachelor program modeled on US higher education system.

Visiting international experts from American and Pakistani college faculty presented papers at the workshop on various topics such as class room management, writing skills, designing lesson plans and authentic assessments.

“USAID is happy to support a college improvement program as with FCC that introduces innovative approaches for other colleges and universities of Pakistan, and helps to raise standards of quality in higher education,” said Randy Hatfield, USAID’s Director of Education Office.

Nearly 300 teachers from public and private schools in Lahore, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Pasrur, Gujrat, Swat and other parts of the country attended the workshop which focused on innovative classroom techniques and subject-specific tips and skills for teachers at all levels.

21 FCC faculty members are involved in the workshop, which the College—also a chartered university--hopes will be repeated each year. Out of these, the work of five American faculty members is being funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The faculty members include Dr. Michael Medley (Eastern Mennonite University), Dr. Doris Liebert and Dr. Donald Liebert (both formerly of Whitworth College), Dr. Jeanette Coufal (former adjunct professor at University of Kentucky), and Dr. Greg Brock (University of Kentucky).

Through a College Improvement Grant, the USAID is helping FCC in the development of a four-year bachelor degree program and strengthening of programs in basic science and information technology. USAID has provided a \$5 million grant to help FCC achieve academic standards commensurate with those required for US accreditation.

As a result of USAID’s support, the College is introducing merit-based scholarships, initiation of a four-year bachelors degree program meeting US accreditation standards, improved administrative systems, integrated management information system for school administration, new library books, partial support for construction of a new science building, and 4 computer labs with 200 work stations, servers and printers, and science equipment.

USAID funding is giving 40 faculty members the opportunity to upgrade their professional qualifications with grants for M. Phil. and Ph.D. tuition costs so that the College can better meet the accreditation requirements.

Support for education is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan through 2002-2006 to improve education, health, governance, and economic growth.

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