



News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

4th Annual Fulbright Alumni Conference Concludes

Islamabad, April 28, 2007 – The U.S. Charge d’Affaires, Peter W. Bodde, declared the Fulbright Program around the world and especially in Pakistan “as a vital and honored part of U.S. foreign policy” while speaking at the fourth annual Fulbright Alumni Conference which concluded at the Quaid-e-Azam University on Saturday.

“In just four years our bilateral Fulbright program with Pakistan has grown from a \$2 million-a-year program to one of over \$30 million a year – now the largest in the world,” the American diplomat emphasized. “More than 200 Pakistanis are currently studying in the U.S. under this program.”

Mr. Bodde said that during the coming academic semester American scholars will also begin to return as Fulbright Scholars to Pakistan to teach and conduct research at Pakistani universities and other institutions of higher education.

“It is vitally important that scholars, educators, and researchers from our two nations as well as in the wider region participate in such scholarly exchanges and engage regularly and learn from one another,” the U.S. Charge d’Affaires said.

About 100 Fulbright alumni from across Pakistan, and most of the more than 200 Fulbright grantees who will be proceeding to the United States on scholarships in the fall, attended the two-day conference, organized by the United States Educational Foundation-Pakistan (USEFP). The conference centered around the theme “dialogue between cultures.” Scholars from the United States, who are currently in-residence academics in other South Asian countries, also attended the conference.

“The Fulbright program is the flagship program of all U.S.-government funded academic and exchange programs,” Dr. Grace Clark, Executive Director of USEFP, said. “The goal of all the Fulbright programs is to increase mutual understanding of the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries throughout the world.”

Earlier in the conference, the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, James H. Williams, delivered a talk on the importance of cultural diplomacy in the U.S.-Pakistan strategic partnership.

USEFP is one of 51 "Fulbright Commissions" located throughout the world. Since the conception of USEFP in 1951, the Foundation has sent about 1465 Pakistani Grantees under various programs to the U.S and 821 U.S Grantees have come to Pakistan.

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The USEFP is a bi-national commission dedicated to improving mutual understanding of the people of Pakistan and the people of the United States of America through educational exchange opportunities. The Foundation's programs focus on higher educational experiences in the U.S. and Pakistan.

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