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News, updates and resources from the
Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP)
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ASP NEWS

newsletter

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- 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Group on Public Procurement
- Consultative Workshop for the establishment of Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

ASP-AiD launches its website

ASP-AiD has launched a new website cum learning portal www.asp-aid.org along with a linked android application to provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) swift access to a wide range of materials and tools for their organizational development. According to ASP-AiD's Program Manager Ms. Sana Hussain, "we have tried to establish a one-stop-shop for all types of CSOs across the country interested in improving their organizational governance and management and it is our earnest hope that a large number of CSOs will extensively utilize this unique facility". The website features policy and procedure manuals, templates, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), institutional assessment tools, media gallery, discussion forums and tutorials.

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Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP)

The Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP) is a USAID-funded initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of local organizations to effectively manage development funds. ASP is being implemented by three Pakistani organizations, viz., Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), and Associate in Development (AiD) are implementing ASP in their assigned specific roles.

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* "It does not matter how many resources

Together we are creating a **ROSHAN PAKISTAN**

HR Management Training for MSP-PMU and UPU staff

In partnership with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), ASP-AiD is providing technical support to the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the USAID funded Municipal Services Program (MSP) and the Urban Policy Unit (UPU). For optimal and efficient functioning of both PMU and UPU, developing human resource management capacities in these units was identified as a critical need. Consequently comprehensive HRM policy and procedure manuals were developed for these entities, which were aligned with the KP ESTA code. Later on, a training workshop on Human Resource Management was conducted by

ASP-AiD in Peshawar from September 25-27, 2013 for the relevant staff of MSP-PMU and UPU. The workshop was designed to enable the middle level management better understand and implement HRM policies and procedures. use of performance management system, techniques and tools for effective supervisory skills and conflict management.



Capacity Building of NRSP in HR Management

As part of its ongoing technical assistance to National Rural Support Program (NRSP), ASP-AiD conducted a three-day training workshop on Human Resource Management for the district and regional managers of the organizations in August 2013. The workshop was attended



middle and senior level managers working in various parts of Pakistan including Punjab, Sindh, KP, Balochistan and GB.

Key objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of participants in HR Planning and Budgeting. In addition, this opportunity was utilized to receive participants' feedback on NRSP's newly developed HRM policy and proccures manual.

Capacity Building of CSOs – Distribution of and training on ERP and Accounting Software



One of the key achievements of ASP-AiD during the previous quarter has been the development of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application for CSOs. The software was developed on Open ERPTM because this is not only free of cost but also

is more user friendly. So far, basic level modules on accounting and finance, human resource management and project management have been developed, tested and debugged which ASP-AiD provided to more than 30 CSOs. Provision of ERP was

accompanied by training to enable these organizations get started on the road to automation. The trainings were organized in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Gilgit, Skardu, Hyderabad, and Quetta in which more 100 participants were trained.

The excel based accounting software developed by ASP-AiD is very user friendly. The software was new to me and my organization. Previously we were using manual methods like ledger, cash book, etc that was very time consuming and unreliable. This software has made my job easier and efficient. Now, I feel very confident about the transparency and accountability of the accounting procedures of my organization.
Adil Khan, Finance Officer - Gulmit Educational and Social Society

ASP-LUMS holds Learning & Experience Sharing-Validation Conference

ASP-LUMS organized a 'National Stakeholders Learning and Experience Sharing-Validation Conference' from August 24-26, 2013. The conference was part of a series of activities aimed at bringing together professionals from different areas to share experiences on practical implementation of the techniques and lessons learnt at ASP-LUMS trainings, and to include participant feedback on future course content.

Lead instructors from the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) at LUMS

facilitated the workshop. Dr. Jamshed Hassan Khan, Dr. Ehsan Ul Haque, Dr. Muhammad Junaid Ashraf and Dr. Anwar Khursheed shared details about the programmes and training workshops of ASP-LUMS.

The conference offered a platform for the participants to indulge in experience-sharing, mutual interaction and learning. It also featured a 10-minute ASP-LUMS documentary capturing the views of people associated with the project, various

stakeholders, and ASP-LUMS alumni. It was highly appreciated by the audience.



International consultants leave ASP-LUMS on a high note

A team of international consultants from the Centre for Governance and Public Management (CGPM) visited LUMS from September 17-20, 2013. The objective of the visit was to assess the concept, program design, implementation plan and sustainability of CGPM, which a dedicated team of ASP-LUMS staff and faculty had put together after rigorous research and thinking.

The founding of the Center is a critical step towards sustainability of ASP-LUMS. The Center will focus on development of education managers and leaders of public and development center organizations in Pakistan. It will also provide a platform for public-private partnership and be the source of cutting-edge research in areas of national interest. The team had three illustrious members with significant academic and professional experience in Governance and

Public Management. These included Dr. Steve Condrey, President of the American Society for Public Administration, Dr. James Douglas, Professor at University of Carolina, and Dr. Kendra Stewart, Director of the Joseph P. Riley Center, USA.

A special session was arranged for LUMS undergraduate students to interact with the

consultants for academic and professional advice. Many students, faculty members and ASP-LUMS team attended the session. The level of interest of LUMS students in pursuing a career in public management was high. The consultants shared a presentation on 'Importance of Governance and Public Management' and explained how public and private sectors differed in their approach and working.



The team left on a very high note. They commented on how different Pakistan is from what they see in the media. They promised to be the brand ambassadors of LUMS and CGPM internationally and expressed keen interest in developing a lasting relationship with the Center and the team.

Internship debriefing session

A debriefing session on ASP-LUMS Internship Program was held on September 14, 2013 at LUMS, with interns and representatives of different organizations in attendance. These organizations included HEC, Narcotics Control, Enercon, NayaJevan and Agri Support Fund. Students who had worked in different organizations for six weeks apprised that the internship gave them a chance to understand the working of these organizations, especially those in the public sector.

The interns believed that the training

provided them with exposure and insight into the real professional world. They gave brief presentations based on their work experience and talked about the support and encouragement provided by their assigned supervisors. Representatives of various organizations also shared their views of having students from LUMS as interns. They appreciated the professionalism, hard work and commitment of the LUMS students towards their jobs.



Internal audit toolkits and process documentation of three KP departments finalized

Another milestone in Internal Audit exercise of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been achieved in the dissemination of the Toolkits & Process Documentation created through this partnership. ASP-RSPN organized a two-day focus group workshop on “Internal Audit Toolkits and Process Documentation” developed in collaboration with the provincial government of KP. The objective of the workshop was to make senior officials of the concerned departments understand the proposed structure and contents of the Internal Audit toolkits. The workshop helped achieve several objectives. It brought together stakeholders, the senior officials of the Finance, Education, Health and Communications and Works (C&W)

department under one roof. The event discussed the existing status and achievements of ASP-RSPN and Finance Department in establishing Internal Audit in three (3) departments of KP. Mr. Badshah Bukhari, Secretary Finance of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa highly appreciated the effort and showed the commitment of the Provincial Government of KP to replicate the same methodology in other departments in the coming future.



The participants of the concerned departments agreed to support ASP-RSPN's technical teams in developing and improving the laid down methodologies in the toolkits for the successful implementation.

2nd Meeting of the Advisory Group on Public Procurement

The unique platform of Federal & Provincial The long-awaited PPRA project of Balochistan has been initiated with the active partnership of ASP-RSPN. In the pursuit of establishing good governance tools in

procurement and creating mechanism for ensuring value for money, the Govt. of Balochistan recently enacted the Act for the establishment of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in the province. Following up on this, the Govt. of Balochistan requested support from ASP-RSPN in establishing the Balochistan PPRA.

input from the stakeholders in establishing provincial PPRA. The meeting provided an excellent platform to senior public procurement representatives, donors, USAID and other stakeholders to interact with each other, exchange ideas and discuss options for strengthening of the public procurement system in the province. They also appreciated the accomplishments made by ASP-RSPN in extending their assistance in the formulation of rules and regulations and development of the institutional infrastructure for the BPPRA to help the government in providing a robust system for public procurement.



ASP-RSPN in collaboration with the Govt. of Balochistan conducted a consultative workshop to create awareness regarding the need of strengthening the procurement system in the province and also gather

Consultative Workshop for the establishment of Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

The unique platform of Federal & Provincial Procurement Authorities is now fully operational with the objective of creating harmonization of rules, regulations & policies related to procurement. The second meeting of the Advisory Group on Public Procurement (AGPP) was held on September 2-3, 2013 in Islamabad. The event was hosted by PPRA in collaboration with ASP-RSPN. The main agenda was to finalize the draft National Procurement

Strategy that has been developed under the aegis of PPRA. Representatives of federal and provincial PPRAs, officers of Provincial Finance Departments and procurement specialists of international development agencies participated in the two day event. Managing Director PPRA acknowledged the participation of all members of AGPP and lauded their commitment to the establishment of a robust and transparent Procurement

Regulatory framework in Pakistan.



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