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ASP NEWS

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Excelling In Performance: ASP-LUMS Trains Over 1000 Participants

In continuation of its efforts for the capacity-building of Pakistani organizations, ASP-LUMS has imparted training to over 1,000 officials from the public and CSO sectors within a span of two years.

The beneficiaries of these trainings include 155 senior and 429 mid-level managers, 327 operational managers, as well as policy makers from organizations like NADRA, LESCO, Planning Commission of Pakistan, SMEDA, Secretariat Training Institute, Sami Foundation, Hashoo Foundation, REACH Vulnerable SWAT, Abaseen Foundation, Reform Support Unit, and Higher Education Commission.

The feat has been achieved with the support of SDSB faculty, as well as faculty drawn from other schools of LUMS. Renowned international and local consultants were invited to share their professional experiences with the course participants. Trainings have been imparted in the disciplines of procurement management, HR management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, leadership and cultural change, development and leadership: gender dimension, project management, communication strategy and management, training of trainers and fiscal decentralization. Exciting courses on forensic audit, procurement audit, sustainability audit and training of parliamentarians will also be offered in the near future.

(Cont.)

in Focus Stories



ASP-AiD acknowledged deployment of SAGE 300 ERP Go-Live



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National Procurement Strategy tabled by ASP-RSPN

Inside this Issue

- 2 ✨ ASP-AiD acknowledged deployment of SAGE 300 ERP Go-Live
- 2 ✨ MSP Inauguration ceremony
- 2 ✨ Launch of third batch of CSOs held in Islamabad
- 3 ✨ Excelling In Performance: ASP-LUMS trains over 1000 participants
- 3 ✨ One-year completion of CSOs capacity building workshops
- 3 ✨ ASP-LUMS course on Fiscal Decentralization
- 4 ✨ Government forms advisory group on Public Procurement: ASP-RSPN's support for strengthening the Public Procurement Systems
- 4 ✨ Finance Minister KP chairs the Stakeholders' Workshop on Establishment of Internal Audit in KP departments
- 4 ✨ 'National Procurement Strategy' tabled by ASP-RSPN
- 4 ✨ KP's Public Procurement Regulatory Authority notified by GoKP

ASP-AiD acknowledged deployment of SAGE 300 ERP Go-Live

USAID-funded ERP systems have been installed in government managed power plants at Muzaffargarh, Guddu and Jamshoro, which would help improve their performance and efficiency. ASP-AiD examined the ERP to verify that all visualized probabilities were addressed in the ERP. Both parties expressed their satisfaction over the deployed SAGE 300 ERP. Upon thorough examination and testing of the ERP system, an acceptance document for Go-Live was signed.

Subsequent to the deployment of SAGE 300 ERP at all three power plants, the consultancy firm M/s HCC demonstrated various features covered in ERP including payroll, assets, inventory and CMMS modules. Certificates of training were awarded to the officials completing the training on the system.

ASP-AiD was highly appreciated for achieving a great milestone in the capacity building of these power distribution plants, which shall bring significant improvements for effective, efficient and smooth functioning.



Inauguration Ceremony of FATA Secretariat Municipal Services Program



Shield being presented to Mr. Azhar Saeed, Chief of Party ASP-AiD in recognition of the role of ASP -AiD in developing the PMU

The inauguration ceremony of the FATA Secretariat Municipal Services Program (MSP) took place in March 2013 in Peshawar. The MSP presented a shield to Mr. Azhar Saeed, Chief of Party ASP-AiD in recognition of the role of ASP-AiD in developing the Project Management Unit (PMU) and its capacity building through

preparation of manuals for procurement, HR, M&E and Financial management. The ceremony saw formal inauguration of the MSP program in Peshawar where the first batch of solid waste machinery, trucks, etc., was handed over to Municipal Corporation Peshawar (MCP).



Launch of third batch of CSOs held in Islamabad

ASP-AiD formally initiated the Capacity Building process of the third batch of Civil Society Organizations of Pakistan. The launch ceremony was held in Serena Hotel, Islamabad in February. Mr. Dale, Agreement Officer of USAID was the chief guest at the occasion. Others present at the ceremony included representatives from 54 Civil Society Organizations under the Small Grants and Ambassador Fund Program of USAID, staff of ASP-AiD, and USAID.

The launch will be followed by a series of trainings focusing institutional strengthening of these CSOs in areas of Human Resource, Information Technology, Financial Management, Procurement Management, and Monitoring & Evaluation. Thus far ASP-AiD has trained two batches of CSOs.

(Cont.) **Excelling In Performance: ASP-LUMS Trains Over 1000 Participants**

Meanwhile, ASP-LUMS has also inked MoUs with IBA Karachi, IBA Sukkur, and IMS Peshawar for institutional capacity building by virtue of Training of Trainers program in different pedagogical methods for faculty and staff.

Courses are being conducted at the campuses of these three business schools in order to further engage their faculty. One such course was organized in Karachi with the involvement of the faculty of IBA Karachi, while two have been conducted at

IBA Sukkur, where the local faculty also participated. Participants have particularly appreciated the quality and local context of the courses and have recommended similar trainings for other public and CSO sector managers as well.

One-year completion of CSOs capacity building workshops

ASP-AiD successfully completed one year of its capacity building workshops designed for Civil Society Organizations of Pakistan in February. The workshops were tailored for organizations that are recipients of USAID grants under the USAID Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund programs.

different CSOs was trained on a variety of disciplines, such as Procurement Management Financial Policies and Procedures, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Research.

emphasized on processes whereby grantee organizations would effectively interact to understand and deal with their professional development needs in a broader context and in a sustainable manner.

Over the past one year, the staff of

The purpose behind the capacity building approach was not just limited to organizational development but also

Almost 500 participants from Civil Society Organizations all over Pakistan benefitted from these workshops.



ASP-LUMS Course On Fiscal Decentralization

USAID funded ASP-LUMS held a five-day extensive training on Fiscal Decentralization at LUMS. Policy and decision makers from the public and the CSO sector attended the training. The training covered topics like Governance Models and Rationale for Fiscal Decentralization, Frameworks and Approaches to Fiscal Decentralization, Decentralization in Pakistan: The 18th Constitutional Amendment, Revenue Forecasting, Structure in Provincial Taxes and Local Resource Generation. The lead faculty for the course was LUMS faculty member, Dr. Mohsin Bashir, PhD Public Administration and Public Policy. International and local experts on fiscal decentralization shared their knowledge on the subject with the participants. The quality of the courses was highly appreciated by the participants.

Local experts like Ahsan Rana (Consultant) and Tariq Mahmud (Ex Federal Secretary) shared he local context on fiscal decentralization with the participants. Mr. James Douglas from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte came in as an international expert on the course and shared his working experience with the faculty of ASP-LUMS and termed it “highly motivated, well organized, and extremely knowledgeable.” He further added that the fiscal decentralization course at ASP-LUMS is of a very high quality and the local context will be beneficial for the participants.



Government forms Advisory Group on Public Procurement; ASP-RSPN's support for strengthening the Public Procurement Systems

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) constituted an advisory group on public procurement comprising members from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authorities (PPRAs), provincial governments, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan finance departments. The

Managing Director (PPRA), Cabinet Division issued a notification in January 2013 specifying other modalities of the formulated working group. The constitution of advisory group is the outcome of the PPRA conference organized by ASP-RSPN last year.

Government's ownership of ASP-RSPN's interventions for establishing and supporting PPRAs at the federal and provincial level will make a significant difference in achieving desired goals.

Finance Minister KP chairs the Stakeholders' Workshop on Establishment of Internal Audit in KP departments

With an increased spotlight on good governance practices, the profile of Internal Audit can only get higher. In this context, USAID funded ASP-RSPN set a major milestone through its efforts of establishing a missing Internal Audit function in the departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP). On June 16 2012, the Provincial Cabinet formally approved the Internal Audit Charter. ASP brought together concerned political and managerial experts in the field onboard through its various consultative forums and several meetings with the finance department were held in the preliminary phase to discuss implementation of a comprehensive capacity building plan.

Following the implementation, ASP-RSPN has successfully completed the pilot implementation of internal audit for salaries, pension; health and education departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A comprehensive Internal Audit governance structure has also been proposed for all tiers of GoKP.

In February 2013, ASP-RSPN organized an experience-sharing workshop in the presence of senior officials/decision makers, middle managers, system developers, donors and other officers from the federal government to deliberate on the governance structure of the proposed internal audit function. The Minister of



03-04 Feb 2013: Finance Minister KP and other officials participate in a two-day workshop on Establishment of Internal Audit Function in KP

Finance, GoKP, Engineer M. Humayun Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. ASP-RSPN envisions an accountable and responsible provincial government through enforcing similar tools of good governance in the region. Internal audit plays a pivotal and constructive role in ensuring effective management of public finances thereby resulting in improved service delivery.



01-02 Apr 2013: MD PPRA and USAID's Deputy Mission Director chair a session in the Inaugural Meeting of the Advisory Group on Public Procurement

National Procurement Strategy tabled by ASP-RSPN

ASP-RSPN shared the prospective National Procurement Strategy in Bhurban in the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group on Public Procurement held in April 2013. The meeting provided an excellent platform for senior public procurement representatives of the federal and provincial governments, donors, USAID, and other members of the advisory group to interact with each other, exchange ideas, and discuss options for strengthening the procurement system in the country. Speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director PPRA said, "Formation of such an expert group would help create a culture where good procurement practices and policies are accepted and encouraged." USAID's Deputy Mission Director Katherine Moore was also present on the occasion.

KP's Public Procurement Regulatory Authority notified by GoKP

The primary legislation that provides for legal and regulatory framework for Public Procurement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), is the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Act (KPPRA) 2012. The Act promotes the principles of transparency; fairness and value for money in Public Procurement. The Act was first introduced in the Provincial Assembly in 2010 but it

could not be passed by the Provincial Assembly in view of protracted controversy on some of its provisions. However, ASP's interventions helped in closing the perception gaps and expedited this very important piece of legislation. Thus the KPPRA Act 2012 was passed by the Provincial Assembly in October 2012. Thereafter, ASP has been providing

technical assistance in the establishment of an independent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA). Recently, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa notified the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority as an entity for regulating public procurements in the province.