

Recommendations from Thematic Session 3: Environmental Education and Capacity Building

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Honourable Mr. Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Chief Justice of Pakistan

Honourable Mr. Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan

Maulvi Anwar-ul-Haq, Attorney General for Pakistan, and

Ladies and Gentlemen Assalam-o-Alaikum!

I am greatly honoured by the invitation extended to me on these useful 2-days 'South Asia Conference on Environmental Justice'. I sincerely hope that all of you would find this Conference to be very useful for curbing environmental issue that has badly affected our future.

Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 defines environment as "air; water; land, all layers of the atmosphere, all organic and inorganic matter, all social and economic conditions affecting community life". The environment covers everything, we do and encounter, not confined to only trees and parks. What the need is that first we educate ourselves, in basic concepts that how badly, violation of the fundamental rules of environment, affects our life, then to ask those who matter in policy making to take steps necessary for protecting the environment so that our coming generation can enjoy fresh air and water. To achieve a good quality of life on earth for all living beings, it is essential to spread awareness about and educate humankind in sustainable development and environmental problems and In this regard teachers can play a pivotal role, in transmitting knowledge and creating awareness about today's burning Issue of dirty environment and help to tackle it. Education and public awareness plays a pivotal role in abating environmental problems. It is necessary that basic concepts of how to protect environment should be made part of school system.

As human beings continue to have significant impacts on the environment and its resources, education seems to be the best tool for providing the public, with an understanding of the ramifications of their actions and behaviour patterns in order to Increase sensitivity and concerned surrounding environmental issues.

The Environmental education is a process that provides learners with awareness and knowledge about the environment (typically including the relationship of humans to the

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natural world), and fosters the development of the skills, attitudes and motivations to enable learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions that incorporate environmental considerations. The ultimate goal or outcome of the environmental education is the creation of environmentally literate citizens. This is important because solving today's challenging local and global environmental issues and moving society towards sustainability cannot rest only with 'experts' but will require the support and active participation of an informed public in their various roles.

The Speakers at the Thematic Session on Environmental Education and Capacity Building expressed their views in detail.

Briefly:

Mr. Justice Faez Isa (Chief Justice Baluchistan High Court)

How religions can play importance role in protecting environment. Importance of nexus between Environment and Islam and highlighted the fact that not only Islam but all religions emphasize on the importance and protection of environment.

Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah (Lahore High Court)

Provided a well-designed course on environmental law touching on principles, concepts, historical evolution, law, science and specific area like bio-diversity, water etc. He stressed the facts that there needs to be project based training, which include field trip so that judges know what exactly to happening on the site and are able to understand the problem better and hence deal with it batter.

Mr. Justice Takdir Rahmadi (Judge, Supreme Court, Indonesia):

Spoke on the Indonesian Judicial Certification program on environment where only' those judges who have environmental certification are qualified to hear environment cases.

Mr. Justice Hasan Foez Siddiqui (Supreme Court Judge, Bangladesh):

Spoke on establishment of environment courts and need for environmental education at all levels.

Mr. Justice Tahir Ali Ansari (Supreme Court Judge, Nepal)

Spoke on need for environmental protection and law enforcement in fostering equitable sustainable development.

Mr. Justice (R) Tanvir Ahmed Khan (Director General, Punjab Judicial Academy)

Spoke on the role of Punjab Judicial Academy. He also further highlighted the relationship between environment and Islam. He said that change will not come over night. We need to adopt short term and long term plane in order to gradually find a solution about the issues.

Mr. Javed Jabbar (Vice President IUCN)

Highlighted the importance of civil society organizations and challenges faced by them in creating environmental awareness. He stressed the need for certain capacity building measures which are to be taken for public to make the aware about the issue.

Huma Ikramullah (Faculty Member, Sindh Judicial Academy)

Highlighted judicial environmental capacity building role of judges in environmental enforcement and the role of Sindh Judicial Academy.

Recommendations of the House

The house makes the following recommendations on the Theme of Environmental Education and Capacity Building:

1. That in order to create awareness amongst people about the issue of environmental hazards and in order for them to cooperate on this issue, the people should be given an Islamic Perspective on the Environment.
2. That the Judicial Environmental education should continue for all relevant stakeholders.
3. That Environmental curriculum should be made part of curriculum of text books of all tiers of education.
4. That Training of trainers should be conducted for developing specialists and experts in different aspects of environmental law.
5. That Judges should be trained in environmental law in order to enable them to make judgments in accordance with idea of sustainable development.
6. That all the Judicial Academies need to develop curriculum for environmental law training.
7. That Civil Society should be involved in designing environmental law training.
8. That there is a need for sharing of experiences.

