

Event Report

Consultative Session on Climate Journalism



Abdul Nasir
AASS Organization
Event Report



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1. Event Summary:

Event Title	Consultative Session on Climate Journalism
Date & Time	27th November 2023 ((9:30 AM to 04:00 PM)
Venue	Regalia Hotel, Islamabad
Experts/ Panelists	✓ Mr. Syed Shahid Kazmi (PHF) ✓ Mr. Sarmad Iqbal (IRC) ✓ Uzma Osho Director (AASS) ✓ Rehan Tahir (Muslim Hands) ✓ Khurram Jilani (International Expert) ✓ Sophia Siddique (NDMA) ✓ Ayesha Amjad (Moderator)
Participants	43 Journalists (Registration Sheet Attached as Annex 1

2. Event Background:

AASS – Advocacy Awareness & Sustainable Services Organization in collaboration with **Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF)**, **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** and **Muslim Hands** planned a Consultative session with Journalists of Islamabad at Regalia Hotel, Islamabad. The objective of the event was to sensitize and empower the journalistic community in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, enabling them to play a pivotal role in raising climate change awareness, disseminating climate-related information, and advocating for climate action. All the organizations collectively felt the need to sensitize Journalists community and improve the responsiveness of journalists on the issue the climate change and vowed to improve the News Reporting related on climate related issues.

3. Event Report:

The Moderator of the Event, **Ms. Ayesha** welcomed the participants on behalf of AASS & Partners and explained the agenda and importance of the Session. She highlighted that the Journalists community has a key role in educating and creating mass awareness among the people. She added that AASS is planning to conduct Sensitization session with Journalists & Press Clubs from all parts of Pakistan. Ayesha mentioned that today Climate Change is a serious issue of Pakistan and we need to create mass awareness among public and print, electronic and



digital media can play a key role in protection of earth. All the participants were then asked to introduce themselves mentioning their Names & Media Groups.

The 1st Session was about; **“Climate Change & Its Impact in the Context of Pakistan”** conducted by **Mr. Khurram Jilani** who was taking the session online. The session started 1 hour late due to the late arrival of participants. Khurram explained the Climate change challenges in Pakistan by mentioning the facts and figures. He presented the summary of natural hazards with data from 1980 to 2023. Further, he highlighted the immediate consequences of Climate Change, i.e. Rise in Temperature, Unexpected Rainfalls resulting in Floods, Crop Cycle disturbing, Droughts, Earthquakes and multiple Health Hazards. He added that these challenges are leading to Mass migration, Food Security crisis and making the earth unsafe place for human beings.

He also linked the climate change issues with the Economy of Pakistan resulting in decrease in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Increase in Poverty and inequality, and drop in domestic and foreign direct investment and trade. He mentioned that the investments drop in the country because of the uncertainty emerged from the Climate Challenges. The Investors and business community are least interested in disaster prone areas due to high risk ratio. He also came up with the things which are to watch out including disaster responses and risk reduction, adaptation and resilience, and mitigation to reduce CO₂ emissions. Adding further regarding the funds for Climate Change he clarifies to the audience with the aim of COP that it is not the funding platform, it is the platform where we can raise our voices regarding the vulnerable situation and demand for climate justice.

The first session was concluded with a question and answer session. Muhammad Mukhtar representing News Network International asked about the connection of Earthquakes with Climate Change. Mr. Ghulam Rasool a senior journalist of KTN TV asked about the steps required to be taken to improve the governance to counter climate change challenges and reduce its losses. Mr. Qurban Baloch from Awaz TV, he added regarding the accountability and check & balance on climate mitigation activities. Mr. Sohail Butt mentioned regarding the illegal construction of infrastructure like hotels and houses on river and canal banks leading to huge losses during floods. Mr. Jilani responded in details to all the queries and appreciated that the journalists are highly concerned and aware about the challenge. He stressed the need to improve Media role in creating awareness and doing advocacy for the implementation of National Climate Change Policy of Pakistan. He mentioned that some factors are directly linked with the Climate Change like Floods with heavy rains but some are complicated to establish link like earthquakes. Further, he also stressed the need of research on it. He highlighted the importance of data regarding Climate Change and its impact because it is then used for the decision-making process. He added further that the element of resilience links to adaptation,



not mitigation. With this, the first session came to an end and after the tea break, the second session started.

The 2nd Session was about the "**National Climate Change Policy of Pakistan and COP 28**" conducted by **Mrs. Sophia Siddique** editor of Glory Magazine and representing the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan. She highlighted the importance of Media in Disaster Communication and the Strategic Capabilities of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) for that she started with some facts and figures regarding mobile phone users, print media, radio users, and religious institutions. She pressed the topic of self-responsibility in the dissemination of information whether it is from media or other platforms. This session was highly interactive. She talked about National Climate Change Policy in which she came to the point of awareness regarding the impact of climate change and the role of media persons in this task. She also discussed the Climate Change Adaptation, and Disaster preparedness in which she highlighted that in what ways and how we can change the behavior of people.

The 3rd & last session was of Panel discussion regarding "**Adapting the Climate Protection Measures in Pakistan and COP 28**" which was moderated by **Mr. Rehan Tahir** from Muslim Hands. He played a short documentary by Muslim Hands highlighting the Pre COP Sessions and Activities by Muslim Hands. He added his experiences and introduced his organization to the audience. He said that we have to own the most important issue of climate change by rethinking and reshaping the issue and coming up with solutions regarding the preservation and conservation of the environment.

In the panel discussion, the panel comprised of **Mr. Syed Shahid Kazmi (PHF)**, **Mr. Sarmad Iqbal Khan (IRC)** **Mrs. Uzma Osho Nasir (AASS)**, **Mr. Imran Siddiqui (PTV Academy & Sports)** **Ms. Nayyer Ali (National Press Club)**.

Mr. Shahid Kazmi (PHF) introduced PHF and its working. Kazmi mentioned that PHF is always ready to support local organizations and partners working on Climate Change. He highlighted the Role of International Media on the Climate Change and stressed the journalists to improve their responsiveness on the issues related to climate change. He admitted that Media is always less interested on such topics because people have less interest in these topics. He said that Climate Change is seriously affecting the livelihoods and health of people. He referred to last few floods in the history of Pakistan and mentioned that they have led to huge Human displacements and loss of Crops and Livestock. He also referred to the Smog Issue in LAASSre and other Big Cities of Pakistan and mentioned that if we failed to control these challenges, our big cities will not be a safe place to live.

Mr. Sarmad Iqbal Khan (IRC) mentioned about the violations in environmental laws and policies globally as well as in Pakistan. He said that there are clear violations in the presence of



such law. He further said Pakistan is contributing a very small ratio in disturbing climate through emission of gases but Pakistan is among the Top 5 countries affected due to Climate Change. He also gave historical references of Lahore and other Big Cities of Pakistan and mentioned today's situation. He told that in Lahore there is Lockdown started due to worst pollution and environment. He also referred to the worst condition of Rawal Dam located in Islamabad. The people of surrounding areas are throwing their drains in the Rawal Dam which is supplying water to a large population of Islamabad. The Vehicles and Rickshaws adding to pollution should also be banned. Mr. Sarmad stressed the journalists to highlight these challenges and create mass awareness.

Mrs. Uzma Osho Nasir (AASS) discussed the importance of Journalist engagement in Climate Change matters. She referred to upcoming COP28 event in Dubai and showed her concern why Pakistani Journalists are not participating in it. She stressed on the Government and Non-Government Organizations to encourage and promote journalists to become the part of such event from where they can learn and educate others. Journalists should be aware of such serious issues so that we can aware our people in a better way.

This session was then followed by a question and answer session which was more interactive as well based on recommendations from participants. The questions were from senior journalists Qurban Ali representing Awaz TV, Hinan Durrani representing APP, Mr. Zubair from BBC, Mr. Abrar Hussain from GTV, and Mrs. Shazia Kiyani from Daily Jageer. These questions were relevant to the issue of data provision to journalists, gaps in reporting, the less efficient and low-maintained vehicles polluting the environment, and the lack of research in the area of climate change and its impact.

The final notes were from Mr. Imran Siddiqui General Manager of PTV Academy and Sports, and Mrs. Nayyar Ali Both the panelists appreciated the organizers and participants and assured full support from their platforms.

The program ended with distribution of Certificates to Participant Journalists, followed by the Networking Lunch and Informal discussion.

4. Recommendations:

The following recommendations emanated from the key speakers who delivered their part and also from the discussions during the question and answer sessions with the participants of the event:

1. The awareness session regarding climate change should not only be limited to journalists but also to all other stakeholders as well because it is so important to



- discuss and debate. Further, such sessions should be arranged on a regular basis to get the long-term impact.
2. More Opportunities and facilitation should be provided to Journalists to interact and work on Climate related issues.
 3. National & International Organizations working on Climate Change need to engage Journalists on Local & International Trainings and Events.
 4. There should be research about climate change and its impact and regular dissemination of the data with the media persons so that they can share and aware people accordingly.
 5. It is the collective responsibility of all the people, and stakeholders to build a sustainable environment. Climate change is not a myth but a reality. Therefore, every sector needs to work together cohesively. In this aspect, we should promote and adopt clean, green, and resilient parameters to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change. Awareness is on the part of the media but behavioral issues are individualistic matters. So everybody should play their role in this noble cause.
 6. There are many sources of climate funding but there should be a proper mechanism at government organizations regarding their check and balances and proper implementation. Further, the government should also focus on opportunities for investment regarding climate change.
 7. Last but not least we should think globally but act locally to reach a sustainable and resilient environment.



5. Event in Pictures:



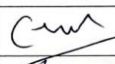
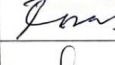
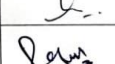
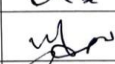
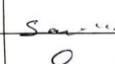


6. Registration Sheet:



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REGISTRATION SHEET

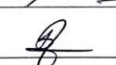
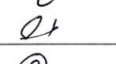
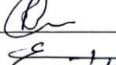
S. No	Name	Organization	Contact No	Email	Signature
✓ 1	Ghulam Rasool	ITNTV	03025533243		
2	Qusam Baloch	Auror TV	03005151238		
✓ 3	Aqib Iaved	Gunn News	0316-5055095		
✓ 4	Abrar Astori	News one	03125698137		
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✓ 6	Sanam Junejo	APP	03325945708	sanam.junejo@gmail.com	
7	Sajida	Diary, Nibati	0322-509472	sajida.sajida@gmail.com	
✓ 8	Sophia Siddique	Galaxy Magazine	0336-524454	sophia.siddique@gmail.com	

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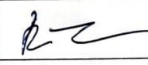
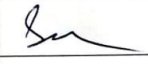
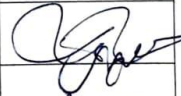
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✓29	Adam Nadeem Haider	Tibet Times	03115768150	nadeemhaider1907	[Signature]
✓30	M. Khalid Abbas	Dawn TV	03165581722	khalidabbas160@gmail.com	[Signature]
✓31	Saib Ali Rathor	Kashmir Times	0333-5737521	saibalirathor@yahoo.com	[Signature]
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x 34	Khussan Shahzad	"	0333 9217676		
x 35	Sami	"	03338188990		
x 36	Zobair	BBC/MH	—		—
37	Arif Raza	BSN news	0332-8529786		
38	Arif Raza	Urdun Global	0300557664		
39	Sajjad Kazmi	Such TV	0341-1502385		
40	Nayyer Ali	NPC/Samaa	03005552208		

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موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات اور اس سے آگاہی مہم میں میڈیا کو مثبت کردار ادا کرنا چاہیے، ریحان طاہر

صحافیوں کو مسائل سے آگاہ ہونا چاہیے تاکہ لوگوں کو بہتر طریقے سے آگاہ کر سکیں، تقریب سے خطاب



اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹ) مسلم میڈیکل کے چیئرپرسن ریحان طاہر نے کہا ہے کہ ہمیں آج کی تبدیلی کے نام ترین مسئلے پر از سر نو غور و فکر اور اس کی تکفیل کو اور ماحولیات کے تحفظ اور تحفظ کے حوالے سے عمل تلاش کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، صحت، افراسیڑہ، تعلیم، معاشرے، خاندان اور خاص طور پر معیشت کے نقطہ نظر سے مختلف شعبوں پر موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات کو بھی نظر انداز نہیں کیا جاسکتا، موسمیاتی تبدیلی سے متعلق قومی پالیسیوں موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات اور اس سے آگاہی مہم میں میڈیا کو مثبت کردار ادا کرنا چاہیے، انہوں نے ان خیالات کا اظہار اسلام آباد کے مقامی ہوٹل میں ماحولیاتی صحافت پر مشاورتی اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا تقریب کا اہتمام آس جیو ٹی وی آرگنائزیشن، مسلم میڈیکل، پاکستان جیو ٹی وی فورم (ٹی وی ایچ ایف) اور انٹرنیشنل ریسرچ کمیٹی کے اشتراک سے کیا گیا تھا تقریب میں کاہنہ برتلم کے حوالے سے موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی داستان پر میڈیا پر سبز کے کردار پر روشنی ڈالی گئی، تقریب کا پہلا سیشن جناب فرم بیلا کے "ماحولیاتی تبدیلی اور پاکستان کے تناظر میں اس کے اثرات" کے بارے میں تھا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان جیسے ملک کے لیے موسمیاتی تبدیلی سے متعلق چیلنجر کے حوالے سے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کیا، جس میں انہوں نے پاکستان کے درجہ حرارت میں اضافے، بارشوں کی

کمزور میں اچانک موسلا دھار بارش، اچانک تبدیلیوں، موسم سرما میں گرمی وغیرہ کے بارے میں پچھلے اعداد و شمار کو مثال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ COP کا مقصد ہے کہ یہ فزکس کا پلٹ فارم میں ہے، یہ وہ پلٹ فارم ہے جہاں ہم خطرناک صورتحال اور موسمیاتی انصاف کے مطالعے کے حوالے سے اپنی آواز اٹھا سکتے ہیں، دوسرا سیشن قومی موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی پالیسی اور COP 28 پر مشتمل تھا جس کی قیادت گھوری سیکرین کی ایگزیکٹو صوبہ نے کی۔ انہوں نے ڈیزاسٹر کیوئلیٹی اور NEOC کی اسٹرٹجک صلاحیتوں میں میڈیا کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کیا۔ انہوں نے موبائل فون، اخبارات، ریڈیو اور مڈیا اداروں کے صارفین کے حوالے سے کچھ حقائق اور اعداد و شمار کے ساتھ شروعات کی۔ انہوں نے معلومات کی ترسیل میں خود مدداری کے موضوع پر زور دیا چاہیے وہ میڈیا سے ہو یا دوسرے پلٹ فارمز

سے آگاہ ہونا چاہیے تاکہ ہم لوگوں کو بہتر طریقے سے آگاہ کر سکیں۔

The Public View

Group of 5000 Sikh Pilgrims are visiting various sacred sites in Pakistan P-3

Gangs, extortion in Bangladesh camps driving Rohingya sea exodus P-5

Azam Khan fined for displaying Palestinian flag on his bat P-7



ISLAMABAD: AAS Humanitarian organization organized a consultative session on "Climate Journalism" a step towards COP28 in collaboration with Muslim Hands, PHF, and IRC. Many well-known journalists who have been working on climate change participated in the session.



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