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PRESS RELEASE

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UET Peshawar & IFAD Join Hands to Train Youth in Technical and Entrepreneurial Skills



PESHAWAR APRIL 17: In a significant step toward fostering economic growth and empowering youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the KP Rural Economic Transformation Project (KP-RETP), KP Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (KP-TEVTA), and University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar (UET Peshawar), here the other day. The MoA was signed by Mr. Arif Ullah Awan, Project Director of KP-RETP, Mr. Mansoor Qaisar, Managing Director KP-TEVTA and Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar in the presence of Country Head for Pakistan International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Fernanda Thomaz Da-Rocha, Coordinator IFAD, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mari, Prof Dr. Tahir Khan, Team Lead /Director Department of Mechatronics Engineering UET Peshawar, Project Manager KP-RETP Mr. Amjad Miraj and senior officials.

The programme, funded by IFAD Pakistan, is aimed to provide vocational, technical, and entrepreneurial training to 60,000 young individuals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The initiative is designed to enhance professional skills across five key thematic areas: technical and vocational skills, entrepreneurship, emerging technologies, digital literacy and soft skills, aimed at opening up greater employment opportunities for the youth including women.

Mr. Fernanda Thomaz Da Rocha highlighted the broader significance of the partnership said, “This milestone demonstrates the power of collaboration between IFAD-financed projects, academic institutions, and the private sector to create real opportunities for young people. We are proud to invest in youth upskilling and women empowerment in rural KP. Through this initiative, we are helping young women and men build the skills they need to succeed in the job market or launch their own enterprises. IFAD remains deeply committed to supporting rural youth and driving inclusive economic transformation across the province.”

Speaking at the event, the Project Director of KP-RETP Arif Ullah Awan stated, “This partnership reflects our commitment to transforming rural livelihoods by equipping youth with skills that are not only relevant today

but also future-focused. By joining hands with KP-TEVTA and UET Peshawar, we are ensuring that our training interventions are practical, inclusive, and aligned with the evolving needs of the job market.”

Dr. Qaiser Ali, Vice Chancellor, UET Peshawar, said “UET Peshawar is proud to contribute its academic and technical expertise to this important initiative. Through this collaboration, we aim to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, enabling the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially from rural areas, to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.”

Abdul Karim Khan Tordher, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education KP was the chief guest at the ceremony. He applauded IFAD for its continued support in fostering sustainable development and creating long-term economic opportunities for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. “This collaboration is a key step in ensuring that the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are equipped with the skills needed to succeed in today’s competitive job market. The programme will help them secure stable employment and contribute to the growth of key industries in our province”, he said.

The collaboration between KP-RETP, KP-TEVTA, and UET Peshawar with the financial assistance of IFAD represents a major milestone in the region’s ongoing efforts to build a skilled workforce that can meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy. This programme will not only contribute to the personal development of youth particularly women but will also play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and self-sustainability for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa###