

Education Seminar “Unfinished Education Agenda: the way forward”



Gordon Brown, A Special Envoy to United Nations attended the Education Seminar “Unfinished Education Agenda: the way forward” at Serena Hotel, Islamabad on March 29th, 2014. Honorable Prime Minister Dr Mian Muhammed Nawaz Shareef, Minister of State for Education, Trainings and Higher Education Mr. Baleeghur Rehman, Federal Finance Minister Mr. Ishaq Darr and Governor of Punjab Mr. Muhammad Sarwar were on the stage panel, in addition, many dignitaries were also there to attended the

seminar , comprising of Senators, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Secretaries, NGO's, CEO's and School Owners.



Gordon Brown "Special Envoy to UN"

The international community will provide Pakistan technical and financial help over the next four years to help domestic efforts to deliver universal education in the country, UN Special Envoy on Global Education Gordon Brown announced on Saturday.

Brown, who was on a brief visit to Pakistan, said he met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other top federal and provincial government officials on Saturday to discuss improvements in the accessibility and quality of education in Pakistan, which has the world's second-most highest number of out-of-school children at the primary school level.

"We want to set a 21-month goal that by December 2015 we have as many students in school in Pakistan as possible," said Brown, who was flanked by Minister of State for Education, Trainings and Higher Education Baleeghur Rehman and Punjab's Governor Muhammad Sarwar during a press conference at the Jinnah Convention Centre.

"We will help you as the international community to meet your objective to get every girl and boy in school," the former British prime minister said.

The funding, which is expected to materialize during the tenure of the current government, would be spent on areas such as school buildings, teacher trainings and improving the standard of education through curriculum reform, Brown said. "In return, the world expects Pakistan to continue its efforts to invest in education-for-all and to keep its promise to double the education budget," he added.

He said the international community also wanted to make sure there were no child marriages in Pakistan, that child labor was outlawed and that Pakistani girls – who wanted to get education – did not face any discrimination.

The UN envoy, who also met with provincial education officials, said he has talked with Pakistani authorities about developing 'concrete measures to actually get students in school instead of just promising them education'.

He said he has witnessed a greater thrust for education among the government officials and civil society. "I see a consensus right across society that investment in education is a far greater priority in Pakistan now than it was a few years ago," he said.



The PM's address

Inaugurating the international conference on 'Unfinished Agenda in Education: the Way Forward', Premier Nawaz unveiled his government's plan to launch a countrywide literacy movement to ensure enrollment of every child in the school, by introducing a package of incentives.

"Our effort is to achieve the targets, set by Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the coming three years," he said, adding that a key target, set by UNESCO, was to increase resources for the education sector to reach 4% of the GDP by the year 2018.

The premier said his government's objective was to develop an educational system that was compatible with the requirements of a knowledge-based economy. He stressed to

focus on science and technology and modern skills in education system, besides calling for prioritisation of female education in education policy, effective participation of women in the decision-making process and to protect their respect and dignity.

“It has, in fact, become a national emergency. More than half of the country’s population is below 25 years of age. With proper education and training, this huge reservoir of human capital can offer us an edge in the race for growth and prosperity in the age of globalisation,” he added.

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Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif**

