















PAKISTAN WATER WEEK 2023

International Conference on

TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS FOR WATER AND FOOD SYSTEMS

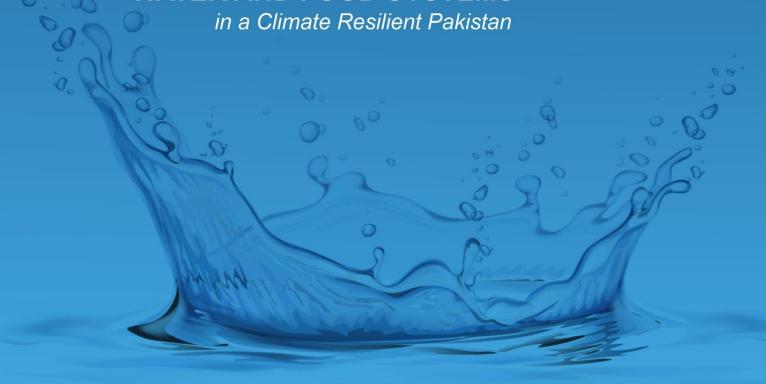


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1. Introduction

Water, a basic right for human being is getting precious day by day as water scarcity has become a major challenge to sustainable development. It can be estimated by available fresh water resources and human water withdrawal, which are affected by both climate change and human activities. According to UN Habitat, one of four cities in the world is located in a region where the water demand surpasses the supply. By 2025, forecasts indicate that at least 2/3 of the world's population will be living in areas affected by "water stress". This means that in just six years 5 billion people will be impacted by water shortages. This is due to increasing demand for water, reduction of water resources, and increasing pollution of water driven by the continued growth in megacities, climate change, agriculture, and pollution. Pakistan with its annual water availability below 1,000 cubic metres per person, is also included in such regions of the world and is rapidly moving from water "stressed" to water "scarce" status. Pakistan faces not only a water crisis but also serious concerns regarding its future food security. In addition, mismanagement of water resources, unmonitored groundwater abstraction, unmetered water supplies and water pollutions is creating more stress on surface and groundwater resources of Pakistan. Moreover, climate change is introducing critical challenges with increasing temperature, glacier melt, flash flooding and changing precipitation for water, energy, and food, as well as ecosystem processes at regional scales. Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) following its mandate is conducting and disseminating applied research and making efforts to sensitize all relevant stakeholders to address the prevailing situation. PCRWR in collaboration with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan, has set the foundations for organizing Pakistan Water Week in the year 2021 on the annual basis. The aim of water week is to share knowledge with the stakeholders, particularly mainstreaming youth and recognizing young water professionals by providing them an opportunity to share their knowledge and visions for a water secure future. Continuing the same, PCRWR in collaboration with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan, ICARDA and CGIAR's Water Land and Ecosystem (WLE) flagship program, has jointly organized and celebrated Pakistan Water Week in 2022 and now in 2023. The main objective behind Pakistan Water Week (PWW) 2023 was to bring together experts, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs from various sectors and countries with the aim of developing solutions for water-related challenges. Pakistan Water Week was celebrated to bring the Government officials, researchers, national and international water experts, academia and water industry at single platform.



Figure 1: Events of Pakistan Water Week 2023

2. International conference (December 4-6, 2023)

Water, an indispensable resource for food security, energy, and sustaining life itself, is encountering unprecedented challenges on a global scale. The integrity and availability of water systems are facing immense pressures, posing significant threats to worldwide sustainability. Addressing these challenges is of utmost urgency, especially in Pakistan, which ranks among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries and is labelled as "critically water insecure" by the United Nations.

Factors such as rapid population growth, urbanization, and escalating energy and agricultural demands have strained water resources to their limits, resulting in scarcity, inefficient utilization, and declining water quality. Additionally, climate-induced floods and droughts further intensify water-related risks, increasing conflicts and population displacement across the nation. Marginalized groups, particularly women and children, who are already vulnerable due to socioeconomic factors, bear a disproportionately heavy burden.

Furthermore, the intricate relationship between water scarcity, food insecurity, and public health exacerbates the complexity of the crisis. Waterborne diseases proliferate in environments lacking adequate sanitation and hygiene, exacerbating public health challenges. Malnutrition and insufficient access to nutritious food compound health issues, particularly among vulnerable communities.

These intertwined challenges not only hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertaining to water, food, and health but also pose broader threats to national security and development. Addressing these interconnected issues necessitates integrated strategies, innovative solutions, and collaborative efforts to foster resilience and sustainable development pathways.

A major hurdle in Pakistan's efforts lies in the absence of evidence-based and accurate information. Reliable data is crucial for informed decision-making and future investments. Despite reports indicating that 90% of water is utilized in agriculture, the lack of scientific studies casts doubts on the reliability of this statistic. Similarly, other sectors lack comprehensive data on water usage.

While the Government of Pakistan has formulated policies across various sectors, including water, agriculture, energy, climate, and environment, the lack of coherence among them often impedes effective implementation. This underscores the imperative for "solutions through solidarity, sustainability, and science," emphasizing the urgent need for transformative action.

2.1 Objective:

The key objectives of Pakistan Water Week 2023 are to:

- 1. Identify gaps in existing approaches, policies, and practices related to water and food security, forming the foundation for targeted research and interventions.
- 2. Foster solution-oriented discussions, shifting the focus from solely identifying problems to generating new data, concrete ideas, and evidence-based approaches that can be implemented to address water and food-related challenges and advance climate resilient solutions.
- 3. Highlight research findings with practical applications that can be translated into tangible actions and interventions, emphasizing evidence-based decision-making and implementation strategies.
- 4. Showcase innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions, technologies, and practices that have the potential to revolutionize water management and food security and contribute to sustainable development goals, including new out-ofthe-box ideas from early career researchers

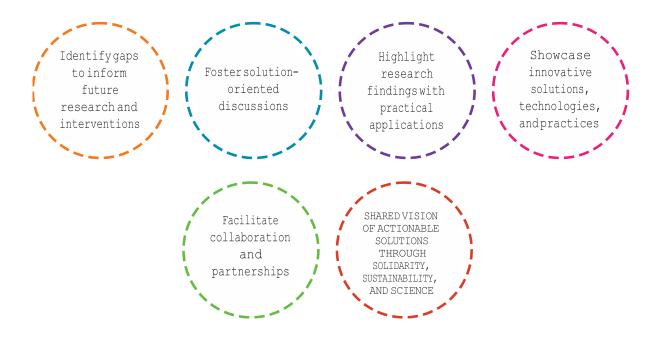


Figure 2: Objectives of the International Conference

The international conference, titled "Transformative Pathways for Water and Food Systems in a Climate-Resilient Pakistan," was held at Serena Hotel Islamabad. Federal Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza also inaugurated the conference. Dr. Claudia Ringler provided the opening remarks, whereas DG IWMI Dr. Mark Smith presented the key note speech during the opening session.



Figure 3: Inaugural Session of Pakistan Water Week, 2023

After the plenary session, three parallel thematic sessions were held on three different thematic areas. Under each thematic area, eight thematic sessions were held in which different panellists shared their experience and way forward to address the theme of the session.

The detail of these thematic areas and sessions is given below:

2.2 Thematic Area 1: Climate Resilient Pathways: Adaptation, Mitigation and Sustainable Development for a secure Pakistan

Session 01:	The Need for an Integrated Water Resources Management Approach to Resolve Urban Water Issues in a Changing Climate		
Session 02:	Water-Energy-Food Nexus Modelling: A Fad or the Future		
Session 03	The Climate-Migration Nexus: Leveraging Anticipatory Action for Disaster Management and Strengthening Food, Land, and Water Systems in Pakistan		
Session 04	Management in Pakistan – Challenges and Opportunities Pathways for Climate Smart On-Farm Water		
Session 05	Youth-Led Innovations for Climate-Resilient Water Management and Food Security (PM's Youth Program)		
Session 06	Maintaining Productivity of Salinity Affected Landscapes in the Indus Basin		
Session 07	Need of Response, Disruption of WASH Services in Climate Emergencies		
Session 08:	The Role of Climate Risk Analysis in Improving Resilience of Agricultural Systems		

2.3 Thematic Area 2: Inclusive Water Governance: Exploring New Pathways and Perspectives

Session 01:	Water Governance Challenges Across Sectors in Pakistan		
Session 02:	Opportunities & Challenges Posed by the WEFE Approach Implications for the Indus Basin		
Session 03	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Where Do We Stand?		
Session 04	Pathways towards implementing the National Water Policy: Federal and Provincial Perspectives		
Session 05	Shaping Water Solutions: Stakeholder Feedback on IWMI's Strategic Roadmap		
Session 06	Harnessing Gender-Transformative Agents of Change for Improved Water Governance		
Session 07	Revitalizing the Indus - Exploring the Living Indus Initiative		
Session 08:	Environmental Flows are Necessary to Restore the Ecosystem of the Indus Basin		

2.4 Thematic Area 3: Technologies and Innovations- Responding to the Challenges of Water and Food Security

Session 01:	Policy Dialogue on Transformative Pathways for Water, Food, and Land Systems in a Socially Inclusive and Climate Resilient Pakistan	
Session 02:	Sustainable Aquifer Management – Challenges and Opportunities	
Session 03 The Impact of Climate Change on Droughts, Floods and Food Secur in Pakistan		
Session 04 Youth for Climate Action Using Modern Technologies		
Session 05 Utilizing Water Accounting Insights and Big Data for Enhancement Agriculture Productivity in Pakistan		
Session 06 Management of Hill-Torrents – Opportunities and Challenges.		
Session 07 Leveraging Technological Innovations for Ensuring Water and for Security		
Session 08:	Irrigation through SUN – Can We Control the Heat to Sustain Our Aquifers?	

Pakistan Water Week convened experts in water management, climate science, food security, and social sciences, alongside officials from federal and provincial government bodies, domestic and international research organizations, development collaborators, and freelance researchers.









Figure 4: Glimpses of international conference of PWW, 2023

3. National Conference (December 7-8th, 2023);

Water and Food systems are crucial for addressing problems of food insecurity, malnutrition, and diet related health problems. Adequate nourishment in terms of quantity and quality is necessary for healthy living life. Pakistan has consistently ranked among the top 10 most vulnerable countries on the Climate Risk Index during the last two decades. The impacts of climate change on the water are more pronounced than other resources evident as frequent drought and flooding significantly result in reduced water supply, increased water stress, and long-term impacts on the life cycles of water, energy, and food.

Other than water scarcity and drought due to frequent variations in extreme temperatures, the frequency of flash floods has increased in Pakistan. The most recent flash flooding occurred from June to August 2022, and affected 116 districts; 66 districts were declared completely 'calamity hit' with absolute loss of standing crops. Over 1200 people lost their lives and 1,343 people faced traumatic injuries during the last. Floods-2022 earmarked PKR 35 billion to aid flood-affected people for their survival and restoration of disrupted livelihoods. The recurrent drought and flood situation, groundwater depletion, inefficient water supply systems, and less crop per unit of water also result in low productivity of agricultural land due to increased costs of input and low prices of outputs. This situation ultimately turns the water resources management into a challenge creating water and food security crises and ultimately affects the ability of Government to progress the country's economic development.

Pakistan being highly vulnerable to climate change requires key shift towards sustainable development talking strategic decisions for its natural resources. In this process, resilience thinking is highly required for providing sustainable and climate resilient water and food system to the nation. Therefore, a transformational (or cross-sectoral) approach to managing common resources could greatly enhance water, energy, and food security in the country. Adopting this approach, digital solutions are highly required for building the climate resilience and hazard management of the large farming community in Pakistan. In this regard, the implementation strategies to address Pakistan's climate and water crisis are brainstorming with water researchers, policymakers, professionals, and the general public from around the country. In this connection, PCRWR and IWMI Pakistan office has set the foundations for organizing Pakistan water week annually in the year 2021.

Pakistan Water Week 2023 is planned to be organized in December 2023. Pakistan Water Week 2023 is focused on two key events, a three-day international conference

followed by a two-day national workshop. Based on the theme of water week 2023, the international conference will be inaugurated by a high-profile chief guest. This gathering will host international and national experts, representatives from federal and provincial governments, international development partners, and their country offices

PWW 2023 Goal was sharing knowledge with the stakeholders, particularly mainstreaming youth and recognizing young water professionals by providing them an opportunity to share their knowledge and visions for a water secure future.

3.1 Objectives

The key objectives of the Pakistan Water Week 2023 are to:

- 1. Enhance public awareness and dissemination of information on water stewardship.
- 2. Knowledge sharing and skill enhancement of the general public on transformative Pathways for Water and Food System in a Climate Resilient Pakistan
- 3. Sensitization of policy and decision-makers on the importance of water resources for socio-economic development.

The national workshop (December 7-8, 2023) was planned to be organized at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad in collaboration with IWMI, UNICEF and partners. This will comprise activities focusing on the future of "transformative approaches" and how our youth perceive it. Therefore, a number of activities were planned involving students from school to universities, players to thinkers and writers. The national workshop was held for two days following the proposed program of interactive activities:

- Technology show-casing exhibition
- Debate competition
- Essay writing competition
- Water board games
- Student poster competitions
- Documentary competition

A panel of judges was set up involving experts from partner organizations. The top three students in each category will be awarded a souvenir/certificate and a cash prize.





















Figure 5: Events of Pakistan Water Week, 2023

The details of these activities are as follows:

3.2 Public Awareness Campaign

Public water conservation campaigns help to raise awareness in all levels of society about the importance of saving water and to cope with its scarcity and ensure sustainability. With this aim, PCRWR launched a public awareness campaign on the event to sensitize the citizens on socioeconomic and environmental benefits of water and environmental conservation.

PCRWR in collaboration with Black Box Sounds Pvt Limited (Contractor) has displayed 100 streamers with twenty different Water Conservation themes on the main poles of Srinagar Highway and Express Highway. However, a large size banner has displayed at zero point bridge. Moreover, Standees/ Boards were displayed outside the PCRWR building and Pak-China Center. Activity Details (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Display of Advertising Material on water for Public Awareness

3.3 Social Media Campaign

A promotional campaign during the Pakistan Water Week 2023 was carried out by the volunteers and officials of PCRWR, on Facebook and WhatsApp





Figure 6: Social Media Campaign

3.4 Water Technologies Exhibition

The Exhibition was the main platform for the students and participants to know the technological developments undertaken in the water sector. This exhibition was staged at Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad. Federal minister for water resources, Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam inaugurated the exhibition on 7th December, 2023.

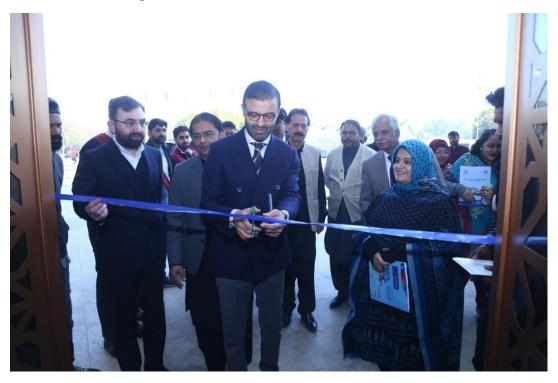


Figure 7: Inauguration of Exhibition by Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam on 7th December 2023

After the inauguration, the guest visited all the 18 stalls displayed by the PCRWR, NGOs, academia, and industry. The honourable guest took a keen interest in the different innovative technologies for the sustainability of the water sector. Detail of these stalls and their exhibitors is as below:

Table 1: List of Exhibitors of Pakistan Water Week 2023

Sr. No.	Organization	Description	Category
1	SO Safe Water Solutions	Water treatment	Industry
2	Islamic Relief	International NGO working for the deep-rooted issues faced by the country like poverty, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihoods, climate change, health, orphans and women empowerment including emergency responses and disaster risk reduction.	International NGO
3	Flow Engineering Private Limited	The firm exhibited different equipment used in high efficiency irrigation system and executed projects within the country	Consulting firm
4	UNICEF	UNICEF is the renowned UNagency working in Pakistan to strengthen the WASH activities to achieve the targets set under SDG 6.	International NGO
5	Sealion Pumps	It is Pakistani Company to deal with the pumps to lift the water.	Industry
6	WWF, Pakistan	This stall presented their work on Water scarcity in the areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.	International NGO
7	IWMI, Pakistan	They showcased different initiatives for better water management in the agriculture sector of the country.	International NGO

7	Sustainable Agriculture Water and Intelligent Ecosystem (SAWiE)	This stall exhibited the advisory services which are being provided to the farmers of Pakistan.	NGO
8	Prime Chemicals Private Limited	This stall showed the water treatment chemicals for the reuse or recycling of waste water.	Industry
9	GIZ-NUST	They presented their joint project involving the risk assessments of the vulnerable sectors like water, health and agriculture in Pakistan in the changing climate scenario.	International NGO
11	Bhond e Shamas	This stall was also showing different filtration technologies to clean the water impurities.	Industry
12	The Remote Well	The showcased different technologies to monitor groundwater parameters.	Industry
13	BATAR	This stall was also showing different filtration technologies to clean the water impurities.	Industry
14	PCSIR	This stall was also showing different filtration technologies to clean the water impurities.	Research Organization
15	Hands Pakistan	It is Pakistani organization working in the 57 districts of Pakistan. They displayed their work related to response of flood during the flood 2022 in Sindh.	NGO
16	NUST	This stall was presenting the different membranes and	Academia

		technological solutions for the water treatment.	
17	CCRD, COMSATS University, Islamabad	This stall Highlighted the different smart water management projects to conserve the water.	Academia
18	Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources	This stall displayed models and techniques for water management which included rainwater harvesting, water level detection, sensors guiding the farmers to irrigate their crops. It also exhibited the innovative technologies developed by the organization to address water quality at household level.	

The chief guest visited all the stalls and discussed different innovative solutions to combat water scarcity in all water use sectors.









Figure 8: `Federal Minister Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam Visiting Different Stalls of the Exhibition

Addressing the occasion, the Federal minister emphasized the need for such awareness events. He highlighted different initiatives of the government to cope with water scarcity. He also highlighted the adverse impacts of climate change on water resources and appreciated the work done by the different stakeholders to sensitize the issue regarding water. He applauded the work of PCRWR and its partners for arranging this event for awareness. He also stressed the transmission of these technologies to the end users. He emphasized on the need of such events to be organized time to time and provide a platform to the people especially youth to show their ideas and capabilities for tackling the water issues.



Figure 9: Federal Minister Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam addressed to the Participants of Exhibition

The people from different walks of life and students from the different universities, colleges and schools showed their keen interest in the exhibition and learned about different technologies being used and adopted to address the water quantity and quality issues.

3.5 Poster Competition

Besides high-level policy discussions in international and national conference and other activities, Pakistan Water Week also included a poster competition for university students organized in collaboration of Islamic Relief and CCRD COMSATS University Islamabad. The main purpose of this poster competition was to raise awareness among our young generation about water conservation, and climate change impacts on water resources. In this context PCRWR invited the university students to participate in handmade poster (sketching, painting) competition with A1 size keeping in view the following themes:

3.5.1 Themes

- Water Scarcity in Pakistan and climate resilient water conservation strategies
- Wastewater generation and its catastrophic Impacts on Environment
- Cause Impacts and Pre-emptive Impacts on Strategies to prevent Flash Flooding to better manage the Indus Water for better Pakistan

3.5.2 Activity Detail:

A call for poster competition was launched on the PCRWR website and also circulated in the local universities. These universities were also invited for participation through invitation letters. Altogether 50 posters were received from the students of 10 universities. Those posters were displayed in exhibition area for competition. The students from the universities, colleges and school visited the exhibition and keenly observed the student ideas translated on the canvas. Through this competition the visitors learn about the issues challenges and opportunities about our water resources under the influence of climate change and disaster risk.

The posters were evaluated by three judges as per poster evaluation criteria

3.5.3 Winners of Competition:

The prize distribution ceremony was held on 8th of December, 2023 in Pak-China Friendship Centre. Prizes were distributed among the three winners (Table 2).

Table 2: Winner of the Poster Competition (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Position	Name	University
1 st Prize winner (Rs. 50,000)	Ms. Nida Rafaqat	NUMS
2 nd Prize winner (Rs. 30,000)	Ms. Nasira Zahid	COMSATS (Wah Campus)
3 rd Prize winner (Rs. 20,000)	Ms. Alishbah Saleem	Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi

The prize distribution ceremony was held on 8^{th} of December, 2023 in Pak-China friendship Centre.







Figure 10: Poster Competition winners

3.5.4 Outcome and Impacts

- Bridging gap between research institution and Academies/Student
- Understanding and sensitization of issues among the youth/students
- Mean of awareness for students about water issues like water conservation, climate change impacts and disaster risk management.

3.6 Short Documentary Competition.

PCRWR organized a short documentary competition on 8th December, 2023. The themes of these competitions was "**How Can Youth Bring Behavior Change in Water Use**" A brief detail of these activities is as below;

Students from both public and private sector schools, colleges and universities participated in this activity. A total of 75 entries were received from school and university students of age group 10-20 years. Around 175 students participated from Gilgit to Bahawalpur. As per policy, a panel of expert judges carried out evaluation of the all received documentaries on the basis of relevance, creativity, clarity as per given theme and selected the best three documentaries for awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd cash prizes. PCRWR invited the finalist students during the award ceremony and their documentaries were displayed, and were highly appreciated by the audience.

Table 3: Winner of the Short Documentary (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Sr. No.	Prizes	Title of Documentary	Institution
1.	1st Cash Prize (PKRs. 50,000)	"Water Conservation: for Present and Future"	Army Public School Engineers, Akhora Khattak
2.	2 nd Cash Prize (PKRs. 30,000)	"Climate Change"	Army Public School for Girls, Humayun Road, Rawalpindi
3.	3 rd Cash Prize (PKRs. 20,000)	"Climate Change Impact: Industry and Farmers"	Army Public School, Bahawalpur.

3.6.1 Outcome and Impacts of Short Documentary

The competition has encouraged and promoted thought provoking activities by involving our young talented students from all levels including schools, colleges and universities across (Figures 9-11):

- i. Young students were highly motivated and were encouraged at this national level competition.
- ii. The Vice Chancellors/ Rectors/ Principals of both public and private sector HEIs had highly appreciated the Pakistan Water Week 2023 specifically for providing the opportunities to the talented young students.
- iii. The marvellous documentaries developed by all level students highly sensitized the national behaviour on water conservation and importance of water resources for socio economic development in future perspectives.
- iv. PCRWR can play a key role for future collaboration with HEIs for promotion and to encourage young students of public and private sector schools, colleges, universities for designing of water related research activities at national level for development of water sector in Pakistan.







Army Public School, Bahawalpur received 3rd Prize of Short Documentary



Army Public School Engineers, Akhora Khattak received 1st Prize of Short Documentary

Figure 11: Winner of the short Documentaries

3.7 EssayCon Competition

PCRWR, with the sponsorship of IWMI, Islamic relief Pakistan and UNICEF, organized a national-level essay writing competition called EssayCon-2023. The primary objective of this competition is to instill a scientific mindset among students and encourage them to propose innovative solutions for the water and climate challenges faced by the country. In the year 2023, invitations were extended to 100 universities to participate in this essay competition. To motivate participants, enticing prizes were announced for the winners, providing an added incentive for students to contribute their insightful ideas.

3.7.1 Themes of the event

The EssayCon-2023 theme, "How Pakistan Can Reduce the Climate Change Risks through Urban Development and Sustainable Water Management," spotlights the crucial need for strategic planning and sustainable practices to mitigate the impact of climate change, particularly in the realms of urban development and water management. This theme aims to encourage participants to propose innovative solutions and insights to contribute towards a more resilient and sustainable future for Pakistan.

3.7.2 Activity Details

PCRWR extended invitations for undergraduate students from universities nationwide to participate in the essay competition. Promotion involved displaying banners at various universities and featuring information on PCRWR's websites. Entries submitted via email underwent evaluation by a panel of five experts, leading to the preparation of final results and subsequent announcement of the winners.

3.7.3 Detail of Participants

EssayCon-2023 showed the enthusiastic participation of 114 undergraduate students hailing from 100 different universities and colleges throughout the country. These students offered their insights and ideas on the theme i.e. Strategies for Pakistan to Mitigate Climate Change Risks through Urban Development and Sustainable Water Management.

3.7.4 Detail of Winners of Competition

After a meticulous assessment of the essays, the judges handpicked three students for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. The prize distribution event unfolded on December 8, 2023, at the Pak-China Friendship Centre's Auditorium in Islamabad. Notable figures such as Mr. Asif Ali Sherazi, the Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed (Retd.), a Regional Advisor at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Mr. Arif

Jabbar Khan, the Country Director for Water Aid Pakistan, Dr. Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, an International Researcher affiliated with IWMI, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, the Former Chairman of PCRWR, and Mr. Haile Gashaw, Chief of the WASH Section at UNICEF Pakistan, were instrumental in presenting the prize money, shields, and certificates to the deserving winners.

Table 4: Winners of the EssayCon (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Sr. No.	Prizes	Winners	University
1.	1 st Prize (PKRs. 100,000)	Mr. Shehbaz Manzoor	University of Layyah, Layyah
2.	2 nd Prize (PKRs. 50,000)	Ms. Muntaha Amjad	Islamia University of Bahawalpur
3.	3 rd Prize (PKRs. 30.000)	Ms. Qurrat ul ain	University of Veterinary and animal Sciences, Jhang Campus.



1st Prize Winner Mr. Shehbaz Manzoor



2nd Prize Winner Ms. Muntaha Amjad



3rd Prize Winner Ms. Qurrat ul ain

Figure 12: Winners of Essay competition-2023

Impacts

The outcomes and impacts of EssayCon-2023 centered on understanding the perspectives of young students. Their active engagement in addressing the theme, "How Pakistan Can Reduce Climate Change Risks through Urban Development and Sustainable Water Management," emphasized the vital role of youth in tackling current threats to the escalating risks of climate change-induced impacts on urban areas and water resources in Pakistan. This not only brought attention to existing challenges but also prompted water experts and professionals to consider potential solutions. EssayCon-2023 served as a platform to encourage students to focus on the increasing dangers posed by climate change to urban development and the sustainability of water resources in Pakistan with winning essays reflecting innovative ideas for addressing these pressing issues. Some of the ideas as stated in the winning essays are stated as below:

ESSAY-01

"Pakistan's Climate Conundrum: Navigating the Risks and Charting a Sustainable Future"

The essay, "Pakistan's Climate Conundrum," underscores the severe challenges posed by climate change in Pakistan. It delves into the root causes, including greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and unsustainable practices, leading to consequences such as water scarcity, agricultural disruptions, heatwaves, floods, and biodiversity loss. The document outlines innovative mitigation strategies, advocating for renewable energy adoption, reforestation, improved water management, climate-resilient agriculture, adaptive infrastructure, and public awareness. Emphasizing the urgency of action, it highlights the disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities, positioning climate change as a social justice concern. The conclusion calls for immediate collaboration, innovation, and commitment to steer Pakistan towards a climate-resilient future, asserting that the current crisis demands immediate attention and decisive choices for the nation and the planet.

ESSAY- 02

"How Pakistan Can Reduce Climate Change Risks Through Urban Development and Sustainable Water Management"

The essay emphasizes the urgent need for comprehensive adaptation strategies in Pakistan to address the significant climate challenges it faces, including rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, floods, droughts, and glacier melt. The focus is on integrating climate-resilient practices into urban development, water management, and infrastructure. The essay advocates for establishing regulatory standards and institutional coordination mechanisms at national and provincial levels. It underscores the importance of inclusive urban planning involving public, business, and community sectors for more effective results. Financial aspects are highlighted, emphasizing fiscal decentralization for local governments, capacity building, and leveraging international climate funds. The essay also suggests public-private partnerships and corporate social responsibility as means to maximize resources. In conclusion, the essay stresses the critical need for immediate action, combining sustainable water management with resilient urban design, to enhance Pakistan's readiness and adaptability to the impacts of climate change.

ESSAY-03

"How Pakistan Can Reduce Climate Change Risks Through Urban Development and Sustainable Water Management"

The essay outlines a comprehensive approach for Pakistan to mitigate climate change risks through urban development and sustainable water management. It emphasizes enhancing urban planning by prioritizing sustainability, involving the community, and leveraging technology. Encouraging energy-efficient buildings, promoting public transportation, improving waste management, and integrating climate change considerations into policymaking are key strategies. The essay underscores the importance of awareness, incentives, and collaboration with stakeholders for effective implementation. Ultimately, adopting sustainable water management practices and strengthening flood management infrastructure are vital components for building resilience in the face of climate change challenges in Pakistan.

3.8 Water Board Game Competition

Board games are a versatile tool that can be used to help children develop important cognitive skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, motor skills, problem-solving, decision making, high level strategic thinking and general social skills. Thinking on this prospective, PCRWR in collaboration with UNESCO Pakistan arranged a water board game activity to engage the children of the schools to transmit the knowledge and to develop the creative thinking regarding water management. This game is about learning what is Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and how to reduce Flood and drought risk in a river basin. The game aims to show and raise awareness on the continuity of water flow within a watershed and how decisions taken at one point of the watershed can affect other points, upstream and downstream.

3.8.1 Themes of the event

The main theme behind this water board game is to search good Water Manager who manages Indus Water well for Better Pakistan. Therefore, it is important to get the most benefits from water usage and reduce any risks caused by human activities. Water board game aims to bring different groups of students together to collectively manage water resources while fighting pollution and facing climate change.

3.8.2 Activity details

Water board game is interesting and knowledgeable game board that is helpful to understand what is Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and how to reduce flood and drought risks in a very fun way. This water board game is like monopoly in which water is used as a precious limited resource which can be used for land use management. In this game, every land use activity has a water need. Based on this activity, every player is given positive and negative points based on special cards, question cards and threat cards. The climate change threats are unanimously applicable to all players irrespective of their own activity. It was indeed a very interactive game; players learnt a better integrated resource management with low water footprints.

3.8.3 Details of participants

The participants were the students who were invited from federal as well as Rawalpindi government Schools of 8-10 grade. Letters were dispatched to different model schools of Islamabad as well as Rawalpindi government schools for participation. Details of the participant students along with their school names is given in Table 1.

Table 5: List of the participating students with their school names (Pakistan Water Week- 2023)

Sr#	Names of Students	School/Collage	
1.	Ghulam Muhammad Saqib	IMCB, Shah Allah Ditta, Islamabad	
2.	Faraz Ahmad		
3.	Shahiq Khan	IMCB, I-8/3, Islamabad	
4.	Hadi Raza	INIOD, 1-0/3, Islamabau	
5.	Alber Fatima	IMCG, 1-8/4, Islamabad	
6.	Mahnoor	1 IIVIOO, 1-0/4, ISIAITIADAU	
7.	Wafa Abdullah	IMCG, Shah Allah Ditta, Islamabad	
8.	Muntaha Khan	invoc, chair Allair Bitta, Islamabad	
9.	Haris Ali	IMCB, F-8/3, Islamabad	
10.	Abdullah Jamil	iniob, i -0/5, isiamabau	
11.	Javeria Jamshed	IMCG, 1-9/1, Islamabad	
12.	Shairal Pervaiz	1 IIVICO, 1-9/1, Islamabau	
13.	Agha Zainab	IMCG, 1-8/4, Islamabad	
14.	Rida Zainab	TIVICO, 170/4, ISIAITIADAU	
15.	Hania Naeem	IMCG, F-7/4, Islamabad	
16.	Hadiya Liaqat		

3.8.4 Details of winners of competition

The game was played by 16 students comprising of four groups. The score of the game was calculated after getting the positive points which each participant secured. The highest number achiever was given the first prize then second prize, third prize and forth prize on the basis of the scores which each student obtained. Participating students were

given the sash of "Water Manager" as well as the participation certificates and wining students were given cash prizes, shields and water board game donated by UNESCO. Details of the name of the position winners from respective school are given in Table 2.

Table 6: Winners of water board game (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Sr#	Positions	Students Names	School Names	Prize Money (Rs)
1	1 st Position	Javeria Jamshed	IMCG, 1-9/1, Islamabad	25,000/-
2	2 nd Position	Rida Zainab	IMCG, 1-8/4, Islamabad	20,000/-
3	3 rd Position	Faraz Ahmad	IMCB, Shah Allah Ditta, Islamabad	15,000/-
4	4 th Position	Alber Fatima	IMCG, 1-8/4, Islamabad	10,000/-

■ 3.8.5 Outcome and impacts

Water board game was an interactive session among students of different schools which developed a spirit of collaboration, creativity and allowed them to explore, test, and refine lots of ideas. Different groups of students playing the game worked together in a platform and gained fundamental learning about integrated water resource management while fighting pollution and facing climate change. Hence, students were able to bring home the lessons of water management, pollution, water conservation and climate change in a fun way.







Figure 13: Glimpse of the activity students playing water board game

Debate Competition 3.9

Debate competition is an extra-curricular way of involving students on the subject of water and focusing more on the expressive skills of students. The primary goal of debate competition in Pakistan water week agenda is to generate effective critical thinking into primary issues related to water management. PCRWR in collaboration with Islamic Relief Pakistan arranged debate competition under Pakistan Water Week on December 8th, 2023.

3.9.1 Details of participants

The participants were the students who were invited from Islamabad as well as Rawalpindi government/private Schools of 8-10 grade. Letters were dispatched to different schools of Islamabad as well as Rawalpindi government /private schools for participation. The topics were given in Urdu /English for debate competition. The details are as follows.

- Pre-emptive strategies to prevent Flash flooding
- سیلاب کی روک تھام اور قبل از وقت بچائو کی حکمت عملی
- towards water conservation
- ii پانی کی بڑھتی ہوئی قلت اور اسکے تحفظ کیلیے Water scarcity and our behaviour ہمارے اقدامات
- iii Wastewater generation and Catastrophic Impacts
- iii آلودہ یانی کی بیداوار اور اس کے تباہ کن اثرات

Details of the participating students along with their school names is given in the table below:

Table 7: Details of Participants of Debate Competition (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Sr. #	Student Names	Topics of Speech (Urdu /English)	School/College name	
1.	Khushbakht Zahra	آلودہ پانی کی پیداوار اور اس کے تباہ کن اثرات	The Educators Margalla Campus	
2.	Summaya Ahmed	Water Crises of Pakistan, Impacts and remedies		
3.	Aiman Kamran	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	IMCG I-9	
4.	Ezza Arif	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	INICO 1-9	
5.	Quratul Ain Fatima	پاکستان میں پانی کا بحران اثرات اور تدارک	World Academy of	
6.	Hoorain Zahra	Water Crises of Pakistan, Impacts and remedies	World Academy of Development	
7.	Areej Numan	Causes of flash flood and our environmental responsibilities	Roots International	
8.	Raiha Yasir	Causes of flash flood and our environmental responsibilities	School	
9.	Wareesha Hassan	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	Silver Oaks	
10.	Azka Jahangir	Wastewater generation and its Catastrophic Impacts	Sliver Oaks	
11.	Minahil Sarosh	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	Pak Turk School	
12.	Wajiha Imran	water crises of Pakistan, Impacts and remedies	. Tak Tak Conool	
13.	Anfaal Palnawaaz	Causes of flash flood and our environmental responsibilities	The Argent Schools	
14.	M.Shaheer Khan	Causes of flash flood and our environmental responsibilities	The Arqam Schools	

Sr. #	Student Names	Topics of Speech (Urdu /English)	School/College name
15.	Mr.Taimoor Haider	پاکستان میں پانی کا بحران اثرات اور تدارک	IMCB Shah Allah Ditta
16.	Kainaat Khalid	پاکستان میں پانی کا بحران اثرات اور تدارک	IMCG I-8/4
17.	Umer Almas	پاکستان میں پانی کا بحران اثرات اور تدارک	Siddique Public
18.	Ali Tahir	پاکستان میں پانی کا بحران اثرات اور تدارک	School
19.	Asad Shah	Causes of flash flood and our environmental responsibilities	IMCB Shah Allah Ditta
20.	Hadiqa Bilal	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	SLS-G11/1
21.	Saad Jameel	Wastewater generation and its Catastrophic Impacts	IMCB I-8/3
22.	Ummey Kalsoom	طوفانی سیلاب کی وجوہات اور ہماری ماحولیاتی ذمہ داریاں	IMCG Shah Allah Ditta
23.	Ailah Sajjad	Water crises of Pakistan, Impacts and remedies	IMCG I-8/3

3.9.2 Details of winners of competition

The debate competition was held between 23 students comprises of 15 schools. The duration of speech was 3 - 4.5 minutes while extra 30 second were assigned to conclude the debate topic. The students contributed to debate competition with full devotion enlightening and stimulating speeches presented by all the participants. The students were well versed and sound in the delivered topics.

The Jurys of debate competition Dr. Naveed Iqbal, Regional Researcher (IWMI), Dr. Abdur Rehman Cheema, Regional Researcher (IWMI) and Dr. Amir Rafique, Associate Professor (COMSATS) finalized the winners of the competition on prescribed criteria. The highest number achiever was given the first prize then second prize and third prize on the basis of the scores which each student obtained. Participating students were given the participation certificates and wining students were given cash prizes, shields and position certificates. Details of the name of the position winners from respective school are given below.

Table 8: Details of Winners of Debate Competition (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

Sr. No.	Positions	Students Name	School	Prize Money (Rs)
1	1 st Position	Ms. Azka Jahangir	Silver Oaks School	50,000/-
2	2 nd Position	Ms. Minahil Sarosh	Pak Turk School	30,000/-
3	3 rd Position	Mr. Umer Almas	Siddique Public School	20,000/-

3.9.3 Outcomes and impacts

This competition really motivates the students to collect material related to environmental issues, climate change, water shortage etc. The students gain broad, multi-faceted knowledge cutting across several disciplines outside the learner's normal academic subjects. It really boosts their confidence, poise, and self-esteem and enhances the ability to structure and organize thoughts.









Figure 14: Glimpse of Debate Competition Winners (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

3.10 Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of Pakistan Water Week, 2023 was held on December, 8th, in the Auditorium of Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. Dr. Hifza Rasheed, DG (WQ), PCRWR delivered the Welcome Remarks.

Mr. Touseeq Haider, Moderator announced the results of the competitions during Pakistan Water Week-2023 and facilitated the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners. The event featured addresses from esteemed individuals including Mr. Asif Ali Sherazi, Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan; Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed (Retd.), Regional Advisor at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre; Mr. Arif Jabbar Khan, Country Director of Water Aid Pakistan; Dr. Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, International Researcher at IWMI; Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Former Chairman of PCRWR; and Mr. Haile Gashaw, Chief of the WASH Section at UNICEF Pakistan. These speakers commended the efforts of Pakistan Water Week in tackling water challenges by engaging youth and the public. They stressed the importance of such events in raising awareness among communities and youth about water issues and potential solutions. The winners of the competitions were honored with cash prizes, certificates, and shields during the closing ceremony.









Figure 15: Closing Ceremony of National Workshop of (Pakistan Water Week 2023)

3.11 Key lesson Learnt

Pakistan Water Week in 2023 played a crucial role in raising public awareness and spreading information about the importance of water stewardship across society. Through various competitions, it offered young students a platform to showcase their knowledge and creativity in different aspects of managing water resources effectively. This event aimed to educate and inspire both the general public and future leaders about the significance of integrated water resource management.

Annexures















Annexure-I

Pakistan Water Week-2023

Transformative Pathways for Water and Food System in a Climate Resilient Pakistan

December 7-8, 2023

(Venue: Pak-China Friendship Center Islamabad Garden Avenue, Shakarparian Rd, Islamabad)

Program Agenda

Water Festival & Technology Fair (National Workshop)

Overall focal person: Dr Hifza Rasheed (PCRWR) & Dr Jehanzeb Masud Cheema (IWMI)

Sr No.	Description	Time (Hrs)	Sponsoring Agency	Room /Hall ID	Activity Focal Person (PCRWR)/Other agencies	Activity Focal Person (IWMI)
	7 th December 2023					
1.	Registration and setting up Technology Exhibition	7:30- 9:00	PCRWR, UNICEF & IWMI	Main Hall Reception Ground Floor	Mr Kashif Manzoor, Deputy Director Mr Shakeel Badshah, Research Officer Ms Foqia Faisal, Research Officer (Registrations)	Dr Jehanzeb Cheema
2.	Registration of students for final year project competition and project displays	7:30- 9:00	PCRWR, UNICEF & IWMI	Main Hall Reception Ground Floor	Mr Arsalan Mumtaz, Assistant Director Ms Bareerah Fatima, Director (WM)	Mr. Najeeb Ullah
3.	Registration and setting up posters of students participating in the competition	9:00- 10:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI, CCRD, COMSATS	First Floor Hall (Room No.205)	Ms Saiqa Imran, Director (WQ)	Ms Kanwal Waqar
4.	Side Event: Pakistan Water Operators Network (PWON), Steering Committee meeting (18 members)		UNICEF	First Floor Room No.207	Ms Tahirah Jabeen, National Coordinator, PWON Ms. Asiya Ashraf Chaudhry, WASH Specialist UNICEF	NA





























Sr No.	Description	Time (Hrs)	Sponsoring Agency	Room /Hall ID	Activity Focal Person (PCRWR)/Other agencies	Activity Focal Person (IWMI)
5. To	Inauguration of echnology Show Case Exhibition	10:00- 12:00	PCRWR, UNICEF & IWMI		Mr. M. Kashif Manzoor, Deputy Director	Dr. Jehanzeb Cheema
	Remarks/Media talk Minister Water Resources					
	Remarks/Media talk UNICEF Rep (Mr Kamran Naeem)			Ground Floor Main	Dr Hifza Rasheed, DG	
	Remarks/ Media talk IWMI Rep			Entrance & Main Hall	WQ, PCRWR	
	Launching of PCRWR Research Reports (Dr Hifza Rasheed, DG WQ PCRWR)					
			Exhibition op	en for visito	ors	
6.	Evaluation of Posters by Judges	12:00- 16:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI & IR	First Floor Hall (Room No.205)	Ms Saiqa Imran, Director (WQ)	Ms. Kanwal Waqar
	Lunch and Prayer Break	13:00- 14:00	PCRWR & partners		Mr Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin	
7.	Evaluation of Final Year projects of undergraduate students	14:00- 15:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI & IR	First Floor Room No.206	Ms Bareerah Fatima, Director (WM)	Ms. Khadija Begum
8.	Pakistan Water Week Studio "All Documentaries"	14:00- 15:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI & IR	First Floor Room No.206	Mr Arsalan Mumtaz, Assistant Director	Dr. Novaira Junaid Dr. M Tahir Ali
9.	Side Event: Research article presentation by the Early Career Researchers	14:00- 17:00	GIZ, IWMI, & PCRWR	First Floor Room No.204	Mr Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Senior Research Officer	Dr Muhammad Azmat Dr Jehanzeb Cheema





























Sr No.	Description	Time (Hrs)	Sponsoring Agency	Room /Hall ID	Activity Focal Person (PCRWR)/Other agencies	Activity Focal Person (IWMI)
10.	Side Event: Projection by Social Media Influencers (Mr Kashif Zaheer, Senior Lecturer)	14:00- 17:00	Riphah International University	First Floor Room No.207	Mr Shakeel Badshah, Research Officer	NA
11.	8 th December, 2023					
12.	Registration of students for Debate Competition	9:00- 10:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI & IR	First Floor Room No. 204	Syed Ibtisam Asmat, Deputy Director	Dr. Abdur Rehman Cheema
13.	Registration of students for Water Board Games	9:00- 10:00	UNESCO Pakistan	First Floor Hall (Room No.205 & 206)	Mr Muhammad Hamza, Assistant Director	Ms. Hafsa Aeman
14.	Side Event: Pakistan Water Operators Network (PWON), Steering Committee meeting (18 members)	9:30- 11:30	PWON & UNICEF	First Floor Room No.207	Ms Tahirah Jabeen, National Coordinator, PWON Ms. Asiya Ashraf Chaudhry, WASH Specialist UNICEF	NA
15.	Distribution of Shields among Exhibitors and Volunteer Students	11:30 am	PCRWR	Stage in the main hall (ground floor)	Mr Kashif Manzoor (Exhibiors) Ms Iram Gul (Students)	
16.	Student Board games	10:00- 12:00	UNESCO Pakistan	First Floor Hall (Room No.205 & 206)	Mr Muhammad Hamza, AD	Ms. Hafsa Aeman
17.	Student Debate Competition	10:00- 12:00	PCRWR, UNICEF, IWMI & IR	First Floor Room No. 204	Ms Farah Naz, Senior Research Officer	Dr. Abdur Rehman Cheema
Sr No.	Description	Time (Hrs)	Sponsoring Agency	Room /Hall ID	Activity Focal Person (PCRWR)/Other agencies	Activity Focal Person (IWMI)
	Lunch and prayer break	13:00- 14:00		Cafeteria	Mr Nadeem Anjum Director (Admn.)	





























Ve	Closing and Prize nue: Main Auditorium (Ground Floo Moderator: N		Friendship Centre, Islamabad
Sr. No.	Programme	Time	Role & Responsibilities
1.	Registration and guest to be seated	2:15-2:30 pm	Mr Shakeel Badshah, RO Ms Foqia Faisal, ASO
2.	Recitation from the Holy Quran	2:30-2:35 pm	Recorded (Mr Asif Khan, IT Assistant)
3.	National Anthem	2:35-2:40 pm	Recorded (Mr Asif Khan, IT Assistant)
4.	Welcome Remarks	2:40-2:45 pm	Dr Hifza Rasheed, DG (WQ)
5.	Announcement of Competition Results and prize/certificate distribution for Essay Writing Competition Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & Islamic Relief Pakistan (IR) Announcement of Competition Results and prize/certificate distribution for Best Final Year Project/Urban Sculpture Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & IR Announcement of Competition Results and prize/certificate distribution for Video Documentary Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & IR Announcement of Competition Results and prize/certificate distribution for Debate Competition; Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & IR Announcement of Competition Results and prize/certificate distribution Poster competition Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & IR	2:45-3:15 pm	Moderator: Mr Touseeq Haider (Activity Focal Persons to provide Flip Cards having Activity detail, Sponsoring Agencies, No. of Participants, Names of Winners & Cash award amount)





























	Announcement of Competition		
	Results and prize/certificate		
	distribution for Water board games. Sponsor: UNESCO Pakistan		
6.	Displaying the three best	3:15-3:30 pm	Mr Asif Khan, IT
	Documentaries		Assistant
	Sponsor: UNICEF, IWMI & IR		
7.	Remarks by the Country Director	3:30-3:40 pm	Mr Asif Ali Sherazi, Country
	Islamic Relief Pakistan		Director Islamic Relief Pakistan
8	Remarks by the Country	3:40-3:50 pm	Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed (Retd.),
	Representative Asian Disaster		Regional Advisor, Asian Disaster
	Preparedness Centre		Preparedness Centre
8.	Remarks by the Country Director	3:50-4:00 pm	Mr Arif Jabbar Khan, Country
	Water Aid Pakistan		Director Water Aid Pakistan
9	Remarks By the IWMI	4:00-4:10 pm	Dr Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, Intl.
	Representative		Researcher, IWMI
10.	Address by the Former Chairman	4:10-4:20 pm	Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Former
	PCRWR		Chairman PCRWR
11.	Remarks by Chief WASH Section,	4:20-4:30 pm	Mr Haile Gashaw
	UNICEF Pakistan		Chief WASH Section, UNICEF
			Pakistan
13.	Group Photo (on the stage of	4:30-4:35 pm	Mr Aurangzeb, UDC
4.4	auditorium)	4.40	la a la
14.	Tea/Coffee/Refreshment for the	4:40 pm	Mr Nadeem Anjum, Director
	Guests		(Admn.)













