



Global Water
Partnership
Pakistan Water Partnership

Formation of Bahawalpur AWP

&

The 16th Cholistan Peace Mela



13-14 November 2014

Report on
Formation of Bahawalpur AWP and the 16th Cholistan Peace Mela

Purpose: To report on PWP's participation at the Launch ceremony of Bahawalpur AWP and opening ceremony of the 16th Cholistan Peace Mela

A three member PWP team comprising Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Director PWP (Team Leader); Mr. Muhammad Awais, Finance Officer PWP and Mr. Karamat Ali, Company Secretary/Country Coordinator PWP proceeded to Cholistan to visit Bahawalpur, participate in the 16th Cholistan Peace Mela and the Launch ceremony of Bahawalpur AWP in collaboration and cooperation of Cholistan Development Council (CDC). Report on proceedings of the both events is given below:

1) The 16th Cholistan Peace Mela

The team participated in the opening ceremony of the 16th Cholistan Peace Mela, the programme is given at **Annex-I**. The Mela provided an opportunity for the Cholistan and Bahawalpur local communities to interact with the local administration including DCO, DPO, Principal QMC, Head Fire Brigade and Agriculture Department. The Mela was organized by CDC and was well participated by the local communities. Various departments had organized display booths to educate participants about their organizations' mandates and services to the public. The team leader briefed the Ms. Fauzia Ayub Qureshi, MPA Bahawalpur extensively about PWP and AWP initiative where she strongly endorsed the need for such networks to work together for the uplift of local inhabitants. The participants were entertained by the police band, a musical troupe from Hunza valley, a cavalcade and horse riding and dancing event.



The participants attending the Mela made a strong statement and showed public resolve to fight extremism and to promote peace and harmony in the country. Local religious minority leaders also shared their thoughts and prayed for the welfare of the nation. The absence of any foreign delegates was attributed to the security concerns in the Southern Punjab. However, several international NGOs including OXFAM-Novib had provided financial assistance in support of the event. The attached photo gallery provides good documentation of the various events of the Mela.

2) Launch of Bahawalpur AWP

Following a detailed meeting by the management of CDC in PWP Office, Islamabad on 17 August 2014, it is heartening to note that CDC in a short period of time organized the launch of Bahawalpur AWP in with active participation of civil society, government, private and public sectors from Bahawalpur. The program is shown in **Annex-II**.

The launch meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran by Qari Muhammad Ishtiaq followed by a Naat by Mr. Muhammad Saleem. Ms. Razia Malilk acted as stage secretary. The events was addressed by Khawaja Haroon Pasha, Principal, QMC, Bahawalpur; Malik Habib Ullah Bhutta, renown columnist/scholar/ political personality of Bahawalpur; Dr. Munir Azhar Chaudhary, District Officer Agriculture; Mr.

Farooq Ahmad Khan, Executive Director, Cholistan Development Council; and Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Director, Pakistan Water Partnership.

It was emphasized by the speakers that without integrating, sustainable management of water resources is not possible. Friendship with India is linked with free flow of water to Pakistan without obstacles. The speakers also mentioned that destruction of pond areas in Bahawalpur will be badly impacting life and livelihood of the populations in this desert area. Importance of clean drinking water supply was also emphasized by the speakers. They also thanked PWP in helping preserve water resources of the area for sustainable development and growth. It was also demanded by the speakers that flood water which is running down to sea should be diverted to the desert area of Pakistan including Bahawalpur to make this area green and lively.




Speaking at this occasion, Dr. Pervaiz Amir highlighted the national and international water issues, gave an overview of the functions, role and expectations from Bahawalpur AWP.



Several speakers including Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan, Executive Director CDC; Ms. Razia Malik, Programme Manager CDC; Mr. Abdul Hameed, prominent writer & former MNA and Principal Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur highlighted the importance of water for people of the Cholistan desert. There was widespread media and news coverage. Samples are placed at **Annex-III**.

Programme of 16th Cholistan Peace Mela






امن میرا حق سب سے پہلے عوام

16th Cholistan Sports, Cultural & Peace Festival 2014
 13-14 November, 2014
 Foot Ball Ground Quad-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur

November 13, 2014 (Day-1 st)		November 14, 2014 (Day- 2 nd)	
• Peace Rally	01:30 PM	• Opening Session of 2 nd Day (Tilawat, Naat, National Anthem)	11:00AM
• Opening Ceremony	02:00 PM	• Dialogue on Basic Social Services	11:30 PM
• Tilawat	02:05 PM	• Consultation Meeting with Community	01:00 PM
• Naat	02:10 PM	• Kabadi Match (CDC-XI VS Bahawalpur-XI)	02:00 PM
• National Anthem	02:15 PM	• Continuation of Activities	03:30 PM
• Welcome Note (Executive Director CDC)	02:20 PM	Snake Charms, Jhoomar Display, Mehndi Competition, Games for Children, Camel Dance, Goat Dance, Cholistani Traditional Food, Handicrafts,	
• Band Display (Bahawalpur Police)	02:25 PM	• Shield Distribution	06:00 PM
• Jhoomar Display	02:45 PM	• Fire Works	07:00 PM
• Chief Guest Visit to Stalls (Cholistani Traditional Food, Handicrafts, Cholistani Pavilion & Govt. Department's Stalls)	03:00 PM	• Thanksgiving (Executive Director CDC-Pakistan)	07:30 PM
• Horse Dance and Goat Dance	03:30 PM		
• Tag of War (CDC-XI VS Bahawalpur-XI)	04:00 PM		
• Sufi Night	07:30 PM		

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Launching Ceremony
Bahawalpur Area Water Partnership Pakistan
Program

Host:	Ms. Razia Malik
11:10 am	Tilawat: Qari Muhammad Ishtiaq
11:15 am	Naat: Muhammad Saleem
11:20 am	National Anthem
11:25 am	Welcome Note and Introduction of Program: Farooq Ahmad Khan
11:35 am	Introduction of Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP): Dr. Pervaiz Ameer Director Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP)
11:50 am	Dr. Muneer Azhar
12:00 pm	Maik Habib Ullah Bhutta Columnist, Politician and Scholar
12:20 pm	Questions & Answer Session
12:50 pm	Address by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Haroon Khursheed Pasha Principal Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur

Press Coverage

