

**'SEED formula for ecosystems uplift fast becoming model'**

ISLAMABAD: The Social, Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) project formula for sustainable development and valorisation of the mountain ecosystems is becoming a model in Pakistan. A workshop was held in this regard in Islamabad to promote the cause of the mountainous ecosystem development of Pakistan by Ev-K2-Cnr Committee and the Karakorum International University (KIU). The aim of this workshop was to evaluate the results of the SEED project that aims at an integrative development of the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP) region supporting the implementation and management of the CKNP which is the biggest national park in Pakistan, with its 10,000 square kilometres of surface and a core mountain area that rises from 2,500 and 8,000m. The participants of the SEED workshop in Islamabad are more than 100, with a heavy presence of Italians. There are 21 academic teaching fellows and National Research Council and Ev-K2-Cnr Committee technical experts. Other participants are KIU researchers, representatives of local institutions and communities, project's stakeholders and SEED partners; CKNP directorate, WWF Pakistan and Alpine Club Pakistan, AKRS, MGPO, PMD and IUCN.

Among others at the inauguration session, Sadia Danish and Aftab Haider, respectively advisers for tourism and forests of Gilgit-Baltistan Regional Department of the workshop attended. During the opening remarks, KIU Vice Chancellor Professor Najma Najam, explained how methods and collaborations created through the SEED project among researchers coming from various institutions and nations, public bodies and private ones, international authorities and agencies, are considered a model of success to be followed both for research and sustainable development. CKNP Director Abid Ali and SEED Director Raffaele Del Cima have enumerated the research programmes implemented in the framework of SEED, the most important international cooperation plan for the safeguard and sustainable development of the Karakoram region. pr

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