

Italy to cooperate with Pakistan for tourism promotion



ISLAMABAD, May 28 (APP): The Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Vincenzo Parti has said that Gilgit-Baltistan and Northern Areas of Pakistan have great potential for tourism and his country will extend all possible cooperation to Pakistan for its promotion. "The mountains of the region are unique and a pride for Pakistan. These have not only great potential for precious stones but also have great potential for tourism," he said speaking at a press conference on Friday.

The news briefing was arranged by Alpine Club of Pakistan here at a local hotel. He said that the region was a peaceful heaven on earth due to its extreme natural beauty. He said that the area was unique in another way also as it was located at the centre of sub-continent and hence was of greater importance.

The Italian Ambassador said the area was facing a great challenge due to Hunza lake and his country would see what it could do in this regard.

On the occasion, President Alpine Club of Pakistan Nazir Sabir informed that a clean up expedition over the Baltoro Glacier that started by the EvK2CNR, a non-profit association for the promotion and advancement of science and sustainable development in mountain areas would push up to 7,350 metres on mount K2.

For the first time in history, a dedicated expedition will climb so high to clean up K2's high camps from waste, beyond cleaning up the Baltoro Glacier and the base camps of the surrounding mountains at an average altitude of 5,000 metres, he said.

The operation, he said would be realized through two expeditions: "Keep K2 Clean" and "Keep Baltoro Clean" between May and August this year. "Today the fragile ecosystem of the area is threatened by the waste pollution, dreadfully increased during the last years," he said.

For this reason, he said EvK2CNR Committee, decided to support the Alpine Club of Pakistan and the Karakorum International University in the framework of an ambitious project, Karakorum Trust. It started the project in 2004 and then carried out in two further projects: Social, Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) and Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Central Karakoram National Park. The projects involve important Italian and Pakistani partners, all joining the objective of protecting the environmental heritage of the Karakorum region and improving the quality of life of the population of the area.

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