**Pakistan - UK Cultural and Education Roadmap**

**Introduction**

Pakistan and the UK have deep cultural ties, enjoying strong and unique people-to-people links that stretch across generations. The UK is home to the largest Pakistani diaspora community in the world – some one million people.The cultural and education roadmap recognises this bond and demonstrates the intention of both countries to strengthen and develop further our friendship and collaboration.

Education plays an important part in our shared relationship. It is at the top of the political agenda in Pakistan and is one of the UK’s top development priorities. Good quality education broadens outlooks, offers a brighter future in particular for poor children, and ultimately boosts the economy. Increasing the provision and incentives for girls will be central. Ensuring more girls start education early, remain in school, and complete secondary education is a major contributing factor in broadening their future opportunities and those of their families.

The roadmap sets out the areas where collaboration, exchange and joint activities will be pursued in the fields of arts, education, heritage and culture for the benefit of both countries.

The visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the UK at the invitation of Prime Minister David Cameron is an opportunity to celebrate these connections.

**Objectives**

The cultural and education roadmap has the following objectives:

* To enhance the level of collaboration between the cultural, education and sporting communities of both countries, particularly among young people;
* To support Pakistan’s education reforms through increased access to primary and secondary education, particularly for girls; improved quality of learning and assessment; better facilities; English language training; and professional support to teachers and head teachers.
* To develop stronger links between Higher Education systems in Pakistan and the UK including joint courses, and conferences; and collaboration on research, advocacy and festivals on the creative arts, industries and heritage;
* To promote the people-to-people links between our nations at all levels of society including democratic links through institutions such as Parliament
* To commemorate, during the centenary anniversary of the First World War, the strong cultural, historical and shared heritage of our militaries, recognising the common endeavour of our peoples.

*The Governments of Pakistan and the United Kingdom will engage in a* range of activities to support cultural, educational and sporting collaboration between our countries. We also welcome the strong links across the diaspora.

**Education**

1. As part of wider development assistance the UK will continue to **support education programmes in Pakistan**. DFID’s education programme works with the provincial governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the low-cost private sector in Sindh, and with civil society, NGOs and academic institutions.
2. In Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the UK will continue to work in partnership with the provincial governments to benefit 4 million children in school. Together we will improve quality and access to education, increase teacher and student attendance, improve existing facilities, construct additional classrooms, improve public financial management of education funding, and increase educational opportunities for girls through the provision of stipends and appropriate facilities. This work is monitored by joint UK-Pakistani two-monthly stocktakes of the Education Road Maps in each province. Sir Michael Barber supports this process through regular visits and emphasis on a strong culture of delivery.
3. The UK will also provide vouchers to children in Punjab, Sindh and KP to allow parental choice over sending their children to low-cost private schools.

1. The UK will also continue to support work in Punjab to provide vocational skills training for 135,000 poor people, 40% of them women, and promote a competitive skills training market. We will look to expand this work to KP where economic opportunities are currently limited, as are incentives for girls to remain in full-time education beyond the age of puberty.
2. The UK and Pakistan will encourage opportunities to share policy information and experience of UK approaches to academies and free schools in light of Pakistan current plans on public private partnership schools.  Include exploring facilitating visits to high-achieving academies and free schools in areas of deprivation in the UK from visiting officials, leaders and teachers from Pakistan, and encouraging dialogue exchanges at ministry level and between school leaders in both countries. And explore approaches to the promotion of education in remote and less developed areas of Pakistan.
3. **Training modules:**Both countries to examine joint-working and implementation of educational training modules.
4. We will foster teacher exchanges and experiences between the UK and Pakistan, to encourage those teaching in disadvantaged areas to undertake work-shadowing and to find out about different approaches to raising attainment.  We will alsoshare evidence on how to raise standards in difficult operating environments by sharing the online Teaching and Learning Toolkit which provides best international evidence on which approaches can lead to improved outcomes for learners.
5. The UK National College for Teaching and Leadership advises, designs and delivers sustainable approaches to school leadership development. The UK and Pakistan will explore opportunities to share expertise through such institutions to develop school leaders and share best practice and experiences*.*
6. **Democracy:** to support democracy and to promote exchange of ideas and debate between parliamentarians the UK and Pakistan will continue to support and promote exchanges and visits and institutional capacity building
7. **Providing partnerships with cultural institutions:** The UK and Pakistan will continue to encourage partnerships between museums and art institutions to promote culture.
8. **The Arts:** Both countries will assist each other in the promotion of the arts, including exhibitions, musical performances and truck art.
9. **Sport**: The UK will continue to support Pakistan ambitions to see a return of international cricket to Pakistan, including through exploring opportunities to promote UK experience and commercial expertise in protective security, and where possible supporting cricket exchanges including a cricket match in the UK between the British and Pakistani Army cricket teams (reciprocating a match held in Pakistan in 2013). The UK and Pakistan militaries will also seek to hold polo matches in the UK and Pakistan
10. **Diaspora**: Pakistan and the UK will continue to nurture and sponsor UK Pakistani diaspora links, given the importance diaspora play as a ‘bridge’ between the UK and Pakistan in progressing people-to-people contacts across boundaries. The UK will continue to support programme of work and the ‘Celebrating Connections’ project, and will seek to make use of the business to business links that exist within the diaspora community in support of the joint Trade and Investment target.
11. **Religious and cultural understanding**: the UK Government will seek to fund a small number of projects each year focused on promoting religious and cultural exchanges to promote greater understanding among religious and other minorities.
12. **Image projection:** The UK and Pakistan will consider and explore ways of working together to promote a positive image of each country reflecting our strong and enduring ties.
13. **Commemoration**: as part of its wider programme of commemoration the UK and Pakistan will make the most of opportunities in the UK and Pakistan to honour the shared history and sacrifice made by those from what is now called Pakistan during World War I.
14. **Ceremonia**l: celebrating UK and Pakistan military and historical ties by inviting Pakistani military participation in joint parades at Buckingham Palace and at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

**British Council**

With offices in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore the British Council has a huge presence in Pakistan and has been an important part of the cultural landscape since 1947. Generations of Pakistanis have made use of British Council libraries and exam provision. Today’s British Council education and cultural programmes reach millions of young Pakistanis. Here is a selection of what we will be doing:

1. In partnership with UK providers, train one million teachers of English in the Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the next four years to help enhance the quality of English language teaching in Pakistan. Detailed targets will be realistically fixed in consultation with all stakeholders in the provinces and the centre.
2. Launch an English language training programme for 500 parliamentarians and their staff at federal and provincial level in Pakistan.
3. With local and international partners, create 15 new resource centres across the Punjab, giving teachers the opportunity to access educational materials.
4. Aim to get 120,000 girls into school through the Take a Child to School initiative and develop programmes to support women in school leadership (in partnership with the Qatar Foundation) and in higher education.
5. Work with 50,000 schools to support the inclusion of arts and creativity, sports and English language in education.
6. Work in partnership with Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission to create further research links between the UK and Pakistan Universities and industry sectors.
7. Support the National Skills Commission in Pakistan to replicate the UK Sector Skills Councils to create links between industry and vocational educational bodies and set standards.
8. Open libraries in Lahore and Karachi and explore the possibility of further libraries in other cities.
9. Manage a two-year artistic festival, showcasing the best of Pakistan arts in the UK and UK arts in Pakistan; map the cultural relationship between Pakistan and the UK and create a cultural calendar of engagement for the next three years; and launch the Cities Cultural Programme linking arts and education projects between cities in Pakistan and the UK.
10. Support the development of the creative industries in Pakistan, collaborating in areas such as heritage, cultural management and co-production of audio-visual and interactive media for mainstream audiences.

**Validity**

The Roadmap shall be valid for three years after which it shall be automatically renewed unless one of the countries requests that it may be terminated.