



MEDIA TRAINING ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH EMPHASIS ON HEALTH IMPACTS

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Summary of the Training Workshop

The one-day media training workshop on “Climate Change with Emphasis on Health Impacts” under the APN project was organized by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), in collaboration with Health Services Academy (HSA), Islamabad, Pakistan. The major objectives of this workshop were training and capacity building of journalists and media persons from Pakistan to bring about positive changes in the efficacy of climate change communication, and to foster awareness among students and the public.

The media training workshop was attended by renowned media persons and journalists, members from Health Services Academy and several students to acquire knowledge on health impacts of climate change and effective climate change communication.

The workshop started with the introduction of guest speakers, and the host heartily welcomed the audience. Ms. Rida Sehar Kiani, the project lead expressed gratitude to all the guests for their presence and gave a brief overview of the project – highlighting the progress of the project till now. Dr. Shaukat Ali gave an overview of APN, the role of APN in promoting research, and the APN funded projects in Pakistan. Mr. Fared Raees, an anchorperson from Neo News, explained science-to-policy communication and elaborated the need for capacity building of media on climate change journalism.



Mr. Khalid Jamil, a media person explained the gaps in media and discussed how to take the issue of climate change to media headlines. Dr. Ejaz Khan from HSA gave a speech, in which he talked about climate change and its impacts on health. He offered the initiative for the collaboration of HSA with climate-related projects. He also proposed an idea of a diploma for

journalists to train them regarding effective climate change communication focusing its health impacts.

After this, the chairperson, Ms. Aisha Khan gave her remarks regarding the difficulties in reporting climate change issues. Then, shields were presented to the chief guest and guest of honor by Ms. Rida Sehar Kiani and Dr. Shaukat Ali.



Technical Session: 1

In the first technical session, Mr. Ramesh Kumar from HSA and Ms. Razia Safdar were chairpersons. During this session, Mr. Khalid Jamil had an interactive discussion with the audience, imparting awareness about role of media and its crucial link to climate change and health. Dr. Shaukat Ali gave a presentation on climate change and health impacts in which he discussed climate change in Pakistan, the future projections, and how climate change is linked to health, mainly discussing dengue cases. Lastly, Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan, from the National Institute of Health (NIH) discussed the role of media in the COVID-19 pandemic. He also conversed on the importance of infodemics, how they can be managed and what we can do. Afterwards, Ms. Razia Safdar gave the closing remarks for the first session by emphasizing the



relationship between health and climate change, highlighting the areas of focus for future action, and discussing the importance of infodemics.

Technical Session: 2

Mr. Khalid Jamil and Dr. Abid Ali opened the second technical session as chairpersons. Mr. Fareed Raees started the session by furthering the discussion on media and climate change, clarifying the misconceptions of media persons regarding the topic. Moreover, he discussed the relation between health and climate change by quoting the example of heatwaves and dengue. He also mentioned that the climate change stories get the least coverage in Pakistan.



Dr. Abid Ali also expressed his remarks on the main topic of the workshop and shared the idea that active journalists need to spread climate change information from well-known platforms so that these events can be delivered to the masses. Dr. Ejaz Khan elaborated on the impacts of climate change on people's health. He urged that now climate change should be the main storyline and the media should report its accurate situation. He also insisted that there should be effective policies to tackle this issue at a national level, and funds should be allocated to cope with its devastating impacts. Lastly, Ms. Hina Chaudhary – a newscaster from PTV News highlighted the role of media as an awareness tool for climate change and discussed her side of the story of being the first and youngest environmental journalist.



In the end, Ms. Rida Sehar Kiani summarized the workshop proceedings. Afterwards, Dr. Shaukat Ali provided concluding remarks. Dr. Ramesh Kumar gave a vote of thanks to all the participants and organizers. Finally, certificates were given to participants who had completed the training, as well as collaborators and organizers, as a sign of appreciation for their time and efforts in making the workshop a success.

