



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

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### Press Release

#### The Australian High Commissioner bids farewell to Pakistani Scholarship recipients receiving training in irrigation and water resource management in Australia

The Australian High Commissioner, Mr Peter Heyward, today bid farewell to 25 Pakistani professionals who have been awarded scholarships to undertake agricultural studies at the University of Western Australia, through the Australia Pakistan Agriculture Scholarships (APAS) Short Course Awards program. The award recipients are from across the country, though many come from the provinces of Punjab and some parts of Sindh where agriculture is a main source of income for the rural communities.

“This APAS short course provides a short-term study opportunity for professionals and academics who are working in the agriculture sector. The studies will increase their knowledge of irrigation and water resource management and help them support better resource use on farms when they return” said Mr Heyward during his address to the award recipients at their pre-departure briefing.

One of the award recipients said that the APAS award would not only give them the opportunity to benefit from Australia’s expertise in irrigation and water resource management, but would also enhance their understanding of Australia.

The APAS scheme is part of the Australian Government’s Australia Awards, which aim to develop the capacity and leadership skills of individuals so that they can contribute to the development of their home country, and build people to people linkages at individual, institutional and country levels.

Australia has been providing scholarships to Pakistani students since 1991, and Australia Awards demonstrates the strong development partnership that exists between the two countries. In 2013-2014 Australia will provide around AU\$76m in development assistance to Pakistan, focusing on health, education, governance, trade and agriculture.

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