



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

4 October 2014

### Media Release

#### Pakistani Australia Awardees prepare for journey home

Ambitions plans for the future were under the microscope last week as two groups of Australia Award recipients from Pakistan met at workshops in Melbourne and Canberra.

The awardees are in Australia studying in areas key to Pakistan's development. They came together to reflect on their time in Australia and what they will do with their new skills and knowledge when they return to Pakistan.

Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development. Through study and research, recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change at home and help build enduring people-to-people links with Australia.

Participants took part in a variety of interactive sessions at the workshops, describing them as engaging and practical. They shared their thoughts on the benefits gained from study in Australia, both for themselves and their communities at home.

One participant said, "I look forward to sharing my new expertise in water management with drought affected communities in Pakistan", while another said, "I'm excited about returning so I can improve education available to children in my district."

The workshops were attended by Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner to Australia, Ms Asima Rabbani, herself an alumnus. Ms Rabbani shared her reflections on her time as a student in Australia and her career upon return to Pakistan. "I hope that all of you will positively contribute to Pakistan's development in the years to come, and maintain ties with friends and colleagues in Australia", she said.

Representatives from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade commended the Awardees for their hard work during the year, and wished them well for the exams and their future careers. The Awardees are now set to 'hit the books' as the pre-exam period commences. Exams will conclude in December allowing the Awardees to return home by the end of 2014.

Upon return, all awardees become Australia Awards alumni and will be welcomed home by the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr Peter Heyward, at a recognition ceremony in Islamabad.

Contact: Media Liaison Officer 051 8355422