

KEENJHAR LAKE – FIELD VISIT

REPORT

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Field Visit to WWF-Pakistan Keenjhar Conservation and Information Center

Water is one of the most essential requirements of human survival. Keeping its essence at center, US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) was established at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro. The Center aims to resolve water crisis in Pakistan by imparting world class education and carrying out applied research. The Center offers specialized programs, all of which are related to different dimensions of water management. To create expert water leaders, the Center does not only focus on academics and research, it also promotes regular field trips. This report is exclusively about the Center's trip to World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pakistan's Keenjhar Conservation and Information Center with its newest batch on 8th September, 2017. The trip was hosted by WWF-Pakistan to celebrate World Water Week (Stockholm).



World Water Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views, experiences and practices between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, climate, economic and poverty reduction agendas. [source: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>]



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Students and accompanying faculty members from USPCAS-W were warmly welcomed by the host team of WWF-Pakistan. The formal proceeding started with students introducing themselves and sharing their expectations from the trip. Next came the presentation on WWF-Pakistan's works in general and then regarding water conservation in particular. The presenter talked about WWF-Pakistan's ideology and gave a

briefing on its past, current and future projects. Questions and Answers session followed soon after the presentation in which an assortment of technical, social and general questions were asked and answered.



WWF-Pakistan is working at Keenjhar Lake to help researchers and tourists regarding the lake's flora and fauna. It promotes the awareness among the community and encourages sustainable fishing practices. Since the local community generates its livelihood mainly through fishing, WWF-Pakistan warns the fishermen about the consequences of unsustainable fishing practices. The watch tower at the conservation center provides broad view of the lake. The conservation center and its staff take pleasure in arranging guided tours, nature camps, boat safaris, bird watching and educational day trips.





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The hosts also arranged boat trips for the students and faculty members to survey the lake. During the boat trip, students collected water samples which they wished to analyze back at the Center's laboratories.



A poster designing competition was also organized for the students. The topics for the competition were inspired by the World Water Week's recent conference and water crisis in Pakistan. Four mixed groups, ensuring gender and departmental balance, were made among students and all of them were given an hour to design their posters. The competition was overseen and judged by a group of experts comprising of the faculty members from USPCAS-W and professionals from WWF-Pakistan. Students participated with great enthusiasm and presented their posters with relevant technical information.



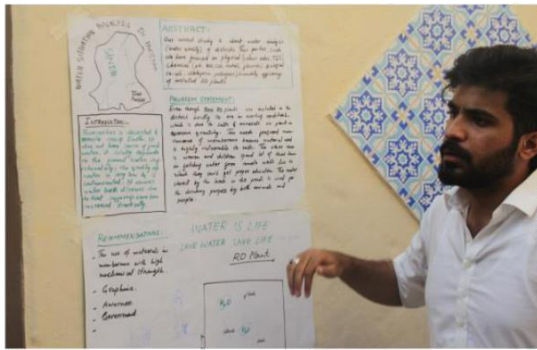


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Lunch followed soon after the competition and students took this opportunity to interact more with the in-house experts and enjoyed the beautiful view of the lake.

