

Sunday, March 27, 2011

Empowerment of women stressed in Pakistan

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: With an aim to promote and safeguard the rights of women in Pakistan, Aurat Foundation (AF) in collaboration with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) held inaugural meeting of National Advisory Forum (NAF) and launched a documentary 'Main Safar Main Hoon' to mark 100 years of International Women's Day here at a local hotel.

A USAID funded, Gender Equity Program (GEP) of Aurat Foundation celebrated the day with the inaugural meeting of NAF and screening of documentary where Dr Nafeesa Shah, Secretary General of Women's Parliamentary Caucus, was the chief guest.

Dr Marilyn Wyatt, the wife of U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter; Saadia Danish, Advisor to Chief Minister, Gilgit Baltistan, Ghazala Gola, Provincial Minister Balochistan, Sitara

Ayaz, Provincial Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Tauqeer Fatimah Bhutto, Provincial Minister Sindh, Kamran Michael, Provincial Minister Punjab and Anis Haroon, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) were other distinguished guests present on the occasion.

Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer, Aurat Foundation, welcomed the participants on the Gender Equity Program and introduced the National Advisory Forum (NAF) and its members. "The main role of NAF is to provide broad policy guidelines to GEP, align GEP with government's gender commitment, including international commitments, and provide guidelines for on-going cooperation with USAID," he said adding they pledged to perceive the world through the purple lens - the women rights colour in order to reduce gender disparity in this society.