

Detailed Report on Youth Engagement Session: Collaborative Event with the Virtual University of Pakistan



Executive Summary:

This comprehensive report captures the essence and outcomes of the collaborative event held on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**, between PTA (SZ)-ES and the Virtual University of Pakistan, a prominent distance learning institution in the country. Facilitated under the Prime Minister's Green Youth Movement program. The session aimed to provide practical industry knowledge in the environmental field, particularly in the crucial sector of leather processing. The event's primary focus was on educating students about waste management strategies, encompassing both liquid and solid waste, within the leather industry. The Korangi Leather Area (KLA) served as an exemplary model for this purpose.

Following the successful internship program conducted with Bahria University, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has recognized the value of such initiatives. They have encouraged other academic institutions to emulate this model, underlining the importance of hands-on learning experiences in environmental sustainability. This event marks a significant step

in extending these opportunities to the students of the Virtual University of Pakistan, showcasing the KLA's pioneering efforts in waste management and sustainable practices in the leather industry.

About the Program:

The program was designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in environmental sustainability, especially tailored for students engaged in distance learning. It provided an immersive experience into the real-world challenges and solutions pertaining to waste management in the leather industry.

Event Details:

1. Opening Session (11:00 AM)

Introductory remarks emphasized the significance of the event in aligning with sustainable development goals and the practical application of environmental knowledge in the Korangi leather Area.



Overview of UNIDO-GEF project's objectives for sustainable practices in the leather industry, highlighting the critical role of effective waste management through this project.

2. Documentary Screening on Korangi Leather Area (11:30 AM)

Screening of a documentary detailing the KLA's journey towards KLA's effective waste management strategies.

Follow-up discussion on the documentary's key points and their relevance to current environmental challenges.

3. Interactive Sessions (12:00 PM)

Presentations and discussions led by UNIDO PMU, focusing on sustainable leather processing and waste management techniques.



Engaging Q&A session allowing students to delve deeper into the complexities of environmental sustainability in the industry.

4. Tour of CETP Plant and SWM Shed (1:00 PM)

Guided tour of the CETP Plant, demonstrating the practical implementation of liquid waste management strategies.

Visit to the Solid Waste Management Shed, showcasing effective solid waste management practices and their impact on the environment.



Outcomes and Feedback:

Enhanced understanding and awareness among Virtual University students regarding sustainable practices in the leather industry.

Positive feedback from participants, highlighting the value of practical learning experiences in complementing their theoretical studies.

Recognition from HEC and a call for other institutions to adopt similar experiential learning models.

Conclusion:

This event, a key intervention of our project, has significantly enhanced the capacity of PTA (SZ)-ES, marking a notable advancement in industry-academia collaboration within the leather sector. By successfully executing this hands-on environmental education program, the project has established a benchmark for practical and sustainable industry practices. This initiative has not only bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application but has also positioned PTA (SZ)-ES as a hub for academic and institutional engagement in leather sector.

The success of this collaboration is a testament and a trend where more educational institutions are now proactively seeking opportunities for internships, youth engagement, and other collaborative activities with PTA (SZ)-ES. This shift is a direct result of our project's efforts to promote sustainable practices and environmental consciousness in the leather industry.

Korangi leather Area project's interventions have thus not only achieved their immediate goals but have also laid the groundwork for continuous growth and development in industry-academia partnerships.



Activity under Green Youth Movement with Virtual University of Pakistan
22nd Nov, 2023 at PTA(SZ)-ES, Korangi-Karachi

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