
UNESCO ISLAMABAD

PRESS RELEASE

**Roundtable on establishment of
National Crafts Skills Standards and National Craft Skills Council**

Islamabad 12 August 2008: A roundtable on the establishment of National Crafts Skills Standards and the National Crafts Skills Council was organized by the National Vocational and Technical Education Commission (NAVTEC) and UNESCO.

The meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Islamabad. It brought together representatives from the Federal Ministry of Culture, Lok Virsa, Islamabad-based Chambers of Commerce, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, NAVTEC officials and other experts working in the field of culture, trade, employment and vocational training in Pakistan.

UNESCO's consultant, Mr. Joseph Lo, made amongst others a presentation on the need to set up an umbrella structure for the development of national level crafts skills. The topic generated a lively discussion amongst the participants. Mr Lo also discussed lessons gathered from similar exercises in other countries, and presented the UNESCO Seal focussing on the development of national crafts skills standards and the supply chain.

Commenting on the meeting, Mr. M. Athar Tahir, Executive Director of NAVTEC said, *'The importance of such an umbrella structure cannot be overemphasized; the main purpose for creating it is to provide a conducive environment for all stakeholders and address any possible gaps in order to make this sector more dynamic and responsive to the economic development of Pakistan.'*