

7th Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities



The participants of 7th Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities held in Islamabad recently.

PPAF sponsored a leadership conference titled “Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities 2017” hosted by STEP (Special Talent Exchange Program) on the 26th-27th of September in Islamabad. The objective of the conference was to stimulate leadership of persons with disabilities in order to achieve Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to accelerate the momentum of enacting Pakistan Disability Act. The event was also attended by diplomatic missions, leaders of corporate sectors and leading stakeholders from the development sphere.

“Removing barriers and creating a world in which disabled people enjoy dignity and full inclusion is our goal,” said H.E David Hale, the Ambassador of the United States of America. “To achieve it, we work with governments and organizations, to protect and promote the rights of disabled people and provide practical support to facilitate their integration, inclusion, and participation in society.”

Mr. Muhammad Tahir Malik, GM-Institutions, Inclusion and Innovation, PPAF gave a brief presentation on PPAF core values and shared that PPAF developed a disability inclusion strategy and is catering to the need of Persons with disabilities.

In order to make the recommendations of the conference comprehensive, the conference provided a space to a dialogue on 6th in SDGs in six panel discussions.

Ms. Simi Kamal, Sr. Group Head, Grants Operations, PPAF in one of the panel discussion shared her views on inclusion and poverty alleviation and said: "Inclusion is one of the core values of PPAF and we have been working actively for the inclusion and mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities throughout Pakistan. She added that PPAF will look forward to conduct a disability survey in order to accumulate data about the PWDs".

The conference gave a platform to the Persons with Disabilities to share their experiences and give their recommendation for inclusion in legislation, education, development, political participation and economic empowerment. The conference was concluded by giving mementos to all the panelists and with the concluding remarks of Mr. Atif Shiekh, President, STEP.