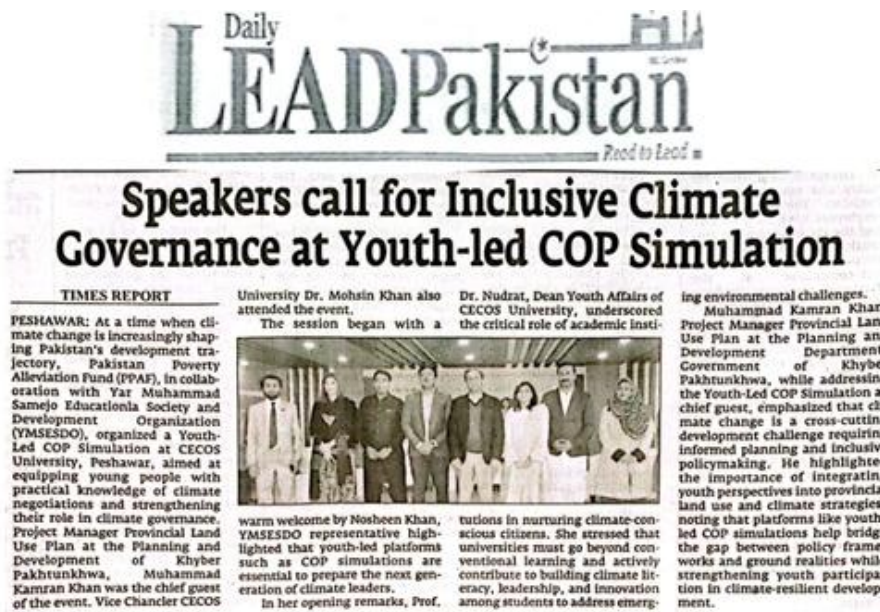


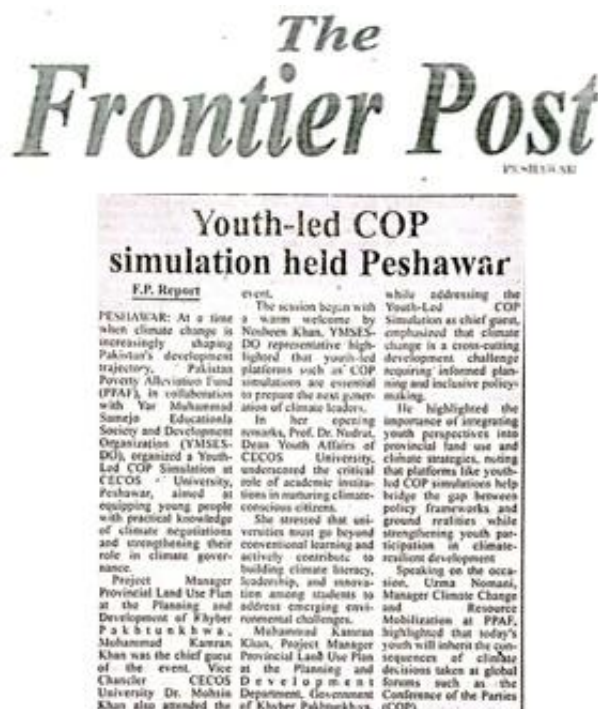
Youth Voices Call for Inclusive Climate Governance at Youth-Led COP Simulation in Peshawar

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Today's Muslim

Every Morning From Peshawar

Youth voices call for inclusive climate governance

The Muslim Report

PESHAWAR: At a time when climate change is increasingly shaping Pakistan's development trajectory, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in collaboration with Yar Muhammad Samejo Educationa Society and Development Organization (YMSEDO), organized a Youth-Led COP Simulation at CECOS University, Peshawar, aimed at equipping young people with practical knowledge of climate negotiations and strengthening their role in climate governance. Project Manager Provincial Land Use Plan at the Planning and Development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Kamran Khan was the chief guest of the event. Vice Chancellor CECOS University Dr. Mohsin Khan also attended the event.

The session began with a warm welcome by Nosheen Khan, YMSEDO representative highlighted that youth-led platforms such as COP simulations are essential to prepare the next generation of climate leaders.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Nudrat, Dean Youth Affairs of CECOS University, underscored the critical role of academic institutions in nurturing climate-conscious citizens. She stressed that universities must go beyond conventional learning and actively contribute to building climate literacy, leadership, and innovation among students to address emerging environmental challenges.

Muhammad Kamran Khan, Project Manager Provincial Land Use Plan at the Planning and Development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while addressing the Youth-Led COP Simulation as chief guest, emphasized that climate change is a cross-cutting development challenge requiring informed planning and inclusive policymaking. He highlighted the importance of integrating youth perspectives into provincial land use and climate strategies, noting that platforms like youth-led COP simulations help bridge the gap between policy frameworks and ground realities while strengthening youth participation in climate-resilient development.

Speaking on the occasion, Uzma Noman, Manager Climate Change and Resource Mobilization at PPAF, highlighted that today's youth will inherit the consequences of climate decisions taken at global forums such as the Conference of the Parties (COP). Making youth climate literacy is critical for Pakistan's long-term resilience and poverty reduction as the youth are the future negotiators, researchers, decision makers, and community leaders for demanding better climate justices and investment for the vulnerable communities. She emphasized that PPAF's vision and mission are closely aligned with addressing climate change impacts through pro-poor, community-driven interventions. Ms. Noman further underlined that PPAF's key interventions ranging from climate-resilient livelihoods, natural resource management, water and infrastructure, health and education respond to climate risks that the poor and marginalized face across the country.

A panel discussion featuring youth representatives and experts highlighted key gaps in climate governance. Speakers noted that youth voices are rarely incorporated particularly the rural youth at the policy level, and there remains a significant disconnect between community-led climate initiatives and government policies. The panel also stressed that climate change is not only a national issue but a global challenge, requiring climate education to be mainstreamed alongside climate action efforts.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, former Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, highlighted the need to strengthen the relationship between climate action and religion. He stated that all religions emphasize respect for nature and environmental stewardship, noting that even the concept of paradise reflects the beauty of nature. He called upon religious leaders to address climate change, climate education, and environmental responsibility in Friday sermons, and stressed the importance of preparing the younger "Alpha generation" to respond effectively to climate challenges.

Academia representatives echoed concerns about Pakistan's education system, pointing out that it remains misaligned with national and global priorities on climate change. They emphasized the urgent need to integrate climate education from early schooling onwards, ensuring that future generations are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to respond to climate risks.

The Youth-Led COP Simulation provided participants with hands-on exposure to the dynamics of international climate negotiations, enabling them to better understand how global decisions translate into local impacts. The initiative reaffirmed the need to institutionalize youth participation in climate decision-making and demonstrated how informed, empowered youth can serve as catalysts for meaningful climate action across Pakistan.

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Simultaneously Published from Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Islamabad

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PESHAWAR

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Executive Editor: Imran Haidar

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