

Panos South Asia workshop begins at MERC

Srinagar, June 1: A five-day training workshop on Urban Affairs Reporting commenced at Media Education Research Centre (MERC) of Kashmir University on Friday.

The workshop conducted by Panos South Asia is a follow up of a similar programme held in the department between March 25 to 30.



Speaking on the inaugural function, Head, MERC, **Prof. S Mufeed Ahmad** impressed on the students to take advantage of such workshops and learn the basic principles of journalism in order to deliver professionally in the field.

"Our students have got the best of the talent but what hinders them from speaking is the fear of mikes and public gathering. I hope they overcome these inhibitions with such kind of workshops," Prof Mufeed said.

Head MERC also stressed on the need to follow the ethical principles of journalism. "Such workshops can provide valuable inputs in this regard, rest it is

up to the students to make use of them. Upholding journalistic ethics is a challenge which they have to master," he said.

"The resource persons for the workshop have vast and rich experience in the field so they can really help students come to grips with the basics of the profession," he added.

The trainers hired by Panos for the workshop include noted journalist and media researcher, Alope Thakore, noted broadcaster, Humayun Qaiser, Zafar Iqbal of NDTV, Basharat Masood of Indian Express, Akmal Hanan and Tariq Abdullah of EMMRC, Kashmir University and Afsana Rashid.

On the occasion, lead trainer Alope Thakore said, "Students have to work harder to match the standards in the field as there is a lot of competition outside. They have to be voracious readers and writers, only then they can work professionally."

Thakore also evaluated some of the news stories filed by MERC students.

Coordinator of the workshop, Haroon Rashid was present on the occasion. The Panos workshop is part of its two-year project titled "People & Places". The project aims at promoting urban affairs reporting in Jammu and Kashmir.