

Valedictory of Panos Workshop Held at MERC, Kashmir University

July 17: The valedictory function of the urban affairs reporting workshop, conducted by Panos South Asia, for the students of Media Education Research Centre (MERC) of Kashmir University was held at the varsity's Media House auditorium here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, Prof Talat Ahmad said he was impressed by the activities of MERC and assured full support for future programmes in the department.



“I have been visiting the department regularly. I have seen their works. They have made films and are writing for the in-house and other journals also,” he said.

Prof Talat said journalists should not only report negative sides but also highlight developmental works. “There is no problem in highlighting weaknesses and criticise the policies, but positive side has also to be given space. I wish students all the very good luck and I hope they bring honour to the department and the university,” he said.

Appreciating the stories done by students, the vice chancellor asked them to continue highlighting the urban and societal issues.



Earlier in his welcome address, Head MERC, Prof S Mufeed Ahmad said the workshop conducted by Panos South Asia is one of the many such activities held at MERC in the recent past.

“Since its establishment in 1985, MERC has grown stronger, producing quality journalists and scholars. We are highly conscious of the fact that in emerging highly competitive environment and global market conditions only those educational institutions would be able to survive which are excellent in performance. In this direction, we are preparing and developing right kind of students as per the requirements of media and corporate business houses,” he said.

Head MERC said the department has started to organise series of special guest lectures, video workshops and other skill development programmes that include interactions with veterans from Studio Talk Mumbai, Indo Global Social Service Society, Telegraph, Ministry of Information and broadcasting, Star News, Flame School of Education, Lavale, Pune and India chapter of UNICEF to mention a few in the recent past. He added that many more such programmes are in the pipeline.



A 16-page special issue of MERC Times carrying stories of third semester MERC students was released on the occasion by the vice chancellor. The stories were part of the Panos project titled ‘People & Places’ focusing on various urban issues.

During the session others who spoke on the occasion included Executive Director, Panos South Asia, A S Panneerselvan, Project Director Panos, Dr Harpreet Kaur, Dr Raveena Agarwal of Ford Foundation and lead trainer Panos, Dr Alope Thakore.

Later, the television and radio media products were screened/played in which the efforts of students were appreciated by the audience.