



Press Release - For immediate release

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UK Charity Hosts Major Event in Islamabad

11th June 2015

The QED Foundation, a pioneering British charity that works to address inequalities across the UK's Pakistani communities, hosted a major event in Islamabad.

Leading experts from across Pakistan gathered in Islamabad to discuss the economic and social crisis of British Pakistanis on 11th June.

The event was organised to mark QED Foundation's 25th anniversary. QED was the first UK organisation to develop pre-emptive health and education schemes in Pakistan, to address the causes of poverty and promote integration before immigrants arrive in the UK.

Founder and CEO QED Foundation, Dr Mohammed Ali OBE said: "Our work has focussed on the importance of integration at a grass roots level through English language teaching but also influencing government policy. There are 1.2 million British Pakistanis in the UK today. Across the UK, 22% of the population live in homes where income is less than half the national average. For minorities including Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, it is up to 60%. It's crucial this poverty gap is addressed and we create a positive road map going forward for the next 25 years."

QED - often working in partnership with others - has played a key role in significantly improving the social and economic position of disadvantaged communities. In 1990, there were around 4 million people from ethnic minority backgrounds in the UK. This figure has now doubled that and it is predicted to increase significantly over the next ten years. On all indicators of progress these communities have moved a long way - one just has to look at the increased diversity within the House of Commons to see this in practice. In 1990 there was only a handful of MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds: in 2015 they hold more than 40 out of 650 seats! There have also been great strides forward in educational attainment, employment rates and representation in sports, culture and the media. Things are by no means perfect - there is still a long way to go to achieve genuine equality of opportunity for these communities but we are heading in the right direction. We are proud of these developments.

Representatives from major organisations including USAID Pakistan, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, CARE Pakistan, The Citizen's Foundation, Human Appeal Pakistan and Ministry of Planning Commission were amongst 60 guests and dignitaries that attended the event.

The diaspora consultation resulted in recommendations for international organisations, charities and third sector organisations on how to improve British Pakistanis future.

The founder of QED, CEO Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, addressed the international audience on QED's award-winning work over the last quarter of a century, including ground-breaking campaigns and education and employment initiatives.



Poor levels of skills, health inequalities, unfair discrimination, educational under-achievement and high unemployment are factors behind disadvantage for Pakistani communities in Britain.

Pakistanis first began migrating to Britain in the early 1950s, many to work in the mills in the industrial north. Today, there are third and fourth generations of British Pakistanis in the UK.

Dr Ali said: “We want to open hearts and minds to this plight and invite leading minds from across Pakistan to take part in helping to find solutions for Britain. Prosperity and hope are vital to creating a cohesive and harmonious society.”

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Notes to Editors

About QED Foundation

Founded by Mohammed Ali in 1990, QED-UK tackles grass-root problems delivering bespoke services in health, education and employment to disadvantaged sections of Britain's 8 million ethnic minorities. It does this while engaging, influencing and advocating on the wider issues affecting ethnic minorities.

QED's influence is felt from the streets of the UK, to the Houses of Parliament, the European Union, and Pakistan. Its national reputation as a leading agency for change has been built over 25 years. QED continues to pioneer new services in education, training, employment and health.

Their main mission is to support the economic and social integration of new and settled ethnic minority groups in the country of UK and all over Europe.

It does this by:

- a) Campaigning, influencing, and enabling public, private and third sector organizations to work more effectively with ethnic minority communities- as employees or as customers;
- b) Piloting new and innovative ways of meeting the education, employment and health needs of communities and sharing outcomes with others for sustainable impact; and,
- 3) Building the networking skills of community leaders and community groups so that they can play a full role in all aspects of the UK's social, economic and cultural life.

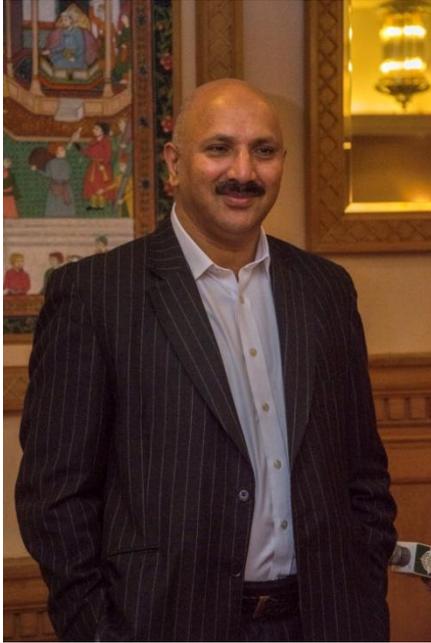
Annually, QED helps more than a thousand people and supports over 50 organizations.

<http://qed-uk.org/>

This event was managed by The Loop Global Management.

The Loop Global Management bridges the gap between local communities and new businesses. It works with Diaspora-led Communities and creates a niche brand for creative inter, multi-cultural and social activities.

www.theloopglobal.com



Dr Mohammed Ali OBE – Founder & CEO QED Foundation (UK)



L to R: Retired Vice Admiral Ahmed Tasnim, Brig Muhammad Aslam Khan (Retd), Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Qazi Azmat Isa, Mansoor Malik



Facing: Aadeba Malik CBE, Co-Chair QED Foundation (UK), Mr John Kriegsman, Treasury Attaché, US Embassy



L to R: Ms Aneeqa Malik, CEO The Loop Global Management, Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, CEO QED Foundation, Dr Habib ur Rehman VC Mirpur University, Brig Muhammed Aslam, Ms. Adeeba Malik CBE Deputy Chair QED Foundation