



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (Pakistan)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two schools to be started in Manshera

Mansehra, NWFP, August 09, 2007 – The Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is soon to build two new schools in Muzaffarabad as part of reconstruction and development plan in the region after the earthquake of 2005.

The groundbreaking of the two new schools - Government Boys Middle School and the Government Boys Primary School - was carried out by Lt. General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman - Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) accompanied by the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of the Aga Khan Development Network's - Multi-Input Earthquake Reconstruction Programme (AKDN - MERP); the Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan) and senior officials who visited Garhi Habibullah (District Mansehra), and Chakhama Village (District Muzaffarabad) to perform the ceremony.

After the successful completion of its relief phase, the AKDN launched a three year integrated reconstruction programme in April 2006 with a major focus on the revitalization of 13 Villages in the Chakhama Union Council (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) and a smaller component in Garhi Habibullah in Mansehra district (North West Frontier Province).

A total of four schools and a Basic Health Unit will be built in addition to the construction of 25 water supply schemes and other community infrastructure projects that include roads and irrigation channels. In the fourteen villages of Chakhama valley the AKDN will also reconstruct housing and social infrastructure, and intervene in the areas of livelihood enhancement, improvement in the quality of social services through capacity building of education and health professionals in the area, and disaster preparedness in this seismically active area.

The two schools will cover an area of 14,000 and 3,300 sq. ft. – and will comprise 15 and 4 class rooms, respectively. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

Prior to the ground breaking event, the Deputy Chairman attended a briefing on the MERP activities at the AKDN Camp Office in Khatai. He expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Aga Khan for his generous assistance in both the relief and reconstruction phases of this national disaster. Chairman Mr. Akbar Pesnani reiterated the AKDN's continuing support to the



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Government of Pakistan in its reconstruction endeavours. In Chakhama Village the Deputy Chairman also met with the representatives of Village Organisations and reassured the government's support in the rehabilitation of the affected people.

Note:

The Aga Khan Foundation, an institution of the **Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)**, is a non-denominational, international development agency established in 1967 by His Highness the Aga Khan. Its mission is to develop and promote creative solutions to problems that impede social development, primarily in Asia and East Africa. Created as a private, non-profit foundation under Swiss law, it has branches and independent affiliates in 15 countries. It is a modern vehicle for traditional philanthropy in the Ismaili Muslim community under the leadership of the Aga Khan.

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan, 49th Hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Ismaili Muslims. It is a group of private, non-denominational development agencies working to empower communities and individuals to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East. The Network's nine development agencies focus on social, cultural and economic development for all citizens, regardless of gender, origin or religion. The AKDN's underlying ethic is compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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Above: From left - Mr. Hafiz Sherali, Mr. Al-Nashir Jamal, Lt. General Nadeem Ahmed and Mr. Akbarali Pesnani at the event

Below: Deputy Chairman ERRA and Mr. Akbarali Pesnani at the foundation site

