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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Umerkot and Tharparkar districts achieved the highest scores in Sindh for Class V and Class VIII respectively in the Student Achievement Test (SAT) 2013-14 administered by the Reform Support Unit, Government of Sindh.**

Karachi, Nov29, 2014: "The Government of Sindh celebrated Umerkot and Tharparkar districts for their performance in Class V and VIII respectively compared to all the districts in Sindh in the Student Achievement Test (SAT) held from November 2013 to March 2014. These and many more accomplishments were shared in a ceremony for disseminating results of SAT 2013-14, held in Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi by Reform Support Unit, Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh.

The Chief Guest, Honorable Senior Minister of Education, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, presented shields along with cash prizes to teachers whose students performed the best in Class V and VIII. However, Mr.Khuhro expressed the need for more progress as the highest score in Language, Mathematics and Science for Class V in Umerkot is 27.9% and for Class VIII in Tharparkar is 26.5%.Mr.Khuhro strongly urged both administrators and teachers to learn from this experience and improve upon their performance to prepare students of Sindh to become global competitors furthering the future of the nation.

The Guest of Honor, Secretary of Education Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho stated that SAT 2013-14 results represent collective performance as the overall average percentage achieved in Language, Mathematics and Science for Sindh is 21.44% according to SAT 2013-14. He emphasized the need for inter-sectoral collaboration to utilize SAT results to inform government initiatives in education.

Chief Program Manager of Reform Support Unit Ms. Saba Mahmood supported this emphasis in her detailed presentation on the purpose of the SAT testing mechanism and results by stating the need "to link educational reforms with output/outcome rather than input". The audience attending comprised of parents, class teachers, head teachers, Taluka education officers, district and regional directors and officers, department heads and practitioners of BCEWS, PITE, STBB and PEACE. .

IBA Sukkur representatives attended the event and presented the SAT development and administration process. They noted that results are indicators of performance and should have a positive impact on reform with reference to the professional development of teachers. Director IBA Sukkur, Mr.Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui stated that the test was based on National

Curriculum 2006 standards and international criteria of standardized testing. He expressed hope for our collective evolution as a province of top performers at par with developed countries.

Currently the development of SAT 2014-15 is underway and the Pilot Test will be held in the month of December 2014. The ceremony ended with several notes of gratitude from both parents and teachers in support of implementing the SAT initiative.

For more information or queries kindly contact or visit:

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