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Environmental indicators imperative for sustainable development

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By our correspondent

Karachi

Environmental indicators are imperative for sustainable development, and it is crucial for government officials at various levels to have a better understanding these indicators since these officials are involved in the management of environment and natural resources in a number of ways.

This was said by participants at a two-day training workshop on environmental indicators that was organised by the Indus for All Programme (IPM) of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for the district government officials. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the officials about the environmental indicators, revealed a press release issued by IPM on Monday.

The Programme Coordinator Indus for All Programme, Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that environmental indicators are used to inform stakeholders about the status of environment, pressure on environment due to human activities, impacts on the ecology and response of institutions to improve current status and mitigate the pressures. He added that WWF was implementing Indus for All Programme in four priority areas of Indus eco-region. These include Keti Bunder and Keenjar in Thatta district, Chotiari Wetlands Complex in Sanghar and Pai Forest in Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah) districts. The focus of the programme is to improve institutional capacity and awareness for sustainable environment management at micro, meso and macro levels. He said IPM was building the capacity of different partners from government, civil society and local communities to improve their understanding about natural resources and their conservation.

Other speakers said that environmental indicators have played a vital role in the development of environmental policies throughout the world, and may be used as powerful tools to raise public awareness on environmental issues by providing information on driving forces, impacts and policy responses.

Dr Mohammad Yar Khuhawar, Director of High Tech Resource Laboratory at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro said at the conclusion of the training that research could play significant role in addressing the environmental challenges. He highlighted the need to adopt reprocessing and recycling. He added that this would help reduce the pressure on already scarce resources. He said water pollution, air pollution and land degradation have increased over the period of time and affected the health of the people. He hoped that the training would increase the skills and knowledge of the participants and they would play their due role in management of environment and natural resources.

During the workshop various aspects of environmental indicators were covered. Senior environmentalists Ibad Rehman, Tufail Ali Zubedi, Jamal Shoro, Irfan Abbasi Abdul Razaq Ghangro, Hosh Latif Unar, Zahid Jalbani,