

## **PRESS RELEASE – Pakistani Students’ Films Premiered at the British Museum**

For immediate release

London, UK

The London International Documentary Festival (LIDF) hosted “Pakistan Day” on May 1, 2010 at the British Museum in London that premiered eleven short documentaries by 30 young Pakistani Filmmakers.

The films were the result of a three month intensive project “Filmmaking for Social Change” on documentary filmmaking with participants from Lahore and Karachi working in teams to develop films that explore and highlight the daily lives of Pakistani population and the individual stories behind the issues at the center of Pakistan. These films focus on issues as diverse as affects of extremism on arts and culture in Pakistan, interfaith harmony, hopes and fears of young people about living in Pakistan to the stories of individual lives affected by a bomb blast. The films will now be shown at screenings in Pakistan and the UK.

Six of the project participants; Sumayya Hafeez and Sehar Palijo of Karachi University, Alizeb Raees of Beaconhouse National University Lahore, Nabiha Khan, Kiran Ahmed and Ali Sheikh of Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture Karachi, travelled to London from Pakistan representing the filmmakers and participated in the panel discussions:

A lively discussion followed the films with questions and comments from the audience.

Panelists included Athar Hussain, Director of the Asia Research Centre LSE, Anwar Akhtar, Director of The Samosa - a digital media, culture, arts and politics project focusing on Britain and South Asia, Faissal Hameed, Lecturer in Islam and Politics, Maha Hosain Aziz, Senior Teaching Fellow in South Asian Politics SOAS / Asia Insight Columnist Business Week and Asma Shah, Filmmaker/Director of Modernizing Madrassas. The panels were chaired by Patrick Hazard, Director LIDF and lead trainer of this project.

The panel of experts each gave their view of the importance of showing the ‘real’ Pakistan through such films and commended the filmmakers on their efforts. All the eleven films received praise from the audience. The attendees also expressed appreciation for the students and their effort. Questions and comments from the audience were responded to ably by the students.

The Filmmaking for Social Change project was implemented by Eckova Productions in collaboration with London International Documentary Festival. Now in its fourth year, the London International Documentary Festival is the UK’s largest documentary festival, spanning 16 days and showcasing more than 130 works from 36 countries.

For further information contact:

Denise Davies

[davies@eckova.com](mailto:davies@eckova.com) (021- 34680611, 021-34600538)