

The Knowledge Forum

Informational Workshop for Media Climate Change Reporting: Articulating Key Concerns

Date: 15 June 2022

Time: 11am - 2pm

Venue: Karachi Press Club

Brief:

Climate change is a fundamental concern for Pakistan's development. Its manifestations in the form of extreme weather conditions has been generating economic, social and health crisis that require urgent and all encompassing response protecting citizens' welfare and future.

Media has a critical role in highlighting the challenge of climate change, especially how it impacts citizens. However, climate change is a complex subject generating diverse narratives and experiences. Media's capacities in outlining the causes and effects of climate change therefore play a critical role in the representation of the issue and public opinion on the subject.

One of the critical drivers of climate change is the energy production direction of countries that have largely relied on fossil fuel for energy. The World Resource Institute identifies burning of fossil fuels for electricity as contributing to the third of global greenhouse gas emission. According to the Pakistan Energy Yearbook, oil and gas are major components of Pakistan's energy mix contributing about 70% of total primary energy supplies. Coal too is emerging as an important source of energy generation. Together these fuel sources have important repercussions for the climate, Pakistan's international commitments on climate change and environment, and also on Pakistan's economic landscape.

Journalists working on environment and climate change reporting face the challenge of articulating the causes and solutions of the complex theme of climate change. Placing fossil fuel in the debate is particularly challenging due to the complex technicalities associated with representation of the issue.

The Knowledge Forum is organising a workshop with environment journalists on the theme of Articulating Key Concerns in Climate Change Reporting, focusing on fossil fuels. The workshop seeks to cover diverse aspects of the linkages between climate change, fossil fuel and energy production, and explore ways to assist the media in identifying and representing key issues related to climate change that could speed up action to respond to the rapidly developing crisis.

Key themes covered in the workshop include:

1. Introduction: Fossil Fuel and Climate Change: The Linkages - *The Knowledge Forum*

2. Understanding Pakistan's Energy Paradigm - *Saad Lateef*
3. Reporting on Impact of Fossil Fuel Energy Production on Communities: What to Track - *Ishak Soomro and Muhammad Rafay*
4. Identifying Challenges and Solutions in Environment Reporting – *Ms. Faiza Ilyas, Dawn and Shabina Faraz (BBC columnist & Editor, Environment news magazine Jareeda).*