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Pakistan radio stations establish a community of peace

June 23, 2010

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By Saadia Khalid

Islamabad - In a landmark development in Pakistan's expansive media landscape, over 50 FM radio stations across the country have established a formal community of peace and pledged to use the airwaves to promote peace, development and social empowerment in local communities.

The establishment of The Radio Partnership for Peace, the first initiative of its kind across Asia, was announced in Islamabad over the weekend at the largest summit of FM radio stations in Pakistan's history.

The Radio Partnership of Peace comprises 60 participating FM radio stations, 51 of which were represented by their senior management at the 19 June summit where they committed to promoting peace and harmony through constructive radio programming. And in coming months, the envisaged partnership will encompass all 130 FM stations currently on air in Pakistan.

Building consensus on promoting peace is the first step in a long journey that will also include a series of trainings for radio journalists, talk show hosts and producers on how to mediate debates about contentious issues on their shows and steer them toward constructive dialogue.

The summit included independent radio stations, government-run FM stations, university campus stations and other community stations such as the FM stations run by the Islamabad Traffic Police. The summit was conducted by Intermedia, an independent Pakistani media support organisation specialising in advocacy,

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