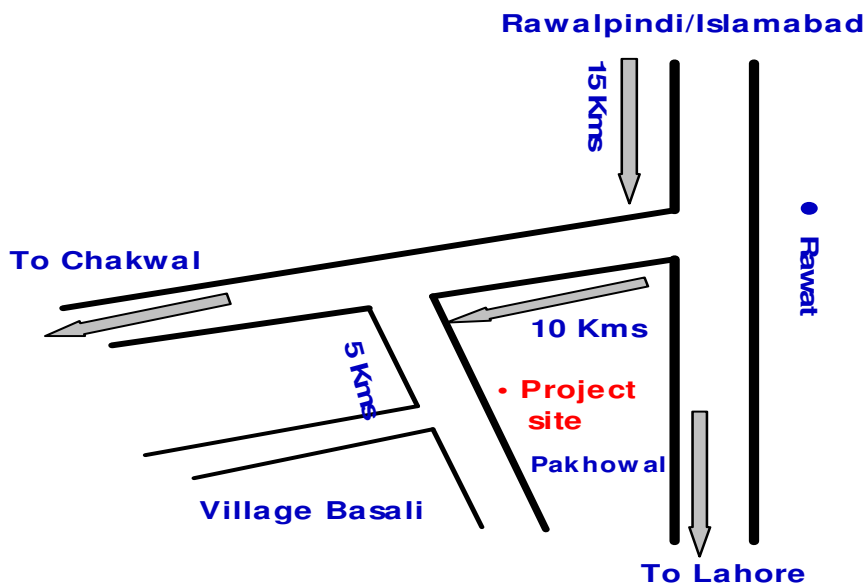


## Kashmir Education Foundation (Pakistan)

- **New Projects:** Preliminary work has started on setting up two new projects on six acres of land in the village of Pakhowal, 30 Kms from Rawalpindi/Islamabad. There will be a new Elementary school similar to Pearl valley Public School and a permanent building for an Institute of Teacher Education/lady teachers' hostel. Funds permitting, both projects are expected to be complete by late 2003.



### Our new project site



KEF Board of Trustees  
visiting the project site  
May 2002

- **Renewal of Tax Exemption:** The Kashmir Education Foundation has been granted Income Tax exemption under section 47 (1) (d) of Income Ordinance for three years, till December 2004.
- **Trustees' Meeting:** The Eighth annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 27th May 2002 in Rawalpindi. The Board welcomed the induction of Mr. Mussadhik Hussain, as a new trustee from KEF-UK. The Board approved the budget for the year 2002-2003 for Pearl Valley Public School and ITE. The Trustees also paid a visit to the new project site near Rawalpindi.
- **Employment of Psychologist:** The Foundation has appointed Ms. Shaista Waqar as KEF Research Associate. She was appointed in consultation with Dr. Muhammad Pervez, Director of the National Institute of Psychology (NIP) at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. She will work under the guidance of the NIP. She has responsibility for revising, updating and conducting APID tests and for counselling children and teachers. She will also validate APID tests held up till the present.
- **Chairman's Visit to United Kingdom:** The Chairman of KEF visited the UK on 23 June 2002 to participate in the fund raising campaign being organised by KEF -UK.

## K a s h m i r E d u c a t i o n F o u n d a t i o n - U K

- **Visit to the Houses of Parliament:** On the invitation of Mr. Sarwar MP and Lord Nazir Ahmed, a KEF-UK delegation paid a visit to the Houses of Parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2001 to explain the objectives and plans of KEF. The visit was both productive and fruitful. In the long term, it is expected that the Foundation will benefit considerably from such interactions.
- **Donation of computers/books:** The concerted efforts of Mr. Zulfiqar Mohsin and his colleagues on Leeds City Council resulted in some 5621 books being collected and despatched to Pearl Valley Public School (PVPS) in Rawalakot. They also sent a batch of fifteen computers for the IT lab at PVPS.
- **Meeting with Barry Sheerman, MP:** Lynva Russell arranged a meeting with the Rt. Hon. Barry Sheerman MP, on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Among those attending the meeting, were Mr. Mussadhik Hussain (KEF-UK Chairman), Mr Muhammad Akram Khan Cheema (Secretary), Mr Abdul Qayyum (Co-ordinator) and Mr Mumtaz Ali. Barry Sheerman MP is the Chairman of the Education Select-Committee and is involved in a number of Govt. and non-Governmental Initiatives within the UK. He has been very helpful in introducing KEF-UK to influential people.
- **'Friends of KEF' group set up at Houses of Parliament:** A successful meeting was organised on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and hosted by Tony Coleman and Lord Avebury. It was decided at the meeting that a cross party 'Friends of KEF Group' should be set up led by both Tony Coleman, MP and Lord Avebury.
- **Trustees' and Directors' Annual meeting:** The joint annual meeting of the UK Trustees and Directors was held on 23 January 02 in Bradford. KEF supporters from various partnership groups around the country also took part. There was unanimous agreement that KEF-UK should continue working with Government departments and within the community.
- **Visit of the Vice President of UNESCO:** Mr. Shahid Malik, Vice President of UNESCO UK visited the KEF-UK office.



Chairman KEF, Maj. Gen. (Retd.)  
M Rahim Khan with Mr. Shahid Malik  
at KEF's fund raising Dinner in London.

- **Development of Teacher Education Programme:** Dr. Alison Scott Beaumann and Muhammad Akram Khan Cheema have been working to develop the KEF Teacher Education Programme further while continuing to support the Rawalakot project.

## P e a r l V a l l e y P u b l i c S c h o o l

- **Academic Division of the School:** In order to compartmentalise academic resources for effective utilisation, independent coordination and planning by teachers in smaller groups, the school has been divided academically into Infant, Primary and pre-Secondary sections.
- **Cadet Colleges Entrance Exams:** The Performance of our Class VII students in their first competitive exams for admission to different Cadet Colleges, was very encouraging. Three students have already passed the written exam for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Cadet College in Sargodha and five for Palandri. Three students out of eight were finally selected, one for PAF College Sargodha and two for Palandri.
- **Information and Communication Technology:** Over 70% of students are now able to access the Internet and use e-mail. The students of Classes V to VIII have now been allocated their Internet accounts. This will allow them to make use of the NET to research information for their course work and projects.
- **Study Trip to Rawalpindi and Islamabad:** Class V went on an educational trip to the following places in and around Rawalpindi and Islamabad.
  - PTV Islamabad
  - Radio Pakistan, Rawalpindi
  - Offices of the Daily News and Jang
  - Islamabad Airport
  - Heavy Mechanical Complex Taxila
  - Taxila Museum
  - Ghee/Soap Factories
  - Recreation facilities (parks etc).
- **Reception / Farewell:** We welcomed the following faculty members to the school:
  - Mr. & Mrs. Raees, Science Teachers
  - Mr. Nisar Iqbal, IT Teacher
  - Mr. Naveed Sarwar, Linguistic Teacher

We bade Farewell to the following colleagues:

- Mrs. Nusrat
- Mr. & Mrs. Jamil Mughal

- **New Resources:** The PVPS has received 21 new PCs and the latest Cannon Laser copier.
- **Visitors:** The following visited the PVPS during the period:
  - Mr. Gary Sharpen Leonardo, VSO
  - CSS Academy trainee officers
  - Dr. Muhammad Ali OBE, QED-UK
  - Brig. (Retd.) Muhammad Akbar Khan, Principal Cadet College, Palandri

## **I n s t i t u t e o f T e a c h e r E d u c a t i o n**

- **ITE course:** **The** second Institute of Teacher Education course continues despite disruptions due to withdrawal of Director and Assistant Director of the Institute by VSO in view of the changing security situation in Pakistan. With Ann Gibson leaving the Institute in May 2002, the Principal of PVPS and his team have taken up the challenge of running the course.
- **Links with University of Gloucester:** The Director and the Assistant Director of the Institute continued to maintain contact with the University of Gloucester, including a visit to the University in February 02. They were supportive of the efforts being put in to conduct the course.
- **Departures:**
  - The Services of Ms. Elvie Herd, ITE Director ended in December 2001. She returned to the Institute however, in her personal capacity, to help close the pilot course and to start the second course. She left thereafter in April 2002.
  - Ann Gibson, the new Director of the Institute, also had to leave in May 2002 due to the deteriorating security situation in the country.
- **Current Development:** After Ann's departure KEF decided to continue with the present course and see it through to completion. Accordingly Mr. Qadri, the Principal of Pearl Valley Public School, was asked to take over as Director ITE and Ms. Saira as Assistant Director. Currently, the course has 24 weeks to run. Trained teaching staff from PVPS are supporting it. The present team has maintained the course designed by Elvie and Ann. A detailed course outline has also been streamlined and is being followed by all the Master Trainers.
- **Future Development:**
  - **Short Term:** Teacher Education will continue at Pearl Valley Public School for at least one more year after the present course terminates in December.
  - **Long Term:** It is intended to relocate the Institute of Teacher Education to the new site near Rawalpindi once the building is ready. The principals of local schools in Rawalakot have expressed an interest in having in-service training. The hostel building can provide a good venue for a TARC-Training and Resource Centre.

## O B I T U A R Y

Sadly, Ms. Joan Boswell, founder-Principal of Pearl Valley Public School Rawalakot, (Pilot project of the Kashmir Education Foundation), passed away peacefully on 24<sup>th</sup> July 02 after a prolonged illness. She joined the VSO programme to lead and manage the opening of Pearl Valley Public School. The school's mission is to provide quality education and equal opportunities for poor rural children in Azad Kashmir. Working under adverse conditions with newly qualified teachers, Joan prepared the school for its opening in August 1996. She spent the next ten months establishing the school on a sound footing before handing it over to the next volunteer Principal.

During the entire period of her association with PVPS, Joan enjoyed an effective, close and caring relationship with everybody who was involved in the life of the school - trustees, students, staff, parents and the local community. She was much loved and respected by everyone she knew in Pakistan. In June 1997, she handed over to her successor an effective, highly regarded institution.

After her return to the United Kingdom, Joan continued to serve KEF as a trustee. During the next five years, she worked tirelessly for the Foundation even at the expense of her own health. She will be remembered with love forever. The Joan Boswell Wing, named in her memory at Pearl Valley Public School, is a tribute to her selflessness and dedicated service. We all pray for her eternal peace.