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Islamabad: The industry's involvement in curriculum development, training of students, workplace learning, career counselling and vocational guidance were stressed for the development of industry-institution linkages in the country.

The issues of disconnect between industry-institution were discussed at a national seminar titled "Promoting Industry-Institute Linkages to Improve the Quality and Relevance of Technical Education and Vocational Training (TVET)" organised at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) country office.

Participants included various stakeholders such as representatives from national and provincial TEVTAs, industry representatives, national and provincial policy makers, employers and workers representatives, provincial government officials and development partners. The speakers said that these activities positively influence the quality and relevance of TVET and improve the use of skills in industry. Industry and institution linkage system is increasingly becoming the most important feature of TVET in its orientation towards development of workforce in the world of work. The seminar's plenary session focused primarily on strengthening TEVT institute linkages with industry; revival and promotion of apprenticeship programs; importance of work place learning to increase employability and support skill development.

ILO Pakistan Country Director Francesco Ovidio highlighted ILO's Recommendation 195 that guides member states as they seek to develop the knowledge and skills of their workforces so as to achieve higher productivity while promoting social inclusion. It also constitutes the policy framework for the ILO's work on skills development. Within, the national priority area of competitiveness, productivity and jobs, the ILO's support for skills development focuses on the reform of national skills strategies and policies, role of the private sector in skills development and changing patterns of work organization. Senior Vocational Skills and Development Specialist, ILO office in Delhi Paul Comyn gave an overview of global and regional experiences in Industry Institute Linkages and Workplace.

TEVTA Sindh Director Operations Syed Nazar Ali highlighted the importance of industry institute linkages, work place learning and apprenticeship programs as key to minimise the gaps between the industry and the TEVT institutes.

Participants emphasized coordination among stakeholders, which is important for the development of effective industry institute linkages.

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