

NOWPDP Art Competition 2009

NOWPDP's initiative to alleviate the gap that exists between PWDs and the rest of society due to strong stereotypes materialized into the birth of 'Colors of My World' – an art competition. 'Color of My World' aimed to:

- Provide them with an opportunity to tell the world that they are to be accepted.
- Generate a broader level of awareness about the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and their potential as an active positive contributor to society
- Provide networking ground to member schools and organizations.

The competition was held in Karachi (on 1st March 2009), Lahore (on 7th March 2009), and Islamabad (on 8th March 2009). More than 400 individuals from all over Pakistan participated in the competition, with calligraphy and painting being the two categories for the Art Competition. The spirit of competition was also mixed with hues of entertainment by lunch and concert that followed the competition in, which talented (blind) singer Bilal Patel entertained the audience in Karachi; while Ali Zafar enthralled the audience in Lahore.

In Karachi, art works were displayed in an exhibition at the end of the competition, attended by families of the participants, government officials, and prominent members of civil society. Murad Ali Shah, Minister for Irrigation and Power, was the Chief Guest; and reputed artists Jabbar Gul, Mitra Birdie and Amin Gulgee, judged submissions on concept and medium of expression used. The winners were awarded art kits and trophies; and T-shirts and gifts were distributed among all participants as well.

In Lahore, the Chief Guest, Ms. Salima Hashmi – Principal Beaconhouse National University and daughter of renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz recited the poem 'Tote Batote' amidst applause from the audience; and Ali Zafar distributed prizes after judges from National College of Arts – Ms. Leila Rehman, Ms. Qudsia Raheem, and Ms. Nuraiah Nabi judged submissions on concept and medium of expression used by the young artists.

Mr. Iqbal Sadruddin Walji, President of the Aga Khan National Council for Pakistan, distributed goody bags and certificates to all the children in the Art Competition organized in Islamabad, after judges – Ms. Alia Belgaumi, Mr. Asim Akhtar and Mr. Rahat Saeed judged the works of art. Mr. Imtiaz A. Qadri, Federal Secretary for Social Welfare and Special Education applauded the efforts of NOWPDP at its initiative.