

## DECEMBER 06; ISLAMABAD: AJK STUDENTS HONORED AT TURKISH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Recipients of the Turkish Scholarship 2018 Awards were honoured at a ceremony organized at the Jammu and Kashmir House here on Thursday.

Sardar Masood Khan President of Azad



Jammu and Kashmir handed over award certificates to five students of University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir who were selected on merit for higher learning in different universities of Turkey.

Those who were awarded scholarships were Syeda Aliza Ali Naqvi, Muhammad Rameez Akram, Syed Saqlain Hussain Naqvi, Fazal Rehman and Salik Wasim Abbasi.

Addressing the participants of the send-off ceremony in honour of the students proceeding for higher education, the President felicitated recipients of scholarships and said that all awardees were now envoy of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

The President said that Pakistan and Turkey have strong political, cultural, social and religious bonds with each others. Both the countries now need to collaborate in the educational field to invest in

knowledge economies, he said.

Turkey's scholarships for AJK students would go a long way in promoting educational exchanges and enhancement of economies centered on knowledge which will benefit both the countries, he added.

President Masood congratulated the student chosen to attend higher learning institutions in Turkey and said the Cooperation and Coordination Agency under the Turkish government had initiated this scholarship program. Two batches of the students had already gone to Turkey and this year marks the third batch of scholars selected from University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that ongoing cooperation between the universities of Turkey and Pakistan will lead to establishment of education corridor between Pakistan and Turkey. He said that education diplomacy is very crucial for strengthening the bilateral relations of the two brotherly countries, adding that University campus at Muzaffarabad and other buildings housing government offices that were built by Turkish government after earthquake is an emblem of Pak-Turkey friendship.

He expressed his hope that cooperation between the two countries in the field of education will lead to creation of educational corridor between Pakistan to Turkey in future.

Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yuradkul in his speech said people of Pakistan and AJK have special places in the hearts of the Turkish people and all the scholars would feel at home in Turkey. Lauding the efforts of AJK President for the promotion of quality education, Mr. Yuradkul said presence of AJK students in Turkish universities would further strengthen relations between Turkey, Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of University of Azad

Jammu and Kashmir Professor Dr. Muhammad Kalim Abbasi highly appreciated the role of Turkish government for accommodating bilateral academic programs in order to facilitate students from AJK in pursuing their higher education in Turkish universities.

He said that after the signing of the MoU signed between the university of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Turkish Council of Higher Education, two batches of 27 students were already awarded scholarship for PhD and under graduate programs, and now five more students have been awarded scholarships to acquire education in different universities of Turkey.

He said UAJK has attained a decent number of international and national linkages with reputed higher education institutions in different parts of the world. He said we cannot forget the good will gesture of Turkish government for offering scholarship to the student of AJK and expressed his hope that educational cooperation between University of AJK and Turkish universities will further flourish.