

cyclones, and earthquakes. Balochistan has four geological regions — the Central Mountain Ranges, Chaghi hills and Raskoh Ranges, Makran Mountain Ranges and the Kharan Basin. There are many areas in northern Balochistan including Quetta, which are located in active seismic zone. Quetta earthquake of 1935 was the deadliest with 35,000 fatalities in the Indian sub-continent. It devastated Quetta and the adjoining areas.

Poorly planned development can turn a recurring natural phenomenon into a human and economic disaster. What transforms a natural event into a human and economic disaster? The fundamental problems of development that a region faces are the very same problems that contribute to its vulnerability to the catastrophic effects of natural hazards. The principal causes of vulnerability in the region include the persistence of widespread urban and rural

poverty, the degradation of the region's environment resulting from the mismanagement of natural resources, inefficient public policies, and lagging and misguided investments in infrastructure. Balochistan is the least developed province and hence more vulnerable. It has been observed that poor households and communities are more vulnerable to natural hazards, as they take a long period to recover from the deadly effects of disasters. ■

CEJ-IBA, KPC HOST INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

The Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) - Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi, in collaboration with the Karachi Press Club (KPC), conducted a one-day workshop on Investigative Journalism at the KPC.

The workshop aimed to improve standards of investigative reporting and to inform participants of the different ways in which they can carry out Investigative Journalism. The workshop started off with a session by former KPC Secretary, Senior Journalist Mr. Aamir Lateef. He advised the participants and said, "Every beat can have an investigative angle as long as journalists keep their eyes and ears open."

The second session on the difference between conventional and Investigative Journalism was conducted by Senior Journalist Mr. Ashraf Khan. He cited examples of major investigative stories, such as the US forces' advancement towards Afghanistan through the Pakistani territory and said, "No Investigative Journalism is being practiced today. Only conventional reporting takes place in the local media."

The workshop wrapped up with an informative session on the Right to Information (RTI) law by RTI expert, Dr. Raza Gardezi, who discussed the basic components of law and how it can be used by Investigative Journalists to gain access to public information. He briefed the participants and said, "The Right to Information open doors for one to know better about what is going on, instead of passing judgment without knowing."

KPC President, Mr. Ahmed Khan Malik, commended the partnership with CEJ-IBA and hoped to continue the monthly workshop series. ●

