

## **A brief report on Pakistani Wikipedians meetup in the real world**

By, *Saqib*

On October 2, I posted an invitation to a Wikipedia meetup on English Wikipedia calling anyone who is interested. Shortly, very few bright Wikipedians turned up and confirmed their attendance with enthusiasm and commitment to sharing their areas of expertise, absolutely free of charge. The Wikimeetup Karachi held on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 17:20 at a central Karachi restaurant called "McDonald's", was actually the first meetup in Karachi where participants indeed are able to meetup face-to-face. I was the one, reached venue at lastly however I wasn't expecting other than those who confirmed their attendance very earlier but at the venue, I found a few more. There were total six attendees including me. After reaching a female Wikipedian, I found others sitting around. After greeting each other, we begin meetup as per agenda, I prepared prior to the meetup. Initially, we introduced ourselves and then, we had a brief conversation on different topics related to Wikipedia. Our agenda included different topics including development of WikiProject Pakistan on English Wikipedia, publicity of Wikipedia and contents standard throughout Urdu Wikipedia. We also talked about the possibility of setting-up Wikimedia local chapter in Pakistan quite a bit. Many issues relating to both English and Urdu Wikipedias were discussed in deep manner followed that many suggestions and decisions were proposed. It was decided earlier that meal shouldn't be had, so we had cold drinks only, but it was enough. The restaurant pleasant, although with a bit of noise, it was not always easy to hear every's conversation. I talked a little with those around me but mostly focussed on hearing what they talking about. Attendees included two bloggers while two journalists, who later helped covering the event. The meetup lasted three hours. The main purpose of this meetup was creating opportunities to make local Wikipedian friends, discussions to maximise the publicity of Wikipedia in Pakistan and exchange of knowledge and experiences from Wikipedia world. There is no doubt that the first Karachi meetup was grand and how amazing it is that there have not been meetup before this. Wikimeetup Karachi was definitely a big success and I would like to say thanks to all those who attended and helped make it a success. But it does not means we finished it, Now it's time to plan Wikimeetup Karachi 2 and I do believe that we could probably get a much larger crowd than we had on October 18.

Thank you!