"First National TB Patient Symposium" was held on October 23, 2014, at Margalla Hotel, Islamabad.

Islamabad 23-10-2014:- National TB Control Program (NTP), Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination organized a First National TB Patient Symposium on October 23, 2014, at Margalla Hotel, Islamabad. More than 80 people with TB from all over the provinces, Provincial TB Control Managers, leading Public health experts, pulmonologists and media representatives attended the Symposium.

National TB Patient Symposium provided an opportunity to TB patients not only to meet with other TB patients but also with policy makers, planners and implementers who are engaged in TB treatment, care and control. This Symposium provided TB patients a platform to develop linkages with health care providers and build their capacity on patient led advocacy. Through this symposium, TB patients met those who bravely conquer TB. Their success stories, fighting spirits and encouraging testimonies helped those who are suffering with TB.

"TB control is a formidable challenge that needs to be met with concerted efforts both at global and national level. Our endeavor today is an investment in future so that the generations to come can breathe in air free of TB", Federal Secretary said.

On the occasion an audio visual message from Dr. Lucica Ditiu the Executive Secretary of Stop TB Partnership Global was also played for the participants. "National TB Control Program is excited to work with people with TB. I am very hopeful that National Coalition of TB Activist and National TB Patient Ambassador will help the program and health care providers to control TB in Pakistan", said Dr. Ejaz, the National Manager TB Control Program.

Talking on the occasion Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, Executive Secretary, Stop TB Partnership Pakistan proposed that a nationwide group of cured TB patients may be formed, who will work for TB Control activities voluntarily, which was accepted by the symposium with complete census.
Participants at First National TB Patient Symposium at Margalla Hotel Islamabad.