Muhammad Ali Dinakhel, PhD Visiting Scholar

Project: “Cultural and Civilizational Study of the Pashto Literature of Swat”

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I joined Central Asian Studies Department of the Humboldt University Berlin from 6th February 2016 to 26th July 2016 as a visiting PhD student. I have completed my PhD course work in the department of Pakistani Languages, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, Pakistan. I am pursuing my PhD in Pakistani Languages and Literature with Specialization in Pashto Language and Literature. My PhD research project is “Cultural and Civilizational Study of the Pashto Literature of Swat: From beginning to 2012”. For my research stay at Humboldt University Berlin, I was financially supported by the Higher Education Commission Pakistan under its programme “International Research Support Initiative Programme”. I conduct my research in Humboldt University Berlin under the supervision of Dr. Lutz Rzehak. My focus is on Pashto language, linguistics, literature and culture. I presented a part of my ongoing research project in a seminar on 25th April 2016 at the Department of Central Asian Studies. I spoke on the topic of “Reflection of Militancy and Talibanization in the Pashto Poetry of Swat”. The lecture was followed by productive discussion and questions answers session. I found some rare and valuable Pashto manuscripts in the State Library Berlin. On the recommendation of my supervisor, I also visited British Library London for about ten days to get acquainted with the Pashto manuscripts related to my research project. I was very interested to get in contact with other scholarly institutions in Berlin. I joined several lectures and seminars at different institutions. I also gave one more presentation on the “Concept of Peace in Pashtun Culture” in the workshop of Humboldt India Project in the department of South Asian Studies of the Humboldt University Berlin.