

REPORT 2017



ASSITEJ Pakistan Report:
Asia Meet 2017 & Tamasha Festival

TAMASHA FESTIVAL

Performing Arts for Young Audience

2017

1 Introduction

About **ASSITEJ**

ASSITEJ is an International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People. ASSITEJ unites theatres, organizations and individuals throughout the world who make theatre for children and young people. ASSITEJ is dedicated towards the artistic, cultural and educational rights of children and young people across the globe and advocates on behalf of all children regardless of nationality, cultural identity, ethnicity, or religion. ASSITEJ brings people together so that they can share their knowledge and practice within the field of theatre for children and young people in order to deepen understandings, develop practice, create new opportunities and strengthen the global sector. The members of ASSITEJ are National Centers, Professional Networks, and individuals from around 100 countries across the world.

Vision

ASSITEJ commits in principle and in practice to collaboration and cooperation b/w other international artistic associations on matters of mutual interest, where appropriate. ASSITEJ do this in order to advocate the theatre and the arts as a universal expression of human kind, as fundamental to human, social and cultural development and as a bridge builder for mutual understanding and tolerance as enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights.

About **ASSITEJ Pakistan**

ASSITEJ Pakistan – National Centre is a chapter of ASSITEJ International working under the rules and regulations of ASSITEJ International and completes the objectives and mission of the international governing body. ASSITEJ has more than 100 national centers around the globe. The National Centre of Pakistan is the official ASSITEJ chapter representing Pakistan.

Official Members

The Little Art
Chota Mota Theatre
Maas Foundation
Independent Theatre Pakistan

The Little Art

T: + (92) 42-3522 0796
W: www.thelittleart.org



The Little Art uses the arts, primarily media, to teach children and young adults to recognize and begin to understand the social issues pervading their immediate community; social issues that prohibit the development of their dreams, ideas and principles. Little Art is changing the way arts are done for kids!.

Chota Mota Theatre

T: + (92) 333 - 455 2453
W: www.chotamotatheatre.wordpress.com



A prominent Theatre Company in Lahore for Children and the youth by Theatre experts MobeenEjaz and Sarah Zahid. Chota Mota Theatre is introducing a theatrical program de-signed especially for children in Pakistan basing predominantly on children's theatrical journeys that they specialize in. Alongside children, the company also seeks to involve young and adult enthusiasts as well as amateur and professional actors, all of who are looking to strengthen their unexplored talents and acting skills through courses.

Maas Foundation

T: + (92) 333 - 426 0831

W: N/A



Maas Foundation is working in the theatre field from 2003 with a tag line of “Theatre For You & Me”. From 2014 onwards it started theatre for children and young audience. It is main stream organization based at Lahore working in theatre production, conducting theatre workshops for TYA and its main focus is to working closely with schools.

Independent Theatre Pakistan

T: + (92) 334 - 991 9424

W: www.independenttheatrepk.com



Founded in 2012 we are the youngest Pakistani Performing Arts organization. Not only do we provide a platform for theatrical arts, we also carry out an innovative, youth centered creative arts program and ingenious curriculum across the nation focusing on the following core metrics: building trust and confidence; understanding the use of language (non-verbal and verbal); the ability to think critically through improvisation given specific structure; and identifying a character (enhancing leadership). The aim is to create leaders for the future for a more empathetic Pakistan.

We love our multilingual culture and its practices, its norms and their reflection in literature. Our work focus on Pakistani values with a spotlight on creating cross cultural dialogue through means of creative expression.



Purpose

ASSITEJ Asia Meet happens every year in a different country. The purpose of the Assitej meet was to develop a network of ASSITEJ National to come together at a place and explore opportunities for the artists' community of that particular region.

The two days Asia meeting commenced from 6th April in Falettis Hotel Lahore, Pakistan with the participation of important members of the Asian network of Assitej which included representatives from 6 Asian countries. The participants included:



PAKISTAN



AUSTRALIA



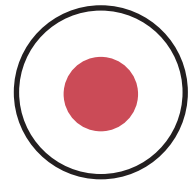
INDIA



SRI LANKA



SOUTH KOREA



JAPAN

PARTICIPATION

ASAYA FUJITA
 RYO HARADA
 SUE GILES
 IMRAN KHAN
 SAMPATH PERERRA
 MAYURA PERERRA
 SOOKHEE KIM
 SEOK-HONG KIM
 AAMIR NAWAZ
 AZEEM HAMID
 MOBEEN EJAZ
 UMAIR MUSHTAQ
 ROBINA JAWWAD
 Zeeshan Naveed

President Assitej Japan / Vice-President Assitej International
 Assitej Japan Member + Interpreter
 Member Executive Committee Assitej International
 President Assitej India
 Assit. Director Education Research and Conservation at Tower Hall Theatre Foundation - Sri Lanka
 Executive Committee Member Assitej Sri Lanka / Development Officer Govt. District Secretariat Office
 President Assitej Korea / Artistic Director Assitej Korea Festival
 Director International Department, Korea Arts Management Service / Board Member Assitej Korea
 President Maas Foundation / General Secretary Assitej Pakistan
 Creative Director Independent Theatre Pakistan / Secretary Assitej Pakistan / Tamasha Festival Curator
 Founder Chota Mota Theatre / Vice-President Assitej Pakistan
 Program Head Tamasha (TYA) - The Little Art / Assitej Pakistan Member
 Founder Harsukh - School of Performing Arts & Education
 Production Manager (TYA) - The Little Art / Finance Secretary Assitej Pakistan

Guest Participation

Ms. Tanya Qureshi representative of the Walled City Lahore Authority who highlighted the importance in restoring and preserving the heritage of Pakistan and showcasing the cultural versatility the city of Lahore has to offer.

Mr. Zulfiqar Zulfi, Director at Alhamra Arts Council and renowned visual artist also lauded the efforts of the association in coming together to promote and revive the performing arts in Pakistan especially of those initiatives focusing on development of young audiences. Alhamra is one of the only public space that still offers some content to children, such as Ainkwala Jin and Mugal-e-Azam and also puppet shows every Sunday to children free so theater doesn't die amongst children.

Mr. Asghar Nadeem Syed, in his video statement stated that "Theatre is a revolution and a movement. Theatre for education and development is even more important than theater for entertainment. Innovation, creation and understanding art for betterment is the key aspect. We should view and understand theater as progress movement and there is no better medium for education than theatre as it incorporates various skills and perspectives and educates society as a whole.

Ms. Bina Jawwad expressed her hopefulness through this initiative, "I hope this is something that will bring our culture and traditional art back as we have such a strong heritage and history of music and performing arts. Identity lies with culture and art and as Pakistanis we need to be aware of our identity and culture before finding how we fit into the world. Harsukh will want to represent our own culture and promote such initiatives with collaboration. The TAMASHA initiative is a breath of fresh air hope it will bring back youth to cultural arts we need to fight back and bring back our culture. Every culture is beautiful and our youth will keep it alive"

**7th ASSITEJ Asia Meet
Falettis Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan**



Major Discussion Points

In the meeting discussions about various challenges and opportunities were carried out.

FORMULATION OF CONSTITUTION

All the participant countries present in the meet agreed to the point that a formulation of the constitution is necessary, including developing the mandate, mission, objectives and executive committee of the association.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Strategies were discussed about how government support can be acquired for performing arts. As there has been a lack of support from government yet and to flourish in the future, it was important to take the government on board. Because organizing meets and festivals at a broader level demand certain sort of criteria to be met which would be easier for the ASSITEJ network if they have influential people from government on board. It was also highlighted that collaboration with government isn't necessary, reason being that the change of government can disrupt processes so it's better to have people with private and government influence as members.

DEVELOPING A COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

The importance of developing a communication channel was also brought under the light. As ASSITEJ wanted to ensure that ASSITEJ Pakistan develops and maintains relationships with relevant stakeholders in theatre, education and children/youth affairs, for the good of the network. Also, it would be easier for the ASSITEJ members to communicate easily with each other and also with other members of ASSITEJ international if all the information is kept together in one place. A website to be developed for this purpose was finalized, which will be the responsibility of members of ASSITEJ Pakistan.

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

Possibilities for for funding were discussed. Strategies for fundraising were proposed and it was decided that the Executive committee and all the participants should work together towards the financial and organizational sustainability of the network. All the possible collaborations for sharing of resources, contributions and ideas were also considered.

SHAPE OF THE NETWORK

While forming strategies it was further discussed how the particular Assitej Pakistan network will be structured as to further its work in the region. How roles and responsibilities can be allocated hierarchy wise. Emphasis was laid on some of the points like establishing and formalizing name, purpose and financial standpoint of the network, decisions on how complex should the network be and what to achieve from it, creation of network with free registration of members initially, how to bring anyone working in professional theatre on board to support the mission of the network, what should be the mechanism to operate simply with effective influence, who will be the members with official status and some roles, whether if national centers can take up their own roads to create national and international activities to further establish identity and formulate a vision for TYA.

CONCLUSION

Being the first Asia meet in Pakistan, there was exploration of a lot of wonderful ideas with the participants. Considering Pakistan has an incredibly rich cultural palette to offer to the world of performing arts for youth it was concluded that Assitej Pakistan will become the lead entity for promoting theatre for young audience in Pakistan. The frameworks of its operations and activities were finalized during the meet. Future action plans included the campaigns and seeking more members to expand, developing new innovative workshops and supporting new performances from the region. Assitej Pakistan will also represent itself in the next conference, which will take in Feb 2018 in Japan.

“TYA Asia is a new network of which Assitej Pakistan is a great new chapter for the country. TYA Asia brings together theatre practitioners all through the Asian region and it has s been an incredible meeting of minds and great conversation on how to connect everyone who is working in this amazing field of performing arts and how to create more experiences for children across Asia.”

- Sue Giles (Artistic Director, Polyglot Theatre, Australia)



Lahore Cultural Tour: Hip-Hop Bus

At the closing of the session a trip to explore the heritage and cultural sites of the city was arranged for the delegates and participants. All the delegates and team of Assitej Pakistan hopped on the Hip Hop Bus to take a fun tour of the city visiting every prominent historical, cultural tourist place of Lahore and ending with a traditional dinner at the old city food street.

Here are some exciting moments and images from the tour:



Performing Arts Festival: 7th - 9th April **Tamasha Festival**

The Festivity

Tamasha performing arts festival was a 3-day theater and performing arts Festival for children and youth - presenting performances, workshops and discussion sessions with eminent national and international artists.

The festival was organized by ASSITEJ Pakistan in Collaboration with Alhamra Arts Council, Mall Road, Lahore and was produced by The Little Art, Independent Theatre Pakistan, MAAS FOUNDATION, Chota Mota Theatre. During the festival, a number of theater, dance and music performances, storytelling sessions, puppetry panel discussions, workshops took place.

Program

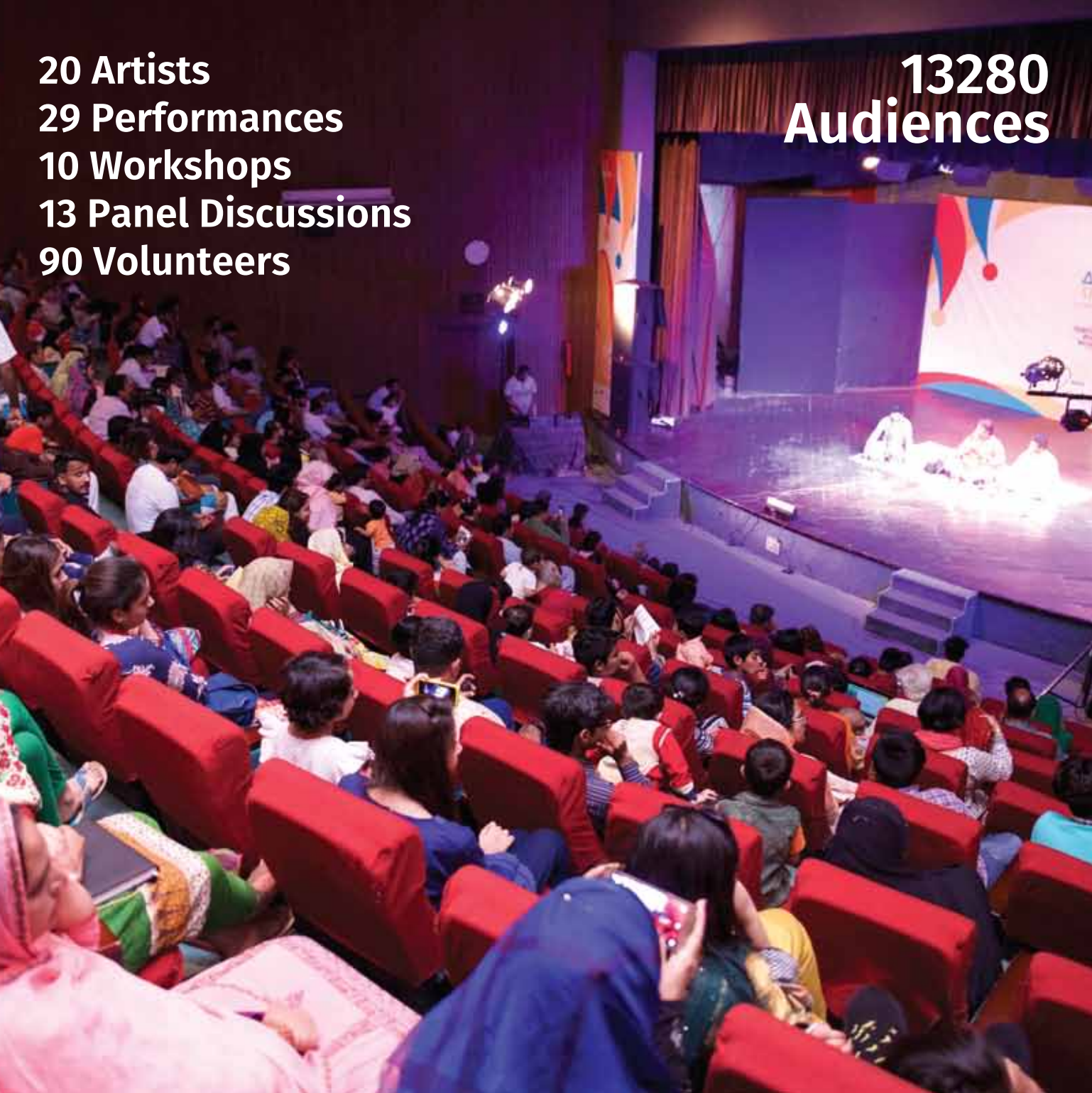
The festival program was developed by the ASSITEJ Pakistan consortium and the variety of performances presented were the first of their kind in Pakistan. Innovative performances such as dramatic orchestral readings for children, urdu storytelling, workshops about musical instruments, exploring dance and movement, teaching children urdu literature in creative ways. Such a diverse program with international cultural performances such as from Sri Lanka and UAE were also part of the program. The audiences that poured from all strata of society marked a great success of something so new for the city. Feedback from the audiences highlighted the importance for the need of such exposure to youth and the public so they may be introduced to new cultural narratives, different perspectives and inventive ways of thinking. As the younger generation passes through the 21st century exploration of ideas through such creative mediums is vital for their growth and development in the world.

Community Support

School theatre productions by Sanjan Nagar Public School, Beaconhouse School System, Bloomfield Hall School, UVAS, Harsukh School of Performing Arts and various independent arts groups.

20 Artists
29 Performances
10 Workshops
13 Panel Discussions
90 Volunteers

13280
Audiences



Theatrical Performances

A number of theatre performances by local and international performers were presented at the Festival. The performances included Gogi aur Jugnu ka Tamasha by The Little Art, Paansa by University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Stories on a Ship by Beaconhouse National University, Suraj Chachu by Maas Foundation, Nim Di Chhavein by Faiz Rasool and Faizan Rasheed and Aur Phir by Forman Christian College. All the performances received great acknowledgement from the audience, some even received standing ovations.

Gogi aur Jugnu ka Tamasha By The Little Art

This 45 minute play production by The Little Art “Gogi and Jugnu ka Tamasha” was a story about a 10 year old girl who is bored as a child and encounters a mysterious friend with whom she goes on a journey of imagination. What caught the attention of the audience was the fascination of the children with the world which they didn’t know and how imaginative they were. Gogi’s character brought a lot of applause and laughter while children related to her because of her childlike innocence and curiosity.

The feedback given by the audience about various theatrical performances was:

“We loved the play Gogi aur Jugnu. It shows how imaginative and creative children are and their curiosity of the world around them” (Parent)

Schools Performances

Different schools also stepped forward and registered to perform at the festival to promote performing arts for young audiences. The performances by schools included Zindan ki Aik Subah aur Shaam by Sanjan Nagar Public School, Lion King Musical by Beaconhouse School System, The Children of Light by Sanjan Nagar Public School , Excessive Use of Mobile Phones by Bloomfield Hall School, Much Ado About Nothing by The Bridges School and Save the Lofty trees by Academia de Acceroes. All the plays gave a good message to the audience which mostly consisted of children and youth who not only enjoyed the performances but also learnt a great deal out of them.

Storytelling

The story telling performances are unique in their nature as they take the audience into a world of imagination. They are visual and auditory, being expressed through the storyteller's body movements, facial expressions and voice. They are a direct experience of the story. At the Festival, Mehshar aur Pichal Peri by Locomania Productions, Ali Baba aur Chaalis Chor by Laetaan Productions, Zer Zabar Pesh by Faraz Alee, Ek Pal ko Zair Sayaa-e-Dewaar Sochna by Nida Maryam and Podna and Podni by Laetaan Productions were presented.

Discussions / Panel Talks

Numerous informative and meaningful panel talks and discussions also happened at the Tamasha Festival all the panel talks were led by renowned public figures and some of them also included the international delegates. Most of the talks revolved around theatre for children, society and drama, role of performing arts education and technology's impact on music art in Pakistan.

Impact of Technology on Music in Pakistan

Moderated by Rakae Rehman Jamil

Panelists: Ali Noor, Jamal Rehman, Zulfiqar Ali Jabbar

The panelists Ali Noor, Jamal Rehman and Zulfiqar Ali Jabbar are renowned musicians and singers talked about the impact of technology on music art. Zulfiqar Ali said that in the earlier times, people used to put a lot of efforts to hear the music. They used to record them on tapes as there were many fewer shops where audio cassettes were available. Adding to this Ali Noor said that all the good songs and music takes a while to get registered in your mind. You don't like them instantly, but once you get the hold of it, it stays in your mind for a very long time. The difference between the old music and music which is being made today is that it is not original anymore. Jamal agreeing with both of them added a positive aspect that there's a good thing about technology as well, it has increased the exposure of exploring music online. He appreciated websites like Patari & Soundcloud and said that these kind of evolution channels are important. The talk ended on how technology should be tackled scientifically & logically to bring out a positive impact music.



Impact of Technology on Music in Pakistan
Moderated by Rakae Rehman Jamil
Panelists: Ali Noor, Jamal Rehman, Zulfiqar Ali Jabbar

Music & Dance

The Tamasha Festival offered a variety of musical and dance performances as well by prominent local and also international artists. The performances not only entertained the audience, but also rejuvenated the cultural values linked performing arts which had been previously fading away.

The musical performances included Ensemble: Exploring Punjabi Poetry by Rakae R. Jamil and Sarah Kazmi, The Sagar Veena: Rediscovering Musical Sound by Noor Zehra Kazim and Harsakhian by Bina Jawwad and group. Musical dance performances included Makaam-e-Aman by Bina Jawwad and group and Gadrang by Adnan Jehangir whereas, dance performances included Post War Future-THALA by Nadeeka Tharangani and Gayani Uthpala (Sri Lanka) and Shah Hussain Di Veil by Uzma Ali.

Feedback:

It always feels so good to listen to the kind of music which has feelings in it. Although I was not familiar with a lot of the lyrics, but sharing the same subcontinent with Pakistan enabled me to feel the soulful vocals and lyrics. It's good that people of Pakistan are exploring their culture by devoting themselves to it" Sampath Perera, a Sri Lankan delegate said. - Gadrang By Adnan Jehangir

Workshops

The international delegates at the Festival also offered workshops on their expertise area. The workshops were for children and youth mostly, but in some adults registered as well.

It was a creative play workshop in which children belonging to age group 5-10 participated. Children were given diverse materials to play with and construct their own play. The participants were then taught how to derive meaning from abstract materials and situations. - Sue Giles (*Heads On!*)



Gadrang (Musical Performance)
By Adnan Jehangir & Group



Creative Dance Workshop
By Nadeeka Tharangani (Sri Lanka)

PARTICIPATION

SALIMA HASHMI
BINA JAWWAD
RAKAE REHMAN JAMIL
NADEEKA THARANGANI
UZMA ALI
SOOKHEE KIM
SUE GILES
SAMPATH PARERA
FAIZ RASOOL
GHANIYA BADAR
AKIFA MIAN
ASAYA FUJITA
SALEEMA JAWWAD
ZAINUB JAWWAD
UDAYA BHANO
GAYANI UTHPALA
BADAR MAHMOOD

FESTIVAL TEAM MEMBERS

SARAH ZAHID
SHOAIB IQBAL
MOBEEN IJAZ
UMAIR MUSHTAQ
AZEEM HAMID
ZEESHAN NAVEED
AAMIR NAWAZ

RYO HARADA
SEOK HONG KIM
FARAZ ALEE
MAYURA PARERA
REIHANEH YOUZBASHI
AMJAD ISLAM AMJAD
YEHYA EHSAN & GAUHAR AFTAB
ASGHAR NADEEM SYED
ADNAN JAHANGIR
FAIZAAN RASHEED
RUKSANA KHAN
IRAM SANA
NOOR ZEHRA KAZIM
ISMET JAWWAD
IMRAN KHAN
JAMAL REHMAN
YOUNAS CHOWDHRY

ASSITEJ PAKISTAN MEMBERS



OUR PROUD PARTNERS



ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL

CONTACT US:

Assitej Pakistan
81 F Johar Town
Lahore

Tel: 042 5220796
www.assitejpakistan.org