IBA SINDH TALENT HUNT PROGRAM (STHP)

Introduction
The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) was established in 1955. It is the oldest business school outside North America. The IBA has produced around 8,000 outstanding graduates to date who have worked in Pakistan and abroad, and matched in performance with the graduates of the most renowned business schools of the world.

STHP Background
The IBA launched the Sindh Talent Hunt Program (STHP) in 2009 with the objective to prepare talented students from the rural areas of Sindh for the IBA aptitude test for BBA/BS degree courses. This program primarily targets students from the rural areas of Sindh who were unable to apply for admission in IBA due to financial constraints.

Applications were invited through newspaper advertisements. Before this year, students who were among the top 20 in merit list in their respective Intermediate Board were selected for this fully funded program. For the STHP 2011, the criterion has been revised to A-1 grader. The other minimum eligibility criteria are as follows:

• Intermediate (F.Sc./F.A./H.Sc.) from any government recognized Intermediate Board during the last 2 years
• Permanent resident of Pakistan

Students selected on merit for the BBA/BS Program under STHP are offered admission in IBA with full financial support for four years.

STHP Funding
STHP is a fully funded program jointly financed by IBA and Sindh Government. The IBA contributes in this program by bearing the management cost. It covers all overhead costs of class & seminar rooms, library, computer labs, multimedia, materials, transportation, etc.

STHP Update
The academic year 2009-10 was extremely encouraging for the STHP with five (5) students from Hyderabad and Matani successfully getting admitted to the IBA under the sponsorship of Sindh Government.

Governance and Management Structure
STHP is an integral part of the IBA activities and subject to all the rules, regulations, processes and audit prescribed by its Board of Governors. Separate accounts of the program are maintained and audited by external and government auditors according to the existing practice. An annual report on the STHP achievements is also submitted to the Government of Sindh.

Program Scope & Facilities
STHP class consists of approximately 40 students. This class size enables teachers to conduct preparatory sessions as desired and give individual attention to the students. Accommodation facilities are provided in proximity to the IBA premises and managed by the IBA. Transportation arrangements are also made to pick and drop the students. Girls are provided separate accommodation under the direct supervision of a designated lady staff member. Trainees are also encouraged to arrange extracurricular activities such as sports, cultural events, debating contests, etc to promote team building and interpersonal skills.

Sindh Talent Hunt Program 2011
The STHP has been revamped and made more effective. The details are as hereunder:

i. English, Mathematics and Presentation & Interviewing skills will be taught at the orientation course. Interviewing techniques, personal development & grooming will be emphasized in this extended eight weeks orientation program which will be based on merit cum need consideration.

ii. Trainees will be provided free of cost lodging and boarding, free tuition, plus a small stipend to cover other personal expenses.

iii. IBA faculty members and trainers from outside with proven ability in respective fields will be involved.

iv. A Faculty Advisor will be attached with each trainee for higher counseling, coaching and mentoring in professional, personal and other matters.

v. The pedagogical tools will cover lectures as well as individual presentations, class participation, written assignments/report preparation, group discussions and problem solving. Visits will be arranged to the corporate sector organizations to provide broader exposure to the trainees.

vi. Upon completion of the program, trainees will appear in the IBA aptitude test. Those selected on merit for the BBA/BS Programs will be provided full scholarship for the entire duration of the program (four years). The scholarship will cover boarding, lodging, personal care expenses, tuition and other fees charged by IBA.

vii. STHP scholars, who maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.2 and above will continue to receive scholarship. If their grades fall below this threshold, they will be placed under probation, given another opportunity to repeat the course under the guidance of the Faculty Advisor as per the IBA rules. In case they fail to improve at the next round of tests, the student will not be allowed to continue at the IBA.