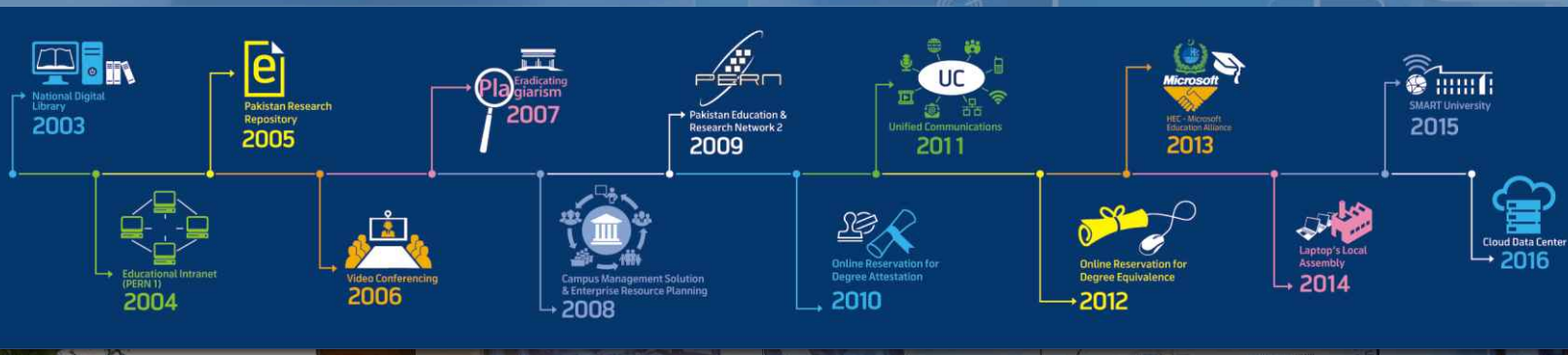
Higher Education Commission - Pakistan

News & Views

July-August 2016





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Publisher:
Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Bringing Pakistani varsities towards world-class research environment

HEC Inaugurates Cloud Data Centre



Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms inaugurated the Cloud Data Centre at Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad. The Centre aims to facilitate universities to become part of the world-class research environment. Building of the Centre has been donated by Huawei Technologies.

The Minister was accompanied by Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC, Vice Chancellors of various public and private sector universities and other notables were also present.

In view of the rise of internet and web-based technologies as more strategic tools than ever before, HEC has established the Centre to improve productivity, enhance business processes, and accelerate change. Data centres are the strategic focus of IT efforts to protect, optimize and grow the business.

HEC's Cloud services aim at increasing efficiency, productivity and collaboration among the universities of Pakistan and reduce costs by using an optimized IT infrastructure. This Data Centre will provide services like Virtual Data Centres (VDC), Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), Safe Campus Central Solution and Central Surveillance, Unified Communication and Shared Services, Storage as a Service, and Training as a Service.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal congratulated HEC on the launch of Centre and termed it the backbone of infrastructural and technological development of universities in the current digital age. He said that innovation has become a 'currency', adding that innovation requires creativity and it is the universities where creativity comes from. "Turning around a country is a complicated and challenging process, but it is not an impossible journey," the Minister stressed.

> "Innovation has become a 'currency'. Innovation requires creativity and it is the universities where creativity comes from."

The Minister said that 21st century is the century of economic ideologies and Pakistan needs to overcome its political instability to make economic uplift. He said that the nation needs to follow the slogan of 'Working harder, better and smarter' to strengthen its economic muscle.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC said that the launch of Cloud Data Centre is a way forward to realizing the HEC dream of linking up universities through fast and effective technologies. He said that HEC is committed to facilitating the universities for welfare of society and

socio-economic uplift of the country. He said that HEC is fully cognizant of responsibility to develop human resource in the country so as to make the future prosperous. "The sky is the limit," he underscored. Following the establishment of Cloud Data Centre, he announced, the HEC is planning to set up R&D Centre in the near future. Earlier, the Huawei Technologies was engaged for deployment of state-of-the-art Modular Data Centre based on Hybrid Cloud on leading technologies.

PM Laptop Scheme Phase-II

Laptop Distribution Ceremonies held at Various Varsities

Laptop distribution ceremonies were organised at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad, Sukkur IBA, under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, Phase-II in which laptops were distributed among students of different disciplines including MS and PhD degree programmes.







Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training distributed laptops along with USB devices for internet connectivity among students at PIEAS. While, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission, Pakistan along with Mr. Makhdoom Adeel-ur-Rehman, Chief Coordinator Prime Minister's Youth Programme, and Dr. S. M. Zaidi distributed laptops at COMSATS.

Engr. Baligh-ur-Rehman said that it is due to dedicated efforts of institutions which have placed Pakistan at the top in engineering and science among the Islamic countries. "We are proud of being the nuclear power and this could not have become possible without commitment of engineers and scientists trained in our institutions," he said. He observed that other countries are also following the suit of distributing laptops among students for better studies and research.

Speaking at CIIT ceremony, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC said, "this is another chapter in the Government of Pakistan's continuous support to young and talented students." He maintained that, "how a country ranks in university development today is a key factor in how it will rank in technology and social development in future. He said that Smart Classrooms, Education TV, Call Centres are a few examples of HEC initiatives to amplify the productivity, workability and innovation of universities and students. He said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme is a revolutionary step for socio-economic development of Pakistan.

In his address at Sukkur IBA, Engr. Zahid Hussain Khand, Registrar Sukkur IBA congratulated the students and appreciated the efforts of Government and HEC for promotion of education in the region.

Minister for S&T Urges Need-based Research

HEC Awards Outstanding Researchers

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan organised the 5th HEC Outstanding Research Award ceremony at its Secretariat recently. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister of Science and Technology graced the ceremony as chief guest.

The awards were given in four categories including Best Research Paper, Best Young Research Scholar, Best Innovator, and Best Book in eight disciplines including Basic and Applied Sciences, Biological Sciences, Pure Engineering, Computer Science/Engineering, Social Sciences, Management Sciences, and Arts and Humanities.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that education is the most significant means to ensure socio-economic development of a country, as it provides skilled human resource to the society.

He stressed the need for harmonizing research activities with the national needs. "We have to focus on need-based research so that it could deliver to the society and its practical utility could benefit our economy," he said.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC briefed the Minister on HEC initiatives to ensure quality of education and research. He said that HEC, while promoting a research culture in the country's universities, is focusing on the relevance of research so that it could meet the national needs. He said the number of publications in impact factor research journals has increased considerably since a meagre 800 in 2002 to over 10,000 in 2024-15 as the HEC has provided researchers with an enabling environment. "HEC has been ensuring provision of necessary infrastructure to universities," he said.

Congratulating the awardees on their remarkable research work, the Chairman said, "Researchers need to shift their concentration from the impact factor to impact of research on society so that their hard work could benefit humanity."

"Researchers need to shift their concentration from the impact factor to impact of research on society so that their hard work could benefit humanity."

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC stressed the need for hard work to keep pace with the world in educational and technological development.

He said that 15 Technology Information Support Centres are being established in the country with the collaboration of World Intellectual Property Organization to conduct research on patents and enhance their functionality. He said a Steering Committee will also be formed to examine the commercial and economic viability of research in the country.



INCREASING ACCESS

HEC Launches 1st Phase of Establishing University Sub-Campuses at District Level

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has launched the first phase of establishing physical and academic infrastructure of new sub-campuses of different universities at 31 districts of Pakistan.

Under the project, 16 campuses of public sector universities will be established in those districts having potential intake of 1000-1500 students while in other districts where the population is thin HEC will provide campuses of Virtual University.

HEC will provide funding for infrastructure, faculty development and other allied facilities, whereas respective Provincial Governments shall extend necessary support in terms of providing building to start academic activities and free of cost land for establishing university or sub-campus.

A committee headed by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms will overlook progress on the project, which is aimed at providing access to higher education in almost every district headquarter of the country either by establishing a sub-campus of an existing university or by upgrading the existing sub-campuses to full-fledged universities in consultation and collaboration with the respective universities and provincial governments.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in its meeting held recently recommended the HEC project worth Rs. 2,456.977 million to Executive Committee of National Economic Council for approval. In second phase of the project, 35 districts will be covered. HEC has directed all the universities to initiate at least two to three programmes at new sub-campuses in which they have qualified faculty.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman HEC has directed to ensure quality of higher education at all levels. He has stressed that HEC will make no compromise on the quality of any programme.

HEC has prepared a roadmap for phase-wise establishment of these institutions in the districts which are without a sub-campus and a university. The plan was shared with respective provincial Governments to get their assent.

HEC has prepared a roadmap for phase-wise establishment of these institutions in the districts which are without a sub-campus and a university. The plan was shared with respective provincial Governments to get their assent. Fifteen VU sub-campuses will be established -- two in Gilgit-Baltistan, one in FATA, five in Balochistan, one in KPK, four in Punjab and two in Sindh.

The sub-campuses being established in this phase include Karakoram International University, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan; University of Poonch, Forward Kahuta, Azad Jammu and Kashmir; University of Balochistan, Pishin; University of Balochistan, Quetta, Dera Murad Jamali; Lasbela University of Agriculture Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal; SardarBahudar Khan Women University, Naushki; University of Hazara, Battagram; University of Swat, Shangla; Gomal University, Tank; Kohat University of Science and Technology, Hangu; Shah Abdul Latif University, Ghotki and Shahdadkot; Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sanghar; IBA, Kashmore; Sindh Agriculture University, Umerkot; and, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jacobabad.

Likewise, a total of 15 Virtual University sub-campuses will be established including two in Gilgit-Baltistan, one in FATA, five in Balochistan, one in KPK, four in Punjab and two in Sindh.

6th National Accreditation Councils Meeting

HEC Stresses No-compromise Policy on Quality of Higher Education



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan recently organised 6th meeting of all the Accreditation Councils to discuss various accreditation issues pertaining to different disciplines, universities and their campuses.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC chaired the meeting which was attended by Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC, Mr. Rafique Baloch, Director General Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Mr. Nasir Shah, Director QAA, and heads and representatives of all the Accreditation Councils including Pakistan Engineering Council, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Pakistan Veterinary Council, Pakistan Nursing Council, Pakistan Council for Architecture and Town Planners, Pharmacy Council of Pakistan, Pakistan Bar Council, Pakistan Council for Homeopathy, National Council for Tibb, National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council, National Business Education Accreditation Council, National Computing Education Accreditation Council, and National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stressed the need for close coordination and joint effort to ensure quality of higher education in the country. He also urged the Accreditation Councils to avoid issuing conditional NoCs to universities or their campuses to launch new programmes, as this practice risks future of students if universities fail to meet the criteria.

> "The practice of issuing conditional NoCs to a university or its campuses to launch new programmes risks the future of students if the university fails to meet the criteria."

He also emphasized conducting joint review of programmes by HEC and respective Accreditation Council. He stressed the need for adopting a no-compromise policy on the quality of higher education.

It was agreed that programme ranking should replace university ranking so that accuracy is ensured. It was also decided that every Accreditation Council will have representation in the Committee meant for ranking. In order to accelerate the operations of Accreditation Councils and stop anomalies, it was decided that Councils meeting will be held after every six months now onwards, while the Councils' sub-committees will hold quarterly meetings.

Czech Ambassador Discusses Collaboration in Higher Education with Chairman HEC

Mr. Jan FURY, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan recently visited Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat and met Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed presented an overview of HEC's initiatives and achievements during last 13 years. He emphasized that the primary focus of HEC has remained development of human resource in all disciplines and providing ample opportunities to faculty, research scholars and students to harness their potential.

The Ambassador appreciated the achievements of HEC in the fields of research, HRD, and development of IT facilities for higher education across the country, and termed it a role model for the developing countries. He expressed his desire to collaborate with Pakistan in the higher education sector, and create a suitable environment for institution to institution linkages.

It was decided that a group of vice chancellors from Pakistan will visit Czech Republic later this year that will be reciprocated by a similar group from the other side. The purpose of these visits will be to explore possibilities for different progrmmes like faculty and student exchange, joint research in areas of mutual interest, etc. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed offered full cooperation in execution of these programmes. The Ambassador hoped that cooperation in the field of higher education will play a key role in bringing the government and people of the two countries closer to each other.



NCRC Finalises Periodical Revamping of Marine Science Curriculum

Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan recently organised the final meeting of HEC National Curriculum Revision Committee (NCRC) to ponder upon the course of Marine Science at its Regional Centre, Karachi.

The committee thoroughly reviewed and updated the Marine Science curriculum by including knowledge about latest developments and innovations in the field. New Modules of Port Operations, Ship Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management were also introduced as fields of specialization for students who intend to serve indigenously or abroad. The meeting put efforts to keep the curriculum at par with national and international standards. It was also emphasized that students of various courses requiring hands-on experience will be required to go through internship to obtain degrees. The curriculum of Marine Science was previously revised and circulated by HEC in 2011.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Mr. Sulaiman Ahmed, Director HEC Regional Centre, Karachi said that curriculum is the backbone of national academic development and the services of academia and professionals working for this purpose are commendable.

Moroccan Universities' Delegation Visits HEC

Both the countries may start institution-to-institution collaboration, says Chairman HEC

A delegation of university representatives from Morocco called on Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission and senior management of HEC at the Commission Secretariat.

The delegation included Mr. Omar Assobhei, President, University of Fez, Mr. DrissMansouri, President, University Hassan II in Casablanca and Mr. AbdelilahBenmlih, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Sciences Dhar El Mehraz.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed welcomed the delegates and presented an overview of HEC's initiatives and achievements during last 13 years. He explained how Government's commitment helped developing higher education sector and a considerable increase in funding has brought remarkable changes in the sector.

The Chairman said that primary focus of HEC has been increasing access to quality higher education as around 65% of population is below the age of 25 years. He said that over 200,000 people have benefitted from different scholarship schemes



during the last 10 years. He said that Morocco and Pakistan enjoy brotherly relations. He said both the countries may start institution to institution collaboration, exchange programmes for faculty, staff and students as well as joint academic and research programmes.

The Moroccan delegates appreciated the hospitality of Pakistani people and agreed that cooperation in higher education will play a key role in bringing governments and people of the two nations closer to each other.

HEC, PITB hold Focus Group Discussion

A Focus Group discussion entitled "Incubation and Acceleration Programmes in Pakistan: Challenges & Policy Preferences" was organised at Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad in collaboration with TechHub Connect, a Project of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB).

Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC chaired the session, which aimed to deliberate the Government's ICT policy, particularly patronization of the growing concept of Technology Incubators and Accelerators and discuss ways to engage with a broader audience and further explore possibilities of encountering new ideas.

Technology Incubators and Accelerators are widely accepted as a key source of innovation and technology based entrepreneurship as well as commercialization of research undertaken by academia. They serve as a breeding ground for startups and help them actualize their potential by providing guidance and mentorship.

The participants discussed major challenges being faced by Incubators and Accelerators in Pakistan, and development of partnerships among different incubators/accelerators to develop standardized practices as well as establishing their strong linkage with the universities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arshad Ali assured that all possible support will be provided by the Government to maximize potential of Incubators and Accelerators in the country. He briefed the gathering about HEC's initiatives to create a framework and a mechanism to promote innovation and entrepreneurial activities among faculty members, researchers and students.

20 Deans, Registrars to Attend Leadership Programme at Glasgow



A group of 20 Deans and Registrars from different higher education institutions of Pakistan attended a six-day Leadership Training Programme at the University of Glasgow, UK.

The programme, organised by Learning Innovation Division of Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with the British Council, was designed to improve participants' strategic planning, management and leadership skills, and to enhance their capabilities by introducing management tools. In this connection, earlier an orientation workshop was organised at Islamabad. Ms. Shaheen Khan, Adviser (Learning Innovation) HEC briefed the participants about background of the Modern University Governance Programme and urged all the participants to ensure cascading of the programme in their respective institutions after returning from UK.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC delivered a keynote address on Leadership and Management Skills. He stressed the need to strengthen relationship between UK's education sector and Pakistani universities. The participants discussed their role and relationship with the Higher Education Commission and narrated their institutions' vision, mission and expectations from HEC.

HEC, SECP hold Faculty Development Programme

Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan in collaboration with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and a World Bank group recently conducted a daylong Faculty Development Programme.

The event hosted more than 100 management sciences faculty members from various universities of Sindh. This programme was the first of a series of such programmes planned for faculty members of universities across Pakistan under the MoU recently signed between HEC and SECP.

Mr. Sulaiman Ahmad, Director HEC Regional Centre, Karachi and Ms. Khalida Habib, HoD Investor Education and International Relations, SECP stressed the critical importance of mutual collaboration between the non-banking financial sector regulators and academia for creating investor education and financial awareness at tertiary education level across

Pakistan with the help of participating academics. They also expressed their relentless commitment to furthering this cause by conducting regular events to make youth well-informed.

In her welcome speech, the HoD IEIRD, SECP conveyed the message of gratitude from Mr. Hijazi, Chairman SECP to the faculty for their enthusiasm and dedication to development of Pakistani youth. In this context, SECP's senior representative announced that SECP will soon conduct a well-structured training programme for a select group of faculty members in various cities of Pakistan who will be entrusted with the responsibility of spreading investor education on a regular basis.

Mr. Sulaiman stressed the importance of skilled and trained faculty for socio-economic development of the country. He said that since 2002, one of the main focuses of HEC is Faculty Development.

HEC Sends off 80 Students to Hungary on Scholarship

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan organised a send-off ceremony of students selected for Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship under Higher Education and Scientific Exchange Programme. The scholarships have been awarded to 10 PhD, 20 Masters and 50 Bachelors students.



Engr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training was chief guest on the occasion while Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Mr. Istvan Szabo, Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan, Vice Chancellors, students and their parents attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest appreciated the collaboration of Hungary for promotion of higher education in Pakistan. "The Government reciprocates in the same manner, as it accords high priority to promote exchange of students and faculty and initiate joint collaborative programmes," he said. He lauded intellectual excellence and critical thinking capabilities of scholars and urged students to make most of the opportunity to learn.

The Minister said that the Government has remarkably increased the budget of higher education sector during the last three years. Reiterating HEC's commitment to ensuring well-trained Pakistani human resource for country's economic uplift and welfare of mankind, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said the Government is spending huge resources on the higher education sector. He revealed that since inception of HEC in 2002, the Government has sponsored around two hundred thousand students.

The Chairman congratulated the students proceeding to Hungary and advised them to work hard and fully utilize the opportunity. Good performance from your side will bring you more opportunities," he said, adding that "you will be the Ambassadors of Pakistan there."

> "Good performance from your side will bring you more opportunities. You will be the Ambassadors of Pakistan in Hungary."

Terming the students send-off a milestone in the bilateral relations, the Ambassador of Hungary said that the Hungarian Government is pursuing a long-term investment in the form under such programmes. He urged the students to bring back knowledge and experience about the Hungarian culture.

Chinese Academy of Sciences Delegation Calls on Chairman HEC

A six-member delegation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), headed by Mr. Cui Peng, Vice Director Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment recently called on Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) at the Commission's Secretariat.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that CAS and HEC have been involved in various academic projects since 2004. He said that CAS has always been supportive in executing the projects. Admiring the country-to-country cooperation in development initiatives, he said that the higher education sector of Pakistan will provide skilled human resource for the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

Mr. Cui Peng presented a proposal for the establishment of a China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, a multi-disciplinary Centre with an aim to improve resilience to natural hazards. He explained that due to active geological structure of the Silk Road Economic Belt, rapid tectonic uplift and difference of climates, natural hazards frequently occurred along the Belt.

He maintained that 21st Century Maritime Silk Road has also been attracting increased attention due to climate change and active submarine earthquakes.

The frequently occurring natural hazards along the two sites, he emphasized, seriously affect the nations' security and social development, so it is necessary to conduct fundamental researches on hazard mechanisms.



Mr. Cui said the proposed Centre will be capable to improve knowledge of natural hazard physical processes, predicting natural hazards, and developing an effective methodology for mitigation of disaster risks.

The Chairman said that the two sides need to define the modalities of the proposed Centre, as the mega project requires immense homework. "We have to involve all stakeholders in this project as it has a huge potential to deal with issues related to Earth Sciences," he said, adding that a conference will be organized in Spring 2017 to take input from researchers particularly who have done good work in disaster risk management.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Javed Ashraf from Quaid-e-Azam University, Dr. Asif Khan from Karakoram International University, and Dr. Tariq Mehmoud from National University of Science and Technology, Dr. Muhammad Latif, Adviser R&D HEC and Dr. Mazhar Saeed, Director General R&D HEC.



PTC, CT, Diploma in Education & One-year B.Ed Phased Out



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan organised a meeting of representatives of Federal and Provincial Public Service Commissions, Provincial Secretaries of higher education to deliberate on HEC-approved Teacher Education Roadmap as well as National Professional Standards for Teachers. Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC chaired the meeting.

The participants hailed HEC announcement of structural changes to teacher education programmes. Old programmes like PTC, CT, Diploma in Education, and one-year B.Ed have been phased out, and replaced with four-year B.Ed (Honours) programme based on 140-142 credit hours and a two-year Associate Degree in Education of 68 credit hours. The participants discussed various aspects of these changes and shared their observations about the new Teacher Education Roadmap and service structure of future teachers doing Associate Degree in Education and four-year BEd/BSEd.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arshad Ali said, "HEC accords due importance to teacher education programmes as quality of education hinges upon quality of teachers." He said that the new teacher education roadmap has two main objectives, raising teachers' prestige in society and ensuring their professional knowledge skills and competencies.

He informed the gathering that a meeting of major universities' representatives was recently held to take them on board about the roadmap and that all of them endorsed efforts of HEC for improving quality of education.

Earlier, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt, Consultant HEC, briefed the participants about the new roadmap, its background and objectives. He said that the new ADE and B.Ed programmes have a judicious blend of content knowledge, general education required of all four-year bachelors' degrees and professional competencies.

Mining and Minerology

HEC to Grant Balochistan Varsity Rs.147m

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) will provide Rs. 147 million to the University of Balochistan to improve its research and exploration facilities in the field of mining and minerology.

The HEC has recently approved a project of the Centre of Excellence in Mineralogy, University of Balochistan, Quetta to upgrade its laboratories and ensure capacity building of its staff. This facility will help providing skilled manpower for the development of mining and mineral industry in Balochistan.

The decision has been made in view of the fact that Balochistan is blessed with large reserves of minerals including copper, gold, chromite, iron ore, zinc, and various other precious stones and the reality that qualified and skilled manpower as well as state-of-the-art research facilities are needed to utilize these reserves.

Iranian Cultural Counsellor Calls on Chairman HEC



Mr. Shahaboddin Daraei, Cultural Counsellor Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and called on Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC.

Welcoming the counsellor to HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that apart from sharing borders, Pakistan and Iran have numerous cultural similarities which can help further strengthen bilateral cultural bonds. He stressed the need for developing people-to-people contact through enhanced collaboration between the two countries higher education institutions. The two countries need educational exchange so that Iranian students come to Pakistan and acquire education, he maintained.

The Chairman said that the two countries have strong lingual roots which need to be further strengthened. Persian is taught in Pakistan and local as well as foreign students are learning the language, he informed. He said that Pakistan's national poet, Allama Iqbal, has worked a lot in the language through his poetry which inspires people even after decades of his demise. He said that doors are open to Iranian academicians to visit Pakistan and explore avenues of collaboration. HEC will facilitate Vices Chancellors of universities from the two sides to make visits and benefit from each other's experiences, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Cultural Counsellor agreed to the points of Chairman HEC and showed keen interest in improving academic relations between the two countries. Appreciating the role of HEC in promoting higher education in Pakistan, he said the two sides need to jointly work on addressing the hardships of Iranian students who want to acquire education in Pakistani institutions.

Training Workshop for KPK's Affiliated Colleges

Academics Division, Higher Education Commission, organized a five-day workshop for the faculty and examination staff of affiliated colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Agricultural University Peshawar.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide orientation to the faculty of affiliated colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on HEC-approved policy guidelines for semester examination system and to equip the faculty with the latest assessment tools.

Prof. Dr. Zahoor Swati, Vice Chancellor, Agricultural University Peshawar welcomed the participants of the workshop. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the initiatives undertaken by HEC to improve the quality of education at tertiary education level. He urged the participants to get benefit of the HEC initiatives and be an agent of change in their respective institutions for the socio-economic development of the country.

Faculty members from various affiliated colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the workshop. The participants appreciated the efforts of HEC for the promotion of higher education in Pakistan and stressed the need for holding such workshops in various regions of the province.

HEC-Huawei Collaboration

15 Pakistani Students Sent to China for ICT Programme



The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan organised a send-off ceremony for students to participate in an ICT training and hands-on practice at Huawei, Beijing, China. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC was the chief guest. Mrs. Bao, Wife of Chinese Ambassador was the Guest of Honour.

The HEC signed a Document of Understanding (DoU) with the Huawei Technologies in March 2016 to work together for the purpose of R&D initiatives aimed at promoting joint development of technologies in Pakistan. The two parties agreed to constitute a Steering Committee comprising experts and professionals to ensure implementation and deliverance of the initiative. They agreed to set up R&D Laboratory, for which HEC will arrange a building while Huawei will assist the HEC.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the support of Huawei for development of Pakistan's ICT sector, which spans over 10 years. He said that under this partnership, Huawei has offered to introduce the ''Telecom Seed for the Future" programme to Pakistan so as to support the country's ICT talent development and facilitate 15 Pakistani university students in the 3rd and 4th year of undergraduate studies to participate in the two-week training.

Mr. Liu Sheng Jay, CTO, Huawei Enterprises said that students are selected on merit to attend this programme in China. He said that Huawei is working in Pakistan for the last 18 years while with HEC the collaboration started 10 years ago and is prospering with the passage of time.

Student's Experience: Huawei Technologies introduced a programme "Seeds for the Future" in 2008, which is a two-week tour to China wherein ICT talent from all around the world gets a chance to know about China and Huawei. Fifteen students from universities all across Pakistan were recently selected for this programme.

"After visiting China I surely say that Pakistan is lucky to have a true friend. We can never find such a better friend and neighbour," says Uruba Ali who was part of this delegation. "I am thankful to HEC and Huawei Technologies for giving us this great opportunity. Our visit to Beijing and Shenzhen was a lifetime experience. China is really a wonderful country having so many beautiful places. The Great Wall of China is undoubtedly a unique wonder of human history. Summer Palace has its own history, as it was destroyed and rebuilt many times. The time we spent in BLCU University was educative."

HEC Post-Doctoral Scholars Complete Fellowship in Various Countries

Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi, who was funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to pursue fellowship at Institute of Geography, Department of Landscape Ecology, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, has completed his tenure. As part of his Post-Doctoral research output, he worked on a research report entitled "On the structure, use and perception of urban green spaces: A social-ecological study in rapidly urbanizing landscape of Lahore". During his tenure as a research scholar in Berlin, he worked as a guest scientist and a team member of the landscape ecology research group and learned several new techniques that he wishes to apply in his future career.

Dr. Shirazi had earned his PhD in Geography from the University of Karachi in 2011. He has been teaching Geography to various levels of students since 1987 and has an experience of over 27 years. He has completed his fellowship under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Dagmar Haase, a German geographer with specialization in Landscape Ecology.

The research is related to the urban green spaces all over Europe and many parts of Asia including Pakistan. The urban green spaces are very important for a country to maintain its socio-environmental balance. But in the developing countries, these spaces are on the decay. Dr. Shirazi has specialized in geography with major emphasis on the loss of urban green spaces due to landscape changes and its environmental impacts on mega cities of Pakistan, particularly Lahore.

Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan, a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), Muzaffarabad, has completed his post-doctoral fellowship funded by HEC at the Department of Speech, Hearing and Phonetic Sciences, University College London (UCL), UK.

He is currently serving as Assistant Professor at the University of AJ&K. Dr. Khan studied *Pahari* language as a case study and claimed the multidimensionality of tone in Pahari that includes pitch, final velocity, duration, intensity and phonation. The study predicts that this multi-dimensionality is due to language contact as the languages spoken in the region are from different language families. He recommends a cross-linguistic study of tonal languages in Pakistan. During his stay at UCL, he submitted a paper entitled 'Multi-dimensionality of Tone in *Pahari'* to the Journal of Acoustical Society of America (JASA) and another paper entitled 'Phonation in Pahari: An acoustic study' to Kashmir Journal of Language Research (KJLR). The project has made important findings about the phonetics and phonology of *Pahari*. These findings will also have impact on theories of human speech in general.

Dr. Khan said, "It was a great opportunity to work in a multicultural and multiethnic city of London. This exposure has opened new horizons for research and life. This would have not been possible without the funding from the HEC."

Dr. Rafia Rafique, Associate Professor University of the Punjab, Lahore has brought home research experience as she pursues her post-doctoral fellowship funded by the Higher Education Commission at the Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, UK. She completed her PhD degree in Applied Psychology from the University of Punjab, Lahore in 2012. She is currently an Associate Professor at her parent institution and has 12 years of research and teaching experience at the university. Dr. Rafia is the only researcher at the University of Nottingham in a postdoctoral programme focused on investigating psychosocial consequences and resultant quality of life of adolescents and adults facing alopecia.

16th Council Meeting

NBEAC Approves Accreditation of 10 Institutions



The National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC) held its 16th meeting with Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad, Chairman NBEAC in the chair at the Higher Education Commission Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman NBEAC said that the Council is putting strenuous efforts to spread awareness among the masses about the accreditation of business programmes. He said that the Council is concentrating on coping with the new challenges so as to improve the business education in Pakistan.

Peer review reports along with quantitative scores were presented before the Council for decision on accreditation. Accreditation decision of 10 institutions have been approved by the Council.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Nishat, Vice Chairman NBEAC, Dr. Syed Zahoor Hassan, Professor LUMS, Dr. Farooq-e-Azam Cheema, Dean Bahria University, Dr. Jan Muhammad, Director Institute of Management Sciences, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Associate Professor, FAST School of Management, FAST NU Islamabad, Dr. Ghulam Ghous, Vice Chancellor, UMSIT, Kotli, AJK, Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Director IMSciences, Peshawar, Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhry, Rector LSE and others.

PIFD Becomes Full Member of Cumulus

Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) has become a full member of Cumulus, the International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media. The membership was awarded in a conference recently held at Nottingham, UK.

Cumulus, which was founded in 1990 in Helsinki, is the only global association to serve art and design education and research. Cumulus currently consists of 229 members from 49 countries of the world.

PIFD is the only institute from Pakistan which awarded full membership of Cumulus. PIFD will play various roles within the country and internationally including influencing the policy making in the field of Art, Design and Media on international level, creating an academic forum for advancement of higher education and research in Art, Design and Media, working for the quality standards and full recognition of relevant professions in Art, Design and Media, and promoting cooperation.

Chairman HEC, Vice Chancellors Send off *Yakjehti* Caravan to Quetta



Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Vice Chancellors and senior management of HEC warmly sent off the enthusiastic university students participating in *Yakjehti* Caravan to Quetta where three day Azadi celebrations were held.

Over 400 students from universities of twin cities and AJ&K boarded the special train that started off from Peshawar with around 200 students of KPK universities.

As part of *Yakjehti* Caravan, two similar trains had left from Lahore and Karachi via Multan and Sukkur respectively, carrying university students from these cities. These caravans joined one another at Quetta and became a part of three-day independence celebrations hosted by the University of Balochistan.

Speaking to the participants, the Chairman HEC appreciated the enthusiasm and eagerness of students to celebrate the Independence Day with their brothers in Balochistan while strengthening the spirit of nationalism and showing to the world that no internal or external enemy can harm their unity and joint efforts to further strengthen Pakistan.

During Azadi celebrations in Quetta, the students participated in academic discussions, interacted with political dignitaries of Balochistan, attended a national youth seminar on "Balochistan towards Brighter Horizon", and visited the Balochistan Assembly. They also spent a day with Pakistan Army officials, visited the Quaid Residency, witnessed the 14th August ceremony, and visited Air/Aviation setups and different other events.





NUST, UWR Sign MoU to Establish NUST Creative Learning School

National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United We Reach (UWR), an international educational network, to establish NUST Creative Learning School (NCLS) at University's Islamabad campus.

The project is aimed at providing high-quality education at the elementary level. The school will be gradually upgraded to higher secondary level.

As per the agreement, NUST and UWR will develop NCLS on the most modern lines. The initiative will primarily focus on technology-based learning, involving comprehension and critical thinking, to ingrain in students the very essence of innovation and entrepreneurship at the grass-root level. It may be mentioned here that NUST Day Care and Montessori is already functioning on the campus to facilitate the faculty and staff of the University.

Meanwhile, Director United We Reach (UWR), Ms. Sabahat Rafiq, visited NUST, with a view to



Proposed 3D Model of NUST Creative Learning School

augmenting the already established entrepreneurial ecosystem at NUST. Being a venture capitalist herself, the Director UWR appreciated the ongoing research and development, product augmentation, and innovation culture at the university.

She explored the possibility of connecting NUST incubatee businesses with angel investors and venture capitalists to help them achieve their optimum potential. She pledged to support commercially viable, research projects of the students, in order to bring them into the entrepreneurial set-up of the Incubation Centre.

Delegation of Yasar University Turkey Visits NUST



A four-member delegation led by Mr. Levent Gasgil, Director International Office, Yasar University, Turkey visited National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Upon arrival, briefing was given to the delegation about the institutions, programmes, research initiatives and future plans of NUST. The delegates in their remarks greatly admired the NUST teaching and research programmes along with infrastructure and facilities provided for its faculty and students to ensure quality teaching, learning and research.

The delegates also visited NUST School of Arts, Design and Architecture. Head of the delegation said that relationship between NUST and Yasar University will continue to develop further and lead to even more interaction and collaboration between academics and students from the two universities in the areas of joint research, fellowships and exchange of faculty and students.

Workshop on Ceramic Materials at Institute of Space Technology

A workshop entitled 'Ceramic Materials' was recently held at Institute of Space Technology (IST) Islamabad.

Prof. Dr. Vojislav V. Mitic, resource person at the workshop, briefed the audience about the fractal nature of various ceramics, particularly Barium Titanate. Other lectures shed light on the processing of ceramics and their engineering aspects and applications. A number of participants from industry, R&D organisations and local faculty actively participated in the workshop.

Prof. Mitic later also visited the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology and exchanged views about



innovation and commercialization through optimal utilization of indigenous human and capital resources. He also visited the Academy of Sciences, Pakistan to initiate collaboration with the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

SALU to Open Campus in Shahdadkot

New Campus will Insure Quality Education in Remote Areas: Dr. Perveen Shah



Prof. Dr. Parveen Shah, Vice Chancellor, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur visited the Shahdadkot and held a meeting with Mr. Fayaz Alam Solangi, Deputy Commissioner, Shahdadkot at Qambar to discuss opening of university campus in the district.

Dr. Parveen Shah informed the Deputy Commissioner that the Shahdadkot campus has been approved on the directives of Higher Education Commission, Islamabad under its umbrella to open universities at district level and on the directive of the Government of Sindh. She said that initially the HEC has earmarked Rs.10 million for its operational cost.

Dr. Parveen Shah requested that Deputy Commissioner to appoint a suitable building on temporary basis to start the academic session 2017 from January 2017 in the Departments of English Language and Literature, Business Administration and Computer and IT. She remarked that the opening of this campus will provide quality education in remote areas of Sindh and Balochistan and will help developing an enlightened and moderate society.

Later on, the Vice Chancellor along with her team and Deputy Commissioner visited the Sindh Technical Education Centre at Shahdadkot. After the visit, it was decided that permission from the Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh will be sought for establishment of campus at the Sindh Technical Education Centre.

Mr. Solangi assured the Vice Chancellor that he will contact with the concerned department and will get approval for establishment of campus in the same building.

IIUI Secures IDB Research Grant

The International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) has been awarded a competitive international grant by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for establishment of Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Engineering Laboratory in continuation of the IDB-funded Advanced Electronics Laboratories Project.

The project is meant to cater the needs for development of skilled human resource in the broader area of energy research with a special emphasis on PV engineering.

The grant will help addressing the reverse linkages in the form of sharing of knowledge and expertise with other such focal points to enable a smooth translation of knowledge in this area. The current project, submitted to the IDB through concerned national bodies by the proponent and University's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization had undergone a rigorous technical vetting and review.

The Principal Investigator, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed says that successful establishment of this laboratory will also augment the efforts of Government in the social sector.

Dr. Ahmed said scientifically, the project concentrates on the advancement of PV technology through research in the PV phenomenon in semiconductors, solar cell focused multi-junctions, nano-hetero structures, thin-film electronics, metrology and characterisation of solar cells and photovoltaic processes for subsequent utility.

Iqra University, SALU hold Int'l Moot

Iqra University Karachi and Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur recently organised a two-day international conference on Innovation and Emerging Trends in Business Management (ICIEBM-2016) at Iqra University.

The conference was sponsored by Higher Education Commission (HEC). A total of 170 eminent research scholars and officials from all over Pakistan, including more than 60 business schools and over 10 industry experts, presented their research work on the occasion. International participants from Germany, France, Austria, Malaysia, China, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Iran also presented their work.

Prof. Dr. Noor Ahmed Shaikh, Pro-Vice Chancellor SALU Khairpur made a welcome address followed by the keynote address of Prof. Dr. Amran Bin Md Rasli, Director Innovation and Commercialization Centre, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Dr. Amran shed light on the importance of innovation for development of any country.

LBF Set to Organise Lahore Biennale Next Year



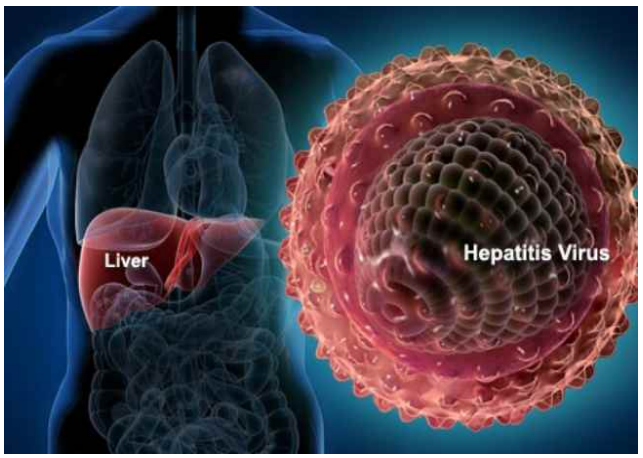
The Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF) will organise Lahore Biennale covering a series of exhibitions in 2017, wherein Rashid Rana, Dean Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design will be the artistic director for events.

Mr. Rashid Rana along with Osman Khalid Waheed, Chairman LBF and Qudsia Rahim, Executive Director LBF recently announced that the Lahore Biennale will be held after every two years. It will be the largest and the most ambitious public art undertaking in the country's history, they claimed. Being an artist of international repute, Rashid Rana will create a vision and narrative for the Lahore Biennale. He elaborated that, "the objective is to produce something that has local and global relevance." He said he aims to initiate conversation between Pakistan and the rest of world through art.

AJKU Launches anti-Hepatitis Drive

The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJKU) in collaboration with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) Health Department and Rahma Islamic Relief, Pakistan has launched a projected entitled Screening, Awareness and Treatment of Hepatitis (SATH).

The project is aimed at contributing to the eradication of Hepatitis in AJ&K with the help of government and civil society. It is being looked after by Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua, Assistant Professor (Zoology) who is being assisted by a dedicated team of faculty and students.



Under the first phase, training sessions and workshops were arranged for barbers and beauticians of Muzaffarabad with a view to educate and enable them to prevent occurrence of Hepatitis.

Over 600 barbers and beauticians were involved in the study and were trained under a series of 12 sessions with healthy hygienic practices to diminish transmission of hepatitis virus to their clients who could also become potential carriers if precautionary measures are not observed properly.

After familiarizing and sensitizing the concerned professionals with the risks involved against human health and lives, they were screened for the deadly disease and sterilization equipment was also distributed among them.

As the second step, awareness sessions and screening tests were completed at 24 academic departments of the University benefitting around 7000 male and female students, over 200 faculty members and approximately 1000 university officials. After successful completion of this phase, the medical history of infected individuals was examined. The results will be shared with the AJ&K Health Department in order to start timely treatment of patients and save many lives.

LUMS Scholar Wins Thematic Research Grant

Dr. Zubair Abbasi, Assistant Professor, Law and Policy, Shaikh Ahmed Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL), Lahore University of Management Sciences has received the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Thematic Research Grant to conduct a research entitled "The Role of Judiciary in Protection of Women Rights: A Case Study of Divorce Law (Khula)".

Under the supervision of Dr. Abbasi, a team of four research scholars will explore the judicial process on the development of women's right to divorce (khula) without the consent of their husbands and assess the impact of changes in divorce law on the institution of family in Pakistan based on empirical data which has been collected from family courts and local councils.



Dr. Abbasi teaches Muslim Personal Law and Islamic Jurisprudence. His research focuses on the relationship between classical Islamic law (Sharia/ Fiqh) and its connection with the modern nation state. His various papers have been published in prestigious research journals.

LUMS Faculty Develops Laser Sensor System

Dr. Abubakr Muhammad, Associate Professor Lahore University of Management Sciences in collaboration with Prof. Karsten Berns from University of Kaiserslautern, Germany has developed a laser sensor system on board an aerial drone which can help gauging canal siltation.



The acquired terrain profiles will help discovering defects in canal linings, locate and estimate silt accumulations and help in monitoring the excavation operation. The team has been working on a project that proposes an aerial robotics system to increase the efficiency of the silt removal process of irrigation canals in Pakistan. The funding for this ambitious undertaking, RoPWat project, has been made by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) along with internal funding from the LUMS Faculty Initiative Award.

Dr. Abubakr Muhammad desires to map a large irrigation canal network in the Indus Basin to study siltation. His objective is to develop a semi-autonomous robotic profiling system to increase the efficiency of canal profiling and to develop a 3D perception system, which can be deployed on a commercial agricultural machine (excavator or a tractor) or on board a micro aerial vehicle to assist a human operator in cleaning the canal effectively.

According to Dr. Abubakr Muhammad, "The profiles will help identify defects in canal linings, locate and estimate silt accumulations and help the human operator continuously monitor the excavation operation. Additionally, the proposed system envisages efficient cost effective cleaning, reduced water discharge variability and enhanced agricultural productivity".

ZU Subsidiary Wins MacJannet Prize

The Ziauddin Sikanderabad Community Partnership (ZSCP), a subsidiary of Ziauddin University (ZU), Karachi, has won MacJannet Prize.

The ZU has recently become member of the prestigious Tallories Network based in the United States at Tufts University. The Talloires Network is an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.

They work together to implement the recommendations of the Talloires Declaration and build a global movement of engaged universities. The Talloires Network is a prestigious global coalition of 363 universities in 77 countries promoting civic engagement.

According to Mr. Anthony P. Monaco, President Tufts University, Chair Talloires Network Steering Committee announced that "The Ziauddin Sikanderabad Community Partnership (ZSCP) at the ZU in Karachi, Pakistan is our second place winner. The partnership focuses on holistic family medicine and empowering the community to contribute to their own welfare and health. The programme runs at a primary healthcare centre through the leadership of students from the faculties of medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy and pharmacy".

According to Brianda Hernandez, Programme Administrator, the Tallories Network, Tufts University in her letter addressed to the ZSCP said that we also strongly encourage you to use your winning the prize to raise the profile of your project specifically, and community engagement at your University in general. She said the ZSCP at the Ziauddin University in Karachi, Pakistan is a long-standing programme with deep roots in the community with a primary focus of providing holistic family medicine and empowering the community to contribute to their own welfare.

IU, Korean Institution to Launch Collaborative Projects



Isra Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, Isra University (IIRS-IU) and the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (RM-SNUBH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly engage in academic and research activities in line with the regulations of both universities.

Both the universities have agreed to promote international academic and research cooperation by exchange of faculty and research scholars, launch of collaborative research projects, exchange of books and literature for teaching and research purposes, exchange of internees, and development of courses and academic programmes.

Prof. Dr. Jae-Young Lim, head of RM-SNUBH, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Babur, Principal IIRS-IU, signed the MOU at Seoul, South Korea.

SZABIST Organises Policy Dialogue on Access to Basic Education in Sindh

The Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) recently organised a policy dialogue on "Access to Basic Education and Development in Sindh".

Notables from the education sector including Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chancellor SZABIST, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Dean IBA, Mr. Atyab Tahir, head of AMANTECH, and Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho, Secretary Education and Literacy Department, Sindh took part in the dialogue which aimed to highlight some the basic issues and problems being faced at the district level to acquire primary education.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ishrat Hussain highlighted importance of increasing access to education and termed it the first objective of education policy. He said that equitable access to education in all the districts is necessary to ensure equal good educational facilities. He stressed the need for addressing issues related to teachers.

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho said that ensuring quality of education at all levels leads to have quality teachers, doctors and other professionals. Improvement of quality will pave the way for social uplift, she underlined.

Pakistani Scientist Selected for UNESCO Award

A Pakistani scientist, Dr. Muhammad Ismail, from Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan has been selected for award of highly competitive UNESCO/IUPAC/ PhosAgro Laureate for Green Chemistry Grant for the year 2016.

Dr. Muhammad Ismail, Head, Department of Chemistry, KIU is likely to receive this grant in a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in France.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has selected six leading Chemistry researchers from around the world and Dr. Muhammad Ismail is one of them.

UNESCO grants to support research in the field of Green Chemistry under a joint programme with PhosAgro, Russia and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

SAU, WAPDA to Exchange Expertise for Water Resource Management



The Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support research and exchange technical expertise leading to sustainable development and management of land and water resources in the country.

Mr. Zaffar Mahmud, Chairman, WAPDA and Dr. Mujeebuddin Memon Sehrai, VC SAU signed the agreement. The ceremony attracted growers, researchers, faculty members and students.

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework agreement for cooperation between the two organizations to develop and implement joint research and to exchange technical expertise and initiatives for addressing water conservation, water logging and salinity and change of cropping patterns challenges through improved governance and efficient land, water and crop management.

For the purpose, the two organizations will regularly consult on matters of common interest to define areas of collaboration.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Zaffar Mahmud said that they want to encourage students of SAU to conduct research on water and land management.

He said water shortage is the major issue that the country is experiencing in the face of global warming. This initiative may help stakeholders resolve the issue, he said. Dr. Mujeebuddin Memon Sehrai also addressed on the occasion.

PPS Celebrates Foundation Anniversary

The 29th anniversary of Pakistan Physiological Society (PPS) was celebrated at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) with a resolve to continue speeding up the society's functionality in close affiliation with clinical medicine.

Vice Chancellor, UHS, Prof. Muhammad Aslam said that physiology is important because it is a foundation upon which we build our understanding of what life is, how to treat diseases, and how to cope with stresses imposed upon our bodies by new environments.

He added that Physiology is one of the main subjects underpinning our knowledge of Medicine and Veterinary Science. He said the Society has over 300 members and is a member of International Union of Physiological Scientists (IUPS), Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies and South Asian Association of Physiologists.

Later, UHS research scholars presented their research projects in the discipline of Physiology.

Dr. Uzma Zafar made a presentation on "Genetic variant and hormone levels in metabolic syndrome"; Dr. Hina Pervaiz on "Gestational Diabetes Mellitus"; and, Dr. Shumaila Dogar presented her study on "Serum Vitamin D levels and Vitamin D receptor gene polymorphism in breast cancer".

BU hosts Conference on Emerging Trends in Computing, Technology



Bahria University, Karachi hosted a two-day national conference on "Emerging Trends and Innovations in Computing and Technology".

The aim of this conference was to provide a platform to build linkage between industry professionals and academicians to ensure development of new innovation systems and use of future-oriented technologies for country's growth.

Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, Minister for Education and Literacy, Sindh inaugurated the conference. Speaking on this occasion, he urged the educational institutions to play their due role in promoting research and innovation culture in the country in order to meet future challenges.

He emphasized bridging the bond between research scholars, industry professionals, private sector and decision makers through such initiatives. In this regard, the industry has a very important role in the country's economics, therefore, all have to come forward, in order to develop the university – industry linkages, he added.

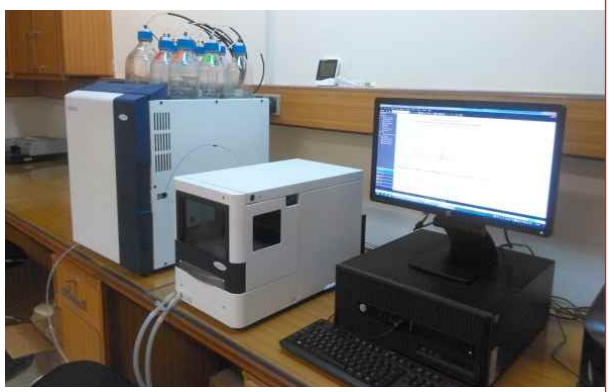
In his welcome address, Mr. Khawaja Ghazanfar Hussain, Director General BU, Karachi thanked the HEC and other sponsors for their support in holding the conference. He stressed the need for increasing learning opportunities so as to address the future challenges. "We can succeed only with continuous interest and support from industry, academia, and government," he underscored.

Different researchers and scholars shared their ideas and outcomes of their researches in autonomous computing, communication and networking, and software engineering. The conference was followed by Engineering Design Exhibition, in which students showcased their creative and innovative designs.

News Flash

Amino Acid Analysis Laboratory of the Department of Animal Nutrition, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Ravi Campus, Pattoki has initiated analysis facility on commercial lines for the feed industry.

Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Vice Chancellor UVAS said that this facility which has been equipped with state-of-the-art apparatus for amino-acid analysis of feed and food stuffs will not only be helpful for researchers in conducting research but will also be equally beneficial for animal feed industry, since the results of amino acid analysis of local feed stuffs will economise feed formulation. He said that it is a



unique facility, which is for the first time made available for the feed industry by an educational institution in the country.

KU Moot Sheds Light on History



The University of Karachi (KU) Department of General History, Pakistan Historical Society and Hamdard Foundation Pakistan jointly organized the 25th International History Conference in collaboration with HEC and Endowment Fund Trust for Preservation of the Heritage of Sindh at KU.

Mr. Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate who was the chief guest in the inaugural session lauded the role of KU in changing lives of students and providing the country with valuable graduates. He stressed the need for regarding the history of Islam and Pakistan.

He said Islam preaches peace and tolerance, and democracy is in line with Islam. Islam granted equal rights to women in the era when they used to be buried alive, he said. He noted that all the fundamental human rights declarations including Magna Carta were based on Islamic principles. He urged unity to cope with the challenges facing Pakistan and said that a democratic culture must be promoted in order to deal with the menace of extremism and intolerance.

Dr. Muhammad Qaiser, Vice Chancellor KU highlighted the role of KU in inculcation of history. He said that many historians of national and international repute have been affiliated with various KU departments. Dr. Moonis Ahmar, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Yasmeen Saikia, representative of Arizona State University, USA and others also addressed on the occasion.

IoBM Conference on Experiential Learning

An international conference was held on Experiential Learning at Institute of Business Management (IoBM) recently to feature prominent entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, heads of multinational companies, and leaders from the education sector.

The workshop was attended by a large number of students and professionals from medical, engineering and other professional areas. Malik Ahmad Jalal, CEO, Aman Foundation was keynote speaker of the conference. The conference was also attended by concerned international experts as Dr. Margaret Madden, Australia, Dr. Jonathan Damiani, USA Mr. SaitSalik, Turkey, Ms. Ramona Anna-Maria Grigorie, Romania, Dr. SarfarozNiyozov, Tajikistan and others. Mr. Shahjehan S. Karim, President IoBM, Mr. Talib Karim, Rector IoBM, Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Executive Director, and deans, HoDs, faculty members, students, management and alumni.

The conference was designed on the pattern of experiential learning in Business Management, experiential learning in higher education and experiential learning in childhood development and schools.

Experts shed light on experiential learning as a learning by doing which encompasses problem-based learning and activity-based learning through action, experience, discovery and exploration.

The conference focused on case studies in best practices pertaining to IT, Engineering, Medicine, Business, Education and other fields.

–SAU Training on Livestock Management–



Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam in collaboration with Sindh Rural Partners Organization (SRPO) organised a training programme on Livestock Management for 250 participants.

Maula Bux Chandio, Adviser to Chief Minister for Information, was the chief guest in certificate distribution ceremony. Admiring the SAU, he said the role of University in promotion of agriculture education and research in the province cannot be ignored. He stressed the need for providing an educational atmosphere to the students of province and to build the capacity of young generation, farmers and housewives.

Dr. Mujeebuddin Memon Sehrai, Vice Chancellor SAU Tandojam said there is a great potential in the people of rural areas, however the educated class needs support to launch their own businesses. He said the University has contributed a lot to imparting training to officials of various government and non-government organizations, which are focusing on youth in the rural areas to enhance their skills and apply the same in the society.

Ali Akbar Soomro, Director General Livestock Department said that a monitoring mechanism has been initiated to ensure exercises of capacity building in livestock management. He observed that veterinary doctors and practitioners are working properly in the field and are helping the communities. He hoped these trainees will initiate their own businesses in the livestock sector.

Nazir Ahmed Kalhoro, Project Director World Bank Programme on Livestock said that they support the rural organisations in imparting training to village youth about the farm animals, their management, cure and market mechanisms.

Addressing on the occasion, other speakers said that the main purpose of training was to give the community having livestock opportunity to know how better they can take care of their animals and benefit from them more. They observed that there are many challenges for this community amid the emerging issues of climate change, cattle diseases and viral infections. There is a need for creating awareness among the people associated with the livestock sector about market mechanism.

UAF Awards Scholarships in Various Disciplines

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad organised a cheque distribution ceremony for the students who have won scholarships under the Professional Education Fund. Fourteen scholarships were awarded to students of different disciplines. Each student will get Rs. 60,000 annually for four years to pursue their education.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor UAF stressed the need for promotion of quality education among the underprivileged segments of society as it will help addressing poverty. He said that UAF disburses Rs. 700 million in the head of merit and need-based scholarships every year.

Seminar Weighs Challenges, Opportunities in Achieving Water SDG in Pakistan



A seminar entitled "Achieving Water Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities" was held under the auspices of US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, recently in Karachi.

The inaugural session was chaired by Syed Murad Ali Shah, former Minister for Irrigation, Sindh (now elevated to Chief Minister, Sindh). Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Shah said that achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is critical for the people of region in particular and for the people of world in general. He said that Centre for Advanced Studies in Water at MUET in partnership with University of Utah is one of the most advanced and productive projects of USAID in Pakistan. He assured that he will continued to support the USAID projects in the province.

> "We are really going to navigate the difficult tasks like ending poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy lives, achieving gender equality, ensuring water and sanitation for all and many other goals".

In his keynote address, Mr. Steve Urquhart, Global Ambassador University of Utah, said that SDGs are ambitious and difficult challenges for the world to accomplish, but we must be optimistic about achieving these goals. "We are really going to navigate the difficult tasks like ending poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy lives, achieving gender equality, ensuring water and sanitation for all and many other goals," he added. He further said that partnership between MUET and UU is crucial to accomplish the great tasks.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Craig Buck, USAID Mission Deputy Director for Sindh and Balochistan said that USAID has a commitment to improve water resource management in Pakistan, adding that for this purpose, the USAID has made a major investment in MUET. He said that Pakistan had set up an example of having the most sophisticated and advanced irrigation system of the world which needs to be sustained accordingly. He said that USAID in partnership with institutes like MUET aims to improve the lives of people and enable them to take charge of development process.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor MUET said that the purpose of this seminar is to identify the needs and opportunities in terms of policies, research and education needed to implement the water SDGs framework that itself requires multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement. "Government alone cannot achieve SDGs on its own, unless its implementation is fully supported by all stakeholders including citizens, civil society, private sector, and academia", he added.

IUB Cotton Varieties Approved

The Punjab Seed Council has approved cotton varieties, IUB-13 and MM-58, introduced by the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Islamia University of Bahawalpur, for general cultivation.

National Biosafety Committee has also approved these varieties for commercial usage. These cotton varieties were approved for showing better productivity and performance under conditions of high temperature, drought and water scarcity.

Prof. Dr. Qaiser Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor IUB has highly encouraged the agriculture scientists from the university to grow such cotton varieties which



are compatible with geographic and climatic conditions of the Southern Punjab, the cotton belt of Pakistan. A cotton variety, IUB-222, is already approved by the Punjab Government for marketing.

SU Centre's Workshop Sheds Light on Research Methodology

Area Study Centre Far East & Southeast Asia, University of Sindh, Jamshoro in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad organised a one-day training workshop on "Research Methodology". The University's faculty and MPhil/ PhD students of the Centre as well as other students interested in the subject attended the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh said that the very concept of a university would cease to exist if it stops generating new, valid, reliable and authentic knowledge and research.

He added that the main job of higher education institution is to create wisdom, provide solutions to social problems and upgrade the quality of life. All three goals, he argued, could not be achieved without genuine research in universities.

Dr. Fleschenberg from Cologne University, Germany said that the concepts and methods of research remains in a constant flux, so they all, as researchers, need to re-acclimatize themselves with those changing patterns. She asserted that it is wrong to think research to be a 'smooth ride', for research involves a number of risks, constraints and obstacles. Yet, she opined that researchers all over the world, including her, have not only ironed out such hiccups and hobnobs, but have also successfully overwhelmed them.

Dr. Fleschenberg emphasized that it was essential for research initiatives to keep focus on real problems of the societies they represent, pin down more specifically on marginalized segments of societies, especially women, and relate to the environmental issues at the same time. She stressed that the most fundamental aspect of research was passionate involvement, sincere commitment and academic and professional commitment on the part of researchers.

Mr. Lars Bergmeyer, Director German Academic Exchange Office, Islamabad in his lecture on "Study and Research in Germany" said that Germany offers 19,000 study programmes, of which 900 programmes are in English. He said that 3,000 Pakistani students are currently studying in Germany.

50 Graduates of School of Artillery Awarded Masters Degrees



Fifty commissioned officers of Pakistan Army were recently awarded Masters degrees in the field of Military Science and Management in the Convocation 2016 of the School of Artillery, Nowshera.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan, Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar, was the chief guest of the event and he conferred degrees upon the successful graduates. He was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Asif Ali, Commandant School of Artillery and Brig. Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Commandant.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the officers of Gunnery Staff Course on successful completion of one of the most premier courses of Artillery and Management across the globe. He said that the achievement of graduates testifies and speaks volume of training efforts by them and the school management. He said Pakistan is nowadays facing numerous external and internal challenges, whereas the security risk for the coming generations has also increased manifold.

He underlined the need for a comprehensive strategy to address the cause and spread of insurgency in the country. He said that the efforts of Pakistan Army in bringing peace in FATA and responding to any untoward natural and manmade disaster have always been unmatchable.

DIHE Karachi, DEL to Build Academic Linkages

Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education (DIHE), Karachi and Dr. Essa Laboratory & Diagnostic Centre (DEL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop bilateral collaboration and linkages in teaching, R&D activities and Human Resource Development.

Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi, Vice Chancellor DIHE and Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, CEO DEL signed the MoU. The Vice Chancellor briefed the guests about the institute and its motives, while Dr. Farhan Essa elaborated the functions of DEL, which he said is providing clinical laboratory and diagnostic services in Microbiology, Immunology, Pathology, clinical Biochemistry, Serology, Histopathology, and Molecular Pathology.

The MoU signifies collaboration in joint MPhil and PhD programmes and comprehensive training of students. Under the MoU, both the parties will jointly explore, initiate, or undertake joint programmes in mutually agreed disciplines, R&D activities and other steps, wherever deemed feasible. Students of DIHE will have access to DEL to take help in conducting their research. DEL will provide students with access to its laboratories and equipment for practical work, while both the parties will jointly organise seminars, workshops, and training courses.

Chinese Study Centre Established at UoP

The Chinese Study Centre has been set up at the University of Peshawar during the visit of Sun Weidong , Ambassador of the Republic of China, along with a delegation to the university recently.

The Ambassador called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan, Vice Chancellor and presented him a cheque to partner in the Chinese language, culture and research Centre in the university.

In his remarks, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan said that the Centre will work under an independent director with a prime objective to encourage and promote research and study of the Chinese language, its history and the Chinese culture. Besides, the Centre will also play its part in strengthening people-to-people understanding and friendship.

The Centre will offer Chinese language courses, professional diploma and degree courses for research on China from September 2016. Exchange of students and faculty between UoP and Chinese universities will also take place to execute joint research projects in the respective fields of interest.



On the advent of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China Study Centre UoP will offer enormous help to the local industry by providing it with human resource.

Mr. Sun Weidong said that the establishment of China Study Centre at a time when both the countries are celebrating 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations is a milestone achievement. He said that China advocates peaceful co-existence and respect for the political system of every country. He added that the essence of the time-tested Pak-China relations is based on common interests and respect for each other's sovereignty. Highlighting the importance of CPEC project, he showed interest in the establishment of a Confucius Centre at the University of Peshawar in the days to come.

Virtual University Awards 987 Scholarships

Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan awarded scholarships to its students on merit and need basis for spring 2016 session. A grant worth Rs. 11.4 million was disbursed in both the categories of scholarships.

Merit-based scholarships were awarded to 501 students to encourage healthy academic competition among them. Whereas, a total of 486 scholarships were granted to needy students to support their studies.

VU Inks MoU with GCWUF

Virtual University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) with an aim to enhance collaboration between the two institutions in academic activities.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Naveed A Malik, Rector VU and Prof. Dr. Naureen Aziz Qureshi, Vice Chancellor GCWUF.

Apart from the capacity building and faculty exchange, this linkage will help sharing laboratories, study facilities, recorded courses, internships and placements of students.

The two universities will also develop joint research projects and programmes in line with the national priorities to influence policies through evidence generation.

CUST Wins ESWC Competition



Mr. Riaz Ahmad, a PhD scholar from Department of Computer Science at Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST), Islamabad participated in a world renowned competition organised in the top rated A-category Semantic Web Conference (ESWC) in Greece.

The ESWC challenges the world to propose, develop and evaluate innovative algorithms for applied nature Computer Science problems.

One such competition is known as: "Semantic Publishing", in which Mr. Riaz was selected in the top five researchers of the world in the first round. Subsequently, on the competition day, the research project developed by Mr. Riaz was declared as the winner of 2016 episode.

The developed tool was tested on unseen data by the event organisers. The F-score achieved by his tool remained 0.771 while the second position holder could make it to 0.632.

FAST-NU QEC Presents Research Papers on HE Quality at Int'l Moot

Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), FAST-NU Pakistan presented two research papers on quality in higher education at the 14th International Conference on Statistical Sciences organized by Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences in Karachi.



More than 120 research papers were presented on the application of statistics in education management, manufacturing, energy management and other topics by scholars and professionals in different sessions of the conference. The research presented by FAST-NU QEC was highly admired by the participating scholars, jury, and the practitioners as it covered enhancement of the standards of education.

A certificate of appreciation was awarded by the jury to Mr. Farrukh Idrees for his research on the theme of quality in higher education.

DOW University Faculty Awarded Fellowship



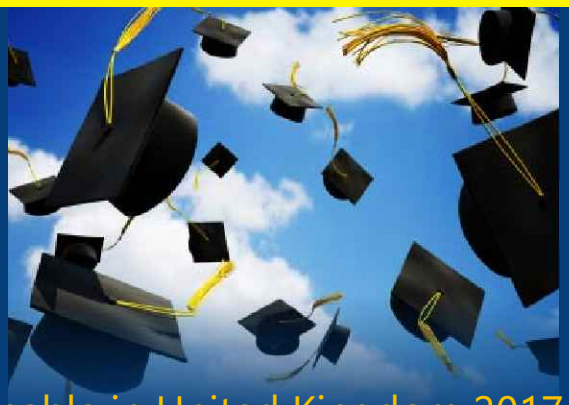
Dr. Muhammad Asif Qureshi has been awarded a highly prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship in the area of Internal Medicine--Hepatocellular Carcinoma, HCC--Research at Germany.

Dr. Qureshi, a PhD from Glasgow, UK, is currently working as a Tenure Track Assistant Professor at the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Karachi.

The fellowship is highly competitive award for which applicants apply from all around the world.

Dr. Qureshi is a former HEC scholar who completed his PhD under the HEC Faculty Development Programme from the University of Glasgow, UK and returned to Pakistan to join DUHS in 2012.

During his post-doctoral stay in Germany, Dr. Qureshi aims to investigate the role of immune cells and associated mediators in HCC in order to identify novel molecules of diagnostic and therapeutic interests.



Commonwealth Scholarships

for PhD and Medical Fellowships Tenable in United Kingdom 2017

HEC invites application for PhD Scholarships from Pakistan / AJ&K teaching faculty working on full time university teaching posts possessing postgraduate qualification under the Commonwealth Scholarships, United Kingdom. The scholarships are also available for Medical Fellowships for graduate medical doctors qualified as Doctor before October 1, 2002 or between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2010.

Further, for Split PhD Scholarships, candidate may apply online directly to the CSC-UK website at http://bit.ly/cscuk-split-site-scholarships

Detailed information is available at hec.gov.pk/site/loa and http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/scholarships-developing-cw/. Deadline for submission of application is November 15, 2016

HEC Scholar Attends International Leadership Conference

Dr. Bushra Naeem, who has recently completed her PhD from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia under HEC scholarship programme "HRDI-UESTP for MS/MPhil Leading to PhD in Selected Fields", received a fully-funded conference grant to participate in the 2016 Women in Engineering International Leadership Conference.

She presented her inspiration at the Verizon booth on "Inspire Her Mind" and Change Maker at Ericson. She demonstrated that "I am a Change Maker: I Teach and Influence the Youth for a Better Tomorrow".

Receiving numerous distinctions during her PhD study, Dr. Bushra Naeem was elected as the executive secretary of Postgraduate Student Society, Faculty of Electrical Engineering. She chaired a session in IEEE International Symposium on Technology Management and Emerging Technologies, Langkawi Malaysia.

She has also presented technical papers in several international conferences and attended short courses comprising Particle Swarm Optimization and 1st Malaysia-Japan Workshop on Radio Technology.

Seminar onTriangulation of Teaching Outcome



The Quality Enhancement Cell, Indus University hosted a seminar entitled "Traingulation of Teaching Assessment and Learning Outcome" organised by Dr. Abdul Wahid Usmani, Deanship of Quality, King Saud University, Riyad, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Heads and faculty of various departments of more than 11 universities, namely Iqra University , KASBIT, IBA Sukkur, Dow University, Dadabhoy Institute, Hamdard University, and SZABIST attended the event. Likewise, numerous faculty members attended the session through video conference.

Dr. Usmani shared his valuable input with the participants, who took keen interest in exploring the untapped aspects of knowledge. The session concluded that triangulation is a parameter that helps revamping the alignment of teaching methods and assessment strategies to the ILOs formation and mapping with PLOs. Outcome based education is of paramount importance and should be done at the assessment level. ILOs are the essential elements of Programme Specification, Curriculum Document, Course Specification. The research further emphasised that the scope of Intended Learning Outcomes can be widened by incorporating knowledge management, research, ethics, critical thinking, team building, problem solving in the individual subject.

It was further highlighted that ILOs will enable students to produce various evidence-based business plans for increasing productivity in simulated business contexts, writing business letters and reports effectively within a simulated/case-based scenario.

Int'l Day of Sports for Development of Peace Celebrated

Pakistan University Sports Board and Pakistan Olympic Association organised sports activities to mark the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace with the collaboration of United Nations Information Centre Islamabad.

Three-day sports events included Badminton, Table Tennis, Rock Climbing and Football among different universities. A closing ceremony was held at Sports Gymnasium of National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad. The ceremony was a part of the series of events held across Pakistan aiming at empowering Pakistani youth through education and sports and promoting Sustainable Development Goals related to healthy lifestyles, peace, tolerance and partnership.

Dr. G. Raza Bhatti, Member Operations and Planning, HEC, Dr. Asif, Pro-Rector, NUST, Mr. Arif Hassan, President, Pakistan Olympic Association, Dr. Akhtar Nawaz, Director General, Pakistan Sports Board and others attended the closing ceremony.

Abasyn University holds 2nd Convocation



Abasyn University Peshawar recently organised its second convocation, in which 350 degrees in various disciplines were awarded to graduates of 2014-15 batches.

The degrees were awarded in Business Management, Pharmacy, Microbiology, Education, Engineering, Computing and Technology. Thirty six students clinched gold medals owing to their outstanding academic performances in their respective disciplines.

Engr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who was the chief guest on the occasion, congratulated the students as well as the University on the milestone achievement and stressed the need for commitment, passion, honesty and sincerity to serve the nation. He advised the students to pursue a life-long learning and development process along with a positive engagement with the community.

The Governor KPK announced cash prizes for the recipients of gold medals in different programmes. He announced that the award distribution ceremony will be held at the Governor House.

In their welcome address earlier, Mr. Muhammad Imranullah, Chancellor Abasyn University thanked the chief guest for gracing the event and felicitated the graduates on completion of their degrees and Dr. Jamil Ahmad, Vice Chancellor presented an annual report highlighting the distinctions of Abasyn University in academic sphere.

UET Lahore Workshop Sheds Light on Hydro-Meteorological Data and Flood Forecasting

The Department of Civil Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore organised a 13-day international workshop on Hydro-Meteorological Data and Flood Forecasting.

The main objective of this programme was to provide a forum for the hydro-meteorological experts of Pakistan and Afghanistan to sit together for mutual benefits of the countries and the region. It also emphasized the need for hydro-meteorological data collection, storage, analysis and dissemination. It will be helpful to use the data for improved flood forecasting.

In the first session, Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific said that global warming is a major case of floods and Pakistan faces huge losses every year. It is necessary to upgrade the system and equipment and build capacity of those concerned so as to tackle the issue with the help of accurate flood forecasting. He said that engineering universities must be taken into confidence to formulate strategy to tackle floods.

Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Vice Chancellor UET Lahore stated that Pakistan cannot afford the destabilization of economy and every year floods create trouble for the country. To get rid of this condition, concrete efforts must be made by taking all stakeholders into confidence, he stressed. He affirmed that universities can be productive and supportive in flood forecasting and management by achieving the goal of outcome based education.

Workshop Stresses Importance of Biosafety

An increased number of global incidences of mismanagement of dangerous pathogens at workplaces has necessitated revisiting the existing regulations on biosafety and biosecurity in the country and strict implementation of these laws.

This was stated by bio-risk experts during a workshop recently held at the University of Health Sciences (UHS). They emphasized that all-out efforts should ensure that the best practices and Standard Operating Procedures are in place for prevention of accidental or unintentional exposures to or releases of pathogens and toxins so as to protect workers including researchers, public, animals and the environment from any harm.

The main objectives of the workshop were to train master trainers in bio-risk management according to WHO guidelines and to share the findings of recent national exercise on Global Health Security Initiative to which Pakistan is a signatory. It



comprised technical presentations, group work, plenary sessions and sharing of experiences. The second day of workshop was meant for the hospital laboratory staff and health professionals and was organised by Pak One Health Alliance (POHA) in collaboration with UHS and Civilian Research and Development Foundation Global.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Junaid Sarfraz Khan, Pro-Vice Chancellor UHS said scientists involved in bio-medical sciences shouldered large responsibilities and needed to abide by a voluntary code of conduct of research, based on the recognised ethical principles and values and should comply with the requirements of international conventions and treaties relevant to their research work.

Riphah Symposium Weighs Challenges in Corporate Governance

In line with Higher Education Commission roadmap for university-industry liaison to seek the country economic and social uplift, the Riphah International University organised the 3rd International Symposium on Contemporary Issues and Challenges in Corporate Governance.

The objective of symposium was to highlight contemporary issues and governance challenges across developing and emerging markets. Experts from corporate sector highlighted the strands to establish a governance roadmap for Pakistani listed firms and also provided a vivacious research opportunities for indigenous research scholars.

Dr. Muhammad Naveed, Assistant Professor Faculty of Management Sciences delivered the opening speech and highlighted the importance of good corporate governance. The representatives of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) including Syed Murtaza Abbas Naqvi, Joint



Director SECP; Ms. Banazir Nasir, Deputy Director, SECP highlighted the issues as well as solutions to the challenges of corporate governance in Pakistan.

The speakers noted that the current era of new benchmarks in different fields of business and management have set new challenges for the emerging economies. In this context, governance of corporations tend to face serious issues and challenges which need to be addressed as seminal areas of investigation for economists, researchers and corporate sector. They also highlighted the governance issues in Pakistan, the independence of board members in decision committees, the potential benefits of good governance to shareholders and society, and the role of SECP.

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Attention!

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