

# News & Views

July-August 2017



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Higher Education  
Commission, Pakistan

## Linking Knowledge Platform to Production Platform

# HEC Funds 31 Technology Development Projects of PhD Scholars



The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has awarded 31 projects under Technology Development Fund to PhD scholars, who have returned from abroad after completion of their PhD, in order to develop new technologies relevant to country's socio-economic needs. In this connection, HEC recently organised the first project award ceremony at its Secretariat.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms was chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC, vice chancellors, faculty members and other representatives of academia and industry attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal congratulated the scholars and researchers on winning the projects. He said technologies are redefining the production means, adding that Pakistan has to adopt technologies as their beneficiaries so as to realise its dream of joining 25

leading economies of the world by 2025. He said that TDF has been launched to build strong linkages between knowledge and production platforms. "Our universities need to turn into centres of innovation," he underlined.

The Minister stressed that revolutionary and swift changes in information technology have to be

adopted in a competitive manner. He said that new technologies of robotics, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data science are fast changing the way developed world is progressing and we have to adopt these technologies at a fast pace.

In his welcome address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed informed that

as many as 116 scholars submitted their proposals under TDF. He maintained that 31 projects have been selected for funding after thorough evaluation by HEC's expert committee.

The Chairman urged researchers to focus on bringing real impact in the society through these

The Chairman said that the selected projects include nine projects in the field of Information Technology, eight projects in Food Science and Technology, and seven projects in Agriculture Engineering among others and each approved project will receive a grant worth Rs. 14 million.

projects. He said the selected projects include nine projects in the field of Information Technology, eight projects in Food Science and Technology, and seven projects in Agriculture Engineering among others. He added that the University of Agriculture Faisalabad has won 10 projects, while National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad stood second by winning five projects. He said each approved project will receive a grant worth Rs. 14 million.

"The projects approved in specified areas are expected to develop products or services which would positively impact the economy, resolve a

current problem, meet a market need, utilise local raw material, and create large scale employment," he concluded.

TDF has been established by HEC with an aim to support researchers to materialise their ideas and research into products and services and help realise the country's dream of becoming a knowledge economy. It aims to support innovative ideas of researchers for prototype development, initial product development, patent filing, and marketing and licensing of new products so as to impact the country's economy through new and emerging technologies.

## Business Education Council holds 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting



The National Business Education Accreditation Council recently held its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at Higher Education Commission (HEC), Secretariat. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad, Chairman, Business Education Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hasan Sohaib appreciated the efforts of Council members to strengthen the process of accreditation. He also acknowledged the role of Eligibility Screening Committee (ESC) for making Business Education Council's accreditation more systematic and aligned with the Council's mission to enhance the quality of Business Education. He said the Council plans to hold orientation workshops in the major cities as well as the remote areas of Pakistan.

Earlier, Mr. Ahtesham Ali Raja, Programme Director, NBEAC briefed the Council members about the

meeting agenda items which were reviewed and discussed in detail by the Council members.

The Council members appreciated the progress and observed that NBEAC accreditation standards have improved over the years and now three to five years accreditation is awarded. The members stressed the need for making a mentoring process mandatory for business schools. According to the accreditation awarding notification, four business schools have been granted X category accreditation by Business Education Council.

The universities include Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore, University of Lahore, Lahore and International Islamic University, Islamabad.

# Turkish Council of Higher Education holds Forum of Universities in Islamic World

Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan along with a delegation of Vice Chancellors of Pakistani Universities recently participated in the Vice Chancellors' Forum in Ankara, Turkey.

The opening ceremony of the two-day forum was held in Presidential Palace while the sessions were organised in Bilkent Hotel, Ankara. The forum was embraced with the participation of 334 Rectors/Vice Chancellors/Presidents from 37 countries from the Islamic world.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Republic of Turkey, while addressing to the opening ceremony stated that the forum which is expected to be a basis for a process of discussing the higher education problems and developing new opportunities for cooperation in our geography of civilisation, should be a common working platform keeping in mind that the essence of the Islamic civilisation is brotherhood and solidarity.

The primary goal of the forum is to bring resources of Muslim countries together, provide scholarships, support mobility and cooperation and establish centres of academic research and excellence. The forum also provided an opportunity for further cooperation and networking for the Vice Chancellors and Rectors. The VC Forum already held three previous meetings in Pakistan in 2012, 2013 and 2015.

The fourth event of the series was hosted by the Council of Higher Education in Turkey with the theme "Forming the Higher Education Area of the Islamic World".



Moreover, importance of scientific infrastructure in increasing the welfare of the Islamic countries is pointed out at the opening session. In this respect, the main topics that were discussed during the forum were Quality Assurance, Qualifications Framework, Credit Transfer System, Mobility, Joint/Double Degree Programmes, Recognition and Equivalency.



The outcome of the two-day interactive panel sessions is as follows:

1. A clear vision of higher education of the Islamic world needs to be developed.
2. A framework for overarching qualifications in higher education should be developed as a basis in accordance with the national priorities of the countries and minimum standards of qualifications should be determined.
3. It is necessary to act together with the contribution of different stakeholders in the mutual qualifications framework and especially with the support of decision-making institutional bodies during this process.
4. Standards and principles of quality assurance in higher education should be formed in connection with the overarching qualifications framework that will be established.
5. QA agencies that carry out evaluation and accreditation for institutional quality assurance based on programmes in the Islamic countries should define their process in accordance with the established standards and principles.





6. Quality assurance systems could be varied in different categories according to the needs of the countries on the ground of standards and principles.
7. There should be studies in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing cooperation between qualifications-based quality assurance agencies in the Islamic countries.
8. A basic supranational framework should be defined for recognition and equivalence processes in order to support and facilitate the mobility of workforce among the Islamic countries and prevent brain drain.
9. Common credit systems are the basis of mobility. Pilot universities and programmes should be determined for comparison and compliance of the programmes and the process for credit transfer should be standardised.
10. Developing and supporting the existing exchange programmes like Mevlana Exchange Programme that provide the exchange of students and faculty members in the Islamic world.
11. The Project-based Mevlana Exchange Programme yields more fruitful results, especially in terms of faculty members and researchers. Therefore, project-based exchange programmes must be supported initially.



12. The level of academic achievement of the universities is naturally not the same. Concerns may rise even if there is an accreditation of education quality. However it should not be an obstacle against common programmes (Joint/Dual/Double Degree).
13. Joint/Dual/Double Diploma programmes can provide significant advantage during education process, at the same time they support the mobilisation of professional networks and the workforce by enabling people to explore countries and cultures.
14. It is important to establish an online interface platform for universities to get to know each other, to acquire information about each other, and in particular to encourage joint diploma programmes.
15. Fast-growing online education technologies should also be evaluated as a platform for communication and cooperation.
16. Platforms for partnership among the Islamic countries should be structured not only by taking into account the academic programmes, but also by taking into consideration the research infrastructures in the universities.
17. It was agreed that the Vice Chancellors' Forum should be held annually and it is necessary to form thematic expert/working groups until the next forum.



## Book Launch

# HEC, NUMS Commemorate Rumi's Concept of Divine Love

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) recently organised 'An Evening with Rumi' to feature Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Concept of Divine Love and mark the launching ceremony of Bishnau, a book by Dr. Aziz Ali Najam, Provost, SPD, NUMS here at the Commission Secretariat.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC was chief guest on the occasion while Lt. Gen. Syed Muhammad Imran Majeed, Vice Chancellor NUMS was the guest of honour. Both the dignitaries formally launched the book.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said, "I am glad HEC is hosting the launch of first publication from NUMS. The evening with Rumi is an illuminating and enriching experience taking us back into Rumi's world". He informed the audience that HEC has included a project on Sufism in its Public Sector Development Programme and it plans to set up a Centre of Excellence on Sufism.

The Chairman said that Maulana Rumi's contribution is truly a golden chapter of the illustrious Muslim heritage. "Rumi's mystic poetry has no match in the world history. His thoughts unfold the mysteries of spiritual world and divine love. Rumi's call that the divine love must manifest itself in the love for humanity without discrimination in any form is a beacon of light in the evil darkness of hatred."

Briefing audience on the book, Dr. Najam said Bishnau is an introduction to Maulana Rumi's extraordinary life and his profound work in the form of Masnavi. "The colourful illustrations remind us of

Rumi's times and also help us interpreting his thoughts," he said adding that Rumi was the best-selling poet in 1990s in the United States.

Shedding light on the Rumi's everlasting Masnavi, he quoted Mr. Coleman Barks, a popular interpreter of Rumi, "The Masnavi is a sacred text that invites one to drown in it." He maintained that UNESCO, in acknowledgement of Rumi's legacy, declared 2007 as the Year of Rumi. He said the commentary made in the book, both in English and Urdu, with original Persian text makes Rumi more accessible to many, particularly youth.



Lt. Gen. Imran Majeed expressed pleasure on the launch of first publication of NUMS. Terming the universities a platform for questioning, reasoning and debate, he said reasoning through logic is an imperative practice that needs to be promoted in

academic circles in order to develop understanding of issues. "We complain about justice and fair play, since both of them are not possible to exist without understanding." He stressed the significance of reviving the Muslims historic heritage.

Appreciating the content of Dr. Najam's book, Mr. Iftikhar Arif said Dr. Najam has brought to the fore a faithful translation of Rumi's poetic verses. He regretted the lack of understanding of Persian and urged academia to promote languages which have roots in the Islamic history.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Dr. Arshad Ali said that teachings of Maulana Rumi are relevant for all times, as they preach humanism, love and tolerance. He stressed the need for spreading Rumi's message all over the world for the well-being of mankind.

## President CAHE Calls on Chairman HEC



Mr. DV Yubo, President, China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) called on Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan recently and discussed with him issues related to bilateral collaboration here at the Commission Secretariat.

Welcoming the guest on his visit to HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed briefed him about the role of HEC in promotion of higher education and a research culture in Pakistan. He shared the achievements made by HEC since its inception in 2002. He said HEC started its journey in 2002 with only 50 universities in the country, adding that owing to the struggles of HEC, the access rate has remarkably increased and

the number of higher education institutions has reached 188. He maintained that before the inception of HEC, Pakistan had only 800 research papers published in impact factor journals, however now the number has reached 12,000 research articles.

The Chairman stressed the need for initiating projects of students and faculty exchange. He said people-to-people contact through these exchange initiatives will further strengthen the relations between Pakistan and China. He underlined that HEC follows the policy of no-compromise on quality of education which is why quality of education has been improved.

## HEC Awards Travel Grant to Scholars for Participation in IBC China



Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) awards travel grant to Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan, Assistant Professor,

Plant Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and Dr. Zia-ur-Rahman Mashwani, Assistant Professor Botany, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi to present their research papers in the World's largest botanical event XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC 2017). The event was recently held at Convention and Exhibition Centre, Schenzhen China.

The event was organised after an interval of five years over the last two centuries. There were 6,856 participants from 110 countries in this congress.

## HEC-HUAWEI Collaboration

## 15 IT Students Trained under Seeds for the Future Programme



In collaboration with Higher Education Commission Pakistan (HEC), the Huawei Technologies recently organised 'Seeds for the Future' programme for the students of different universities of Pakistan.

The Seeds for the Future is Huawei's global flagship training programme conducted to enhance learning skills, to develop knowledge and to introduce young talent of 29 different countries. HEC selected 15 students from IT departments of public sector universities to be trained in Beijing and Shenzhen for two weeks along with students from Greece and Belarus. During the first week, trainers introduced participants with comprehensive Chinese culture, calligraphy and Chinese Painting at Beijing

University of Language and Culture (BULC) for one week and then students were moved to Huawei Headquarters, Shenzhen to get training on Huawei technology for another one week.

Later, the students were moved to Huawei's Training Centre at Shenzhen where students were informed about telecommunication network, discovering mobile network service, decoding the Fixed Network Service, and cloud computing in addition to an introduction to 5G, configuring own 4G base station, network engineering, 3G platform and service, 4G platform and service. After completion of one week training, students appeared in a quiz and were given certificates as per their performance.

## HEC-CAHE Forum Deliberates Challenges of Equitable Access, Quality in Higher Education

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) jointly organised the first Pakistan-China Forum entitled "Challenges of Equitable Access and Quality in Higher Education" at Air University, Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms appreciated the role of HEC in building CPEC University Alliance and CPEC Consortium of Business Schools. "These efforts will help building collaborative linkages and intellectual connectivity which symbolize the spirit of CPEC", he stated. He maintained that the Government is fully supportive of HEC in capacity building of existing higher education institutions to prepare suitable human resource for CPEC and promote cultural harmony

between the two countries. "CPEC means Pakistan's entry into the global supply chain," he emphasised.

In his address, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC said, education is not only a goal but also a prerequisite for a knowledge-based economy. He also shared various initiatives of HEC with regard to HEC Vision 2025.

Earlier in his welcome address, Mr. Faaiz Amir, Vice Chancellor, Air University and Mr. Muhammad Asghar shed light on theme of Forum. The Forum focused on three areas including national role and contribution in improving quality of higher education, ensuring quality with large scale increase in access, and balancing quality of higher education in diverse regions.

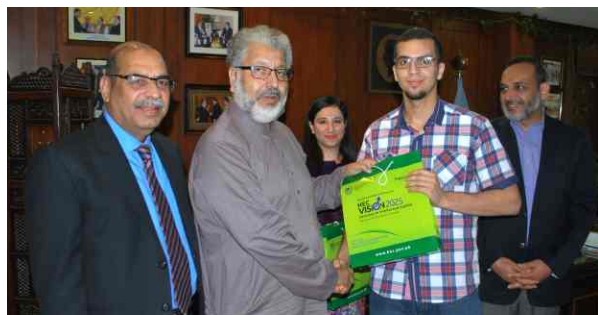
## Student Exchange Programme

# Foreign Student Interns Call on Chairman HEC

As many as 10 foreign students presently working as interns in Pakistan under International Association for Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) programme recently visited Higher Education Commission and met Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC and Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC.

Welcoming foreign students to HEC, the Chairman underlined the significance of students exchange programmes for promotion and internationalisation of higher education. He said exchange of students between different countries helps students enrich their qualification and develops cultural harmony.

IAESTE is an international student exchange programme launched in 1948 at Imperial College London with a vision to encourage students from all over the world for their self-development as well as promotion of good relations among different countries. Each year, IAESTE holds an annual conference, hosted by one of the member countries.



It is one of the biggest events of IAESTE where over 250 delegates from across the world participate. At the annual conference 2017, IAESTE Pakistan was able to secure 45 exchange opportunities from a number of countries. So far, 14 Pakistani students have been accepted for internship in countries like Austria, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Ireland Croatia and Macedonia.

Currently, 10 foreign students are being hosted by Pakistan. These students have been placed at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad.

## Workshop on Understanding and Preparation for Accreditation

The National Business Education Accreditation Council recently organised a two-day workshop on 'Understanding and Preparing for Accreditation' at Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat, Islamabad.

Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC was chief guest on the occasion. In his opening remarks, Dr. Arshad Ali appreciated the efforts of Business Education Council in engaging business schools for enhancement of business education quality in Pakistan.

The workshop encompassed a variety of topics related to the accreditation of business education programmes including sessions on philosophy of accreditation, registration and accreditation process, discussion on Self-Assessment Report (SAR) forms, and admissions and examination policy

at business schools. Other eminent speakers shared their knowledge and experiences about the accreditation process of Business Education Council. They said Business Education Council, through its accreditation process, assures external authentication and confirmation of quality in an institution's business programmes, ensuring its academic business unit exhibits characteristics of excellence in business education.

Emphasising on significance of research and development, the speakers said R&D efforts allow the business schools to better fulfil the public service mission and serve markets of choice.

They underscored the need for enhanced social responsibility with regard to business education in addition to adequacy of schools' physical and financial resources.

## Microsoft Imagine Cup-2017



The Bahria University (BU), Karachi team designated as 'Positive Zero' has won the Microsoft Imagine Cup-2017 jointly organised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and Microsoft.

The Microsoft Imagine Cup, a student technology competition which started in Pakistan in 2003, is an ideal opportunity for young innovators from around the world to win a prize worth \$100,000 for their imaginative ideas. Students from various Pakistani universities participated in the competition. The evaluation of teams in both regional and national finals was carried out on the basis of criteria defined for the Imagine Cup-2017.

The Imagine Cup-2017 national final winner team from BU has built a Microsoft azure cognitive service-based engine that helps writing code through voice commands.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development announced Rs. 1 million as a token of appreciation on behalf of HEC for the top-ranking teams. "I hope this wonderful initiative helps these kids in sustaining their futures," he concluded.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC appreciated the support of Microsoft in the initiative that HEC strives to bring for the students each year in Pakistan. This is a wonderful way to nurture a high value academic culture in Pakistan by integrating global advancements and cutting-edge tools to bring the domestic curriculum and learning at par with that of the leading universities of the world, he observed.

Mr. Shahzad Aslam Khan, Country Head, Microsoft said that talent has no boundaries, as any student can greatly benefit from the Imagine Cup.



## HEC, Saudi Institute hold Training on Project Monitoring and Evaluation



The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan in collaboration with Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank (IRTI-IDB), Jeddah organised an international training on Project Monitoring and Evaluation for officials working in different national and international organisations here at the Commission Secretariat.

The sessions covered various topics pertaining to monitoring and evaluation including project risk analysis and mitigation strategies in addition to some case studies of IDB projects. Dr. Osman Biabiker Ahmed and Mr. Shehzad Akram from IRTI

and Mr. Khaled Al-Amiri from Tunisia were resource persons for the training.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC graced the closing ceremony as chief guest. Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC and Mr. Wasim Hashmi Syed, Adviser, Human Resource Development, HEC were also present. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated IRTI-IDB for collaboration with HEC. Expressing his pleasure on the presence of international participants, he shared the role of HEC in promotion of higher education and a research in Pakistan.

In his opening remarks earlier, Dr. Arshad Ali said that monitoring and evaluation are very important and crucial areas of project lifecycle, so such customised training activities can further enhance the skills and expertise of professionals working in different organisations.

He stressed the need for paying attention to producing monitoring and evaluation experts, and urged the participants to benefit from this opportunity and share intercultural experiences with other people.

## HEC, Huawei Launch ICT Skill Competition 2017

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan in collaboration with Huawei Technologies recently held the launching ceremony of HEC-Huawei ICT Skill Competition 2017 here at the Commission Secretariat.

Mr. You Yi, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of China in Pakistan was chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Dr. G. Raza Bhatti, Acting Executive Director HEC, Mr. Chilin Chun, CEO, Huawei, Pakistan, Mr. Space Lee, Vice President, Huawei, Middle East Public Relations Department, Mr. David, Director, Training and Certification, Huawei, Middle East and a large number of Vice



Chancellors, ICT professionals and students were also present. Over 2000 students from 30 Universities was participated in the competition 2016.

Describing background of HEC-Huawei strategic partnership, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said the bilateral collaboration that started in 2006 helped Pakistan have its own ICT setup. "Now we have one of the best ICT infrastructures of the region," he affirmed.

He said HEC has been working with different partners from around the world in order to provide a good learning environment to Pakistani students. "Huawei is a tested HEC partner, as it has taken different ICT initiatives jointly with HEC including establishment of Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN), ICT R&D Centre and Cloud Data Centre", he said, adding that under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, Pakistani students will now have made-in-Pakistan laptops owing to the cooperation of Huawei.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that Huawei, as per Memorandum of Understanding signed with HEC, will also provide training to Pakistani youth on the advent of any new technology. Underlining the importance of Huawei ICT Skill Competition 2017, the Chairman informed that as many as 2300 Pakistani students from 30 universities participated

in the Huawei ICT Skill Competition 2016. He said representatives of 30 Chinese business institutions will attend the Business Schools Consortium to be held in the August-end. They will deliberate future collaboration for promotion of business education, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. You Yi appreciated the HEC-Huawei collaboration and remarked that China and Pakistan have a long history of educational exchange which has a very vital role in the improvement of bilateral relations. As many as 145 Pakistani students have been awarded Chinese scholarships this year, he informed.

He said that Government education delegations visit the two countries from time to time to discuss areas of collaboration. He revealed that Chinese institutions established in various cities of Pakistan are not only promoting technologies, but are also very helpful in teaching Chinese language teaching and conducting capacity building courses for the country's youth. These youth will make great contributions to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he hoped.

## HEC Stops Four Universities from Admitting Students

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan has stopped four universities from admitting students in any degree programme, owing to academic irregularities and mismanagement and after non-compliance despite constant reminders from HEC to fulfill the deficiencies.

These institutions include Preston Institute of Management Sciences and Technology (PIMSAT) Karachi, Imperial College of Business Studies Lahore, Global Institute Lahore, and Al-Khair University AJK. In addition to main campuses, their sub-campus, branches or affiliated colleges are also not allowed to admit students at any level in any programme.

Complying with directive of the Prime Minister, HEC Review Panels visited universities in 2016 across the country for review of quality assurance and governance practices. Universities whose report

was not satisfactory were asked to fulfill the deficiencies, however these institutions have still not complied despite reminders and, therefore, have been asked to stop admitting students in all of their academic programmes.

It is worth-mentioning that HEC regularly issues parent and student alerts in national and regional newspapers as well as through social media, warning the public to check from HEC website the list of recognised institutions as well as accredited programmes. The students are continuously warned that HEC will not attest degrees or certificates obtained from such universities or institutes claiming their affiliation. HEC has posted lists of recognised as well as non-recognised higher education institutions on its websites wherefrom parents and students can check the status of an institution they consider for admission. The list may be accessed through [hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs](http://hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs).

## Higher Education and Scientific Exchange Programme

# Send-off Ceremony for 200 Students to Hungary



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan recently organised a send-off ceremony for 200 Pakistani students selected for Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship under the Higher Education and Scientific Exchange Programme.

Out of 200 scholarships, 125 scholarships have been awarded for BS studies, 50 for MS studies and 25 for PhD programmes. The selected students belong to various disciplines including Computer Science, Engineering, Business Administration and Management, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Petroleum Geo-engineering, Earth Sciences, Applied Economics, Biology, Nursing and Patient Care, and Chemistry.

Engr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister for Education and Training was chief guest on the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Szabo Istvan, Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan, Mr. Azizullah, Parliamentary Secretary, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Dr. G. Raza Bhatti, Acting Executive Director HEC, Mr. Waseem S. Hashmi Syed, Adviser (HRD) HEC, representatives European Union, HEC scholars and their parents.

Mr. Nandor Mullner, a Hungarian student, studying at International Islamic University Islamabad also attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister congratulated the students selected for scholarships and urged them to fully utilise the opportunity of acquiring education in Hungary. He said that the Government of Pakistan is committed to providing conducive environment to Pakistani youth. "The Government has remarkably increased funding for tertiary education," he said, adding that the number of out-of-school children has also dropped down considerably.

Describing the background of Higher Education and Scientific Exchange Programme, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said the programme, launched by HEC Pakistan and Hungary's Ministry of Human Capacity was initially launched for three years and 80 students were sent under the programme last year.

However, he said that the number of scholarships has been increased to 200 scholarships per year. He underlined that HEC strictly follows merit in awarding all its scholarships as well as other programmes for uplift of higher education. He said that Pakistan has also announced 30 scholarships for Hungarian students to study in Pakistani universities.

Addressing the students, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said, "You will be ambassadors of Pakistan in Hungary, so

you have to show the real image of Pakistan". He said that Hungary has a population of only 9.8 million people, but it has produced many Nobel Laureates. The inventions in science and technology by Hungarian scientists have great importance for the world, he maintained.

Mr. Szabo Istavan said the Government of Hungary gives great importance to bilateral relations with Pakistan. "Investment in education is indeed investment in future and it will help further improve the bilateral relations," he said, adding that the two

countries have a long history of diplomatic relations spanning over half a century. The Ambassador informed that the Hungarian Embassy in Pakistan plans to form an Alumni Association of Pakistani students who complete their education from Hungarian institutions for future collaboration.

He underscored that Pakistani students, already studying in Hungary, have showed very good academic performance. He said the award of scholarships is a great opportunity for Pakistani students to build a soft image of Pakistan.

## HEC Consultative Meeting on English Language Teaching Reforms



The Learning Innovation Division (LI) Division, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan organised a two-day consultative meeting to review the English Language Teaching Reforms (ELTR) in order to launch new initiatives.

The meeting aimed at enhancing the teaching capacity through international standard framework, seminars and research work. Mr. Fida

Hussain, Director General, LI who was heading the meeting along with Ms. Shaheen Khan, Adviser, LI Division proposed that in future skills related to teaching in English and teaching through English would be focused on training programmes so as to improve language and pedagogical skills of faculty members of higher education institutions of Pakistan. In the meeting, all umbrella programmes under ELTR were discussed critically.

### **Five working groups of members were constituted to work on these aspects:**

- i. Enhancing teacher's Capacity through participation in
  - Long and short term courses
  - Conferences/ Workshops/ Seminars, etc.
- ii. Infrastructure Development for Self-Access Centers, Language Labs, Libraries and Smart Classrooms
- iii. Research journals and conference papers publications under ELTR
- iv. Collaboration with International organisations keeping in consideration the legacy of joint professional development programmes of ELTR with the said organisations
- v. Empowering English language practitioner for identified specific purposes

## HEC-PIEAS STEM Careers Programme

# Pakistani Students Excel at International Science Olympiads



Four teams of Pakistani pre-university students recently selected under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Careers Programme for competitions at International Science Olympiads held in different countries have proved their mettle by winning four bronze medals and five honourable mentions.

The teams represented Pakistan in the 28<sup>th</sup> International Biology Olympiad held in the United Kingdom, 49<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad in Thailand, 58<sup>th</sup> International Mathematics Olympiad in Brazil and 48<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad in Indonesia.

Four students, led by Dr. Muhammad Saeed and Dr. Asma Rehman of NIBGE, Faisalabad, participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> International Biology Olympiad. Two of them, including Muhammad Daniyal Musharraf from Karachi Grammar School and Saffa Fatima from Lahore Grammar School, have won bronze medals.

In the 48<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, Ubaidullah from ACME College Sargodha and Muzamil Ali Shaikh from Government Boys Degree College Larakana, among five Pakistani students, have won Honorable Mentions. The team was led by Dr. Shahid Qamar and Dr. Aman-ur-Rehman of PIEAS.

A team of four students, led by Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Khan and Dr. Raza Shah of HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, Karachi took part in the 49<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad. Maaha Ayub from The Lyceum

School, Karachi won bronze medal.

Led by Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed and Dr. Kashif Ali of COMSATS, Lahore, a team of six Pakistani students, competed at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Mathematical Olympiad. Sualeh Asif of Headstart School, Clifton, Karachi has won bronze medal for the country, while Saad Ijaz and Hassan Ahmed from Lahore Grammar School and Haroon Khan from Pakistan International School, Jeddah have won Honorable Mentions.

The teams were selected under the STEM Careers Programme after nationwide screening tests held in all major cities of the country. Top students for each competition were shortlisted for training in the subjects. After attending three week-long training camps, these students were further shortlisted and trained. Every year more than 6000 students, who must have scored a minimum of 70 per cent or more marks in their Secondary School Certificate or O-level examinations take part in the contests. Fifty of the top scorers in each subject are selected on the basis of their performance in the screening test. Further grooming and screening through a series of training camps at the home institutes of each subject leads to the selection of a 46 member teams for the Olympiads.

The STEM Careers Programme is a joint venture of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and PIEAS aimed at grooming talented youth of the nation to opt for career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and preparing them for participation in the annual International Olympiads in Physics, Biology, Mathematics and Chemistry.

## 5780 Scholars Avail HEC's Overseas Scholarships

As many as 5780 scholars have proceeded to different academically advanced countries under Higher Education Commission's overseas scholarship programmes, of which 3807 scholars have returned after completion of their studies.

Since 2003, Higher Education Commission (HEC) has been awarding foreign scholarships to Pakistani students at various levels including Masters, MS and PhD. Under different overseas scholarship programmes, interested candidates are required to apply against an advertised scheme provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

The eligible candidate has to score at least 50 marks in an aptitude test which is conducted by the HEC. Merit lists are prepared on the basis of aptitude test and academic score. Shortlisted candidates have to secure admission or

receive acceptance letter before interview. Final selection of candidates is made by foreign professors through interview. The selected candidates are advised to obtain visa of the host country. Before departure, HEC provides one-way airfare and two months advance stipend in the form of cross cheque which can only be deposited in the scholar's account.

The rest of scholarship amount is remitted on annual basis in the bank accounts of either HEC's partner institutes or Pakistan's high commissions. The partner institution or high commission then remit funds to HEC scholar's account on a monthly basis.

In light of the HEC Vision 2025, HEC plans to take the number of PhD faculty in Pakistani higher education institutions to around 40,000 in order to cater to the country's growing higher education needs.

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### News in Picture



Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) along with employees celebrated 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day at the Commission Secretariat, Islamabad.

## Electrical Engineering Conference at NED University



The Electrical Engineering Department, NED University of Engineering and Technology and the Institution of Engineers Pakistan (IEP), Karachi Centre jointly organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Electrical Engineering Conference (IEEC 2017).

The conference brought together researchers from around the globe who presented their research papers on "innovation and advances in electrical engineering". It not only aimed at providing researchers a platform to present their research but it was also a good opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to get a chance to acquire technical knowledge.

The conference contained keynote talks by Mr. Ted Johansson, Linkopings University (Sweden), Mr.

Uvais Qidwai, Qatar University (Qatar) and Mr. Tahir Izhar, UET Lahore. The IEEC 2017 received more than 65 papers, in which 35 technical papers were accepted and presented by authors in the form of 25 oral and 10 poster presentations on the conference days.

The technical sessions involved papers presented on various fields of study such as Renewable Energy and Alternate Resources, Signal and Image Processing, Computer Systems and Networks, Power Systems and Policies, Communication Systems and Software Applications, Embedded Systems and Applications, and Electronics Applications, Controls and Applied Computing. A gold medal was awarded for the best paper award to Mr. Mudassir Javed and Mr. Dawood Shah from NUST, Islamabad.

## Funding Opportunity to Develop Academia-Industry Linkage

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan calls for joint proposals from academia and industry under "Technology Development Fund" to support the Government of Pakistan's mission to turn the country into a knowledge-based economy under vision 2025. The fund aims to solve current industrial, economic and technological problems. There should be a clear focus on utilising local raw materials, creating employment opportunities and

value addition to positively impact the economy and export sector. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from the following link: <http://hec.gov.pk/site/tdf>

Joint proposals of academia and industry initiated by Higher Education Institutions in all applied fields must reach HEC on given address through ORIC not later than November 15, 2017.

## NUST Wins Design Challenge at Stanford University

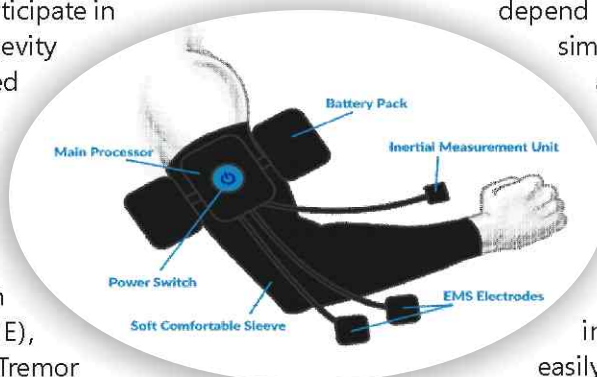
The group of talented students of School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECs), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan; Arsalan Javed, Hooria Anam, Awais Shafique, recently made their way to Stanford University to participate in Stanford Centre on Longevity Design Challenge and secured first position in the competition.

The students worked on a breakthrough technology called Tremor Acquisition and Minimisation (TAME), which is a noninvasive Tremor Suppression device that controls and eases tremor patients so that they may perform their routine tasks without any hindrance. It is the world's first wearable device for pathological tremor categorisation and real-time suppression.

Pathological tremors are the most common neurological movement disorder which cause

involuntary rhythmic shaking of various parts of the human body, most commonly the hands.

Around 280 million people worldwide have lost their independence due to tremors. They have to depend on others to perform the simplest tasks in life like eating and drinking.



TAME, however, is a complete solution for the treatment and diagnosis of pathological tremor patients in the form of an intuitive, user friendly and easily manageable and wearable device connected to cloud storage for easy management and sharing of diagnosis files.

These students competed against students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), University of Sao Paulo, Beijing University and Stanford University.

## UVAS-BRI Meeting Reviews Progress on Buffalo Research Farming

The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore and Buffalo Research Institute (BRI), Pattoki conducted a progress review meeting at BRI to address the issues of buffalo farmers under the research agenda finalised between the two institutions in the start of 2017.

Dr. Talat Nasir Pasha, Vice Chancellor, UVAS expressed satisfaction on the steps taken by the two partners during last six months. He assured the meeting of his full support to the collaborative endeavours in future.

He also emphasised that buffalo provides 50 per cent of meat of the country and 60 per cent of milk and is also a source of income for farmers. He



maintained that research initiatives in this field along with livestock and dairy development are highly important to resolve issues related to buffalos' genetic improvement and disease control.

The representatives of BRI shared the achievements made in the light of bilateral collaboration. They also shared their future plans regarding increased and productive research in buffalo farming in order to facilitate farmers and address issues faced by them.

## Seminar Stresses Academia-Industry Linkages

The effective and strong interaction between the industrial sector and the educational institutions is highly needed as it helps produce skilled human resources as per the requirements of industry. To address this area, Quality Enhancement Cell, IBA Karachi organised a seminar on academia and industrial linkages followed by a panel discussion.

The purpose of the seminar was to understand and remove the weaknesses observed in the relations between the academia and industry.

Addressing the seminar, experts from academia and industry observed that major institutions of this country operate as microcosms, failing to coordinate their efforts to better serve the competitive industries. They enlightened the audience with their ideas and experience so as to further investigate why the comprehensive structures of academia and corporate ventures have

difficulties in creating synergy. The speakers identified the gaps existing between the academia and industry.

They also shared their experiences with regard to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and motivated the audience to learn Chinese language.

Speakers also identified various business areas which are not explored in Pakistan with reference to banking and accounting and where academia can go shoulder to shoulder with the industry to meet the challenges of new era. They emphasised the need to develop strong bonds between the two sides with constant monitoring and feedback.

During the panel discussion, experts from both academia and industry shared their views on the current status of relationship and industry in addition to the challenges facing the two sides.

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## Capacity Building Workshop at NDU

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The National Defence University (NDU) organised Faculty Capacity Building Workshop in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, (HEC) Pakistan under its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme.

The aim of conducting this workshop was to create, enhance and practice skills essentially required by the faculty members to conduct academic activities. The workshop was largely attended by scholars,

faculty members and research associates. Participants of the workshop agreed that the workshop served the purpose of refreshing the knowledge and skills of senior faculty and guidance to the young faculty members.

Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Faheem-Ullah Malik, SI(M), Deputy President NDU, expressed his views and appreciated the initiative taken by HEC for cascading this training workshop for NDU faculty members.

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## NDU Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Harmony Workshop

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Harmony Workshop was recently held at National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad. The aim was to promote national harmony among the youth in today's multi-ethnic Pakistani society and encourage them to come forward and play their role as future leaders.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed emphasised that

such workshops play a pivotal role in enabling the progression of current environment of political maturity, fraternity and harmony in the country. This harmony was recently observed in Beijing on CPEC at "Belt and Road Forum", by Muhammad Nawaz Shareef, ex-Prime Minister and all four Provincial Chief Ministers, united in a quest for better tomorrow.

## Students Awarded Degrees at IUB Convocation

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) recently held its 11<sup>th</sup> Convocation for the academic session 2015 wherein 1,958 graduates of difference programmes were awarded degrees. Ninty nine students won gold medals, while 77 others clinched silver medals in their respective disciplines.

Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training and Dr. Qaiser Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor, IUB awarded degrees and medals to graduates.

Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Baligh-ur-Rehman said that universities being centres of excellence have the responsibility to impart quality education to students so as to prepare them to face global challenges.

He said the Government is committed to ensuring quality education at all levels following the objective of turning the country into a knowledge-based economy. He maintained that the funding of the



higher education sector has almost been doubled during last three years.

The Minister urged the graduates to fulfil their personal and national responsibilities focusing on contemporary issues of modern society.

Idr. Qaiser Mushtaq congratulated the graduates and advised them to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in their professional and practical life ahead.

## Hazara University Workshop on Experimental Archaeology

A three-day international workshop on 'Experimental Archaeology (Ancient Techniques)' was recently organised by Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra.

The workshop, which encompassed theoretical as well as practical sessions, aimed at training scholars and students of Archaeology on ancient metallurgy especially iron and copper melting.

In his welcome address, Dr. Muhammad Idris, Vice Chancellor, Hazara University briefed the participants about the objectives of workshop.

Prof. Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer from Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA) delivered a keynote address on ancient technologies. He also conducted practical sessions on copper and iron melting techniques.



The main purpose of practical session was to discover the ratio of iron and copper in the Indus River sand and to train faculty and students of the Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, University of Peshawar and University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA) on iron and copper melting process using ancient traditional techniques.

## Isra, US Varsity hold Business Plan Competition



Isra Entrepreneurial Society (IES) and Ball State University, USA jointly organised an Innovative Pakistan, Business Plan Competition 2017. The objective of this competition was to brainstorm investment ideas that may contribute in economic growth and development of Pakistan.

More than 70 plus registrations were received from different provinces while 23 teams were short listed

to present their ideas in the final round. Winning teams were awarded with cash prizes; Rs. 50000 for 1<sup>st</sup> position, Rs. 30000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> position and Rs. 20000 for 3<sup>rd</sup> position.

Isra University entrepreneurial society invited winning teams to take part in closing symposium of Isra and Ball State university project event to get awarded with cash prizes.

## — SALU Conference on Statistical Sciences —

In collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, the Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur recently organised the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Statistical Sciences.

Dr. Munir Ahmed, Founding President, Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences was chief the guest of the occasion.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Munir Ahmed described the importance of statistics and statistical inference in development of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Parveen Shah, Vice Chancellor, SALU said, "Statistics is an indispensable tool for national development, growth and planning. A Government without viable infrastructure for information generation,

dissemination and usage is severely handicapped in proper planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and projects". She stressed the need for building a viable information system in order to have adequate statistical information for designing of a formidable social and economic policy. As a developing country, Pakistan is marching towards modernisation, she underlined. She emphasised that it has been a century-long pursuit for the people of Pakistan to revitalise their country through development of science and education.

The conference provided an opportunity to statisticians of national level to provide recommendations in the on-going census in the country and offer their technical assistance to policy makers.

## National Textile Research Centre Inaugurated at NTU

National Textile Research Centre (NTRC) was recently inaugurated during a ceremony held at National Textile University (NTU), Faisalabad.

Mr. Jin-Wook Kim, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan, was the chief guest. In his remarks, he said the purpose of this research centre is to improve textile industry of Pakistan bringing it at par with the international standards and to provide state-of-the-art facilities to Pakistani students for their research. The Centre aims at bringing innovation into textile research and experimentation, he added.

The Ambassador said that in order to make the textile industry of Pakistan more competitive and capable of attaining a prominent position, this vital sector should immediately be switched over to high-tech industry which can create value addition through a combination with medical, sports, automobile and construction fields.

He informed that the Korean Government, through Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), has granted a support worth US \$ 3 million in the



form of equipment for this project in addition to imparting training to NTU officials mainly focusing on technical textiles.

Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Rector, NTU expressed confidence that commissioning of the Centre at NTU will be extremely helpful in meeting the research, product development and testing requirements of the emerging technical textile industry in Pakistan, as it will also greatly contribute to product diversification, value addition and innovation resulting in substantial increase in the country's exports.

## Conference on Cotton Project at NTU

The National Textile University (NTU), Faisalabad organised a daylong conference to mark the start of a three-year project entitled 'InoCotton Grow: Water Footprint of Global Cotton, Textile Industry' in collaboration with German Ministry of Education and Research.

As many as 15 delegates from German universities, research institutes and industry participated in the conference along with more than 20 delegates from academia, industry and Government departments from Pakistan, including representatives of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, GIZ Pakistan, Cleaner Production Institute, Pakistan Textile Export Association and Environment Protection

Department. The two sides deliberated their research and shared their views about the water efficiency in the whole chain of cotton from cultivation to hanger products.

Dr. Zafar Javaid, Registrar, NTU stated that this milestone was achieved due to cooperation of German partners that would pave the way for resolution to this vital issue.

Dr. Waseem Ibrahim, chief organiser of the conference talked about sustainability practices in textile sector whereas Dr. Frank Andreas Weber, Project Coordinator, mentioned the potential research projects to be completed with cooperation of more than 24 Pakistani and German partners.

## President Stresses Need for Preserving National, Regional Languages

A team of faculty members of the Faculty of Social Science, Air University (AU), who in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Policy Dialogue on Language at the Commission Secretariat last year, visited Presidency and met Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of Pakistan.

Dr. Wasima Shehzad, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Air University presented a report on the Conference proceedings and its recommendation to the President. She briefed him about some important recommendations of the conference regarding language policy at official level as well as in various fields including education, media, law, medicine and military.

Stressing the need for preserving national and regional languages, the President admired the efforts of Dr. Wasima and her team in foregrounding this vital issue of national interest.

He assured the AU team of taking steps to consider the recommendations in implementation of Urdu as an official language and preservation and promotion of all other Pakistani languages.

The team was also invited by the Senate's Standing Committee on Law and the Academy of Letters



where Dr. Wasima presented the copies of the recommendation report.

It is worth mentioning here that Air University in collaboration with HEC had organised the first ever Policy Dialogue on Language. The dialogue had engaged language experts from the United States, Spain, Jordan, Algeria, Libya and other countries along with linguists from Pakistan in a healthy discussion on preservation of languages. The dialogue was followed by two post-conference publications including Conference Proceedings and Recommendation Report. These publications have been shared with all the stakeholders including policymakers in the Government of Pakistan.

## International Summer School Programme at BU

Bahria University (BU), Islamabad in collaboration with Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands and Career Pakistan recently conducted an International Summer School Programme on International Business Skills at BU.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Sander Schroevers, a Professor from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. The course helped participants in enhancing International Communication skills

along with providing a professional experience. The participants learnt both theoretical and practical knowledge on how to deal internationally and getting a hands on experience with various Business and Industry Leaders in the International Business Market.

International Leadership, Global Negotiating, CPEC Master Class, Global Job hunting were the major aspects of the Summer School.

## UHS, USAID to Start Courses in Supply Chain Management

The University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore recently organised a Symposium on Significance of Public Health Supply Chain Management in collaboration with USAID Global Health Supply Chain Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) Programme.

On the sidelines of Symposium, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two organisations. According to this agreement, UHS and USAID Global Health Supply Chain Programme will collaborate to initiate diploma, short courses and Masters Leading to PhD Programme in Supply Chain Management. In the first phase, a three-credit-hour module of supply chain management has been incorporated in the Masters in Public Health Programme of the University.

Addressing the symposium, Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique, Minister for Specialised Health Care and Medical Education, Punjab acknowledged the USAID and UHS support to the Punjab Government in institutionalising public health supply chain



management system. He said that the process of procurement, supply and distribution of medicine and other health commodities in public sector hospitals of the province is being standardised and made comprehensive and effective.

Dr. Junaid Sarfraz Khan, Vice Chancellor, UHS expressed his confidence that the course is going to impart best global practices in forecasting and quantification, procurement, warehousing, and inventory management and it will create a legacy of scientific and judicious practices in institutions.

## PIEAS Conducts 5<sup>th</sup> Open House Exhibition

### Final Year Students Display their Projects

The Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) organised 5<sup>th</sup> Open House Exhibition wherein final year students displayed their projects.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Qamar Mehboob, Member (Materials) Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) as chief guest along with Dr. Nasir Majid Mirza, Rector, PIEAS. The Open House was arranged by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialisation (ORIC), PIEAS in collaboration with the academic departments of Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Nasir Majid Mirza, Rector, PIEAS encouraged the students and said that such events provide students with an opportunity to interact with professionals



and potential employers. The projects portrayed during the exhibition were related to areas such as fluid mechanics, power electronics, brain imagery techniques, structural analysis, bio-medical engineering, thermal hydraulics and automotive engineering.

## QAU Celebrates Golden Jubilee

Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad has marked 50 years of its establishment. In this connection, the University recently organised a ceremony to celebrate its golden jubilee.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, who was chief guest on the occasion, congratulated the University management, faculty and students and said that it is not only high time to celebrate, but it is also an opportunity to set new targets for next 50 years.

He stressed that achieving top position is important, but sustaining it needs hard work and commitment. Narrating the University's journey, Dr. Javed Ashraf, Vice Chancellor, QAU shared the contribution of



University to the knowledge-base and human resources of Pakistan.

## Mango Festival Organised in Multan



Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM) in collaboration with the Mango Research Institute (MRI), Multan and District Government, Multan recently organised a three-day mango festival entitled "Multan: The Mango Capital".

This mango festival was organised to promote mango exports to enhance market share and to develop vital linkages with importers and retailers to attain mammoth orders. Mango growers, officials from mango pulp industry, packaging, and supply chain managers were the important stakeholders of this event. Stalls of



promising mango farms, mango related industries, research institutes and agro-based industries were also there to disseminate knowledge about mango production and its marketing. The festival was open to general public with special arrangements for families and kids.

Distinguished guests who visited the festival included Mr. Haji Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Naeem Akhtar Khan Bhabha, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab, Madam Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Mr. Iwan Suyudhie Amri, Ambassador of Indonesia and others.

## Rice Research Centre Inaugurated at University of Karachi

Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi recently inaugurated the Sino-Pakistan Hybrid Rice Research Centre (SPHRRRC) at the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi in collaboration with China National Rice Research Institute (CNRRI).

The Sino-Pakistan centre has been set up at a cost of Rs. 150 million on the premises of ICCBS.

The research centre has state-of-the-art research facilities, including Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopes, Plant Tissue Culture Technology, genomics, and greenhouses.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Vice Chancellor said that Pakistan needs to make a massive investment in science and technology for a long period in order to accomplish the desired progress. Substantial development of any country or nation hinges upon a true commitment of its leadership coupled with investment, he maintained.

In his remarks, Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, former Chairman, HEC said that Pakistan has 100 million young people below the age of 20, who need to be educated and trained. He pointed out that natural



resources have lost their importance and been replaced by quality human resources that contribute towards high-tech industrial development. He observed that for any country, there are four pillars of progress, including high quality education, science and technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, vision and strategy of leadership.

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director, ICCBS said that inauguration of this research centre is another landmark in the long and exemplary relationship between the two neighbouring countries. Prof. Cheng Shihua, Director General, CNRRI said that Pakistan is an important strategic partner of China and the two countries have maintained a traditional, long term friendship in the past 50 years.

## All Karachi Inter-varsity Competition at KU

The University of Karachi (KU) and Sindh Rangers organised a three-day All Karachi Inter-varsity Competition.

The competition was held in different categories including English and Urdu debates, quiz and national songs competition.

In English speech competition, 1<sup>st</sup> position was secured by Dow University and 2<sup>nd</sup> position was attained by KU, while in Urdu speech competition, Dow University clinched the 1<sup>st</sup> position and NED University team was the runner-up. In quiz and national song competition, KU clinched the 1<sup>st</sup> position while NED University and KASBIT were the

runner-up teams respectively. As many as 11 universities participated in the competitions.

Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Vice Chancellor, KU stressed at the closing ceremony of the competition the need to adopt the culture of education and research, as this, he opined, can help becoming a peaceful, tolerant and developed nation.

Mr. Nadir Hussain, Deputy Director General, Sindh Rangers said holding such activities is imperative to provide the students with opportunities to explore their skills. He observed that all the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects are linked to Karachi.

## — Founder President of IoBM Passes Away —

Mr. Shahjehan Syed Karim, founder of the Institute of Business Management, (IoBM) recently passed away in Karachi. His funeral prayers and burial took place at the IoBM campus in Korangi Creek, Karachi.

Mr. Shahjehan Syed Karim joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1957 and served the country for over 37 years, holding a number of senior positions,

including Federal Secretary Information, Chairman PTV and PBC. He retired as Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh in 1994.



He also worked with the United Nations as an International Civil Servant for almost a decade.

## — Scholar Earns Laurels for Pakistan —

Noman Shaheer, former graduate of Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and currently a PhD in International Business (IB) at Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina along with his adviser, Dr. Sali Li were recently awarded Alan M. Rugman Young Scholar Award.

Alan M. Rugman Young Scholar Award is the most promising young scholars' award of one of the most prestigious forums of international business

scholars called Academy of International Business (AIB).

Every year, all IB scholars from the world renowned universities submit their research to AIB and only one scholar, whose research is selected as the best around the world, receives this award. So far, only 26 scholars have received this award. Moreover, it is for the first time that a Pakistani scholar has been globally recognised for this prestigious award.

## Lasbela University Inaugurates USAID-funded Faculty of Education Building



The Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) recently inaugurated the building of Faculty of Education funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mr. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Minister for Education, Balochistan was chief guest on the occasion, while Ms. Grace Shelton, US Consul General, Mr. Denise

Herbal, Deputy Mission Director and Dr. Dost Mohammad Baloch, Vice Chancellor, LUAWMS were also present.

In his address, Mr. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal appreciated the assistance extended by the Government and people of the United States. He asserted that such projects will further foster relations between the two countries and serve as a harbinger of peace and prosperity to the region.

Highlighting the US long-term cooperation for improvement in quality of education across Pakistan, Ms. Grace Shelton hoped that this technology savvy building will serve as a hallmark of commitment between the Governments of United States and Pakistan for developing strong educational institutions.

## IST hosts Pakistan's First Space Summer School



The Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad recently arranged the first Space Summer School of Pakistan on Space Technology Education and Popularisation (STEP) through a week-long activity based learning experience.

The Summer School covered more than 50 interactive sessions in 10 exploration tracks, namely the Earth, Atmosphere, Aviation, Rocketry, Satellite Technology, Space Travel, Space, Space Agencies, Astronomy and Astrophysics and our contributions, for 300 students of more than 75 schools.

In addition to lectures, the School had a canvas of space-themed activities, webinars with space technology experts, e-talks with ESA astronaut, hands-on workshops, simulations, career counseling session, social events, themed dinner and astronomy night.

It hosted a special webinar with Dr. Gerhard Thiele, an astronaut at Europe Space Agency about the exquisiteness and challenges of space travel. Another webinar on navigating with space technology by Ms. Gabriella Povero, United Nations fellow motivated the children about the applications of Space Technology in our daily life.

IST also launched the first Dr. Abdus Salam Space Contest during this Summer School in order to gauge the level of space learning of students. It was a paper based test on 10 exploration tracks and was designed according to international standards. The participants were also provided with an opportunity to explore Planetarium, Aircraft Technology, CanSat Satellite Development, Quad-copter Design and Fabrication along with Astrolabe and Telescoping. Solar observations and star gazing were the other highlights of the Space Summer School.

## Workshop on Commercialisation of Innovative Technologies

The Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad in partnership with Cambridge Advisers Network recently organised a two-day workshop on Commercialisation of Innovative Technologies for National Development.

The purpose of this workshop was to change the mindset of researchers and scientists from the lab scale research to innovations and imparting tools and techniques for the commercialisation of

innovative technologies for national development. The workshop was attended by 21 participants from national R&D organisations, IST faculty, students and incubators of IST Business Incubation Centre (BIC).

The workshop participants also visited the IST BIC where its head Mr. Ahmer Rafi, briefed the participants about the BIC programme and the business incubation facilities.

## KICS Organises IEEE COMSOC Summer School Programme 2017



In collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and other partners, the Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore jointly with FAST University, Lahore recently organised a four-day IEEE COMSOC Summer School Programme 2017.

The Summer School was designed for fresh graduates, MS and PhD scholars so that they can advance their knowledge and research activities. This year, 65 research participants from nine different universities of Pakistan attended the Summer School whereas five foreign speakers and nine academicians from national universities took part as trainers of the programme.

The opening ceremony of the Summer School took place at FAST University, Lahore.

Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Vice Chancellor, UET, Lahore was the chief guest. The Vice Chancellor remarked that these initiatives would be beneficial for both the industry and academia. He appreciated the technological advancements in the country.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony was Engr. Jawed Salim Qureshi, Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council. He said that Pakistan Engineering Council was closely working with the government and industry for the betterment and good future of the students who got appointed as internees.

## USAID-MNBSP Talent Grooming, Career Counselling Workshops

The USAID-funded Merit and Need-Based Scholarship Programme in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan recently organised two-day workshops on "Talent Grooming and Career Counselling" in different universities of Pakistan for the USAID-MNBSP alumni and graduates.

The workshops were conducted at the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore, Karakorum International University (KIU), Gilgit and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad. The purpose of holding these workshops is to

enhance understanding of students about the basic skills they need to master and the requirements of the job market in future. In order to obtain the desired results, the workshops included lectures, interactive and mock sessions and practical exercises.

The topics covered in the workshops were communication skills, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, interview skills, confidence building and decision making, developing research proposal, entrepreneurship and coping with challenges and opportunities in job market.

## UAF Celebrates for TDF, Research Productivity Award Winners

The Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC), University of Agriculture (UAF), Faisalabad recently held a ceremony to felicitate the winner of Research Productivity Award and Technology Development Fund at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security, UAF.

On this occasion, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology said that problem-solving research coupled with a mechanism of translating the knowledge into products and services is a prerequisite to alleviate poverty and compete with the rest of the world. He stated that strong academia-industry linkages and social ties pave the way for development and prosperity. Quality and demand-driven research will help coping with the challenges facing the country, he hoped.

Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gillani, Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology urged the scientists to conduct goal-oriented research. He said setting goals in life is the most important act that leads to success and prosperity.



Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, UAF told the audience that the country is importing pulses and edible oil worth billions of rupees. "If we promote cultivation of these commodities, we not only can overcome the import, but also earn foreign exchange," he stressed.

He observed that it is a matter of grave concern that 40 per cent of the country's population is malnourished due to poor eating habits. "If we bring diversification in our food intake, we can overcome the deficiency," he emphasised.

## SU Conducts Short Course on Use of Statistical Package in Data Analysis

The Area Study Centre, Far East and Southeast Asia, University of Sindh (SU) in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has recently organised a two-week short course on "Advanced Research Methodology and Use of Statistical Package in Data Analysis".

The course was designed to train students, scholars and faculty members about advanced research methodology skills. Two professors from Malaysia, Prof. Dr. Huzili Hussain and Prof. Dr. Zuraidah, were invited to conduct the short course.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat, Vice Chancellor, SU said that it is very important to train young researchers in such a way

so that they can conduct research in scientific way. He explained that this short course is a training opportunity for young scholars who are working on different research projects and for those who want to initiate their career in research.

Dr. Nagina Parveen, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, SU urged the young scholars and faculty members to utilise the imperative short course and learn the advanced methods of Social Sciences research.

The participants of the course included students, scholars and faculty members of the Area Study Centre and scholars and faculty members of other various departments of SU and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro.

## SZABIST Organised Seminar on CPEC Opportunities and Effect on SMEs

The Department of Management Sciences, Shaheed Zulkifkar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), Karachi recently organised a seminar on 'CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor): Opportunities and Effect on SMEs'.

Dr. Zaki Rashidi, Head of Department, Faculty of Management Sciences inaugurated the session by emphasising the need of highlighting themes of national interest. He said that many leaders have put in great efforts to mobilise resources to provide new impetus to the economy of the country which should be utilised in an efficient and effective way to drive utmost benefit. While discussing historical perspective and geopolitical importance of CPEC,

Mr. Shabbir Kazmi an economist, highlighted the importance of two major ports of Pakistan, Bin Qasim and Ormara, and their contribution in acquiring consent of many countries to join CPEC. He was also of the opinion that Pakistan has a natural trade and energy corridor that can generate millions in transit fee by opening these trade routes.

There was consensus among all the speakers that the real benefit of CPEC can only be achieved by preparing Pakistan to play its due role. They also agreed that the prime objective should be capacity building to cater the needs of the country in collaboration with Chinese key stakeholders, by launching and managing various CPEC projects.

## SZABIST Conducts a Seminar on ISO 9001-2015 in HEIs



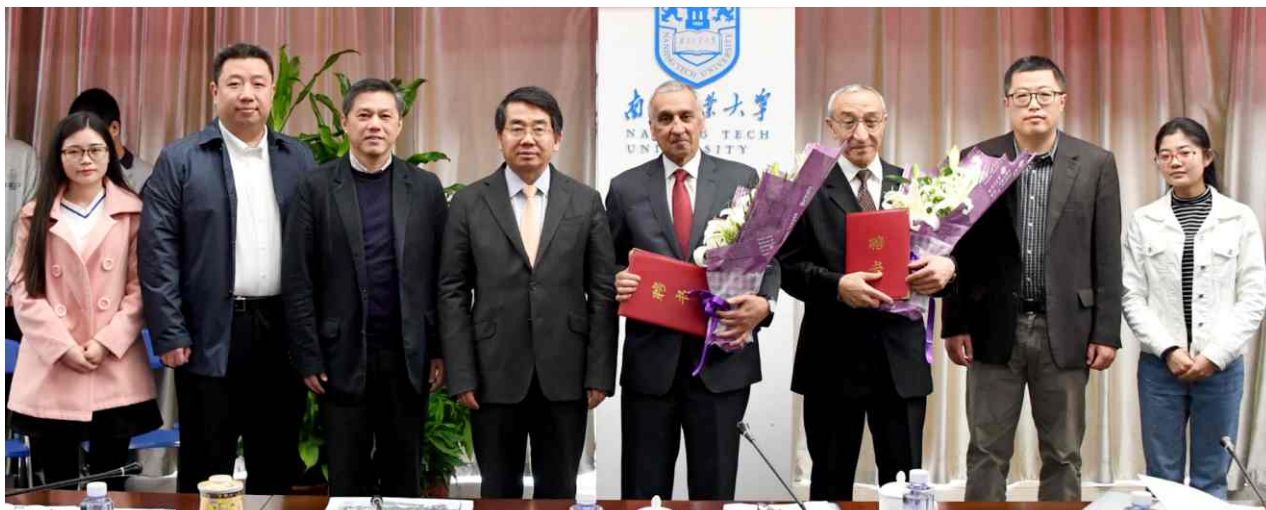
Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), Institutional Research/Quality Enhancement Cell (IR/QEC) in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, (HEC) Pakistan recently organised a seminar on Awareness on Implementation of ISO 9001-2015 in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and Significance of Processes Improvement for Quality Assurance at its Karachi campus.

The seminar was aimed at generating awareness on implementation of ISO 9001-2015 standards in Higher Education including quality standards for sustaining and strengthening practices and

processes of academic and non-academic departments. The facility of video conferencing was established through the assistance of HEC which made virtual participation of many representatives of HEIs. The speakers of the seminar emphasised that best practices of leading universities around the world should be adopted and customised according to the respective university's culture, policies, procedures and needs.

Benefits of implementation of ISO 9001-2015 in institutes' processes were discussed along with the need for incorporating Quality Management System in the university's management during the seminar.

## Joint Research Project of GIK & Nanjing University



The Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Topi and Nanjing Tech University (NanjingTech), Nanjing, China recently started a joint research project entitled Graphene Composite Solid State Electrolyte for Lithium Battery. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at NanjingTech.

The project is being funded by the National Natural Science Foundation, China and Pakistan Science Foundation. Mr. Jehangir Bashir, Rector, GIK Institute visited the NanjingTech on the invitation of Prof. Dr. Huang Wei, President, NanjingTech. They also discussed potential areas to conduct joint research.

## "Pakistan is now 7<sup>th</sup> largest biotech country"

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) was jointly launched by Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi and Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Ex-Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan in a ceremony held at the University of Karachi. The report showcased 110-fold increase in adoption rate



of biotech crops globally in just 21 years of commercialisation – growing from 1.7 million hectares in 1996 to 185.1 million hectares in 2016.

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences informed the

participants that Pakistan has become the seventh largest biotech country in the world.

# Attention Parents & Students!

## DO NOT TAKE ADMISSION IN

**Al-Khair University, AJ&K**

**Global Institute, Lahore**

**Imperial College of Business Studies, Lahore**

**Preston Institute of Management Sciences  
and Technology (PIMSAT), Karachi**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) advises students **NOT** to seek admission in the above mentioned institutions or institutes claiming to be associated with them as admissions in these institutions and their affiliates are suspended due to academic irregularities and mismanagement discovered in their operations.

Degrees obtained from these institutions or their affiliated branches/campuses/colleges/institutes will not be recognised by Higher Education Commission (HEC).

For details of recognised degree awarding institutions, their sub-campuses and affiliated colleges, please visit [www.hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs](http://www.hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs)

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(Accreditation and Attestation)

Higher Education Commission, Sector H-9, Islamabad

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