HEC, USAID Mark International Women’s Day

HEC, NPB Hold National Police Summit and Innovation Expo-2018

HEC, NAB Renew Pledge to Jointly Fight Corruption
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The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and British Council Pakistan signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to enhance strategic collaboration for the next three years during a ceremony held recently at the Commission Secretariat.

The LoI was signed by Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC and Rosemary Hilhorst, Country Director, British Council Pakistan. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC, senior management of HEC and representatives of British Council also attended the ceremony.

Under the LoI, the two sides will expand collaborative endeavours in the areas of innovative and collaborative research, higher education leadership, quality assurance and standard setting, distance learning and new ways of delivery of higher education, international mobility, and transnational education.

Speaking at the LoI signing ceremony, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed shared the background of strong academic relations between HEC and British Council. He said HEC values the friendly approach of British Council and recognises its endeavours to pave the way for academic collaboration between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. He said HEC will highlight the achievements made as an outcome of the HEC-British Council collaboration during the coming Going Global Conference. He underlined that the HEC-British Council partnership will soon serve as a bilateral assistance on reciprocal basis.

In her remarks, Rosemary Hilhorst termed the LoI a strategic bridge to expand the scale of partnership. The LoI is a signal of trust between HEC and British Council, she added. She noted that the Pak-UK Knowledge Gateway demonstrates a real partnership having lots of components. She observed that the rapidly changing world is posing new challenges ahead, which the two sides need to look at together. She underscored that both the countries will benefit from expanded interaction between HEC and British Council.

Later, she presented the Chairman a book entitled, ‘70 Years, 70 Stories’ denoting salient achievements of British Council during its operations in Pakistan.
Investing in the Future

HEC, USAID Mark International Women’s Day

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently marked the International Women’s Day by celebrating the achievements of female students and alumni under the USAID-funded Merit and Need-based Scholarship Programme at the Commission Secretariat.

Helen M. Pataki, USAID-Pakistan Mission Director (Acting) was the guest of honour during the ceremony, whereas Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC, Dr. Samina Qadir, Vice Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, and Mr. Waseem Hashmi Syed, Adviser Human Resource Development, HEC were also present along with a large number of faculty members and students.

In his welcome address, Dr. Arshad Ali paid tribute to Pakistani women, especially those associated with academia, and said women play a pivotal role in development of nations. He said ensuring gender equality through its programmes is among the foremost priorities of HEC. “HEC is committed to ensure provision of equal opportunities to women in the higher education sector, as educated women guarantee a prosperous nation,” he asserted. He maintained that HEC encourages female researchers to avail themselves of the opportunities provided by HEC under various initiatives. He reiterated the HEC’s resolve to ensure strong commitment to the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010. He said the role of HEC cannot be denied in achieving the goals of human resource development and transition to knowledge-based economy.

Sharing the background of partnership between HEC and USAID, he said USAID has been extending cooperation to HEC in various programmes. “We are looking forward to enhancing bilateral cooperation under the US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor,” he underlined. He said USAID extended support to HEC in achieving national targets through investment in various HEC schemes such as scholarships, faculty training, infrastructure development of universities, research and development projects, and establishment of centres of excellence. This not only exhibits depth of strong relationship between the two countries, but also complements Government of Pakistan’s efforts to provide equal opportunities and quality education to all citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Helen M. Pataki said the aim of organising the event was to acknowledge achievements and success of female scholarship recipients under USAID-funded Merit and Need-based Scholarship Programme. Since 2004, she said, HEC and USAID have been working together to
make quality education accessible to those talented students who do not have financial resources to afford expenses of university education, but demonstrated high academic capability, intellectual curiosity and passion for learning.

She said under this scholarship programme, students can study in Bachelors or Masters programmes of 31 partner universities on fully-funded basis in the fields of Business Administration, Agriculture, Social Sciences, Medicine and Engineering.

She informed the audience that 5000 scholarships have been awarded under the programme so far, adding that 2000 students have completed their education while 3000 students are currently studying in partner universities. In her remarks, Dr. Samina Qadir said the International Women’s Day is a call for gender parity across the world. She observed that education paves the way for development of sustainable societies and economic and social justice.

In his introductory address earlier, Waseem S. Hashmi Syed said HEC is promoting gender equality through its programmes. He said HEC and USAID started the USAID Merit and Need-based Scholarship Programme in 2004 and the two sides agreed on awarding equal number of scholarships to male and female students. “It was a big challenge in a country where the enrolment of male and female students had a big gap in 2004,” he said, adding that, “we have met the target by extending 52 per cent scholarships to female students under this programme.” He observed that the real challenge for female students will now come across in their professional life.

On the occasion, the alumni of USAID Merit and Need-based Scholarship Programme including Dr. Saima Kalsoom, Assistant Professor Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, and Nadia Baig, Assistant Development Manager, SZABIST shared their success stories, while documentaries on the achievements of Monika Andrani, BBA student from IBA Sukkur, and Shanzay Afzal, Chemical Engineering student from NUST were also presented. At the end, scholarship certificates were distributed among students of various universities under the USAID-funded Merit and Need-based Scholarship Programme.
Briefing on HEC Functions & Achievements

Secretary Ministry of Federal Education, Professional Training Calls on Chairman HEC

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) briefed Mr. Akbar Hussain Durrani, Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training on the functions, powers, initiatives and achievements of HEC since its inception in 2002 during a meeting held recently at the Commission Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC and senior management of the Commission.

Talking to the Secretary, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed shared the background of HEC establishment and said HEC, was initially tasked to improve equitable access to higher education, ensure quality, and relevance of research to the country’s needs. He added that HEC took a number of measures to accomplish its targets.

The Chairman underlined the core functions and powers of HEC, stating that various HEC divisions including Accreditation and Attestation, Human Resource Development, Research and Development, Travel Grants, Academics, Quality Assurance, Administration and Coordination, Information Technology and Planning and Development perform their respective assignments with professional efficiency and dedication. He said HEC spends 41 per cent of its total funding on human resource development, 33 per cent on improving access, 23 per cent on learning and research support initiatives, and four per cent on other allied academic activities.

He underscored that HEC has started establishing sub-campuses of universities in each district of the country, as 67 districts of the country including 27 districts of Balochistan, six districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, seven districts of the Punjab, 10 districts of Sindh, two districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, seven districts of Federally Administered Tribal Areas and eight districts of Gilgit-Baltistan do not have any university sub-campus. He stated that the initiative will cover 21 districts in the first phase and 34 districts in the second phase.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed asserted that HEC follows a policy of no-compromise on quality of education. “HEC has closed down 450 MS, MPhil and PhD programmes for not fulfilling the set criteria,” he informed. He also informed the Secretary about various other endeavours of HEC pertaining to research and development, award of travel grants to research scholars, faculty development programmes, and development of National Qualifications Framework.

With reference to promotion of ICT in the country, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said Pakistan has one of the
best ICT infrastructures of Asia. He said HEC has set up a Cloud Data Centre, while connecting universities across the country through Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN). He said HEC has started online degree attestation in view of convenience of applicants. He highlighted that HEC has established Education Testing Council to conduct free, standardised entry tests for admission in universities.

He said HEC has so far awarded over 270000 scholarships to Pakistani students, adding that the award of scholarships has cast a very positive socio-economic impact. Majority -- 57 per cent -- of scholars who received HEC scholarships belong to rural areas or small cities and towns of the country, he affirmed.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed shared the targets HEC has set under Higher Education Vision 2025 in light with the Government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025. During the briefing, the Chairman also shed light on the challenges being faced by HEC. “The major issues the higher education sector is confronted with include governance in higher education institutions and quality of education,” he highlighted.

Expressing his views, Mr. Akbar Hussain Durrani assured HEC of his ministry’s full support to its programmes and policies. He stressed the need for strict action against institutions operating illegally and running academic programmes without fulfilling HEC’s criteria. He urged the universities to ensure administrative control apart from focusing on quality of pedagogy.

He stated that teachers have a great role in nation building, so they have great responsibilities on their shoulders. Teachers must be honest and must not become a commodity, he emphasised. He urged people associated with academia to forge professionalism and sincerity to their job. “People sincere to their professions are always sincere to their institutions,” he underlined.

Later, the Secretary visited HEC Cloud Data Centre and expressed satisfaction on the initiatives HEC has taken for development of ICT.

HEC Holds Training on Semester Examination System for Faculty of Balochistan Affiliated Colleges

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Academics Division, in collaboration with University of Balochistan recently held a five-day training on Semester Examination System for the faculty and examination staff of affiliated colleges of Balochistan offering four-year BS programmes. Over 35 faculty members and examination staffers attended the training.

The training aimed to contribute towards smooth implementation of HEC policy guidelines on Semester Examination System in affiliated colleges of the region as well as orientation on test development procedures and evaluation practices.

Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Associate Professor, University of Sargodha and Dr. Tahira Mughal, Controller Examinations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore were the resource persons during the training.

They apprised the participants in detail about various HEC semester guidelines including standard scheme of studies at different levels of programmes, admission policy, degree requirements, CGPA, methods and techniques of assessment for different levels of learning, and development and evaluation of different types of tests.

Dr. Javed Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Quetta graced the closing ceremony and appreciated the efforts of training organisers.
The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and National Police Bureau (NPB) jointly organised a day-long first National Police Summit and Innovation Expo-2018 with an aim to display innovative technologies and evolve new ideas to revolutionise policing system in the country recently.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Interior Minister was chief guest of the ceremony, while Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC and heads of police from all the four provinces, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan including Mr. Shaukat Hayat, Inspector General of Police (IGP), NPB, Dr. Sultan Azam Temuri, IGP Islamabad, AD Khwaja, IGP Sindh Police, Mr. Arif Nawaz, IGP Punjab, Mr. Sabir Ahmad, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Salahuddin, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Moazzan Jah Ansari, IG Balochistan, Shoaib Ahmad, IGP AJK also graced the occasion.

During the ceremony, prizes worth Rs. 100,000, Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively were distributed among the winners of innovation project proposals and innovative ideas. In the category of innovation project proposals, Bahria University Islamabad clinched the 1st position, Riphah International University won the 2nd position, and Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad obtained the 3rd position. A total of 112 project proposals were received in the competition. The Rawalpindi Medical College won the best idea award in the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal congratulated HEC and NPB on holding the first ever National Police Summit and Innovation Expo where academia and national police heads gathered under one roof. He said the purpose of summit was to strengthen linkages among government, academia and police. He revealed that universities play a very vital role in coping with the challenges of crime and terrorism. He stated that universities are the places which bring about new technologies. It is very important to build strong government-academia-industry linkages, he added. “This partnership will lead to new avenues of collaboration,” he hoped. He said universities, especially the Departments of Psychology, Sociology and Criminology can help decode the minds of criminals.

He observed that policing is one of the oldest functions of the State as maintaining peace and ensuring security of citizens are among the primary
tasks of a state. Peace is a primary requisite, he said, adding that all the stakeholders have to play their significant role in ensuring peace. He underlined that policing performs very fundamental role in success of a nation which is why police need to equip themselves with the latest technologies. He underlined that societies are going through transformation and technology, being constructive as well as destructive, has empowered citizens manifold. “Police must be ahead of criminals in use of technologies”, he stressed. He revealed that cybercrime has become one of the key challenges for policing. This requires new competencies to understand and utilise new technologies, he emphasised.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal hoped the next National Police Summit and Innovation Expo will have representation of police departments of friendly countries for the exchange of ideas to improve policing. He said police can use universities as a strong collaborative platform to interact with youth and protect their lives. He informed the audience that Islamabad police have been directed to exhibit zero tolerance to compromise on safety measures and traffic violations. “Enforcement of traffic laws can save hundreds of lives”, he said, adding that new ideas need to be evolved to materialise the concept of community policing. He said the government has established National Database of Criminals which will help identify criminals everywhere in the country.

He also launched the e-policing project which includes a citizen App and electronic challan system.
individual contributions or corporate charity endeavours”, he emphasised. He assured that HEC will provide all-out assistance to philanthropic activities of donor organisations.

He informed the audience that HEC will soon launch ‘Change-Maker’ concept, under which funds will be raised to work on various themes. “HEC believes in using the energy of youth in positive direction”, he stated. He added that HEC, with the help of Muslim countries like Turkey, Malaysia and Iran, is considering to provide scholarships to students of less developed countries. As many as 4000 scholarships will be awarded every year under this initiative, he pledged. “Let’s keep hope alive and work for humanity to make this world better”, the Chairman concluded.

Addressing the forum, Dr. Ishrat Hussain remarked that philanthropy in Pakistan has three supporting instruments including State, market and community. He said the State allocates resources to various sectors while performing the responsibility of ensuring equitable resource distribution.

He maintained that the philanthropic organisations have a great role in filling gaps by taking care of people deprived of necessary facilities. He said philanthropic organisations need to help out-of-school children acquire education. Investment in provision of skills including vocational and technical training makes a big difference, he underlined. He urged the charity bodies to pay due attention to micro financing, as creating know-how of small businesses among the poor is a significant task. He also pointed out areas where philanthropic organisations need to invest. He also underscored the need for ensuring accountability and transparency in philanthropic services.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tariq Pasha admired PCP for providing certification facilities to non-government organisations and successfully institutionalising philanthropy in Pakistan. He assured PCP of continuous technical support from FBR in connection with certification of philanthropic organisations. “PCP and FBR are in close coordination”, he said.

In his welcome address, Mr. Zaffar A. Khan said PCP works with a simple, but focused mission to provide a conducive environment to philanthropic organisations to deliver. He observed that Pakistani society is generous in giving charity, however there is a long way to go. He highlighted the problems PCP faces in its operations due to resource limitation and massive growth of population.

The forum deliberated on three key thematic areas including, ‘Enabling Legal, Policy and Regulatory Environment for Institutional Philanthropy’, ‘Setting New Standards of Informed and Institutionalised Giving’, and ‘Corporate Philanthropy as Catalyst for Human Development’.

### 3-Day Training Workshop on Patent Database Searches and Development of TISCs


The primary objective of the workshop was to promote use of patent information among researchers, entrepreneurs, IP managers, attorneys, Government officials and policy makers by making national and international patent database accessible.

Almost 27 participants mainly from universities’ TISC offices attended the workshop and became trainers for faculty and researchers at their respective universities.

Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC, and Mr. Irfan Tarar, DG IPO graced the inauguration ceremony.
The Higher Education Commission and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding to foster awareness and prevention activities against corruption during a recent ceremony at the Commission Secretariat.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC and Muhammad Imtiaz Tajwar, Deputy Chairman, NAB signed the MoU.

The MoU is a renewal of MoU signed between the two organisations earlier in November 2014. Under the MoU, HEC and NAB will establish a sustained and effective collaboration and partnership in combating corruption, its threats to society, institutions, ethical values, democratic standards, justice and rule of law in the country. They will enhance awareness among the masses, especially youth regarding the menace of corruption.

The MoU also underlines preparation of curricula on anti-corruption themes apart from holding seminars, walks, conferences and workshops in universities. The two parties will also hold essay, painting and poetry competitions, debates and declamations on the need for anti-corruption efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed reiterated HEC’s resolve to continue cooperating with NAB in countering corrupt practices. “HEC is proud to be part of NAB’s anti-corruption efforts in the country, as it is national cause” he stated. He said the two organisations have been jointly working under the MoU to create awareness among youth. He said the renewal of MoU between HEC and NAB reflects commitment of the two organisations to eradicating corruption. He maintained that youth are the country’s asset and future, so they need to be educated on the threats of corruption to society. “It is our obligation to tell the youth the right direction,” he stressed. He urged teachers and religious leaders to play their role in social uplift. Character building and moral training of youth has a great significance in nation building, he said.

HEC also informed the participants about the HEC’s Community Engagement initiative and said HEC will hold University Olympics this year to promote extra-curricular activities among students. He said HEC does not tolerate academic corruption and plagiarism, adding that over 480 MPhil and PhD programmes of different universities have been shut down as they failed to fulfil the set criteria.

In his remarks, Mr. Tajwar stressed the need for enhanced joint anti-corruption efforts, as the partnership between HEC and NAB is aimed at the welfare of future generations. He said the Character Building Societies established with the support of HEC are playing a vital role in this regard. He emphasised inclusion of anti-corruption topics in curricula of various academic programmes. “Curriculum is a source to guide and give a way-forward to youth,” he asserted.
An 11-member delegation of Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education, Maldives recently visited the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and met the HEC top management at the Commission Secretariat.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed shared a brief introduction of HEC, its achievements and programmes. He said HEC has sealed numerous agreements with many countries for mutual collaboration in the higher education sector. He stressed the need for identifying the areas in which Pakistan and Maldives can collaborate. He said the two countries may initiate joint projects and work together for the development of higher education sector of the two countries.

In his briefing, Dr. Ali Najeeb, Vice Rector, Villal Colleges, on behalf of Maldives delegation said that DHE, Maldives facilitates the development of capable, skilful and well-educated citizens who are able to compete in a sustainable, diversified and knowledge-intensive international economy that meets the development goals of Maldives.

He informed the main functions of DHE include formulation of policies and plans for development of quality higher education system to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the country.

He added that DHE coordinates collaborative activities with international bodies and develops partnerships with international universities.

---Delegation from Maldives Visits HEC---

5-Week GRE Training in NUST Islamabad

The Higher Education Commission in collaboration with US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor Programme and US Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) designed a programme of holding talent farming conferences and workshops for interested candidates to pursue PhD studies at universities of the United States in selected fields.

The project aims to train 2000 potential candidates annually for admission in the universities of US through preparatory classes for English language, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or others as per admission requirements of universities, who can, after appearing in GRE and getting grades and TOEFL, apply for PhD studies. Under the talent farming conference and workshop scheme, a five-week comprehensive training was recently held at National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad in which 63 nominees from NUST and other universities from Islamabad participated.

Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Principal, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering welcomed the participants and introduced the project.

The objective of talent farming training was to enable academically qualified Pakistani students/faculty to start PhD studies in the universities of US in critically needed fields through preparatory classes for English language and GRE as per admission requirements of universities.
The International Forum on Science Education was held in conjunction with the 2018 meeting of InterAcademic Partnership on Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) at the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat.

The forum themed ‘Quality Science Education at Schools- A Must for Quality Higher Education and Economic Development’ was jointly organised by HEC, ECO Science Foundation, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Alif Ailaan. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC, Dr. Qasim Jan, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECO Science Foundation, and around 200 speakers and participants from 12 countries of the world attended the forum. Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Chair, Global Council InterAcademic Partnership on Science Education Programme graced the forum as keynote speaker.

In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC said science, technology and innovation are critical inputs for sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation. He underlined that effective science education at school level is a building block to produce quality higher education, which is critical to achieve sustainable economic development in Pakistan. He signified the role of HEC in promoting Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Pakistan.

He urged the participants and stakeholders to use this Forum as a platform to synergise strengths to ensure and promote quality science education at school levels, which would be critical input to quality higher education in Pakistan. “We can achieve global competitiveness only if we promote and produce qualified human resources and a STEM workforce to the global challenges of water, climate change, energy and food security for future generations”, he added.

The Chairman urged the Muslim countries to get united and jointly work to regain the prestige the Muslims used to enjoy in their golden era being leaders in science. “The Muslims mindset needs to be shaken to harness the potential of our youth, as youth are the main powerhouse of the Muslim world,” he emphasised. He urged the world nations to fix their directions towards development of constructive science for the well-being of whole mankind.

Delivering his keynote speech on “Digital Revolution, Development Revolution, Science Educaion and Science Literacy,” Dato Lee Yee Cheong highlighted the significance and emerging role of digital technology in shaping the ongoing digital revolution around the globe, particularly in the developing world. He emphasised adopting the STEM subjects for children to ensure the human resources necessary for the digital revolution and to equip the world with a rational and discerning citizenry towards global peace, harmony and prosperity.

He underlined that One Belt and One Road (OBOR) is the visionary initiative of China that will transform economic and social and sustainable development along the belt and road. He also emphasised promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the region to prepare next generations to respond to the global challenges in the Future.

On this occasion, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro shed light on the main objectives of holding international forum. He said the forum was an ideal space to generate the debate on science education in Pakistan, sharing of global experiences and the understanding of new paths for improvement of
human life, sustainable economic growth and policy making by employing effective science education approach such as the IBSE at all levels. Quality higher education can lead to promote Science, Technology and Innovation and Sustainable Economic Development in the ECO region, he added.

In his welcome remarks earlier, Dr. Qasim Jan welcomed all the international guests, delegates and local participants. He revealed the role of Pakistan Academy of Sciences for promotion of science education in the national development.

The forum included a series of panel discussions on a number of thematic areas of science education and explored the ideas around the challenges, implementation of effective science teaching and policy measures by expert panelists on science education around the globe. The forum deliberated in depth on the interaction of digital revolution, development revolution, inquiry based science education and STEM education from pre-school through primary, secondary and tertiary education to lifelong learning. The forum adopted Islamabad Declaration with recommendations from experts. The recommendations included a call to all IAP member academies of sciences and their IBSE/STEM partners to reiterate their commitment to IBSE/STEM education, and to lobby governments to establish more interactive science museums.

The industry, particularly the infrastructure and digital technology related enterprises, are urged to assist national academies of science and governments to enhance STEM education initiatives. The forum also urged China under the One Belt One Road Initiative to invest in IAP SEP Project of Fusion of OBOR Civilisations Curriculum Design for Schools and construct digitally interactive mobile exhibits on the scientific and technological inventions and innovations in OBOR civilisations. It also called upon National Academies of Sciences in the 10 ECO member states to cooperate and collaborate with ECOSF for IBSE and STEM in their countries.

LI, HEC Organises Training Workshops on CALL and EAP

Learning Innovation (LI) Division, Higher Education Commission, (HEC) recently organised a five-day training workshop on Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), at its Regional Centre, Lahore.

The workshop was attended by 19 English language teachers from across the country representing their institutions. The main objectives of the workshop were to develop the skills necessary to understand various uses of computers in language classrooms; to increase learners’ awareness of the diverse sources to be used as teaching tools, to develop an understanding of how to work in a paperless classroom and to enable the learners to use and design computer-based and web-based teaching and learning materials.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony was Mr. Nazeer Hussain, Director General, HEC Regional Centre, Lahore. While speaking on the occasion, he said that HEC is offering different training programmes for the capacity building of faculty members of HEIs.
Italian Academic Delegation Agrees to Enhance Collaboration in Higher Education Sector

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan values foreign collaborations and it has reached a number of agreements with several countries under which joint initiatives are taken for mutual academic uplift.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC recently stated this while chairing Vice Chancellors’ Conference. The conference was attended by Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt, Consultant, HEC, Mr. Awais Ahmad, Director General Administration and Coordination, HEC and a large number of Vice Chancellors of Pakistani universities as well as a delegation of Italian academicians, currently on visit to Pakistan.

The Italian delegation was headed by Prof. Federico Cinquenplami, Head of Unit for Internationalisation of Higher Education of Italian Ministry of Education, while the delegation also comprised Prof. Carlo Giovanni Cereti, Delegate of the Rector for Cooperation, La Sapienza, Prof. Ms. Margherita Turvani, Associate Professor of Political Economy and Economic Policy, Universita IUAV di Venezia, Prof. Alberto Guadagnini, Director Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Politecnico Di Milano, Prof. Dr. Maco Ceresa, Director Department of Studies on Asia and Mediterranean Africa, and other notable figures from Italian academia.

The conference deliberated on bilateral collaboration between Pakistani and Italian higher education institutions. The two sides agreed to expand mutual collaboration through joint research projects, award of scholarships, student mobility and faculty exchange programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that HEC values foreign collaborations and it has reached many agreements with foreign countries under which joint initiatives are taken for mutual academic uplift.

In his remarks, Stefano Pontecorvo, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan said that collaboration between Pakistan and Italy in the higher education sector will be bilaterally beneficial. He stated that Italy accords high importance to its relations with Pakistan.

The bilateral relations have a great potential of improvement, he observed, as people of both the countries understand each other.

Prof. Carlo Giovanni Cereti said Italy has long educational traditions. He informed the meeting participants that the world’s leading university rankings place Sapienza at the forefront among Italian universities for quality of research, teaching and for its international dimension.

In the sectoral charts, the University excels and qualifies as a benchmark for many disciplines. He said Italy envisions to convert its higher education system into English.
A delegation of educationists from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand recently visited the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and held a meeting with Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC and senior HEC management.

Talking to the delegates, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stressed the need for identifying potential areas in which HEC and AIT can collaborate. He said HEC gives great importance to joint research projects with foreign countries.

During the meeting, it was agreed that Pakistani faculty members will be given opportunities to go for a sabbatical. The two sides will sign a Document of Understanding on award of scholarships to students.

Besides, modalities for collaborative research especially in the fields of water resources, engineering, solar energy, food security, structures and urban planning and environment will be finalised with mutual consultations. The two sides will jointly conduct research and hold seminars apart from considering participation in non-academic activities.

In order to materialise the meeting decisions, a trilateral working group consisting of two members from Pakistani academia and AIT each will be constituted. The AIT will be represented by Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director, AIT Solutions and Mr. Shawn P. Kelly, Director, Office of the External Relations, AIT, Thailand, while Mr. Muhammad Raza Chohan, Director General, Academics will serve as HEC’s focal person.

The AIT delegation was headed by Prof. Worsak Kanok Nukulchai, President AIT while it comprised Prof. Voratas Kachitvichyanukul, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Rajendra Shrestha, Dean, School of Environment Resources and Development, Dr. Fiaz Shah, Head, Development Management and Director, Yunus Centre, Mr. Shawn P. Kelly, Director, Office of the External Relations, and Dr. Navid Anwar, Executive Director, AIT Solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nukulchai said, “AIT is a neutral platform for regional engagements and it values international collaboration”. He stressed the need for revitalising partnership with Pakistan.

He said research and development endeavours are a boon for the mankind, as they lead to sustainable development. He said AIT offers 30 academic programmes and has 2000 postgraduate students, adding that it has developed 200 academic partnerships.
The Higher Education Commission (HEC), in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi held a two-day International Conference on Professional Development in Higher Education: Trends and Practices, Prospects and Innovations here at the Commission Secretariat.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was chief guest at the closing ceremony. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman HEC, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC, Mrs. Shaheen Khan, Adviser Learning Innovation, HEC, Mr. Fida Hussain, Director General LI, HEC and a large number of Vice Chancellors, faculty members and national and foreign researchers also graced the conference while Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt, Consultant HEC and Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, Vice Chancellor, FJWU, Rawalpindi presented keynote addresses.

Addressing the conference, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said every civilised society gives due esteem to teachers, as teachers deserve high honour and dignity being role models for their students. “I compliment HEC for taking this very positive initiative by organising a conference on professional development in higher education,” he stated, adding that HEC has been the vanguard of higher education since 2002 and has brought about a revolution in the higher education sector. He said learning is a continuous process and professional development of faculty is beneficial not only for teachers but also for students. He underlined that provision of education needs to be ensured along with availability of equal opportunities to all men and women.

Senator Mushahid Hussain informed the conference participants that the vacant posts of Pakistan chairs, specified for Pakistani academics to serve the country from abroad, are being filled with the cooperation of HEC after a long wait for seven years. He further said that seven out of 14 candidates to fill the positions are females. “Pakistan Chairs are very important means to project Pakistan’s soft image abroad,” he maintained. The biggest battle, he observed, is the battle of ideas, and it is academia where ideas come from. So, he stressed, academia should come forward to serving the country amidst the prevailing information warfare.

In his message on this occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed urged teachers to ensure character building of students and teach them social values and ethics. He added that apart from imparting education, it is also a responsibility of teachers to groom students. He stressed the need for preparing the youth to
cope with challenges the country may face in the future. He said HEC has taken a number of initiatives under its Faculty Development Programme in order to build capacity of universities faculty. He revealed that HEC envisions 40 per cent of PhD faculty by 2025.

In his keynote address, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt shed light on salient trends and practices, prospects and innovations that have been incorporated in the higher education sector since the inception of HEC. He also shared the strategic priorities HEC has set for the future to continue the journey of progress and qualitative improvement of an integrated education system in the country. He said the founding fathers of HEC believed that the higher education systems lead in the relentless pursuit of quality of instruction, utilising available knowledge and discovery of new knowledge, competencies and skills by preparing creative, critical, constructive and communicative scholars.

Informing the audience about the highlights of roadmap outlined under the Higher Education Vision 2025, Dr. Butt said a three-tier integrated system of tertiary education has been devised. He maintained that this system will have clear identification and differentiation of roles of Tier-I research universities, Tier-II comprehensive universities, and Tier-III affiliated colleges.

Addressing the conference, earlier, Dr. Samina Amin Qadir observed that new pedagogical paradigms have changed the educational landscape across the world. This, she stressed, requires academicians and reformers to ensure professional development of faculty and teaching staff equipping them with effective teaching methodologies. She noted that technological advancement has brought information about the whole world to the palm of one’s hand, however the abundance of information sources creates influx of actual as well as fake information. “Be careful in using technology,” she cautioned. She regretted that the developing countries borrow policies successful in the developed world without examining their utility in the light of their domestic ground realities. Local scenarios must be in view while evolving higher education policies, she underlined. She also admired HEC for its key initiatives for holistic development of higher education sector of the country.

Mrs. Shaheen Khan said the purpose of international conference is to refresh the knowledge base of faculty and explore novel innovations for their professional development. She said HEC is committed to empowering the universities teaching faculty in order to meet the Higher Education Vision 2025. She maintained that HEC, while realising need for improving teachers’ pedagogies and professional competencies, has taken major initiatives under different programmes to reform professional development which aims to develop teachers as professionally competent and capable to engage students in their learning.

In his welcome address, Dr. Arshad Ali said professional development in higher education is the key component that ensures quality of education. “The role of a teacher is significant in today’s world where an average student has easy access to knowledge through internet,” he said, adding that a teacher enables students through arguments and analyses to benefit from the right information. He stressed the need for promoting student-centric learning, as students come from different backgrounds as well as different competencies. He said HEC is committed to professional development of teachers, as it follows the policy of appropriately equipping teachers to enable them to enhance quality and groom leadership for future.

The Executive Director revealed that HEC’s LI Division trains 500 teachers annually under its four Faculty Development Programmes. He assured that the recommendations of conference will be examined for materialisation.

Earlier, Mr. Fida Hussain shed light on the purpose of the conference and presented the recommendations made during its four sessions. The recommendations, he said, include finalisation of roadmap regarding faculty development, designing of faculty development programmes, revision of pedagogy, learning from professional development theories, establishment of faculty development centres, making policy level changes, and driving professional development framework on the basis of research.
HEC Commemorates Prof. Stephen Hawking to Promote Analytical Thinking among Youth

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan organised a ceremony to commemorate and pay tribute to Prof. Stephen Hawking, renowned cosmologist, for his marvellous contributions to science. The ceremony aimed to motivate youth and students to forge commitment to scientific pursuits.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Interior Minister was chief guest on the occasion, while Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC, Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC, and a large number of Vice Chancellors, Rectors, faculty members and students were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said Prof. Stephen Hawking was not only a great scientist but also a great human being who, despite suffering from motor neuron disease, struggled to make remarkable contribution to science. “Prof. Stephen Hawking has proved that no disability or lack of resources can hinder realisation of one’s dreams if one adopts a positive approach and unfaltering will power,” he asserted.

He stated that with a strong will power, one can defeat all odds of life, adding that positive energy turns impossible into possible. He urged students to follow Prof. Stephen Hawking as a role model if they face challenges while acquiring education and conducting research.

He said Islam emphasises reflection, enquiry and pursuit of knowledge, adding that the nations which enjoy scientific development are invincible. He observed that the downfall of Muslims is caused by their distance from knowledge. Our forefathers led the world in science, he said, as they received guidance from the Holy Quran. He urged the academia to promote critical and analytical thinking among youth and discourage cut-and-paste practices.

He advised students to show commitment to solving scientific puzzles, as knowledge creation is a major contribution to the well-being of mankind. He stressed the need for renaissance of the entire Muslim *Ummah* in terms of promotion of knowledge and research.

The Minister said the Government is committed to development of higher education sector in the country. The higher education budget has constantly been increased in the current Government regime, he stated.
He said the Government has prepared a new curriculum for primary standards in view of its aim to promote critical and analytical thinking among students. He added that the curricula of higher classes are also being revisited.

In his welcome address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said Prof. Stephen Hawking has made great scientific contributions to the ocean of knowledge despite his health sufferings.

He said that we need to tap the potential of our youth enabling them to contribute to the country’s uplift.

He stated that HEC is committed to providing conducive environment to students, faculty and researchers to make progress in all academic and scientific spheres. “We have to work together in our respective capacities for the development of Pakistan”, he emphasised. He underlined the need for learning from success stories of legends like Prof. Stephen Hawking.

Dr. Qasim Jan, former Vice Chancellor, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Prof. Saif Ullah from QAU, Dr. Arshad Bhatti from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology and other notable speakers shed light on the contributions of Prof. Stephen Hawking.

They said Prof. Stephen Hawking was a highly decorated scientist as he made worthy contributions to science. They observed that ‘Singularity of Theorems’, ‘Black Hole Evaporation’, and ‘Brief History of the Time’ produced groundbreaking research. They said the research was based on Einstein’s Theory of Relativity. They stressed the need for promoting scientific observation skills among science students. They also highlighted the significance of Prof. Stephen’s work in metaphysics.

Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Visits HEC, Meets Chairman

Justice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai, Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court visited the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and held deliberation with Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC at the Commission Secretariat. The duo discussed issues pertaining to higher education in Balochistan.

Talking to the Chief Justice, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed shared the initiatives and achievements of HEC with regard to promotion of higher education in less developed areas. He said HEC has launched a project to establish university sub-campuses in less-developed areas of the country. “HEC is committed to setting up a university sub-campus in each district of Pakistan,” he stated.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed underscored that exclusive programmes for Balochistan have been initiated. He said the ‘Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan and FATA, Phase-II’ has been launched, under which a total of 3900 students from Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) will be extended financial support to acquire education. He added that HEC will provide 100 scholarships to graduates from Balochistan in law education. Under the project, 50 five-year LLB and 10 LLM scholarships will be awarded to students from Balochistan to study in Pakistani universities, while 30 students from the province will be sent abroad for LLM and 10 students to pursue PhD studies, respectively.

The Chief Justice appreciated the HEC initiatives for promotion of higher education in the country, especially the less-developed areas. He assured the Chairman that issues regarding requisition of land for universities will be looked into. He stressed the need for continuity in HEC’s measures to ensure equitable access to higher education.
The Capacity Building and Alumni Affairs Section, Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently organised a three-day training on Advanced Excel and MS-Project to the staff of Financial Aid offices at partner universities from all over Pakistan.

The aim of organising this training session was to ensure effective and efficient accomplishment of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Merit and Need-Based Scholarship Programme (MNBSP) Project. The Capacity Building and Alumni Affairs Section designed the training to strengthen human resource of partner universities and to help the staff of partner universities to better understand mechanism of USAID-MNBSP project along with hands on skills on different tools and techniques. Mr. Rohan Mirza provided hands-on practice on different logical and database functions of advance MS-Excel whereas Syed Ali Raza, a project manager expert, delivered three sessions on MS-Project. The sessions were interactive and useful containing information about basic terminologies of Project Management and overview of MS-Project 2013 environment which was followed by rigorous hands-on practice.

Wasim S. Hashmi Syed, Advisor HRD emphasised on participants of training to implement those skills at their workplaces which the participants have acquired during the training.

Quality Assurance Agency, Higher Education Commission, (HEC) Pakistan in collaboration with National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC) recently organised 4th Regional Programme Evaluators training workshops. The objectives of the workshops were to improve the relevant skills of NCEAC programme evaluators in undertaking accreditation inspection based on the criteria as set by the Council and to establish the credibility of accreditation process, system of accreditation, accreditation standards, accreditation criteria, guidelines and procedures among stakeholders as an effective tool for quality improvement.

Based on Regional as well as institutional representation, 60 participants for the workshop were nominated as NCEAC new programme evaluators.
The Higher Education Commission (HEC), in collaboration with the Higher Education Academy of Research and Training, Peshawar recently held an orientation session for Government Colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As many as 80 teachers from the province participated in the training.

Dr. Mehmood-ul-Hassan Butt, Consultant, HEC was resource person of the session. He identified the issues faced by college teachers and college administrations which need attention of the federal and provincial governments. He revealed that HEC offers research opportunities to colleges including access to digital library, research journals and connectivity through Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN). He said HEC initiatives are envisioned to pave the way for knowledge-based economy and technology-embedded higher education sector. He also shed light on the HEC Faculty Development Programme and its importance for professional development of teaching staff of Pakistan’s higher education institutions.

Dr. Butt said colleges must play their role in improvement of curricula, adding that they should have access to new tools and modern teaching methodologies.

During the session, Mr. Fida Hussain, Director General, Learning Innovation Division, HEC gave an overview of the contributions of LI Division in professional development of university faculty. He stressed the need for maximum participation of teachers and faculty members in training sessions aimed at their professional growth.

Under the Smart Universities and Safe Campus Project, The Higher Education Commission endures its commitment to support higher education institutes in creating and enabling Smart and Safe e-Academia environment for students, faculty and researchers, augmented by advanced Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs).

The programme was launched on October 05, 2015 and it will cover three major areas including Smart Infrastructure (WiFi blanket coverage along with Eduroam), Smart Classrooms, and Learning Objectives Assessment Software. As far as Smart Infrastructure is concerned, 32 universities have so far been equipped with advanced blanket WiFi network with a benchmark of 20,000 authenticated users.

Recently, another 11 universities are added with advanced IP Surveillance Solution in order to cope with untoward security threats.
Higher Education TV, VU Integrates for Satellite Transmission

The Higher Education TV has recently integrated with Virtual University Studio to on-air its programmes through satellite which would enhance national and international viewership. Moreover, the Higher Education TV is connected with Lahore Garrison University Studios, making it 7th University studio to be connected with Higher Education TV.

Previously, out of 26 universities which have media and mass communication departments, studios of Allama Iqbal Open University Studio, Riphah International University Studio, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology University Studio, Bahria University Studio and Sindh Madressatul Islam University Studio are connected.

Higher Education TV aims to offer counselling services to citizens of Pakistan through weekly sessions on Degree Attestation System, Prime Minister Laptop Scheme, Plagiarism Policy, Achievements in Higher Education Institutions and Professor Online.

Moreover, the Web-based TV Channel has also provided opportunity for students from media and mass communication departments of various universities to integrate, collaborate and synergise from varying geographical locations to hold talk shows on aforementioned areas of public interest. The audience can even ask their queries through @edutv_hec and https://www.facebook.com/HigherEducationTV/.

HEC Organises Workshops, Lectures on Event Registration Portal

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently organised a number of lectures and workshops on its Event Registration Portal wherein a large number of people from different universities and organisations participated.

The Event Registration Portal was inaugurated in December 2017. It is a medium that provides information about ongoing as well as upcoming online courses, online lectures and workshops and HEC events. The students, teachers, and faculty members of universities and Higher Education Institutions can access the portal by registering into portal. One of the main features of the portal is that it auto updates its users through e-mail/SMS regarding upcoming lectures, courses, and events when new an event is added on portal.

Online attendance is another feature of Event Registration Portal, as all online sites mark attendance of students and participants through the portal. More than 120 universities which have video conferencing setup are connected through this portal.

Meanwhile, an online lecture was conducted on PV Technologies for Disaster Hit delivered by Dr. Salah Uddin Qazi, Professor at Emeritus of State University of New York (SUNY) Polytechnic Institute (formerly SUNY Institute of Technology (SUNYIT), Utica. The lecture was joined by over 15 sites through video conference.

Likewise, an online lecture was held on Telemedicine organised by Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Over 80 candidates were registered against this event, while more than 10 online sites joined through video conference.

Different other lectures, trainings and workshops on Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Bio and Pharmacy were conducted in order to provide information to those researchers who has to appear in their PhD defense. Under a new project entitled “Job Market Skills for Unemployed Youth,” more than 4800 trainings are registered. Fourteen different training courses are being offered in the best institutions of the country.
The delegation of Pakistan Education & Research Network (PERN), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan recently attended 45th Asia Advanced Network Meeting (APAN) in Singapore.

The APAN was focused on discussions relating to Cloud computing, e-Culture, Identity & Access Management, Software Defined Networking, Medical, IPv6, Network Security, Disaster Mitigation and Big Data and AI in Agriculture.

During the event, researchers, scholars and IT professionals from all over the world presented innovative ideas, held discussion sessions, attended seminars and had chance for networking with like-minded professionals.

The PERN delegation presented concept of HEC Web-based Education TV during the e-culture working group sessions of APAN. The e-culture working group members appreciated the concept and agreed to work with PERN for establishing HEC Web-based Education TV for Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TIEN) beneficiary countries. The delegation presented updates about PERN network during 3rd Asia Connect Governor’s meeting.

During the APAN, it was agreed that PERN, Asia Connect and affiliated partners jointly host Cyber Performance Event in Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro during 2018.

Moreover, GÉANT, a fundamental element of Europe’s e-infrastructure, delivering the pan-European GÉANT network for scientific excellence, research, education and innovation agrees to offer education services to PERN connected universities.

Furthermore, the GÉANT also showed its willingness to offer Transits (Network Security Course) in Pakistan to assist Higher Education Institutions across the country in enhancing Network security.

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IUB at a Glance

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) since its inception focuses on infrastructural development of universities along with increasing access to quality higher education and promotion of research culture in higher education institutions.

The HEC supported Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in terms of infrastructural development that has led human resource development, enhanced opportunities for research, scholars completing their PhDs on HEC scholarships, industry-academia relationship, emerging culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, quality enhancement, benefit of HEC established academic and research network across the globe.

The HEC approved a total of 17 development projects for IUB costing Rs. 3092.268 Million and provided 4417 laptops to university students under Prime Minister’s Laptop Scheme.

HEC approved a total of 17 development projects for IUB costing Rs. 3092.268 Million.

As many as nine academic blocks covering 641,396 square feet area including buildings of Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Islamic Learning, Faculty of Science, Education Engineering College, Agriculture College, Bahawalnagar Campus, Rahim Yar Khan Campus and Management Sciences building are completed.

So far, 10 students’ hostels providing more than 5000 residential occupancy, 32 family suites constructed under a foreign faculty exchange project costing Rs. 23.557 Million, nine faculty residences, Jamia Mosque, Central Library and Lab Equipments worth Rs. 804.021 Million under various development projects are also included in HECs developmental support. HEC also strengthened IUB in financial sector, in 2002 recurring grant for the university was Rs. 102.963 Million which has now raised to Rs. 1256.49 Million in 2017.

In 2002, student enrolment was only 7,850 which has mounted to 20,055. The university had only 230 faculty members with 65 PhDs at that time and now IUB has 628 faculty members with 305 PhDs.

In terms of scholarships, IUB has received Rs. 827,941,515 since 2005 in categories of HEC Meritorious Need based Scholarships, HEC Japanese Need based Scholarships, HEC German Need based Scholarships, HEC Need based Scholarships, Pak USAID Scholarships and PM Fee Reimbursement Scheme. The HEC also provided 4417 laptops to university students under Prime Minister’s Laptop Scheme.

HEC, IoBM Workshop on Research Methodology & Anti-Corruption Seminar

Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with Office of Research Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC), Institute of Business Management (IoBM) recently organised a 2-day workshop entitled Qualitative Research Methodologies and Data Analysis using NVIVO.

Dr. Rab Nawaz Lodhi, Assistant Professor, University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore was the key trainer. The workshop was designed for professional researchers, principal investigators, faculty members and MS/PhD students who want to apply qualitative techniques for in-depth study of a phenomenon or real world issue.

Moreover, HEC, IoBM and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) jointly organised an anti-corruption awareness seminar and a walk on the said issue.
HEC, NTU Organises Workshop on Emerging Technologies in Libraries

The Higher Education Commission, (HEC) Pakistan and National Textile University, (NTU) Faisalabad jointly organised a training workshop on emerging technologies in libraries recently.

Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Rector, NTU was the Chief Guest during the opening session of the workshop. The main objective of this workshop was to train library professionals, scholars and information technologists with emerging technologies in libraries to help them in becoming skilled professionals to face global challenges.

Mr. Muhammad Javed Iqbal, Director Digital Library, HEC delivered his lecture which was attended by almost 50 library professionals from public and private sector universities and colleges of Faisalabad division.

UVAS Observes International Women’s Day

The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, (UVAS) Lahore recently observed International Women’s Day by organising a seminar with the theme entitled, “Press for Progress” in its city campus, Lahore. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan presided over the seminar where speeches and poems were presented to highlight status of women in the society.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that woman have equal rights in the religion Islam, even in our culture and society. He said half of the country’s population comprises of women and we cannot make progress without their involvement.

In his address, Dr. Talat Naseer, Vice-Chancellor said that women are provided equal rights at the UVAS and they are always encouraged to equally participate in various departmental activities. On the sidelines of the seminar, the University organised a walk to create awareness about women’s rights. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Vice Chancellor, UVAS led the walk.
QAA-HEC Reviews Programmes at NED University of Engineering & Technology

The Quality Assurance Agency, Higher Education Commission (QAA-HEC) recently visited NED University of Engineering & Technology to review Masters/PhD Programmes.

The opening meeting of review committee was headed by Dr. Sarosh H. Lodi, Vice Chancellor, NED University of Engineering and Technology. During the opening meeting Dr. Riaz Uddin, Deputy Director-QEC delivered brief the Masters and PhD Programmes at NED University, status of NOCs of programmes started after November 2013, facilities, achievements and important parameters related to academics and research.

During the review, the Review Panel assessed the University’s Masters and PhD programmes offering process and verified related evidences. The Review Panel also visited different research and academic facilities of the NED University including Virtual Reality Lab, Classrooms, etc. Moreover, the review committee also interacted separately with research students of all Masters/PhD programmes and research supervisors. In addition, the committee also conducted separate meeting with Deans, HODs, Controller of Examinations and Secretary, Advanced Studies Research Board (ASRB).

The review process was concluded with suggestions from the committee regarding future improvements in few areas.

Workshop on Green Climate Fund (GCF), Mass Transit Projects under CPEC

The training Workshop on Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Mass Transit Project was organised by Centre of Excellence for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CoE-CPEC), Islamabad in collaboration with the Department of Urban and Infrastructure Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology, (UET) Karachi at the Norwegian Centre of Excellence for Petroleum Studies, NEDUET, Karachi.

Dr. Mir Shabbar Ali, Dean Faculty of Civil and Petroleum Engineering, NEDUET and Dr. Saleem Janjua, Head of Policy; CoE-CPEC, PIDE, Ministry of Planning Developments & Reforms, Islamabad shared their views during inaugural session.

The participants of the workshop took interest in technical sessions and concluding remarks of Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, Vice Chancellor, NEDUET. The technical sessions revolved around GCF & Mass Transit under CPEC, Climate Resilient Development & Sustainable Development. The main objectives of the workshop were to create GCF awareness and capacity building of potential stakeholders in Karachi, to develop master trainers for GCF projects so that the relevant stakeholders may be able to identify and develop GCF projects in the country, develop baseline for designing a GCF project by taking all relevant stakeholders on board.
Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Interior, Planning Development & Reforms has recently inaugurated Sub-Campus of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, (UVAS) Lahore in Narowal, named Khan Bahadur Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad Para-Veterinary School, Narowal.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal hoped that the para-veterinary school in Narowal will bring revolution through education. He said that livestock sector has been neglected in past, therefore, it is direly needed to develop our livestock system by producing trained young agrarians and veterinarians in the country. He informed that agriculture is the backbone of our economy and livestock its integral part, so livestock sector development is the key to revival of crisis-hit agriculture sector.

Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Vice Chancellor, UVAS informed that three professional programmes/courses including Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Livestock Assistant Diploma and six-month short course of Artificial Insemination of NAVTTC have been started in UVAS Sub-Campus.

**PM Laptop Distribution Ceremony at UAF**

The ceremony was attended by 200 students. The ceremony brought together eminent educational and political personalities of the city. Mr. Abid Sher Ali, Minister of State (Power Division) was the Chief Guest of the ceremony.

The aim of conducting PM Laptop distribution ceremony was to celebrate achievement of students. Over 300,000 laptops have already been distributed in Phase-I, II & III of PM Laptop Scheme whereas 500,000 laptops are to be distributed on merit amongst the meritorious students of public sector universities and technical colleges across Pakistan which include degree colleges of Islamabad and FATA region.
Artists Paint 22m Long Painting to Spread Message of Love, Peace & Harmony

Artists recently made a 22 meter long painting on natural views, historic places and other famous locations of Pakistan for the first time during 2nd International Watercolour Biennale entitled “Pearls of Peace Season-II”, being organised in collaboration with International Watercolor Society at Centre of Excellence in Art & Design (CEAD), Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET), Jamshoro.

The renowned artists from Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Iraq, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Romania, United States of America and Pakistan jointly worked together on the long painting to give the message of love, peace and harmony around the globe.

Hundreds of students, teachers and people from different walks of life witnessed the event and appreciated the effort of CEAD authorities to spread the message of love through water colour painting.

Dr. Bhai Khan Shar, Director CEAD said that the event remained a great opportunity for the artists and students of Pakistan to learn diversified techniques from artists belonging to different parts of the world.

NEWS FLASH

The Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) of National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) recently carried out 2-day follow-up visit of degree programmes of Agronomy, Entomology, Plant Breeding & Genetics and Soil Science disciplines and on-site visit to Horticulture, Food Science and Technology and Seed Science and Technology disciplines at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUA).

The AICs consisted of senior Professors of all seven disciplines of agriculture drawn from the NAEAC roster of Programme Experts/Subject Experts belonging to various Higher Education Institutions of agriculture in the Punjab headed by Dr. M. E. Tusneem, Chairman, NAEAC. The on-site and follow-up visit commenced with a meeting with the Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Pro- Vice Chancellor, and respective Deans and Heads of Department.
The 23rd Meeting of Accreditation Standard Committee (ASC) and 28th General Council Meeting of National Computing Education and Accreditation Council (NCEAC) were recently held. Dr. M. Ayub Alvi, Chairperson NCEAC presided over the meeting. Dr. Shoab A. Khan, Vice Chairman, NCEAC, ASC committee members and general council members were part of these meetings. A report on 32 recently evaluated programmes was presented along with recommendations. All recommendations about award of category and batches of the computing programmes inspected by programme evaluators were approved.

Moreover, NCEAC general council decided that December 31, 2018 will be the cut-off date for accreditation of computing degree programmes of institutions.

Institutional Performance Self-Evaluation at NED University of Engineering & Technology


IPE Panelist of HEC, Dr. Razak Mahar, Director QEC/Chairman Department of Botany, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur was invited as an external member in the evaluation team.

Dr. Muhammad Wasif, Deputy Director QEC briefed about the University activities for preparation of the University Portfolio Report (UPR) and showed the relevant data of the University. The purpose of this self-assessment was to review the University Portfolio Report (UPR) of the University and measure the compliance level with the IPE manual of the HEC.

Later, Dr. Razak Mahar along with Dr. Mubashir Ali Siddiqui, Secretary Advanced Studies & Research Board (ASRB) and QEC Team visited Civil Engineering Department – classes and laboratories and Engr. Abul Kalam Library. The team also visited registrar office and examinations department to discuss procedures pertaining to the IPE Evaluation.

Six GIK Students to Study One Semester in US under Cultural Exchange Programme

Under international Cultural Exchange Programme of the US Educational Foundation in Pakistan six students from Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, (GIKI) Topi have recently proceeded to United States.

The students will also represent GIKI at the Global Undergraduate Programme (UGRAD), founded by the US Educational Foundation in Pakistan. The programme would provide them an opportunity to learn amongst a pool of competent students who have been selected from across the world. Apart from building their skills, the programme would also enable students to acquire education in the US.
IIUI Celebrates International Translation Day

The Department of Translation and Interpretation (T&I), Faculty of Arabic, International Islamic University, (IIU) Islamabad recently organised an event to celebrate International Translation Day in its female campus.

Dr. Ahmed Yousif Al-Draiweesh, President of the University in his speech shed light on the need of translation in the world whereas Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Rector IIU said that we need to understand each other through translating one another’s language. He emphasised the need of multilingualism in our educational institutions as it paves the path for better communication and peaceful co-existence. He also announced to start PhD programme in Translation Studies in the coming years.

Institutional Performance Evaluation at Dow University of Health Sciences

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Karachi recently conducted an Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE), as part of self-review external quality assurance mechanism of Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

The internal evaluator, Dr. Muhammad Bilal Azmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Dow University of Health Sciences also facilitated the evaluators. The evaluators first met with Dr. Saeed Quraishy, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Zarnaz Wahid, Pro Vice Chancellor. Ms. Sanam Soomro, Director Quality Enhancement Cell, DUHS presented a brief introduction of DUHS in front of the review panel, discussing all the programmes, research activities, innovation and commercialisation activities, accreditations and affiliations, PhD and MS/MPhil programme review status, enterprise resource planning of DUHS, ISO certification and a brief introduction about the healthcare services provided at DUHS hospital.

At the conclusion of IPE, the evaluators and review panel took a tour of the university and visited all the classrooms, laboratories and libraries.

16th International Conference on Statistical Sciences

The Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences, Islamia College University, Peshawar recently organised the 16th International Conference on Statistical Sciences. More than 120 research papers were presented on the application of statistics in education management, manufacturing, energy management etc. by scholars and professionals in different sessions of the conference. Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), FAST-NU Pakistan presented a research paper on quality in Higher Education with specific focus on final year projects. He was given certificate of appreciation by the jury of the workshop for his research on the emerging theme of quality in higher education.
Foreign Scholars Visit NUMS

Dr. Mehnaz Azra Shafi, Prof. Medicine and Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition, the MD Anderson Cancer Centre, University of Texas was recently invited to join the Higher Education Commission’s (HEC) visiting faculty programme at National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS).

An in-depth overview of NUMS’ vision and mission to promote healthcare and medical education was presented to her along with a brief about NUMS’ affiliated and constituent colleges. Moreover, potential opportunities for collaboration with University of Texas were also discussed.

In another session with Health Professionals Education Team (HPET), headed by Dr. Faisal Rahim, Additional Director HPET, postgraduate curriculum for cardiology was reviewed, while graduate and postgraduate medical education and postgraduate training curriculum were also revised.

Likewise, another team of postdoctoral scientists visited NUMS and discussed their individual research areas of interests, current projects and vision for future local and collaborative research.

Potential areas of collaboration with basic labs include DNA vaccine development, neurodegeneration, functional genomics, Immunology and vaccine development, information on lab design, workforce management, HLA sequencing, cancer therapeutics and cancer proteomics.

UAF Holds Seminars on Weed Eradication & Microfinance

The Department of Agronomy, University of Agriculture (UAF), Faisalabad recently held a seminar on Weed Eradication.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Zafar, Vice Chancellor, UAF said that weeds are causing loss of billions of rupees to agriculture sector. The need of hour is to adopt latest weed eradication methods to cope up with loss, he added.

He informed that weeds are enemies of agriculture production, causing loss of water, productivity and land. He maintained that effective use of weed control techniques can not only enhance productivity but also income of farmers. He stressed upon farming community to ensure technology use at all stages of crop production.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad, Dean Faculty of Agriculture said that pathenium has emerged as a threatening weed to the agriculture sector in the province. He stressed upon the need for stepped-up effort for its eradication. He further said that the agrarian productivity can be boosted up manifold by transferring modern technologies to small farmers comprising 90 per cent of the farming community in the country.

Furthermore, the Directorate of Financial Assistance and University Advancement, University of Agriculture, (UAF) Faisalabad and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also arranged a seminar on microfinance at University auditorium.

The seminar was chaired by Mr. Tasleem Qazi, Director, Development Finance Support Department, State Bank of Pakistan. While speaking on the occasion, he said that we have to take measures to polish entrepreneurial skills among students to make them self-employed. He also said that poverty and unemployment are biggest challenges that we are facing. He maintained that with start-up companies, the students can become entrepreneurs that will help them to flourish in lives.
Success Stories of Students from MNSUAM

Miss Syeda Fatima Bukhari, a Bsc (Hons.) Agriculture (Entomology) student, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM) has recently won title of Safe Pesticide Use Ambassador by Bayer Crop Science Pakistan (Bayer), (Pvt.) Ltd.

MNSUAM in collaboration with Bayer Crop Science Pakistan initiated a training programme in which students from several universities of Pakistan were trained regarding safe use of pesticides. Afterwards, a competition was organised among 70 students to share their knowledge about safe use of pesticides with farmers and common folks.

In the light of instructions from MNSUAM and Bayer, Miss Syeda Fatima Bukhari organised a training session for farmers in Shujabad in which 25 farmers participated. She also organised a session with females of the area in which women agreed to overcome their mistakes and play their part in using pesticides safely.

On seeing her performance, buyer announced that she stood first and is getting a chance to represent her Country in Germany.

Likewise, Miss Iqra Zaheen, another student of BSc (Hons.) Agriculture at MNSUAM was selected by British Council for international study visit to UK.

She was selected for her performance in a Social Action Plan designed by students under the course entitled Active Citizenship Education – Community Engagement.

Seminar on Stock Online Trading Challenges

The Institute of Business Administration, University of Sindh, (SU) Jamshoro in collaboration with Pakistan Stock Exchange, Karachi recently organised a seminar entitled Stock Online Trading Challenges.

During the seminar, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan shared insights on the topic as he called on Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat, Vice Chancellor, SU.

Addressing the students, Dr. Ishrat said that the world had gone extremely comparative and competitive, thereby necessitating students to develop core competencies in an authentic form, instead of gaining superficial information through rote-learning. He further said that survival and excellence in the ongoing times depends largely on one’s capacities to fit in rapidly changing demands of corporate market and social milieu.

Earlier, Dr. Ishrat Hussain and Dr. Fateh Muhammad discussed wide range of issues relating to promotion of education, research, professionalism and learner competence. On the sidelines of the seminar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed in between Institute of Business Administration, SU and Pakistan Stock Exchange, (PSE) Karachi. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Burfat and Mr. You Hang, Deputy Managing Director, PSE signed the agreement.

The MoU aims at providing SU students trainings, workshops, skill development opportunities and seminars on issues related to stock exchange trading and other general business-related spheres.
It has been observed that a number of universities/institutions/campuses/affiliated colleges/foreign collaborative arrangements are operating illegally in Pakistan without permission of the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

All such institutions are hereby CAUTIONED to immediately stop their operations, which are functioning.

Without prior approval/ NOC of HEC

OR

Have opened illegal campuses

OR

Offering foreign collaborative degree programmes without HEC NOC

If such institutions fail to comply, their operations shall be shut down with the assistance of Law enforcement agencies and provincial governments as per rules.

Students and their parents are also warned that degrees from such non-recognised and fake institutions/illegal campuses will not be verified by HEC.

For details visit www.hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs

Director General
(Accreditation & Attestation)
Higher Education Commission, Sector H-9, Islamabad.