HEC Launches National Academy of Higher Education

Government of Pakistan and World Bank Sign Agreement for Higher Education Development
News & Views is published after every two months. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the publisher.

The views expressed by authors in the articles are their sole responsibility and not of HEC. The Commission would like to thank all the institutions and individuals who contributed information and photographs for this Magazine.

Aayesha Ikram  
Editor

Raja Ahmad Nadeem  
Graphic Designer

Syed Muhammad Ittifaq  
Reporter

Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
In continuation of its efforts to enable country’s higher education sector to become more effective in academic excellence, management and problem-oriented research, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan has launched the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE).

Dr. Arif Alvi, President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan graced the occasion as chief guest. Among others, the event was attended by Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC, Raja Yaqoob Sarfaraz, Punjab’s Minister for Higher Education, and Mr. Patchamuthu Illangovan, Country Director, World Bank.

Addressing the launch conference, Dr. Alvi emphasised the need for evolving an education system that caters to the requirements of current and future challenges. He said that the dream of a golden tomorrow will not come true without development in the education sector.

He observed that the future challenges are tremendous, so NAHE will have to be very smart in playing its part and providing dynamic means to meet academic challenges. “HEC will have to look at the needs of tomorrow and plan accordingly.”

The President stated that human factor plays a key role in development of a country, as nations are built by people. He maintained that quality of teaching and learning must be given due importance, as teaching embodies all the skills required for dissemination of knowledge and effective communication.

The future challenges are tremendous, so NAHE will have to be very smart in providing dynamic means to meet the academic challenges: President Alvi

Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood pointed out that lack of proper training for academic leadership is one of the major shortcomings of country’s education system.

“NAHE will prove to be of great weight and substance in coping up with this shortcoming, as it will build capacity in the field of university management,” he hoped and emphasised that the education system must be in consonance with job market needs.

Dr. Tariq Banuri said that HEC is committed to mainstreaming quality and relevance into the higher education system, adding that NAHE is one of the instruments to ensure greater efficiency and transparency.

The Chairman said that initial approach towards quality was quantitative, asserting that establishment of NAHE is a testimony to HEC’s focus on quality.

He elaborated that NAHE will set norms for building of communities of excellence to determine quality standards. It will build capacity of faculty, university leadership, and university staff, analyse areas and identify gaps required to be addressed, and set up a monitoring and evaluation system for higher education institutions.
Dr. Banuri said the range of actions to be undertaken by NAHE are not new, as HEC has long supported capacity building for university faculty and leadership.

The new development, he explained, is a renewed commitment to quality, mobilisation of a community of excellence, embarking upon a continuous process of reflection, analysis and reform, and integrating capacity building centrally into the university operations. He extended gratitude to HEC’s development partners in establishment of NAHE, including the World Bank, British Council, and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

Mr. Illangovan underlined that the World Bank is looking forward to achievement of goals through NAHE. He appreciated that the Government of Pakistan accords great importance to the human capital.

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor LUMS noted that establishment of NAHE reaffirms the commitment to enhanced quality learning in Pakistan. The session was also addressed by Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfaraz, Punjab’s Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Barbara Oakley, Professor of Engineering, Oakland University, Michigan and Ms. Alison Johns, CEO, Advance Higher Education, UK.

During the conference of NAHE, three parallel sessions on Teaching and Learning, Research and University Governance and Leadership were conducted. Teaching and Learning session was chaired by Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) while the session of Research was chaired by Dr. Athar Usama, Adviser and Managing Partner, INNOVentures Global (Pvt.) Ltd and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad chaired the session on Governance and Leadership.

---

**National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE)**

**An Introduction**

The main objective of the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) is to meet HEC’s mission of improving the quality of teaching, learning and research in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Pakistan, in addition to capacity building and promotion of academic and leadership competencies. It will offer generic as well as need-based capacity building services to enhance quality of teaching, research, and management in country’s HEIs.

The Academy will cater to the prevailing need for quality across different spheres and realms of academics and HEIs through different interventions and series of programmes. To this end, the quality standards for respective interventions including capacity building, training modules and delivery mechanism will be neatly woven and piloted to ensure better impact.

Being an apex learning body, NAHE will institute and lead a broader national discourse around the purpose, perspective and policy in higher education and will help develop high-quality human capital to achieve excellence in the academic milieu.

In order to develop desirable high-quality human capital, it will work as a centre of excellence for capacity building, skill development, and promotion of academic and leadership competencies through setting standards, cultivating academic quality, and advancing relevant research in collaboration with HEIs, industry and social sector.

The Academy will design programmes - including certifications, workshops, seminars, conferences, and webinars - for academic professionals, institutional leaders, university management and other academic leaders. NAHE will inculcate leadership competencies and skills required in implementation of higher education policies. It will work on capacity building in the areas of R&D and entrepreneurship. It will design framework for embedding employability through quality teaching and will create partnerships among community, universities and industry at national as well as International level.
“Pakistan wants peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and will continue extending all-out support in its rebuilding process.” President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi stated this while addressing the Pak-Afghan cultural event, Payam-e-Subh, organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC) for Afghan students pursuing higher education in different universities of Pakistan.

The President said, “You are the elite and privileged ones. You have been given the opportunity to acquire higher education. Go back to your country with better education and skills, as it is your responsibility to rebuild your country.” The President regretted that the two countries have, unfortunately, suffered at the hands of poverty, rivalries, extremism and terrorism. “Let’s act together against these common enemies. Afghanistan deserves peace and a huge rebuilding process awaits you. Pakistan will always be there to support you.”

Appreciating HEC for organising the Pak-Afghan cultural event, he said cultural events provide opportunities of cultural exchanges which improve communication among nations. On the occasion, the President launched the logo of Allama Iqbal Scholarship for Afghan Students, an initiative of the Government of Pakistan.

In his welcome address, Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC stated that the Allama Iqbal Scholarship for Afghan Students not only provide opportunity to Afghan youth to study in top Pakistani universities, but it is also a means to promote diversity on campuses. Education is incomplete without exposure of students to diverse cultures, he said, adding that the programme also helps building people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Government of Pakistan has initiated different programmes under the “Committee for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (CRRA)”. The Allama Iqbal Scholarship for Afghan Students, a 3000-scholarship programme, is one of them meant for Afghan students to pursue undergraduate studies in Pakistani universities.

The Pak-Afghan cultural event was also attended by a delegation from Afghanistan along with around 1000 Afghan students. Renowned Pakistani artists including Tina Sani, Bakhtiyar Khattak, Gul Panra, and Laila Khan enthralled the audience on the occasion.
The universities will suffer if the indicated budgetary cuts are executed, said Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) while briefing a recent meeting of National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training with Mian Najeeb-ud-Din Awaisi in the chair at the Commission Secretariat.

Highlighting challenges facing the higher education sector, the Chairman expressed concerns that instead of increase in the sector’s budget, it has been fluctuating since the establishment of HEC in 2002. “Pakistan’s education system is grossly under-funded.”

He explained that Pakistan spends 2.8 per cent of its GDP on education, which must be at least four per cent. He added that the higher education sector must have at least one fourth of the four per cent, but unfortunately the sector could only get one tenth of the allocated amount.

He also mentioned success of HEC projects including Technology Development Fund; National Research Programme for Universities; Social Integration Outreach Programme, and various other initiatives directed to promotion of a research culture in the country.

To a question regarding mushroom growth of private institutions, he said HEC sets standards for higher education institutions across the country. All the institutions need to fulfill HEC criteria before securing charter to operate anywhere in the country, he revealed. Informing the legislators regarding HEC’s future plans, Dr. Banuri said HEC is working on revival of National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) for training of potential university leadership, and capacity building of teaching and non-teaching staff of universities. He also underlined HEC’s efforts for promotion of ICT through expansion of Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN). He added that Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) is being executed to ensure transparent university operations.

The Chairman underscored that HEC is taking steps to bring systems reforms, develop fast track institutions, and promote fundraising, as HEC is committed to ensuring autonomy of universities.

He vowed that IT platform will be fully exploited to further strengthen connectivity among universities and the academic community.

The meeting passed two bills including Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, and the Disabled Persons Employment and Rehabilitation presented by Ms. Mehnaz Akbar Aziz and Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, Members National Assembly, respectively. On the occasion, Mr. Tahir Abbas Zaidi, Director General Accreditation and Attestation, HEC briefed the meeting regarding the University of Islamabad Bill 2019.
A 12-member delegation comprising Vice Chancellors of Sri Lankan leading universities, Vice Chairman of University Grants Commission, and Additional Secretary of Ministry of Education recently visited Pakistan under Pak-Sri Lanka Higher Education Programme. The purpose of this visit was to provide them orientation about higher education system of Pakistan.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has recently launched an educational and professional cooperation Programme to support Sri Lankan higher education sector. The Programme includes academic scholarships, professional trainings, faculty exchange, educational expo, and establishment of Centre of Asian Culture and Civilisation.

During a week-long inaugural visit, the delegation called on Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC at the Commission Secretariat. Dr. Banuri highlighted importance of bilateral academic and professional cooperation between the two countries. During the interactive meeting, the Sri Lankan delegation explored possibilities for academic and professional collaboration to provide substantial benefits to students, faculty, and servicemen of both countries.

The delegation also held a meeting with HEC senior officials led by Dr. Fateh Marri, Member Operations and Planning, and discussed issues of mutual academic and professional interest. Dr. Marri hoped that the two sides will strengthen their academic bonds wherein universities of both the countries will contribute to finding solutions to regional problems including poverty, food insecurity, and terrorism.

Dr. Mazhar Saeed, Director General, Planning and Development, HEC shed light on Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, which has five components including 1000 Allama Iqbal Scholarships for Sri Lankan Students, exchange of university faculty, trainings for Sri Lankan civil servants in areas of public administration, governance and leadership, establishment of a research Centre on Asian Culture and Civilisation in Sri Lanka as well as holding of Pakistan Higher Education Expo in Colombo.

Dr. Nadia Tahir, Managing Director, Quality Assurance Agency, HEC highlighted Commission’s efforts to ensure quality of education and research in higher education institutions of Pakistan. She said Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) are working in all universities to meet and evaluate quality parameters. She also underscored HEC’s endeavours to promote a research culture by setting up Offices of Research, Innovation
Mr. Tahir Abbas Zaidi, Director General, Accreditation and Attestation, HEC described Commission’s mandate and functions with respect to accreditation and attestation of institutions, academic programmes and qualifications in the country. Mr. Javed Iqbal, Director Library, HEC shared a presentation on HEC’s Digital Library. Mr. Abdullah Fayyaz Chattha, Director IT gave a detailed presentation about Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN).

The delegation also paid a visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Special Secretary, South Asian Desk highlighted the importance of regional connectivity and the role of higher education in achieving sustainable peace in the region.

During their stay in Islamabad, the delegation visited Taxila.

Institute of Asian Civilisation (TIAC) at Quaid-i-Azam University. The Sri Lankan Vice Chancellors expressed great interest in the Institute and appreciated quality of research and academic programmes. After briefing, they visited associated TIAC Museum and the library.

One of the components of the Programme is the establishment of a Centre of Asian Culture and Civilisation in Colombo. The visit to TIAC set a foundation to initiate the process that leads to establish a Centre that would work as a medium for research in Archaeology and Civilisation.

Later, the delegation went to historic city of Taxila to get a guided tour of Taxila Museum and nearby stupas.

During their visit to Lahore, the delegation visited University of the Punjab, Lahore University of Management Sciences, National College of Arts, and Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design. During this visit, they met with vice chancellors, faculty members, deans and other senior university officials to discuss bilateral academic and professional matters.

The delegation also visited HEJ International Centre of Chemical and Biological Sciences in Karachi. A guided tour of multiple laboratories was given to the delegation to experience various state-of-the-art facilities. In the end, the delegation visited Dow University of Health Sciences and its teaching hospital.

Moreover, HEC invited local Vice Chancellors in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to join the reception of Sri Lankan Delegation to explore possibilities of cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Earlier, a two-member delegation from HEC had also visited Sri Lanka that set the foundation of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme.

**Support for Students with Two-year BA/BSc Degree**

In accordance with a decision taken by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in 2016, the old two-year BA/BSc degrees (equivalent to 14 years of education) and MA/MSc degrees will no longer be offered by Pakistani universities after Academic Year 2018 and 2020, respectively.

However, holders of BA/BSc degrees will be allowed to take admission in the third year (fifth semester) of BS (four-year degree) programme after successful completion of 15-18 credit hours of bridging courses as prescribed by HEC and the admitting University.

In place of the two-year BA/BSc, universities will now be able to offer an Associate Degree through recognised campuses or constituent colleges in market driven subjects, after necessary approval from HEC, for students with 12 years of schooling. Detailed guidelines for this programme are also available on HEC website.

Students holding Associate Degrees will also be able to re-enter the education system by getting admission in the fifth semester of a BS programme after fulfilling additional entry requirements.
Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) has said that HEC is striving for strengthened autonomy of universities with fairness and accountability. He made these remarks while talking to a delegation of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA) who recently called on him at the Commission Secretariat.

FAPUASA representatives presented their concerns regarding victimisation of faculty by universities’ management. They lamented that people are being fired, suppressing their right to freedom of speech. “We do not raise any objection if actions are taken against faculty on basis of financial or moral corruption.” FAPUASA requested HEC to set up a grievance council, which would adjudicate on such matters through a transparent judicial process.

Dr. Banuri said that HEC strongly supports a timely, fair resolution to the issues of faculty as well as all other academic community members. He promised to examine the pros and cons of a Grievance Council from the legal as well as practical perspective, and consult with other stakeholders, especially the Vice Chancellors' Committee.

In addition to this, he drew attention to the urgent need to build a consensus over a formal "Charter of Rights" of faculty members, especially with regard to the need to protect intellectual freedom on campuses.

In response to a number of comments regarding harassment and ill treatment of faculty members, the Chairman HEC suggested that all stakeholders, including FAPUASA, the VC’s Committee, and HEC develop a Code of Conduct for academia. This would not only create consensus over a desirable framework for interaction among academics.

On other matters, all participants agreed that government funding for higher education should be enhanced rather than slashed. Dr. Banuri said that nobody in the Government disagrees with this proposition. Yet, the funding for higher education continued to be low, and had recently been slashed even further.

In response to a question regarding research funding, he assured the participants that no HEC programme had been stopped, and that the allocation for research and research-related expenses (including conferences, research travel, startup grants, anti-plagiarism software, and access to digital libraries) was being enhanced significantly. In addition to the NRPU, HEC was also launching two major new initiatives, namely the National Challenge Fund (NCF) and the Local Challenge Fund (LCF), which would support consortia of universities to contribute to the resolution to national and local challenges, respectively.

In response to demands by faculty members, Dr. Banuri said that HEC is supportive of enhanced benefits to faculty members, including tax rebate and higher retirement age. He said that the demands of the TTS/BPS Committee had been received and was being examined internally at HEC.
Dr. Fateh Marri Joins HEC as Member Operations & Planning

Dr. Fateh Mohammed Marri has recently joined Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan as Member (Operations and Planning). Dr. Marri is an economist, academician, researcher, planning expert, and development and management professional having experience of about 22 years. He did his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam.

A well-known scholar and practitioner in the academic and development sector of Pakistan, Dr. Marri maintains good relations with Civil Society Organizations all over Pakistan and Governments at Federal and Provincial levels.

He is a fellow of South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics, USA and Green Economic Institute, United Kingdom. He has lectured in various national as well as international seminars on Natural Resources Economics and Water Management in Pakistan.

As part of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh, Dr. Marri managed three World Bank funded projects including Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project, Sindh Barrages Improvement Project and Sindh Agricultural Growth Project (focusing on Horticultural and Dairy Value Chain).

Earlier, Dr. Marri was Chief Economist in P&D Department, Government of Sindh mainly responsible for overall economic planning and research, development statistics, foreign funding, donors’ coordination, relationships with federal departments including Economic Affairs Division and Planning Commission and international development partners.

He worked as Regional Programme Manager of ActionAid International for Sindh and Balochistan at its Area office Karachi. He also worked as Director Planning, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation in Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh.

He was Member Syndicate, Senate, Departmental Board of Studies and Board of Faculty. He was also Secretary of Curriculum Revision Committee formed by HEC for Agricultural Economics at Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam. He was also associated with International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Pakistan as Social Scientist and Team Member in an action research project entitled “Farmer Managed Irrigated Agriculture”.

12th Meeting of Higher Education Bodies of SAARC Countries

The 12th Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions (UGC)s and Equivalent Bodies was recently held in Kathmandu. Dr. Fateh Marri, Member (Operations and Planning) Higher Education Commission represented Pakistan.

According to the meeting agenda, Dr. Marri shared progress on SAARC Quality Assurance Network based on concept note prepared by Pakistan and approved in 11th meeting, common website of UGCs/ equivalent bodies named as HENSA and a template for gathering information to be uploaded on website, meeting to discuss monitoring and evaluation of online distance learning (ODL) and conference on Higher Education as Change for Socioeconomic Development in South Asia. In the sideline of the meeting, Dr. Marri interacted with Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General of SAARC.
The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in association with COMSTECH recently held 5th edition of the Transformers Roadshow competition. The IsDB awarded seed capital and business skills mentoring to four Pakistani innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs.

The winners were Dr. Osman Hassan, Smart SIM (Health), Dr. Khawaja Arsalan Habib, Short Circuit Fault Localization System (Energy), Mr. Hassan Bin Rizwan, Muse Lessons (Education), and Ms. Rehana Balti, Apricot Processing Strategy (Agriculture).

The competition attracted over 200 entrants from across Pakistan, with 20 shortlisted teams presented their innovative ideas. Out of those 20, four finalists were selected by the judging panel awarding $3,000 seed capital and a ticket to Transformers Roadshow final to be held in Senegal later this year.

The initiatives were assessed in line with the SDGs agenda across factors such as innovativeness, impact and outreach, practicality, scalability, sustainability, potential for patenting and commercialisation.

Dr. Zafar Mirza, Minister of State for Health was the chief guest of the occasion. Dr. Mirza congratulated IsDB for providing this opportunity to young Pakistani innovators to pitch their ideas for addressing one or more of the SDGs. He maintained that there is no dearth of innovative and creative ideas in our countries but there is a dire need of directing efforts towards providing indigenous solutions for the problems that we face, and secondly there is a strong need for connecting innovators with entrepreneurs, who can convert the ideas or prototypes into commercialised products or services.

Dr. Mirza also said that Pakistani innovators are using their skills in producing energy from renewable technologies, which can be linked with industry to eliminate poverty and generate employment. He said that with the help of IsDB we have started a project of mobile health clinics in Islamabad that will obviously facilitate people in providing basic health facilities in remote areas.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Bandar Hajjar President IsDB said that Pakistan is the integral member country of the IsDB group and is the 3rd largest beneficiary of IsDB financing.

The IsDB group has provided a total financing of 12.43 billion USD to Pakistan, helping improve the lives of people of Pakistan through a range of development projects. Dr. Hajjar said that IsDB has earmarked a 500 million USD fund for promoting science, technology and innovation in the member countries.

Dr. Tariq Banuri, Coordinator General COMSTECH and Chairman Higher Education Commission said that we are committed to developing local talent and nurturing solutions to key challenges. “We are delighted that this event attracted some of Pakistan’s top minds who have made it their mission to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”
Goals." He said that the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is collaborating with IsDB for funding innovative projects by Pakistani scientists.

Dr. Hayat Sindi, Senior Adviser to the President, IsDB said that the quality of the applications here in Pakistan has been exceptionally high.

“I am delighted to see so many innovative and novel solutions proposed across such a diverse mix of development issues.

Science, technology and innovation are at the heart of the IsDB’s strategy and through the Transform Fund, our dream is to support solutions designed by local entrepreneurs who understand their communities.”

---

**National Consultation for Data, Evidence & Analytics for SDGs**

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms in collaboration with UNICEF and Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently organised a two-day national consultation around Data, Evidence and Analytics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The first day was chaired by Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC and was attended by Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Shahid Naeem, Head of SDGs Section at Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and Mr. Luis Gorjon, Head of UNICEF Social Policy Section. Ms. Mussarrat Youssuf from UNICEF moderated the sessions.

The Consultation was attended by many Vice Chancellors of universities from across the country, professors, teachers and students as well as government officials from federal and provincial levels, including representatives from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). It focused on two primary themes: the data, evidence and analytics needed to support the SDGs and the engagement of universities, both faculty and students, in fulfilling these needs.

Dr. Banuri situated the SDGs in the long evolution of international efforts for peace, justice and poverty eradication. He described to participants how all 17 sustainable development goals are essentially aimed at achieving the first goal i.e. ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. The other goals are aimed directly at specific aspects of poverty eradication, some at the determinants of poverty eradication and others at the threats to successful elimination of poverty eradication.

Mr. Shahid Naeem outlined Pakistan’s specific commitments to the SDGs. Mr. Neil Buhne highlighted inclusion and equality, and Mr. Luis Gorjon stressed the importance of goal on eradicating poverty as well as its measurement to include children ensuring we ‘leave no one behind’.

A session was dedicated to the monitoring, evaluation and research needs of Pakistan’s commitments to SDGs.

Ms. Mussarrat Youssuf elaborated on the importance of evaluation and research in the achievement of SDGs.

Ms. Rabia Awan and Mr. Attiq ur Rehman of PBS talked about various national surveys supporting SDGs and Mr. Ali Kemal, Mr. Nadeem Ahmed and Mr. Azfar Ali explained the data gap and SDGs dashboard at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms.

Another session focused on harnessing the power of academia to support data and evidence needs of SDGs. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Dr. Rubeena Zakir of Punjab University, Dr. Abubakr of LUMS, Dr. Saeeda Batool of NUST and Dr. Asif Khan of Peshawar University outlined various aspects of engagement of academia for SDGs data and evidence needs.
Welcome Ceremony for Chinese Language Course Graduates

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently organised a welcome ceremony for 14 graduates of Batch-I of one-year Chinese language course on their return from China.

These students graduated from Literature JiangSu University, China.

In 2017, the Government of Pakistan had announced 50 scholarships for students from Gwadar in Chinese Universities in order to meet the local needs emerging owing to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

HEC was entrusted with the task of selecting bright students from Gwadar for award of the scholarships.

In the welcome ceremony, senior management of HEC and Chinese delegations from different business companies had a live session with the students to judge their Chinese Language speaking and expressing capabilities.

The CPEC has become a focus of new geopolitical set-up in South Asia. This has necessitated learning of Chinese language so as to produce well-versed workforce.

Moreover, multinational companies of Chinese origin have started their operations in Pakistan and it is expected that the local youth can fill the immediate gap only if they can speak and understand Chinese language.

US Needs-Based Scholarship-Vital Fields being Focused

U.S. Consul General Colleen Crenwelge recently joined Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and more than 70 talented young Pakistani students in celebrating the US government-funded Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Programme (MNBSP), which supports deserving but financially constrained students who could not otherwise afford to earn degrees.

“This programme exemplifies the long and productive partnership between the United States and Pakistan in higher education,” Consul General Crenwelge said. “We are confident that many talented, bright scholarship recipients will help create a prosperous future for all.”

MNBSP is a partnership between the Higher Education Commission and the United States Government, funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
He said MNBSP reserves 50 percent of scholarships for female students. Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman, HEC added that the scholarship programme focuses on fields vital to Pakistan’s economic development, including agriculture, business, engineering, medicine, and social sciences.

“Our objective is to create opportunities for talented students, faculty, and researchers, so they can help build a vibrant society,” he remarked.

Since its establishment in 2004, MNBSP has awarded scholarships to more than 5,300 deserving yet economically disadvantaged youth across Pakistan. In Punjab, MNBSP has awarded scholarships to 2,300 students attending 10 partner institutions, including the University of Health Sciences and its affiliated medical colleges.

Governor Sarwar commended the United States’ support for higher education in Pakistan.

Commission (HEC), Pakistan, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and 30 Pakistani universities.

Scholarships cover tuition, housing, and textbooks; provide a food stipend, and include financial aid management and career development services.

HEC Highlights Importance of Quality & Research at D-8 Meeting

The first Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting and 2nd Focal Points Meeting of the D-8 International University were recently held at the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Tehran under the auspices of D-8 Organisation of Economic Cooperation.

D-8, also known as Developing-8, is an organization for development cooperation among eight countries, including Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

The Secretary General of D-8, Ambassador Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, participated in the Board of Trustees Meeting. The 2nd Focal Points Meeting of the D-8 International University was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Education and Higher Education Authorities as well as officials of the embassies of D-8 member states. The meeting concluded with adoption of relevant documents for BoT meeting, namely Statute of the D-8 International University and rules of procedure of the BoT.

In the 1st BoT meeting of the D-8 International University, Dr. Mansour Gholami, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Iran chaired the ceremony.

Dr. Fateh Marri, Member Operations and Planning, Higher Education Commission (HEC) represented Pakistan in the BoT along with delegates of the ministries and bodies responsible for higher education of the eight member states.

Dr. Marri emphasised on the quality aspect of teaching and research and representation of D-8 states in the university including faculty, researchers as well as students.

He also highlighted that since the University is established in Bu Ali Sina University, so endeavors like those of the great Muslim scientist are expected from the University.

He briefed the attendees regarding the idea behind the establishment of the D-8 International University, current status and progress as well as future plans and projects regarding the University.

He also emphasised on the importance of University as an incubator of world-class scientists and inventors. He thanked the D-8 Member States for their unwavering commitment and support to the D-8 International University project.
Government of Pakistan and World Bank Sign Agreement for Higher Education Development

Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project was successfully negotiated between Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and the World Bank in May 2019, for a $400 Million IDA credit support. Subsequently the project was approved by the World Bank Board in May.

The formal signing ceremony of the Agreement recently took place at the Finance Division, Pakistan Secretariat Islamabad. The financial agreement was signed by Mr. Noor Ahmed, Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and Mr. Patchamuthu Illangovan, the World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. Lt. Gen. (R) Muhammad Asghar, Executive Director, HEC signed the project agreement of HEDP project.

The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs. Senior officers from HEC and EAD were also present during the occasion, including Dr. Fateh Marri, Member Operations and Planning, HEC, Mr. Awais Ahmad, Director General, Academics, HEC, Adil Akbar Khan, Joint Secretary EAD, Mr. Azam Khan, Deputy Secretary EAD.

Dr. Shaikh in his closing statement, emphasised resolve of the government to support higher education sector development; particularly in instituting research excellence, improving teaching and learning at affiliated colleges and universities, and strengthening governance in the higher education sector of Pakistan.

The project has five components. The Component-1, nurturing academic excellence in strategic sectors, will help promote relevant and cutting-edge research in universities in Pakistan, through competitive research, innovation, and commercialisation grants to researchers and potential entrepreneurs from among faculty members, and current students.

The Component-2, supporting decentralized Higher Education Institutions for improved teaching and learning, aims to improve the quality of education delivered by Tier 2 universities and affiliated colleges through strengthening affiliation systems and technological interventions.

The objective of the Component-3 is to leverage technology to improve the teaching, learning and research environment in Pakistan and strengthen the existing IT resources available to institutions for research and higher education in Pakistan.

The Component-4, higher education management information system and data driven services, aims to improve the collection and use of data for national level policy-decisions, while automating business processes in higher education institutions.

The Component-5 will support HEC in strengthening its core functions of regulation, capacity building, and funding of Pakistan’s higher education sector through strategic and targeted Technical Assistance, including establishment of National Higher Education Academy.
The Learning Innovation Division of HEC recently organised a two-week training programme on “Academic Writing for Publication”, in collaboration with the US Embassy Pakistan’s Regional English Language Office.

It was a 10-day intensive professional development training session on academic writing for university teachers from across Pakistan. The participants represented diverse disciplines including Basic English Communication, Advanced English Literature for English majors, Engineering, Agriculture, and Medicine.

Dr. Ivan was the Resource Person during these two weeks. Dr. Nadia Tahir, Managing Director, Quality Assurance Agency was chief guest in the closing ceremony. Sixteen faculty members were awarded certificates. Mr. Fida Hussain, Director General, Learning Innovation was also present on the occasion.

A three-member Pakistani team won second prize in Huawei ICT Competition, while Malaysian and Algerian teams shared the first prize of the practice competition in network track. This year, the global finals featured the theme of Connecting Glory Future and concluded at the Huawei Songsan Lake Base in Dongguan, China.

The winning students from Pakistan are Zohaib Anwar and Shamim Iqbal from Virtual University Lahore, and Jawaria Abbas from Lahore Leads University, who were mentored by Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Malik, Corvit Networks, Lahore.

Since its launch in June 2018, the competition attracted 61 countries from all over the world. Over 1600 colleges and universities, and more than 100000 college students participated in the competition. After national and regional competitions, 49 teams from 30 countries were selected and 147 students entered in the global finals.

Huawei ICT Competition Pakistan 2018-19 was launched in September 2018. The number of participants at roadshows were over 15000, while successful online applicants in Pakistan reached the figure of 10672.

More than 30 locations and over 5000 students attended the exam conducted on Huawei’s e-learning platform. Roadshow and workshops were held at 53 universities and academic institutions across Pakistan.

Top 300 students were invited to attend Round-II, of which 171 students passed HCNA Certification.

The top 100 students took part in the National Finals and the most competitive top six students were selected for the Middle East Regional Finals.

Three out of the top six students qualified for the International Finals after the Middle East Regional Final.

Huawei has established 15 Huawei ICT academies all across Pakistan, to promote studies of advanced technologies through R&D and adopt Huawei’s globally renowned university-enterprise cooperation model.

Out of 50 countries and 600 Huawei ICT academies globally, Pakistan’s three academies and two instructors qualified in the top 10.
Chairman HEC Condoles Death of VC Karachi University

condolences on the sad demise of Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi on behalf of the entire higher education sector, who recently passed away.

The Chairman appreciated services of Dr. Khan to the higher education sector. He prayed for the departed soul and fortitude for his bereaved family to bear the loss.

Dr. Khan, an eminent Botanist did his PhD in Physiological Ecology from Ohio University in 1985. He served the higher education sector for about 40 years. In recognition of his services, HEC recognised him as a Distinguished National Professor in 2005.

He was also awarded Pride of Performance in 2001, Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2007 and Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2008 in Botany. He was appointed as Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi in January 2017.

MUET Centre & SEPA to Collaborate for Environmental Protection

US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro and Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) have recently agreed to collaborate for environmental protection in the province through capacity building of public and private sectors and research in the field of water and wastewater management.

A delegation of SEPA led by its Director General, Mr. Naeem Ahmad Mughal, visited the Centre and held a meeting with Dr. Bakhshal Lashari, Project Director and Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Deputy Director Academics and Research.

Dr. Lashari informed the delegation that the Centre is already working with various organisations and industries to resolve their water related issues with the help of innovative research of its faculty and scholars.

Mr. Mughal said that Centre should conduct trainings, workshops and awareness campaigns for general public and workers of various industries and SEPA will collaborate in this regard as well. He further said that both sides will collaborate for air quality monitoring and indoor air pollution to make mechanism for climate change in future.
Self-Review Sessions on Quality Enhancement at NED University

NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi recently conducted its Self-Review of Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) and Review of Masters and PhD Programmes. Dr. Razak Mahar, Director QEC, Shah Abdul Latif University was invited as an external member in the review panel.

The purpose of the self-assessment activity was to review University Portfolio Report and measure the compliance level with the IPE Manual of Higher Education Commission.

The review panels of both activities reviewed the available data and documents. The panel also visited selected facilities, interacted with the principal officers, Chairs, Deans, HoDs, faculty and students. In the end, review panels held an exit meeting with Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Pro-Vice Chancellor and communicated in brief their observations and recommendations.

Meanwhile, University's Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) organised a one-day seminar on Practices of Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions. The Directors of QECs from various universities were invited as guest speakers. The participants included faculty members, area coordinators, officials and students of NED and other universities.

Conference on Computing and Information Sciences

Pakistan Air Force – Karachi Institute of Economics and Technology (PAF-KIET) recently held its 3rd International Conference on Computing and Information Sciences.

The event provided a forum to present new research of the emerging technologies in the fields of Computing and Information Sciences.

Mr. Mohammad Vakil, Technical Programme Manager, Facebook based in Seattle and Prof. Nasser Metwally, Bahrain University were keynote speakers of the conference.

For the conference, 72 research paper abstracts were submitted, out of which 20 papers were selected for final presentation. Air Vice Marshal (R) Tubrez Asif, President PAF-KIET said that he was confident that the conference would help provide a bridge between academia and the industry.
Food Sciences & Nutrition Conference at UoS

The Institute of Food Sciences and Nutrition, University of Sargodha recently organised a two-day International Conference entitled “Emerging Challenges in Food Sciences and Nutrition Research.”

Food scientists, experts and nutritionists including Dr. Sundaram Gunasekaran from USA, Dr. Keshavan Niranjan from UK, Dr. Zulkifli Khair from Malaysia, and Dr Marzieh Hosseininezhad from Iran presented their research papers. The conference sessions covered 12 plenary lectures including over 50 oral and 40 poster presentations. Besides the conference, a food expo was also organised where 36 local, national and multinational industries displayed their products. Also, two business start-ups and 16 product developments and sale stalls were displayed to inculcate the concept of entrepreneurship.

Art Exhibition on Pak-China Friendship

The Institute of Art and Design and the Pakistan Institute of China Studies in collaboration with Pakistan Council on China, Islamabad jointly organised 1st National Art Exhibition and Competition 2019 at University of Sargodha. The central theme of the event was revolving around Pak-China Friendship.

Mr. You Yi, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan inaugurated the exhibition. Over 50 universities participated in the art exhibition to highlight the friendship and harmony between Pakistan and China through various art forms including miniature, prints, calligraphy, sculptures, special paper-cutting arts, drawings, paintings, crafts and other artworks.

Chinese University Delegation Visits UoS for Tech Exchange

A South China Agriculture University delegation headed by Dr. Yubin Lane recently visited the University of Sargodha (UoS) to sensitise agricultural community about the precision agriculture through Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), better known as a drone. The delegation attended a two-day international seminar entitled Use of Precision Agricultural UAV for Pesticide Spraying and Field Demonstration organised by the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, UoS. The delegation also demonstrated a test-flight of the drone that monitored crop progress and sprayed pesticides during their visit to the local agricultural lands.
AAUR Workshop on ICT Role for Disaster Prediction and Management

The Institute of Information Technology of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) recently organised a three-day regional workshop on the Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Disaster Prediction and Management.

The objectives of organising the workshop was to raise awareness about ICT role for disaster prediction and management among academicians, researchers, professionals and policy makers.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi was the chief guest at the inaugural session while Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, Secretary General, Network of Academies of Sciences of Islamic Countries was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, President Alvi urged the need to develop, test and scale up ICT applications in areas of disaster prevention, preparedness and governance. He stressed on water resources management, sound agriculture practices and enhanced forestation across Pakistan to ensure disaster risk reduction.

The President emphasised upon creation of mass awareness about impacts of climatic change, adding that ICT could play a significant role by making people conscious about the environmental hazards.

“Every person should plant at least one sapling because it is a collective responsibility to tackle issues of environmental and climatic changes.”

Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, Vice Chancellor, AAUR said that this workshop is aimed to discuss modern day tools and technologies especially information technology apparatus for proactive approach through prediction and post-facto mitigation of such incidences.

The experts recommended strengthening regional research and development activities related to use of ICT and comprehensive communication system in disaster risk reduction. They suggested that there is a dire need of management information system for strategy, planning and rehabilitation. They were of the view that lack of awareness is a major problem for disaster management and recommended use of many open-resource tools and software applications.

Sukkur IBA University Installs Solar Energy System

Sukkur IBA University in collaboration with the Government of Sindh has recently installed grid tied solar system of 964 KWp capacity throughout its campus. Promoting its green campus initiative, the University aims to become zero waste and paper-less institution and, in that spirit, the University has achieved zero electricity billing.

Dr. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor, Sukkur IBA University said that the University has included clean and renewable energy by installing solar panels, which produce 964 KWp of clean and renewable energy, thus minimising hazards to the already endangered environment.

Besides providing green and clean energy, the system provides an opportunity to the students to have hands on experience to learn the latest technology, especially students enrolled in Renewable Energy System Engineering programme of the University.
The University of Education (UoE), Lahore in collaboration with Khyber Medical University and Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE) organised 2nd International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

Before formal inauguration of the conference, the international speakers conducted different workshops covering various topics that included, “Embedding Quality Culture in a University: a Management Perspective”, “The Role of Performance Evaluation Systems within the Quality Assurance Framework: Challenges and Opportunities”, “Strategic Planning for your Organisation”, “Establishing and Maintaining a Culture of Quality”, “Constructive Alignment of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment to the Intended Level of Course and Programme Learning Outcomes”, “KPIs and Benchmarking – Improving HEIs Performance”.

Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice Chancellor, UoE said although the present government is introducing major reforms in education system to bring the much needed quality in education system, however all stakeholders should join hands with the government for a real change.

Dr. Arshad Javed, Vice Chancellor, Khyber Medical University said that incredible work is being done to ensure quality in higher education by PNQAHE. “We will ensure quality in teacher’s research and in finished product i.e. our graduates”, he stressed.

Dr. Azam Ali Khawaja, former Managing Director, Quality Assurance Agency, HEC expressed his views on Quality Assurance in Higher education.

Ms. Noor Amna Malik, Adviser, Monitoring and Evaluation, HEC shared the role of HEC and its contributions to uplift the standard of higher education in the country.

Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD), Lahore recently showcased expressions of creativity of over 200 graduating students from seven departments working under four different faculties.

Thesis Display 2019 portrayed techniques, concepts and efforts done by students during four-year undergraduate studies. The projects were diverse in nature, which not only captured the essence of academic programme but have been prepared and developed keeping in mind consumers and the industrial requirements.

Likewise, PIFD organised another exhibition that showcased studio work of postgraduate students of the institution.

The studio work was developed on the basis of a course entitled Thinking through Materials.
BNU holds Degree Show

The Annual Thesis Show of Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design (SVAD), Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore featured thesis works of around 60 graduating students of Visual Arts, Visual Communication Design, Textile and Fibre Studies, Fashion and Fibre Studies and Jewellery and Accessory Design.

The show was inaugurated by Dr. Parvez Hassan, Member BNU Board of Governors.

The week-long activities also featured 2nd Design Summit Prologue headed by Prof. Rashid Rana and Dr. Ijlal Muzaffar. The summit challenged binary framings of modern vs traditional, art/design vs craft, global vs local and tried to explore how breaking of such binaries can inform the evolution of design.

The third edition of Nothing Fest was also held with the sub-theme for this year “blank.” Continuing the tradition of bringing people outside of art and design academia, this year the Nothing Fest brought together people from diverse backgrounds. Speakers put together their ideas of “blank” through their experiences, some brought in poetry and some narrated moving stories.

After the enriching sessions interactive “talkshops” were held for the students to gain experience with the leaders in their respective fields.

University of Turbat holds 2nd Convocation

The University of Turbat (UoT) recently organised its second convocation. Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Chancellor UoT, was the chief guest.

Over 300 graduating students including seven MPhil students were awarded degrees on the occasion, and gold medals to 22 position holders.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yasinzai said that the increasing trends of acquiring education among female population in Makran would provide strong base to the development process in this region. He said the present government is fully committed to support and strengthen the higher education institutions in Balochistan.

Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Vice Chancellor UoT said, “Besides promoting higher education in this remote area of the country, the main purpose of establishing UoT was to enhance a culture of research and to advance innovation in the areas of Science and Technology, Legal Education, Business and Arts and Humanities.”
In order to strengthen academia-industry and farmers’ linkages, reduce agricultural import bill and to address different agriculture issues Ministry of Science and Technology will set up Agriculture Technology Taskforce led by Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

The decision was taken in a recent meeting of deans and directors of UAF. The meeting was chaired by Fawad Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Science and Technology.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf gave briefing about the university’s contributions in the education, science, technology, and agriculture sectors.

The minister showed his concern that access to good seed was the major problem for farming community as markets were having abundant inflicted seed which is hampering to gain the good results in the sector. He said that poor quality of pesticides is also one of the major hindrances, agriculture sector faces.

He emphasised that university should devise standards of seeds and pesticides that will be implemented across the country. He said that keeping in view, harmonised national food policy would be mapped out with the help of food experts from UAF. He informed that October 2 will be declared as the science and technology day in connection with birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Dr. Ashraf informed the federal minister that university had taken up the issue of the development of climate resilient seeds and development of small machinery for food security and increasing per acre production.

Engr. Shamsul Mulk, President of the Society for Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology in Pakistan (SOPREST) presided over 23rd convocation of the Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Engineering, Sciences and Technology, Swabi.

The convocation was also attended by Mr. Shakeel Durrani, Executive Director SOPREST, Engr. Jehangir Bashar, Rector GIK Institute, Dr. Jameel-Un-Nabi, Pro-Rector Academics, Sardar Aminullah Khan, Pro-Rector Administration and Finance, Faculty Deans, Heads of Departments, officials of various institutions, academic staff, students and their parents. Engr. Mulk conferred degrees to a total of 461 students, including 406 BS, 49 MS and six PhD graduates.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Medal for best academic record was awarded to Muhammad Shoaib Ijaz and Quaid-i-Azam Medal for best overall performance to Sara Mustafa.

Dr. Jameel-Un-Nabi said that GIK Institute currently offers 11 BS, 10 MS and seven PhD programmes. “About 5300 students, including 460 MS and 80 PhDs, have already graduated from GIK Institute,” he said.
Confirm Accreditation of Professional Degree Programme before Admission

It has been noticed with concern that degree programmes of some universities are being initiated/continued without obtaining accreditation from the concerned Professional Councils.

Non-Recognition of such graduates by the Councils creates a direct negative impact on the future of these students.

In the larger public interest, it is important that commencement of new professional programmes be only undertaken after complete observance of all the requirements prescribed by the Councils. Students and Parents are advised to confirm whether the degree programme of their interest is accredited by the concerned Council before getting admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Accreditation Councils</th>
<th>Web Link/Contact Numbers of the Councils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Engineering Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pec.org.pk">www.pec.org.pk</a> 051-2829348 Ext. 241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Medical and Dental Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pmdc.org.pk">www.pmdc.org.pk</a> 051-9106165/9106151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pvmc.org.pk">www.pvmc.org.pk</a> 051-9108340, 051-9108342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Nursing Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnc.org.pk">www.pnc.org.pk</a> 051-9255805, 051-9255813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Council for Architects and Town Planners</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcatp.org.pk">www.pcatp.org.pk</a> 021-35883731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Council of Pakistan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.pk">www.pharmacycouncil.org.pk</a> 051-9204191, 051-9245538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Bar Council</td>
<td>pakistanbarcouncil.org 051-9206805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council for Homoeopathy</td>
<td>nchpakistan.gov.pk 051-5409045, 5409003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council for Tibb</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nct.gov.pk">www.nct.gov.pk</a> 051-9204378/051-9204375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naeac.org">www.naeac.org</a> 051-90802681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Business Education Accreditation Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nbeac.org.pk">www.nbeac.org.pk</a> 051-90800206-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Computing Education Accreditation Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nceac.org">www.nceac.org</a> 051-90802771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nacte.org.pk">www.nacte.org.pk</a> 042-99232025, 99232492 051-90808155, 90808156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Technology Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ntc-hec.org.pk">www.ntc-hec.org.pk</a> 051-90802780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accreditation Matters!

Students seeking admission are advised to confirm that the degree programmes they choose are accredited by respective Councils.

Managing Director
Quality Assurance Agency
For complaints and suggestions:
Tel: 051-90402700
Email: sukhan@hec.gov.pk and hquddus@hec.gov.pk
HEC Bans Admissions in Distance Education Centres of Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology (SUIT), Peshawar

The Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology (SUIT), Peshawar is a chartered university in the private sector established under KPK Government Ordinance No. XXIV of 2001 dated August 30, 2001.

The admissions of Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology (SUIT), Peshawar in all those programmes which are being offered through Distance Education Centres (DECs) have been stopped.

The University has been advised to restrict its operations to on-campus programmes at HEC-recognised Main Campus in Peshawar ONLY.

Prospective students are advised not to take admission in any programme through Distance Education Centres of Sarhad University across the country, including AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan. Otherwise, degrees of such students will not be recognised by HEC.

University of Central Punjab, Lahore

The University of Central Punjab (UCP), Lahore is a Chartered University in Private Sector and has only been allowed to offer degree programmes from its principal seat in Lahore.

Students and their parents are advised not to take admission in any campus/college/branch/outpost in Punjab where degree programmes of University of Central Punjab are being offered, except main campus of UCP in Lahore, otherwise degrees of such students will not be recognised by HEC.

Further, no fresh admissions are allowed in Associate Degree Programme (ADP) in any of the colleges of UCP with effect from October 2, 2018. Prospective students are advised not to obtain admission in any Associate Degree Programme of UCP.

Director General
Accreditation and Attestation
Sector H-9, Islamabad
Ph: 051-90400900
The Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognises degrees of chartered universities/institutions from public and private sector in Pakistan along with their approved campuses as mentioned at following website links.

**List of Recognised Universities/Institutions**

[hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs](http://hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs)

**List of Recognised Campuses of Public and Private Sector Institutions**

[hec.gov.pk/site/recognizedcampuses](http://hec.gov.pk/site/recognizedcampuses)

**List of Illegal/Fake Institutions**

[hec.gov.pk/site/Illegal-DAIs](http://hec.gov.pk/site/Illegal-DAIs)

Any other university/institution which is not listed among HEC recognised universities or campuses available at our website will not be considered a recognised institution.

In the larger interest of general public and in view of the forthcoming admission season, students and their parents are advised to verify legal status of the university/institution or its campus from the above-mentioned links.

Students are advised NOT to take admissions in those institutions which are not listed among HEC recognised universities/institutions/campuses given on HEC website. Degrees obtained from non-recognised institutions/campuses will not be recognised.

**NOTE**

Students and parents are cautioned not to get admission in the universities/DAIs wherein admissions are banned due to various irregularities as mentioned on HEC website.