

## 39th Convocation of FAST-NU Islamabad

### President Mamnoon lauds FAST-NU's contribution in higher education

461 students comprising 402 Bachelor, 56 Master degree and 3 Ph.D students received their degrees in the 39th Convocation of FAST-NU Islamabad held on August 3, 2015. President of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Mamnoon Hussain was the chief guest at the convocation. Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chancellor, Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, members of FAST Board of Governors, Rana Ghulam Shabbir, Secretary General, Dr. Arshad Ali Shahid, Director Islamabad campus, faculty members, students and their parents attended the ceremony.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to the top three position holders for their excellent academic performance. This year the campus has produced 211 BS (Computer Science), 96 BS (Electrical Engineering), 28 BS (Accounts & Finance), 67 BBA, 40 MBA, 11 MS (Computer Science), 05 MS (Electrical Engineering), and 03 PhD (Computer Science) graduates. President Mamnoon Hussain congratulated the graduates on achieving major landmark and their parents on this memorable event. He distributed degrees and medals to position holders and high achievers. He

also congratulated the senior management of the university and the members of the FAST Board of Governors for their vision and hard work for setting up a quality institution of higher learning.

The President said he was impressed by the progress FAST-NU has made in achieving high standards in its degree programs. "It is heartening to know that the university has produced a fine crop of engineers, computer scientists and teachers who are now working on the frontiers of knowledge not only in national but also in international organizations," he remarked.

The Chancellor, Mr. Wasim Sajjad and Rector, Dr. Amir Muhammed, while addressing the ceremony specially thanked President Mamnoon Hussain for gracing the occasion. They said that it was a historic day for the university. While briefing the President and the audience on the history, objectives and journey of FAST,



the Chancellor paid tribute to late Justice Syed Akhlaque Hussain, late Aga Hassan Abedi and late Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq for making FAST-NU what it is today. He also said that FAST-NU was the first multi-campus federal university established in the private sector in 2000. He said since then only merit was the criterion for admission. "No student who qualifies for admission is denied education because of inability to pay fees. Over 1000 students are given financial aid which amounts to Rs. 70 million each year," he stated.

## President Mamnoon confers Sitara-e-Imtiaz to Secretary General FAST

President of Pakistan His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain has conferred Civil Award "Sitara-e-Imtiaz" to General Secretary FAST Rana Ghulam Shabbir in recognition of his services for higher education sector in Pakistan.

Rana Ghulam Shabbir has enjoyed repute of dedicated, committed and innovative professional throughout his public service and community development career spanning over sixty



years. He did his BSc in Civil Engineering in 1952 from Maclagan Engineering College (now UET Lahore). He is serving Foundation for Advancement of Science and Technology (FAST) as its Secretary General since 1990. He also served as Sr. Executive Director in Agriculture Development Bank, Planning Division and Establishment Division from 1973 to 1990, Capital Development Authority as Director Building, Maintenance and Roads from 1959 to 1973 where he looked after monumental projects like construction of Secretariat buildings, Government hostels, sports facilities, mosques and thousands of houses in Islamabad. For his outstanding work and contribution in the construction

of Secretariat buildings in Islamabad, he was awarded Tamgha-e-Quaid-i-Azam by President Muhammad Ayub Khan in 1965. He has significantly contributed to shape FAST-NU in to what it is today. FAST-NU is Pakistan's only private full-fledged multi-campus university with 10,000 students in its own state of the art modern campuses in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Chiniot/Faisalabad, and Peshawar.

Under the dynamic leadership of Rana Ghulam Shabbir, FAST provided financial aid amounting to Rs. 80 million to the impoverished and marginalized students of FAST-NU. So far FAST has given financial aid amounting to Rs. 460 million to more than 4000 needy students.

## Participation in SAICON

Manager Students Affairs FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad (CFD) campus Mr. Hasnain Bashir participated in the 7th South Asian International Conference (SAICON 2015) held in Islamabad from August 19 to 21, 2015. SAICON is an annual conference organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) as

custodian of the South Asian chapter of the Academy for Global Business Advancement (AGBA). This year's conference theme was "Meeting the Challenge; Navigating the Future". Mr. Hasnain presented a paper on "Social Entrepreneurship in Pakistan: a case of Pakistani context of small businesses in Faisalabad".



## Robotic event held



An event titled "Divox Kids Robotic" was organized by CFD campus on August 6 to engage school children in science and technology and enhance their understanding in robotics. Children participating from different schools of Faisalabad took interest in the technological briefing from the faculty of Computer

Sciences on future of the robotics, relevant games and different technological activities. Director CFD campus Syed Asif Mahmood Gillani emphasized on the importance of modern technology especially future of the world with perspective of robotic and technological advancement.

## Research paper published

Dr. Muhammad Farasat Shamir, Assistant Professor Mathematics, FAST-NU Lahore campus published his research paper titled "Locally Rotationally Symmetric Bianchi Type I Cosmology in  $f(R,T)$  Gravity" in the European Physics Journal C (Eur. Phys. J. C (2015) 75:354). The European Physics Journal C is a highly ranked international journal with Impact Factor 5.084. It also falls in the "Gold Category" approved by FAST-NU.

## 18 position holder students of 39th Convocation

The following position holders were awarded medals: Ms. Maham Khalid (Gold) Batch 2013 MS (CS), Mr. Safdar Aqeel Safdar (Silver) Batch 2013 MS(CS), Ms. Sidra Iftikhar (Bronze) Batch 2013 MS(CS), Mr. Bilal Hussain (Gold) Batch 2013 MBA 1.5 Years, Ms. Hira Asmat (Silver) Batch 2013 MBA 1.5 Years, Mr. Sohaib Mirza (Bronze) Batch 2013 MBA 1.5 Years, Ms. Sarah Wazir (Gold) Batch 2013 MBA Evening, Ms. Dania Zeb (Gold) Batch 2011 BS (CS), Mr. Asad Ali (Silver) Batch 2011 BS (CS), Ms. Zuria Batool (Bronze) Batch 2011 BS (CS), Ms. Fatima Sameeullah (Gold) Batch 2011 BS (EE), Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Saleem (Gold) Batch 2011 BS (EE), Ms. Sidra Tul Muntaha (Bronze) Batch 2011 BS (EE), Ms. Anum Sheraz (Gold) Batch 2011 BBA, Ms. Nafia Hamid Paracha (Silver) Batch 2011 BBA, Ms. Usra Zahid (Bronze) Batch 2011 BBA, Ms. Amal Shakeel (Gold) Batch 2011 BS (A&F), Mr. Syed Awn Raza Bukhari (Silver) Batch 2011 BS (A&F).

## Workshop on MS Office

Career Services Center (CSC), a body of the FAST School of Management (FSM) CFD campus, conducted a 3-day workshop on Microsoft Office from July 29-31, 2015. Hands-on training sessions were held on MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint for staff and faculty. Mr. Khalid Hussain from Computer Science department facilitated the workshop.

## A trip to Northern Areas

FAST-NU Islamabad arranged a final year trip (FYT) to northern areas of Pakistan for Batch 2012 of Electrical Engineering department from 4th to 10th of August, 2015. Faculty members Engr. Ihtisham Khalid, Engr. Furqan Mehmood and Engr. Warda Shafiq accompanied the

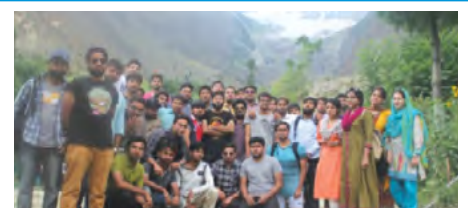
## Conference papers presented in 11th European conference

Dr. Zohaib Iqbal, Assistant Professor Computer Science department and Lead scientist at Software Quality Engineering and Testing (QUEST) Lab at FAST-NU Islamabad campus, presented the research paper titled "Empirical Evaluation of UML Modeling Tools - A Controlled Experiment" at the 11th European Conference on Modeling Foundations and Applications 2015, held in L'Aquila, Italy.

Also, Dr. Muhammad Uzair Khan, Assistant Professor Computer Science and head of QUEST Lab, FAST-NU Islamabad campus, presented the research paper titled "AspectOCL: An extension to OCL for specifying crosscutting constraints" at the same venue.

The conference was held as part of STAF 2015, which is a federation of a number of leading conferences on software technologies. The conference is widely attended by top researchers in model driven software engineering as well as by leading industry professionals in the domain. The presentations were greatly appreciated by the industry professionals. The conference chair Prof. Gabriele Taentzer specifically recognized the contributions of the authors that resulted in Pakistan being 3rd on the list of countries from which papers are accepted at this prestigious venue.

students during trip. They visited Gilgit, Hunza, Attabad Lake, Chalt valley, Hoper glaciers, Eagle Nest Karimabad, Baltit fort Karimabad and Rakaposhi Viewpoint. The trip was a great example of participatory approach and everyone took an active part in the activities during the trip.



---

## Faculty Development Workshop held at Karachi campus

FAST-NU Karachi campus successfully organized one-day workshop for its faculty members. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Exploring Leadership



and Learning Theories in Asia (ELLTA). ELLTA is a volunteer initiative that aims to explore, understand, recognize, strengthen, encourage and promote existing theories and practices of leadership and learning in Asia.

The workshop was conducted to help faculty members in learning about recognition and identification of potential and opportunities, introduction to strength-based approaches to teaching, learning and self-development, understanding 'engaging pedagogies' and their impact on learning outcomes.

Mr. Muhammad Babur and Ms. Roshni



Kumari, co-founders of the ELLTA discussed different paradigms of the art of teaching with the faculty members, helping them enhance their leading and mentoring abilities.

---

## QEC qualifies as Lead Auditor of ISO 2700: 2013

Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), FAST-NU Islamabad has recently been qualified as the Lead Auditor of ISO 27001:2013 international standard from SGS International. SGS International is a Swiss based multinational having its presence in over 147 countries around the world, which is also known for its high quality training and certification services.

The ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) standard

is a holistic tool that considers every risk critical in identifying the dangers faced by information security system. The ISO 27001 standard can contribute in managing numerous information security requirements of a university, such as Implementing pragmatic policies and processes; Increasing its shareholders' value by reducing risks; protecting information systems from external threat and minimizing impact; be fully cognitive of security threats and how they are evolving

globally; preserving data integrity and confidentiality and be fully committed to information security processes.

Through this prestigious qualification, FAST-NU QEC has got the capability to provide pertinent advisory services in aligning information security practices of an HEI through a structured approach as per national and international quality management best practices.

---

## QUEST Lab organizes Testathon 2015

Software testing hackathon event was held at FAST-NU Islamabad campus on August 4. The event was organized by QUEST Lab in collaboration with Knowledge Testers, Pakistan Software Testing Board, and Aurora Solutions (a local software company). The goal of the event was to host a "Testathon" where industry professionals used their experience and expertise to test a web-based solution developed by Aurora

Solutions. The event was a great success and was attended by more than 30 industry software quality assurance practitioners and testing experts.

Jointly the experts discovered over 15 different bugs in the software under test, including some critical security bugs. Mr. Majd Uddin from knowledge systems and Dr. Muhammad Uzair along with the Aurora solutions team judged the discovered

bugs and awarded prizes to the participants that discovered the most interesting and critical bugs. Dr. Zohaib Iqbal, Assistant Professor FAST-NU Islamabad, who is also the president of Pakistan Software Testing Board, addressed the audience highlighting the need of high quality professional testers and presented various initiatives by PSTB to improve the software testing practices in Pakistan.

---

## Seminar on "Outcome-based Education"

FAST-NU Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), as part of its faculty development program on quality in higher education according to Higher Education Commission (HEC) requirements, organized a seminar on "Outcome-Based Education" (OBE) on July 29, 2015 at Peshawar campus.

Dr. Waseem Ikram, Dean Faculty of Engineering, FAST-NU was the resource person of the seminar. Target audience of the seminar was the faculty members of department of Electrical Engineering,

as Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is shifting to OBE, which is a student-centered learning philosophy that focuses on practically measuring student performance. Other than faculty members of Electrical Engineering, faculty members of Computer Science, Management Sciences and department of Sciences & Humanities also attended the seminar.

The presenter gave a briefing on OBE. Comparison of OBE with traditional educational framework was also discussed

in detail. Dr. Waseem Ikram discussed OBE framework in detail. He related mission statement of FAST-NU and program objective of BS (EE) designed by FAST-NU with OBE framework. He also mentioned that there was lot more to do for shifting to OBE as there were various steps involved in the shifting process. In the end, Director Peshawar campus Dr. Tariq Rahim presented a shield to the resource person as a token of appreciation.



## Orientation Ceremony 2015 held in Karachi and CFD campuses



Karachi campus arranged an orientation ceremony for the students of 2015 intake on August 10, 2015. A large number of students, their parents and faculty members attended the session.

All departmental heads introduced the faculty members of their respective departments to the students and briefed them about the campus facilities, education

standard, and rules and regulations. Dr. Zubair Ahmed Shaikh, Director Karachi campus, in his speech, emphasized on the importance of education, time management, leadership skills and entrepreneurship.

Later, flag hoisting ceremony was also held to mark Independence Day. To present national spirit, students from different regions of the country were invited on the stage to depict national unity

during the flag hoisting.

Students, afterward, were guided to the campus and were introduced to all departments, offices and the office bearers.

Meanwhile, a similar orientation session for batch 2015 was also held in FAST-NU CFD campus on August 8, 2015. Secretary General FAST Rana Ghulam Shabbir

specially participated in the ceremony. He was also shown different departments and facilities of the university. He welcomed the students and motivated them to focus on their studies for building a prosperous Pakistan. After orientation, Campus Director Syed Asif Mahmood Gillani addressed the students and parents and said that soon the campus will make its name among world's top institutions. Later, Syed Asif Gillani presented a shield to Rana Ghulam Shabbir.



## Students mark Independence Day with kids

The students of FAST Islamic Revival Society (FIRS) and FAST Literary Society (FLS) from FAST-NU Islamabad campus



spent Independence Day (August 14) with needy children in getting medical treatment at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

A donation desk was established in the campus Lobby on Aug 13, 2015, in which the students collected Rs. 25000 from fellow students and faculty members. Respective presidents of FIRS and FLS, Mr. Hurair Hashmi and Mr. Haris bin Naem with their teams then purchased flags, balloons, badges, oil paints, juices, chocolates, biscuits, chips and candies for



the kids. They spent whole day with the kids and organized a number of interactive and interesting activities with the children.

## Dr. Zohaib selected as President PSTB

Acknowledging his contributions in the area of software quality engineering and testing for Pakistan, Dr. Zohaib Iqbal, Assistant Professor, FAST-NU, Islamabad, has been appointed as President of Pakistan Software Testing Board (PSTB). International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB), a leading software testing organization approved the formation of PSTB and appointment of Dr. Zohaib in its general assembly meeting held in Copenhagen.

With the formation of PSTB, Pakistan has been included as the 50th national board of ISTQB. PSTB will be working to promote software testing related activities and standards in Pakistan. The prestigious forum will oversee the accreditation of professional software engineers, trainers, and training institutions for ISTQB certifications, represent the interests of Pakistan within ISTQB, and conduct activities to promote software testing capabilities of test professionals in Pakistan.



**Contact:** Dr. M. Latif Virk, Registrar, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences, FAST House, Rohtas Road, G-9/4, Islamabad. **Email:** newsletter@nu.edu.pk **Phone:** 051-2264629, **Edited & designed by:** H.A. Minhas