

FAST-NU's 16th, 17th convocations held 293 graduates awarded degrees at Islamabad convocation



293 graduates in Computer Science, Business Administration & Telecom Engineering. Twenty four medals were also awarded to graduates for academic excellence.

Dr. Aftab A. Maroof, Director, delivered the welcome address. He attributed the accomplishments of Islamabad Campus to commitment of the faculty, hard work of the students and the support and guidance of the university management. He said that "NU Islamabad Campus graduates have earned a respectable place in both national and multi-national organizations. The feedback from the industry about the performance of our graduates bears testimony to this."

Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, highlighted the strengths of FAST-NU and its national reach through four campuses nationwide. He said that fifty of the 300 full-time faculty members hold PhD degrees from reputable foreign universities. The Rector underscored the need for adherence to merit as an instrument for producing quality graduates.

He said, "No student is denied admission due to his or her inability to pay the tuition fee. The university gives financial aid by way of Qarz-e-Hasna, which amounted to more than Rs50 million in the current year." He maintained that the quality of education imparted by this university was recognized locally as well as internationally.

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Sixteenth convocation of the FAST-NU was held at Islamabad Campus on January 2. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Deputy Chariman and Advisor (S&T), Planning Commission, was the chief guest. Degrees were conferred upon

470 Lahore Campus students awarded degrees

Seventeenth convocation of the FAST-NU was held at Lahore Campus on January 16, 2010. Mr. Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman, Minister for Education, Punjab, was the chief guest on the occasion.

This was the biggest convocation in the history of the FAST-NU, where 400 undergraduate and 70 graduate students were awarded degrees. Forty five students were honored with the medals for academic achievements.

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director NU Lahore Campus, in his inaugural address welcomed the guests and presented an overview of the academic activities and developments at the campus. He also highlighted the achievements of the graduates.

Dr Amir Muhammed, Rector, in his address advised the graduates to enhance the university's stature by serving the nation with utmost passion and spirit. He presented an overview of the progress



made by the university on academic and research fronts within a short span of time since its inception.

He particularly mentioned the collaboration between the Punjab Government and the university for providing financial support to the talented

but indigent students to help them realize their potential through Punjab Educational Endowment Fund.

He requested the chief guest to use his good offices for provision of suitable piece of land in Education City at Lahore

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Rector Dr Amir Muhammed giving away degrees to graduates of NU Lahore Campus during 17th convocation of the FAST-NU.

NU Islamabad team participates in bilingual declamation contest



Khateeb, UMT Debating Club, organized All Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah Bilingual Declamation Contest from 11-13 of January in Lahore. Forty two universities contested the event.

The competition consisted of two rounds. All speakers participated in the first round. However, only five best teams and two best speakers from both

Urdu and English categories advanced to the final round.

The teams of Pakistan Air force Academy, Risalpur, Military College of Signals, Rawalpindi, Government College University, Lahore, Forman Christian College University Lahore and Punjab University made their way to second round. Haider Miraj, FAST-NU, Saleem Mehmoob, GCU Faisalabad and Sohail Aziz, University of Sindh Jamshoro, cleared the first round of Urdu debate, while Usman Lughari, LSE Lahore and Ashhar Shahzad, SICAS made their way to second round in English debate.

In the final round, PAF Academy Risalpur won the team trophy. Prizes for individual speakers (Urdu) were awarded to Hamza Tarrar of Forman Christian College and Haider Miraj of FAST-NU.

FAST-NU team participates in world universities debating competition

A FAST-NU team recently participated in the World Universities Debating Championship 2010. Organized by Koç University Debating Club, the thirtieth World Universities Debating Championship hosted 1250 debaters from 60 universities between 27th of Dec 2009 and 4th of Jan 2010 in Antalya. Teams included debating giants such as Harvard, Princeton, Duke, Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford and Sydney.

Four teams, with two speakers each, contested in one debate and were given only 15 minutes to prepare their cases. In spite of short preparation time, the teams were able to generate quality arguments

backed by relevant facts and figures.

The FAST-NU team (FAST-NU) was represented by Samir Anwar Butt and Saran Ahmad of Islamabad Campus. They competed against teams such as of Duke University and the University of British Columbia. The team grabbed first position in first round and second in two other rounds of debating. Oxford A, LSE A, Sydney A and Harvard A qualified for the Grand Final of the Worlds 2010. Nine adjudicators took hours to come to the decision and declared the University of Sydney as the World Champions for 2010.

470 Lahore Campus students awarded degrees

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enabling the university to further expand its educational and research programs for meeting the urgent national needs.

Mr. Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman, Minister for Education, Punjab, congratulated the graduates while urging them to look for new avenues in their professional life and to accept and introduce a change. He noted the progress made by the university in academics and research and promised to do his best for meeting the requirements for additional land.

293 graduates awarded degrees at Islamabad convocation

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He urged the government to support non-profit institutions, like this university, which were not owned by any individual or family.

Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad said learning was a life-long process, and some of the most important ideas and personality traits were acquired through an unending process of self-education. He emphasized the need for balanced professional grooming.

Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad added that he was “pleased to learn that this university has made substantive strides towards this goal. It has produced scientists, engineers, and managers of high caliber.



NU Islamabad team, Samir Anwar Butt and Saran Ahmad, posing for photograph after participating in World Universities Debating Championship 2010.

New block inaugurated at NU Lahore Campus

New building at NU Lahore Campus was formally inaugurated by Mr. I.A. Imtiaz, member Board of Trustees FAST, on January 14.

Rana Ghulam Shabbir, Secretary General FAST and Dr. Rafiq Ahmed, member Board of Trustees FAST NU, were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director NU Lahore Campus, gave a presentation to the guests on this occasion. He outlined academic and administrative measures by the campus management to ensure quality education. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Head of Management Sciences Department, also gave a presentation on his department. Dr. Fakhar Lodhi, Professor of Computer Science Department presented his project "Integration of Open Source Projects in IT Education" funded by National ICT R & D Fund.



I.A. Imtiaz, member Board of Trustees FAST, inaugurating new building at NU Lahore Campus.

OSAF office-bearers elected

Annual elections for Central Executive Committee of Old Students' Association FAST (OSAF) were held on January 2.

Central Executive Committee (CEC) members were elected by the Executive Committee which comprises elected representatives from each batch and discipline in addition to female representatives from each batch. This multi-layered election process has been adopted by OSAF to ensure transparency and maximum engagement of the alumni.

Following office bearers were elected by the CEC for a term of one year ending on December 31, 2010.

Burhan Rasool, President, Omeir Zahid, Vice President, Adil Iqbal Khan, General Secretary and Khawaja Muhammad Umar Suleman, Treasurer.

NU Karachi team visits colleges



A placements and admissions team of NU Karachi Campus visited St. Lawrence's College for Women on January 7. The college ranks among the top 3 girls colleges in Karachi.

The objective of the visit was to meet top prospective students of the college and inform them about the educational and career opportunities of the FAST-NU. The session was fully interactive and student queries were promptly handled by the visiting team. The visiting team included Ms. Saira Ibrahim (Assistant Professor, Management Sciences), Ms. Sundus Ali (Lab Engineer) and Mr. Sami Ullah (Placement Officer).

Meanwhile, the same team also visited St. Michael's on January 8 and St. Michael's students visited NU Karachi Campus on Jan 14.

NU Karachi team attends AXACT annual event

AXACT hosted its Annual Team Meet Event on January 17, 2010. This corporate event was organized at the Karachi Golf Club. All AXACTians and their parents were invited. AXACT included several prominent educational institutions as its key stakeholders in providing the best human resources for their company. They recognized the contributions made by their employees through various performance awards. Mr. Sami Ullah (Placements & Corporate Relations) and Mr. Abdul Saeed (Manager Academics, Karachi), represented FAST-NU in this event. NU Karachi graduates who received best performance awards included Zeeshan Anwar, Waleed Masood, Adnan Saboor, Adeel Zuberi, Zubair Naeem and Javeria Hameed.

Dr Sajid's paper published in IEEE journal

A paper on "Weather Effects Optimum on Hybrid FSO/RF Communication Link", co-authored by Dr S.M.Sajid, Assistant Professor NU Lahore Campus, has been published in December 2009 issue (Vol. 27, issue 9) of the IEEE Journal on Selected Areas of Communication's (IEEE JSAC).



Ms. Javeria Hameed, a 2005 graduate of FAST-NU Karachi, won the best performance award in software quality assurance department.

NU Lahore Campus hosts workshop on Google Map Maker



Google Map Maker Community and FAST-NU's ACM (*Association for*

Senior A-Levels students visit Karachi Campus



A team of 35 senior A-Levels students along with their career counselor Ms. Erum Valika, visited NU Karachi main campus for a university tour on January 6. The university management welcomed the students. The tour included labs, library and other facilities. Prof. Zafar Nasir, head of Computer Science Department, spoke about the university, its degree programs and scholarship opportunities. Meanwhile, on January 12, a team of 33 A-Levels students from Foundation Public School visited Karachi Main and City campuses. The students met the faculty and staff members and were informed about the learning facilities at the university.

Computing Machinery) hosted an event on mapping and scope of mapping in Pakistan. The event named Lahore Mapping Party was first of its kind in Pakistan and was held at NU Lahore Campus main auditorium.

Attendees included students, professors, IT professionals, and people having a background in geography/-architecture studies.

Purpose of the workshop was to enhance awareness and train people about Google Map Maker, host a discussion on crowd-sourced mapping and how local/international companies/organizations are using it and its scope in Pakistan.

Karakoram University team visits NU Lahore Campus

A 11-member delegation of the principal officers of Karakoram International University (KIU) Gilgat-Baltistan, headed by Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Najma Najam, visited the NU Lahore campus and called on campus director on January 12. The visit was to explore venues for academic collaboration between the two universities and learning from the NU academic and administrative systems. The delegation also toured the campus facilities.

Dr.Arshad Hussain, Director NU Lahore Campus, welcomed the visiting team and briefed them over the academic and administrative set-up of the FAST-NU.

The event also celebrated Lahore as the fastest mapped city in a total of 120 countries where Google Map Maker service is available.

Dr.Arshad Hussain, Director NU Lahore Campus, welcomed Google's representatives along with more than hundred notable participants, partners, journalists and bloggers to the workshop. He appreciated the efforts of FAST NU-ACM student chapter in general and those of Belal Mohammad Hashmi and Mr.Khurram Siddiqui, co-faculty advisors of the chapter and Mr. Badar Khushnood, Google's Pakistan representative, in particular for organizing such a valuable event.

Badar Khushnood, the country representative for Google, presented an overview explaining what Google Map Maker tool can do and how companies are leveraging it to promote their business and how others can use it in different ways to promote different services or even play with APIs to make their own layers over the Google Maps platform.

Presentations were followed by a discussion session which revolved around security, ethics, profitability and ownership issues. In the end, giveaways were presented to the participants by Google Inc.



Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director NU Lahore Campus, giving away souvenir to Dr Najma Najam, Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University, during a visit to NU Lahore Campus.