

1st Annual Business Conference

Rector for academia, industry linkage to boost economy



Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector FAST-NU, stressed the need to bridge the gap between industry and academia to boost the country's economy and bring it out of current turamoil. He was addressing the 1st Annual Business Conference (BizCon@F) recently organized by FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus in collaboration with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A large number of business experts and dignitaries attended the event.

Mr. Noor ul Amin Mengal, DCO Faisalabad, Mr. Rana Afzal, MNA, and Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, MNA/Member BoG, FAST-NU, were the guests of honor. Mr. Tahir Chaudhry, President Pakistan Institute of Entrepreneurment, Ms. Jehan Ara, President P@SHA, Mr. Badar Khushnood, Conutry Consultant, Google, Dr. Sadia Nadeem, FAST School of Management, Mr. Faiq Sadiq, Head Payment Services, HBL, Mr. Maddi

Murtaza, CEO Maddiction, and Mian Latif, Chairman Chenab Group, were among the keynote speakers.

Mr. Tahir Chaudhary motivated students towards entrepreneurship while Ms. Jehan Ara talked about integrating business with technology and highlighted the significance of work done by students in Pakistan. Mr. Badar Khushnood talked about how Google technology has revolutionized the life of a common man. Mr. Maddi Murtaza stressed the need of social media marketing in changing business environment. Businessmen from Faisalabad shared their experience and journey towards making Faisalabad the textile capital of Pakistan. They observed that despite all local and national odds and international disadvantages, Faisalabad was one such city, which promised entrepreneurial and professional opportunities to skilled, qualified, and

enterprising youth.

A panel of experts including Mr. Abdul Aziz, former Chairman Nishat Mills, Mr. Suhail Bin Rashid, President FCCI, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Mr. Tahir Mahmood Chaudhry, Mian Latif, Mr. Rana Afzal, Mr. Inaam Afzal, Chairman IT Committee, FCCI, and Dr. Sadia Nadeem discussed academia and industrial linkage. Mr. Faiq Sadiq highlighted growth and learning through innovative experiences. He also announced 100 internship opportunities in HBL for the students of CFD campus. Dr. Aftab Maroof emphasized the need to develop Software Technology Park in Faisalabad, which was endorsed by the government and industrialists. Dr. Zia ul Qayyum, Director CFD campus, expressed his gratitude to the industry, students and management team for their support in organizing the conference.

Quality work assures excellence: Asad Umar

Mr. Asad Umar, Member National Assembly of Pakistan and former President & CEO Engro Corporation, advised the students to put quality into everything they do, especially studies as striving for excellence was an important part of professionalism in any field.

He was addressing a special guest lecture on "achieving excellence in career" organized by Career Counseling Society at Lahore campus. Faculty and students from

FAST School of Management and other departments attended the lecture.

Mr. Umar urged them to take initiatives and accept responsibility of their work. "This attitude tends to separate the achievers, who make rapid strides in their career from others."

In the end, Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Director Lahore campus, presented a souvenir to Mr. Asad Umar.



Lahore campus wins LUMS trophy

FAST-NU Lahore campus won the LUMS Sports Festival 2014, held from December 23 to December 26, 2013. The campus received 'Champions of LUMS' trophy for its overall outstanding performance in the festival.

Universities and colleges from across the country participated in the sports gala. FAST-NU participated in different sports including basketball, futsal, cricket, volleyball (girls and boys), badminton (girls and boys) and table tennis (girls and boys). Defeating teams from different institutions like, LSE, IBA Karachi, SZABIST, KASBIT, Roots, Beacon House, PAC, Peshawar University, and IQRA University, FAST-NU won LUMS Sports Fest with clear margin. FAST-NU overall won three gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals.

President FAST-NU Lahore's Sports Society Hamza Cheema received the 'Champions of LUMS Sports Fest-14'

trophy.

Meanwhile, Mr. Omer Farooq Sherwani, student of FAST-NU Lahore campus, has achieved first position in All Punjab Arm Wrestling Tournament held under Punjab Olympics on December 30, 2013. Arm wrestlers from different parts of Punjab took part in the tournament. Omer Sherwani remained undefeated to claim the biggest title of arm wrestling in Punjab.



Paper published

The research paper titled "prediction of protein structure classes using hybrid space of multi-profile bayes and bi-gram probability feature spaces" written by Mr. Muhammad Tahir, Lecturer Computer Sciences, FAST-NU Peshawar campus, as principal author with a co-author and research collaborator Dr. Maqsood Hayat, Assistant Professor, Computer Sciences, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, has been accepted for publication in the journal of Theoretical Biology, Elsevier. The impact factor of the journal is 2.35.

Workshop on brain senses



Lahore campus on January 4.

Engineering students and faculty members attended the lecture. The key objective of

Professor Dr. Qazi from Mayo Hospital, Lahore, discussed the "working of human brain in context of control" in a special lecture organized by

the talk was to answer, from the perspective of medical science, the question of how human brain senses and how is it able to control numerous muscles of the human body.

The lecture proved to be very imperative for the students of electrical and software engineers who aimed to build EMG and EEG based controllers among other systems that integrated with the nervous system. Dr. Umar Suleman specially thanked Dr. Qazi for delivering an informative lecture.

Lecture on software engineering research



Dr. Usman Bhatti, a post-doctorate fellow at Inria Research Lab, France, and former Assistant Professor, FAST-NU Lahore campus, briefed students about new trends and research

in software re-engineering, software quality analysis, program visualization, software refactoring, and aspect mining. He was addressing a special guest lecture

organized by FAST-NU Lahore campus on January 4.

Students and faculty members attended the lecture. Dr. Bhatti informed the audience that Inria was the only public research body fully dedicated to computational sciences. He also offered his full support to FAST-NU students intending to conduct research in software engineering.

Dr. Bhatti said that he himself conducted research in software re-engineering, software quality analysis, program visualization, software refactoring, and aspect mining.

Achievement

FAST-NU Karachi campus recently participated in the LUMS PsiFi Student Competition and won first position in coding competition and technopreneurship competition.

Two teams comprising eight students participated in the competition. They also won second position in math gauge competition. FAST-NU also received the title of the best team. The management feels delighted on this achievement and congratulates the winning teams.

Peshawar campus organizes FunKaTosh 2013

FAST Creative Society organized a mega extracurricular activity "FunKaTosh" at FAST-NU Peshawar campus. The event provided an opportunity to students to show their exceptional talent, creativity, and communicate their innovative thoughts. The event consisted of several competitions including poster designing, face painting, t-shirt painting, minute to win it, 101 ways to leave the game, treasure hunt, antakshari, yolo but blind, NU master chef and makeup and hair styling. Over 200 participants from 25 different colleges and 10 universities took part in the mega event to show their skills.

The event was sponsored by Shashca, Revolution Flame, Telenor, FAST Business Club and FAST Creative Society. The program was later aired on by media partners Shashca, Revolution Flame, Samaa TV, Geo Taiz and Geo News. FAST-NU Peshawar campus won the overall competition by winning maximum number of events in university category while Iqra

National University was declared the runner-up.

Dr. Tariq Rahim, Director FAST-NU Peshawar campus, appreciated the efforts put in by the FAST-NU team and

encouraged the students to continue with such endeavors. He also thanked the sponsors, judges, faculty advisors, participants, students and visitors for gracing this event.



Drama, music competitions held



The FASTage Society of Peshawar Campus recently organized an impressive competition "Dramay Bazi'13".

All major universities and colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the

event. Various interactive and enthralling activities including stage drama competition, dumb charade competition, and other performing art competitions were organized during the event.

Five teams participated in the stage drama competition while twenty five teams participated in dumb charade

competition. Two teams from FAST-NU Peshawar and the Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) Peshawar performed cultural dances.

The judges for drama competition were

Umer Khayam, a graduate of NCA Lahore, and Umair, a graduate of FAST-NU Peshawar.

Meanwhile in the music competition, students from various universities sang English and Urdu songs. The participants were randomly called upon the stage to perform. Giveaways were given to the winners and the participants.



Thesis defended

Ms. Saira Karim of Computer Science Department at FAST-NU Lahore campus, successfully defended her PhD thesis titled "on generation of some non-equivalent combinatorial objects" on December 28, 2013. She would be the first PhD in Computer Science produced by Lahore campus. Her supervisor was Dr. S. M. Husnine. The foreign reviewers were

Simon Rinaldi from Italy and Vincent Vajnovszki from France. While the local external examiners were Professor Arif Zaman from LUMS and Dr. Mehvish I. Poshni from PUCIT Lahore. From her PhD thesis, Saira Karim has three publications in ISI indexed journals including two with positive impact factor.



Microsoft selects FAST-NU students

State-of-the-art education, technical training, devotion of experienced and qualified faculty and hard work have made the Microsoft dream come true for two Computer Science graduates of FAST-NU Lahore campus. We are delighted to announce that Syed Dilawar Ali Rizvi and Abdullah Zaib Mirza of Batch 2009 have recently been hired by Microsoft, world's leading company, as Software Development Engineers.

The graduates expressed profound gratitude to FAST-NU for their commendable achievements.

They specifically acknowledged that the key factors in their hiring were the sound

technical and communications skills they were trained in at the campus. "It is a hiring criterion by Microsoft that candidates must be able to efficiently communicate their ideas as Microsoft expects people to work in a diverse environment. The skills taught to us proved to be quite fruitful and helped us a lot," they said in their thanksgiving message to the faculty and management of FAST-NU.

"I am writing this letter as a thank you note to provide a token of gratitude to my professors and to the institute which is responsible for the success that I have achieved. I am a CS graduate of batch 2009. I have been hired by Microsoft as a

Software Development Engineer. I must say that the road to this destination was not easy but what made this possible to be true is solely the academic training that is provided by FAST-NU," said Abdullah Zaib Mirza.

"The technicalities which they taught were what made the difference between us and others. My case is no different; I simply did what they had taught me," said Syed Dilawar Ali Rizvi.

We are indebted to FAST-NU for such an amazing experience. We hope that FAST-NU keeps on prospering in the future to come and excel in the prestige that it has maintained all over the globe, they said.

Workshop on ICT R&D funding held



Mr. Ali Ahmed from ICT R&D recently conducted a workshop on "proposal writing & funding opportunities" at Lahore campus to enable students to get funding

from National ICT R&D Fund for technical R&D research in ICT domains. He apprised the students about National ICT R&D Fund, its objectives and operations. He also highlighted areas of funding, types of technical R&D proposals, themes for solicited proposals, process of proposal evaluation, basis for rejection of proposal, understanding of Tech R&D proposal application forms, budgeting of technical R&D proposals, and misconceptions about the funding process. Students deemed the session as very interactive and fruitful.

Orientation session by Teach for Pakistan

Teach for Pakistan, an NGO working to foster primary education in the lower income groups of society, launched a fellowship program 2014 in a special orientation session at FAST-NU Lahore campus. Ms. Mariam Zahid, focal person from Teach for Pakistan, informed students about various features of the program and also replied to different queries of the students in the question-answer session. FAST-NU has strong association with Teach for Pakistan. Career Counseling Society (CCS) organized this session to benefit students from fellowship program.

Faculty on board



Dr. Omar Usman Khan has recently joined FAST-NU Peshawar campus as faculty member in Computer Science Department. Dr. Omar did PhD in Computer and Control Engineering in March 2013 from University of Politecnico di Torino, Italy

and post-doctorate from the same university. He did MS in Computer and Control Engineering from GIKI in 2008 and B. Engineering (Hons) in Computer System Engineering in 2002 from University of Greenwich. With over three years of teaching experience, Dr. Omar has previously served at Peshawar campus as Lecturer (CS).

Ms. Shagufta Gul has joined Peshawar campus as Lecturer of English. She did M.Phil in Applied Linguistics in 2010 from

International Islamic University, Islamabad. She did MA English in Language and Literature in 2005 from University of Peshawar. She has five years teaching experience to her credit. She has taught in University of Taif and International Islamic University.



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