President of Pakistan, His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain has lauded the contribution of National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences in higher education as country’s premier institution. He said Foundation for Advancement of Science and Technology (FAST) established a unique institution that was assisting the government by ensuring quality higher education for thousands of students with no cost to the government.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of Chiniot-Faisalabad campus of FAST-NU on May 8. Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chancellor, Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, members Board of Governors, Rana Ghulam Shabbir, Secretary General, FAST, faculty members, students and notables of the area attended the ceremony. President Mamnoon presented shields and awards to high achievers and souvenirs to the faculty members and the management of the university.

The President congratulated students who have been pursuing higher education at the campus during the pioneering years of its establishment. He also congratulated and appreciated the university management and the members of the FAST Board of Governors for their vision and hard work for setting up a quality institution in Faisalabad region.

President Mamnoon appreciated FAST-NU for taking the responsibility and sharing government’s burden of nation building through higher education.

He said he was impressed by the progress FAST-NU made in achieving high standards of quality education in Pakistan. He paid tribute to Justice (Retd) Syed Akhlaq Hussain who established FAST in 1980 and the management, faculty and staff who contributed to make FAST-NU a remarkable institution of Pakistan.

President Mamnoon appreciated the merit policy of the university and its Rs. 70 million annual grant for underprivileged brilliant students. He went on to mention that with selfless arrangement there was no doubt that all the five campuses of the university were providing first-rate and internationally compatible education to thousands of students.

“I am delighted to know that one-fifth of your students are female,” the President said. He observed that due to the enabling environment the number of female students would further increase in the future.

President Mamnoon urged the industrialists and philanthropists of the area to continue their support to the university campus.

Earlier Chancellor FAST-NU Mr. Wasim Sajjad, while addressing the ceremony, specially thanked President Mamnoon Hussain for traveling to Faisalabad to grace the opening ceremony of the new campus. He said it was a historic day for the university.

The Chancellor said that world’s leading computer companies like Microsoft, Google and Oracle were sending their recruiting teams to FAST-NU campuses to recruit fresh graduates to work for them abroad, which was testimonial of quality education being provided at the university.
NUTEC ‘14 at Peshawar campus

NUTEC’14, a 3-day mega event was organized by the university’s Peshawar campus from April 25 to 27. The event aimed at providing maximum opportunities to students to showcase their talent ranging from science, technology to creativity and leadership skills. More than 900 students from 100 institutions from across the country attended NUTEC’14 and competed in various competitions. This year’s theme of NUTEC’14 was “Redefining Khyber.”

NUTEC’14 organized 24 events ranging from technological and science competitions, quizzes to entertainment. Justice (R) Mian Muhammad Ajmal was the chief guest of the opening ceremony. He addressed the audience and congratulated the Director and the administration of the campus for holding the event. He was enthralled by the high level of participation of students from different parts of Pakistan. Earlier, Dr Tariq Rahim, Director FAST-NU, Peshawar Campus, welcomed the guests and assured the participants of a great learning experience in NUETC’14.

The highlight of the event was “sky lantern night.” It was for the first time in KPK that a whole night was planned out on the theme of “peace and unity.” A number of competitions and exciting activities held on the second day. Many technical competitions were arranged in the lab, an entrepreneurship conference by Mr. Asad Umar and various outdoor sports and indoor creative activities were organized.

NUTEC’14 provided a platform for the students and academia to socialize and exchange ideas. The last day of NUTEC’14 started with management quiz, e gaming and software exhibition. Dr. Tariq Rahim congratulated the winners and thanked the guests for gracing NUTEC’14 with their presence. He appreciated the efforts of the faculty and the management team for making NUTEC’14 a resounding success.

BBA students visit Chen One

Students of BBA (Batch 10) along with their teacher Mr. Usman Chaudhry recently visited Chen One head office, a project of Chenab Group in Faisalabad as part of their course work.

Mr. Hamid Mehmood, General Manager Chenab Group, received the students and briefed them about the corporate structure, objectives and operations of the company. Mr. Hamid also briefed students about the role of government and other institutions in the textile industry. The students visited various parts of the manufacturing unit to have practical knowledge of operating big industrial units.

ACM award for students

ACM Student Chapter, FAST-NU Lahore has won the 2013-2014 ACM Student Chapter Excellence Award for outstanding activities out of 750 plus student chapters all over the world.

ACM International’s staff and judges were impressed by the work FAST-NU students put forth, and the obvious efforts they have made this year. Award was chosen on the basis of creativity, insightfulness and how well the objectives were fulfilled, as well as for our overall commitment to computing.

This achievement has put FAST-NU ACM students’ chapter on the list of best computing societies in Pakistan.
FAST Statistics Day at Karachi campus

FAST-NU Karachi campus successfully held Fast Statistics Day, first ever statistics event at FAST-NU Karachi, on April 29, 2014. The event marked great success by providing youth a platform to express their thought and explore innate talent. The event was aimed to organize and connect experts, future researchers on real topics where long term technological systems renewal is needed in order to fulfill sustainability requirements. This event offered a forum for the exchange with selected experts on developments and findings in the field of statistics. The event included 12 group presentations which were judged by two prestige speakers — Prof. Dr. Asim Jamal Siddiqui, Department of Statistics, University of Karachi, and Dr. Yaseen Ahmed Meenai, Assistant Professor, IBA, Karachi. With their ample experience, they enlightened the students with information and knowledge. This remarkable event was successfully organized by the students of CS Batch 2014 under the supervision of Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Shamsi, Lecturer, Sciences & Humanities Department. FAST Statistics Day concluded with the selection of three remarkable ideas. These great ideas were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. The first prize was awarded to Ilsa Khan; the second was given to Muhammad Haris and third went to Junaid Zafar.

Paper Presentation in 12th ICSS

Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager QEC, presented a research paper titled “role of self assessment in program’s improvements — a study of an engineering school of Pakistan” at the 12th International Conference on Statistical Sciences jointly organized by Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS) and Dow University of Health Sciences on March 24 — 26 in Karachi. The presented paper was declared the best in the session as per the set parameters by the jury. Meanwhile, FAST-NU Karachi campus’ students of batch 2012 enrolled in the Probability and Statistics course also presented their papers in the conference.

Mr. Ibrahim Shamsi, Lecturer, Department of Sciences & Humanities, S. Taha, and A. Uzair presented their paper titled “on firm performance the effect of span of supply chain integration.” Mr. Ibrahim Shamsi, M. Haris Abdullah, and Farhal Naseem also presented their paper on “the impact of after-sale services on consumer buying behavior in broad band industry of Karachi.” Furthermore, Mr. Ibrahim Shamsi, Shuja Hasan, and Salman Samad presented their paper titled “university branding, its effect on industry for fresh graduated student’s job placement.”

QEC completes SAR

The Quality Enhancement Cell has successfully completed self-assessment report (SAR) of the academic program of BS (Electrical Engineering) at Lahore campus. The SAR was evaluated by assessment team comprising internal and external experts in the respective fields on May 3. The assessment team conducted in-depth assessment of program on the basis of standards of quality education provided by QAA and the Higher Education Commission. According to the experts evaluation the program obtained a score of 76.76 in the 100 point rubric index of HEC. Campus Director Dr Zafar Iqbal appreciated the efforts of QEC and the departmental head.

FAST-NU Islamabad campus recently witnessed a huge gathering at the Open House 2014, with participation from 75 organizations representing various industries including IT, engineering, telecom, banking, financial services, real estate development, development sector and public sector.

Meanwhile, Karachi campus also held Open House 2014 on May 14 to enable students of graduating batch present their final year projects to competent professionals. Open House is a demonstration of the projects that students make in their final year. These projects are an essential part of their degree programs, so it becomes more important for them to come up with innovative designs and ideas. Through this event, students get an opportunity to meet professionals and know about industry experience. The Final Year Projects (FYPs) for which the students put a lot of efforts are evaluated by the professionals, who assess their work and suggest them future changes and enhancements for their projects.

Open House 2014

The invited alumni included Mr. Syed Shoaib Ahsan, co-founder at PakStarted and NexDegree, Mr. Naveed Taj, Customer Services Operations Manager at Procter and Gamble (P&G), and Ms. Raazia Bari, Product Manager at HBL Pakistan. They shared their success stories including their career paths since graduating from FAST-NU, experiences that have influenced their employment choices, and details about their current positions. They also gave a viewpoint into the multitude of career options that a student can pursue after graduation.

Alumni shares success stories

FAST-NU Karachi campus organized a session on April 28, in which its alumni shared success stories and motivated the students. The purpose of the event was to invite talented alumni of FAST-NU to offer career insights and share their experiences at university and in the practical life.

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FAST-NU alumnus wins 3rd Oscar

We feel pride that Pakistani born visual effects artist and a former FASTian Mir Zafar Ali has won yet another Oscar, bringing his total count of Oscars to three. Zafar was part of the team that worked on an animated movie Frozen that has won the 2014 Oscar for best animated feature film. Zafar first got Academy Award back in 2007 when he won the Best Visual Effects Artist award for the movie Golden Compass. Life of Pi was another stunning success of Zafar. The 38 year old was born in Karachi where he acquired his early education and later graduated from FAST-NU in computer science. Later, Zafar enrolled in the Savannah College of Art and Design’s course of BFA in computer animation.

He worked for the Dennis Quaid and Jake Gyllenhaal starrer The Day After Tomorrow where global climatic events lead to a new Ice Age. X-Men's Banshee and Richard Parker, the tiger in Life of Pi are all evidences of Mir Zafar's great work. He has also worked for several visual effects shops such as Digital Domain and Rhythm and Hues.

A local talent gone global, Zafar Ali makes us proud and encourages millions of young students in Pakistan that their dreams are also valid. FAST-NU is proud of him and congratulates him on his great success.

Islamabad campus holds NASCON 2014

FAST-NU Islamabad arranged 13th Annual NASCON 2014 from April 18 to 20 to provide students a challenging and motivating platform for research and development. FAST Computing Society (FCS), FAST Engineering Society (FES), Business Administration Students’ Forum (BASF), FAST Literary Society (FLS) and the office of student affairs organized the event.

Student teams from various universities across Pakistan participated in NASCON 2014 to compete in events from domains of Computer Science, Engineering and Management Sciences. Among other institutes, a substantial participation from LUMS, NUST, FAST-NU (Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad and Peshawar), Punjab National University, Bahria University and Iqra University were witnessed.

Dr. Aftab Maroof chaired the opening session along with the chief guest Mr. Asad Umar. The ceremony was followed by competitions as students dispersed to prove their determination in the areas of their interest. The range of the events included admad, robo sprint, robo wars, ideal candidate, marketing plan competition, business case simulation, web app development, circuit mania, math marathon and software project competition.

Various social events were also arranged for the participating teams. Dr. Aftab Maroof, in concluding ceremony awarded prizes and certificates to winners and participants. LUMS was the winner of the NASCON 2014 while FAST-NU Lahore campus stood runner-up.