FAST-NU participates in The News Education Expo 16

FAST-NU Islamabad campus actively participated in The News Education Expo 16 held in Islamabad on May 25 and 26, 2016.

FAST-NU also established a stall with an objective to allow maximum visitors know about the University and its contribution in the higher education sector. A team comprising Manager Academics, Lab Engineers, FDOs and staff participated in the expo and apprised the visitors about FAST-NU and its degree programs.

The FAST-NU stall attracted more than 500 visitors, most of them students and their parents, eager to know about the University and enroll in various degree programs.

Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest of the expo who during his visit to FAST-NU stall interacted with Manager Academics and shared his experience of FAST-NU during the time of Dr. Mehboob ul Haq. He informed that he worked as parliamentary secretary with Dr. Mehboob ul Haq and knew the quality work of FAST-NU since then.

NCEAC gives highest ‘W’ category to BSCS at Karachi campus

The National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC) has accredited the BS Computer Science (CS) Program offered at FAST-NU Karachi campus with ‘W’ rating for 2012, 2013 and 2014 intakes of the program. This is the highest rating category for BS (CS) program in the country.

The rating is based on the overall quality of the program, including faculty, students,
curriculum and facilities. The rating placed the BS (CS) program at Karachi campus at par with the best programs in the country. This appreciation by the Council has encouraged all members of Computer Science department to work even harder to maintain the highest ranking and enhance the standards. Director Karachi Campus Dr. Hasina Khatoon and Head of the Computer Science Department Dr. Jawwad A. Shamsi have expressed their deepest gratitude and pleasure to the faculty, staff and students, who have endeavored in achieving this milestone.
A research paper titled “Exploring discrimination on the basis of international experience: The colonial mindset bias in the context of Pakistan” authored by Ms. Ayesha Bano, Assistant Professor, FAST School of Management (FSM), Islamabad campus, and co-authored by Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Associate Professor, FSM, Islamabad campus, has been formally accepted for publication in the journal titled: Human Resource Management, Wiley. Human Resource Management is a highly reputed journal in the field of management with an impact factor of 1.798, as per Journal Citation Report® Thomson Reuters 2015. Additionally, HRM is one of the 45 journals used by the Financial Times in compiling the prestigious business schools research rank.

The research paper of Mr. Kazim Syed, Chief Librarian, FAST-NU Islamabad campus, titled “Use of social media tools by reputed university libraries of the world: A comparative study” co-authored by Mr. Arslan Sheikh and Dr. Mirza Naseer, has been published in the Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal. The PLISJ is a HEC recognized quarterly research journal being published from Karachi since 1968.

Dr. Asim Rehman, Head of Electrical Engineering Department at Karachi campus, recently participated in the 2nd World Congress on Automation and Robotics 2016 as a keynote speaker. The conference was attended by leading academicians as well as heads and technical leads of the companies from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, UK, Canada, and USA. Dr. Asim received two plaques, one as a member of Conference Organizing Committee, and second as Keynote Speaker. He also received certificate for presenting a Paper, and two certificates for co-chairing two sessions.

Dr. Ataul Aziz Ikram, Associate Professor Electrical Engineering, Islamabad campus, has been appointed as Director of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) from April 1, 2016. He has been serving FAST-NU since August 2013.

Dr. Ikram has done his MS and Ph.D in Electrical Engineering from City University New York, US in 2007; and Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from Middle East Technical University in 1997, with more than 17 years of collective experience in academia and industry. His Ph.D was focused on Nanotechnology, while most of the course work at MS and BS level was in Telecommunications and Electronics.

He has more than 15 journal publications, 7 conference publications, 1 patent, and two book chapters, in multiple areas, including Wireless Communications, Digital Signal Processing, Bioinformatics, Cloud Computing, and Internet of Things. Dr. Ikram has been supervising 5 Ph.D HEC scholars, 2 of whom have recently completed Ph.D. He has supervised 11 MS theses, and more than 15 undergraduate final year projects of Electrical Engineering. Currently, he is also working on a Higher Education Commission funded research project in the area of Cloud Computing at the Embedded Systems & Pervasive Computing (EPIC) Lab.

Two papers written by Assistant Professor at Peshawar campus, Dr. Omar Usman Khan, with other co-authors, have been accepted for presentation in the European Magnetic Sensors and Actuators Conference (EMSA) to be held from July 12 to 15, 2016 in Torino, Italy.

These papers include “Numerical Solution for Spin Wave Excitation in thin-films under Uniform and non-Uniform Ground States” written by Dr. Omar Usman Khan, Arbab Rahim and Carlo Ragusa, and “Statistical Analysis based Quality Mapping of MFM Images” written by Dr. Omar Usman Khan and Naveed Islam.

Proceedings of the conference are always published in the IEEE Transaction on Magnetics, a Gold Category Impact Factor Journal. It is pertinent to mention that two papers written by Dr. Omer Usman Khan have already been published in the last edition of the conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 2014.

The research paper of Mr. Kazim Syed, Chief Librarian, FAST-NU Islamabad campus, titled “Use of social media tools by reputed university libraries of the world: A comparative study” co-authored by Mr. Arslan Sheikh and Dr. Mirza Naseer, has been published in the Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal. The PLISJ is a HEC recognized quarterly research journal being published from Karachi since 1968.

The research paper was followed by a live concert by Noori and Raafay Israr (Evolution Band).
Dr. Muhammad Ayub Siddiqui, Head of FAST School of Management (FSM), Islamabad campus, has been awarded the Research Grant for the project “Role of Entrepreneurship Education on Student Attitudes” under the theme “Education Policy, Leadership and Management” by Higher Education Commission as a Principal Investigator with co-principal investigator Sarfraz Ali Kiyani, Assistant Professor, FAST School of Management.

The Final Year Project (FYP) of the students from FAST School of Management, FAST-NU Islamabad campus, under the supervision of Dr. Sadia Nadeem, has been accepted as a development paper to be presented at British Academy of Management Conference (BAMC) 2016. Students will present their paper in conference to be conducted from September 6 to 8, 2016 in Newcastle University, UK. The project is titled as “Discrimination in Performance Appraisal and its effect on Motivation and Productivity”.

Head of Computer Science Department at Karachi campus, Dr. Jawwad Ahmed Shamsi presented his research work titled “Designing Parallel Incorporating PDC Concepts in the course Algorithms” in the 30th IEEE International Parallel & Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS) 2016 Conference held at Chicago, USA, from May 23 to 27, 2016. The event was one of the premier conferences in parallel and distributed computing. His work highlighted the significance of designing parallel Algorithms for the BS (CS) curriculum.

Assistant Professor Mr. Muhammad Nouman Durrani, Faculty Member Computer Science Department at Karachi campus, participated in the Einstein Project. He had been the active member of the Project Einstein@home execution team, which detected the first-ever Gravitational Waves. This participation was part of his Ph.D thesis under the supervision of Dr. Jawwad A Shamsi.
Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), FAST-NU, presented a research paper on quality in Higher Education in an international conference on statistical sciences titled “Innovation in Teaching and Learning (ICITL-2016)” organized by Islamic International University from April 25 to 26, 2016 in Islamabad. More than 100 research papers were presented on the themes of curriculum and instruction, leadership in the 21st century, higher education, assessment and evaluation, research and innovation, social media and education, and distance education. Renowned international speakers including Dr. Paul Kawachi (Japan), Dr. David Roof (USA), Dr. Akhtar Kalam (Australia), Dr. Martin Valcke (Belgium), and Dr. Marilyn Leask (U.K.) addressed the conference. The conference provided FAST-NU’s QEC an ample opportunity to connect and collaborate with educators from various countries to share experiences and discuss the practical solutions to the most important issues in teaching and learning. The significance of the research presented by QEC was highly admired by the participating scholars, jury, and the practitioners for enhancing the standards of education. A certificate of appreciation was awarded by the jury to Mr. Farrukh Idrees for his research on the emerging theme of quality in higher education.

Karachi Campus organized the premier IT, Engineering and Management event “PROCOM.NET 2016”. The opening ceremony was chaired by renowned scientist and academician Dr. Atta ur Rehman, Head of the UN Committee on Science and Technology. This year’s PROCOM brought innovative competitions so the students could test their skills and their creative minds. PROCOM.NET takes a step further towards ensuring University’s commitment for the development of Information Technology, engineering sciences and business entrepreneurship in Pakistan. PROCOM.NET is an initiative to bring out the best in the students and provide them a competitive and enabling environment to nurture their expertise. The event included competitions in Computer Sciences, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Business Studies and Arts. Competitors and companies, ranging from software houses to career counseling firms and engineering companies from all over Pakistan participated in the event. The event emerged as a great success with over 1200 participants on first day and over 600 participants on the second day. This year more than 30 competitions were held under the banner of PROCOM. IQRA University team won the title of GFK PROCOM. Team from Suffah University was among 43 teams to participate and stood first in the Micro-Controller Programming Competition and finished as winners and also runners-up in the Robo Wars Competition. Students from Habib University’s School of Science & Engineering were also able to secure positions in database design competitions.