

## MSDN recognizes FAST-NU's work

It is indeed a great achievement that Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) has recognized the hard work and efforts of FAST-NU in its blog on Lab of Things (LoT) project.

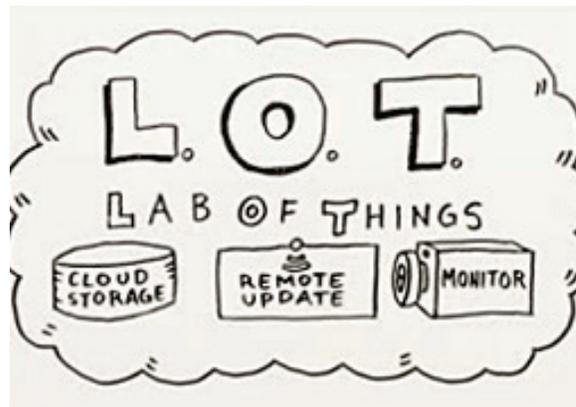
In a blog by the Microsoft Research Connections Team, they underlined that the LoT was a flexible platform for conducting experimental research using connected devices in homes and beyond. Since LoT's beta released in July 2013, they have made a lot of progress on two fronts. "First, we've been busily extending and perfecting various features of LoT; second, we've been working closely with academic partners to help them adopt and deploy LoT for their research," the blog said.

Right from the inception of the project, we have been working closely with our academic collaborators to understand better the needs of such a platform.

They further stated, "Professor Affan Syed and his students at

FAST-NUCES, Pakistan, are using the Lab of Things to develop a system to optimize and control the use of electrical power in homes to help address the acute shortage of energy in their country. The team is busy scaling up the project to deploy in a large number of homes with the goal to understand energy usage and optimization goals in a wider cross section of society. Not only for research projects, the 'Lab of Things' is also being used for teaching." Below is the link of the blog:

[http://blogs.msdn.com/b/msr\\_er/archive/2014/02/03/lab-of-things-adds-features-and-deployments.aspx](http://blogs.msdn.com/b/msr_er/archive/2014/02/03/lab-of-things-adds-features-and-deployments.aspx)



## FAST-NU wins KPK provincial competition

A team of FAST-NU Peshawar campus got first position in the CIVIC Hackathon contest aimed at developing application for best disaster resilience solution. The team comprised Mr. Syed Jawad Gilani, Syed Mohsin Ali, Shah Zeb Pervaiz and Zain ul Abedin Khan.

The event, inaugurated by the Chief Minister KPK Mr. Pervez Khattak, was organized by KPK Information Technology Board in collaboration with World Bank and P@sha at UET Peshawar from January 31 to February 02, 2014. About 250 students applied for participation from different universities across Pakistan out of which only 90 students forming 23 teams were selected on the basis of their ideas and IT skills.

Other than receiving due recognition from everyone, the winning team of FAST-NU Peshawar was approached by FDMA and PDMA for working together to implement the application in addition to receiving fellowship program and incubation support from the KPK IT Board. It is important to mention here that the application has been selected for competition in global IT conference to be held soon in London, UK.

## Students pass circuit analysis with distinction

Engineering students of FAST-NU Islamabad campus thrived in the Circuit Analysis I & II courses in the final examination with distinction.

A ceremony was organized to celebrate the incredible performance of the students of Batch 13. Circuit analysis courses are few of very challenging courses of engineering degree programs. If mastered conclusively in the subject during studies, the students acquire a natural edge over others in practical

and professional lives. A good number of students from Islamabad campus conquered the unconquerable. Ahmad Kamil of Batch 13 grabbed all the possible points in the final exam with hundred percent performance.

Initiated by Mr. Aamer Munir and organized by the students of Batch 13, the party witnessed interesting and thought-provoking talks by Mr. Aamer Hafeez and Dr. Waseem Ikram. The participants lauded the culture of

formally recognizing and appreciating good work. They also said that it was not possible without the dedication and hard work of faculty members.

Dr. Waseem Ikram and other faculty members opined that such celebrations would act as catalyst for hard work and prove as a source of inspiration for all others. They stressed that complacency should not overcome the achievers. They should only take it as an evident that nothing was insurmountable.

## Peshawar campus completes SARs

Quality Enhancement Cell Peshawar campus completed three self-assessment reports (SARs) of the running academic programs including BS in Electrical Engineering, BS in Computer Science and Bachelor in Business Administration. The self-assessment reports have been evaluated by assessment teams comprising external and internal experts in the respective fields. The assessment teams conducted in-depth assessment of programs on the basis of standards of quality education provided

by Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission (HEC). According to the experts' evaluation the BS (EE) program obtained a score of 78.25, BS (CS) program got 74.91 and BBA stood at 79.8 in the 100 point rubric index of HEC.

Campus Director Dr. Tariq Raheem appreciated the efforts of QEC and all the departmental heads. He advised them for further strengthening and enhancement of the academic programs through self-assessment processes.

## Achievement

Naveed Bhatti, team lead at the SysNet Research Lab, under the supervision of Dr. Affan, got his paper titled "Sensors with Lasers: Building a WSN Power Grid" accepted at IPSN 2014. IPSN is an A+ ranked conference, having acceptance rate of 15-17 percent. It is considered as the most prestigious conference in wireless sensor networks. Placing FAST-NU in the international

research limelight, this is the first fully indigenous (all authors from Pakistan) publication accepted at IPSN. Naveed is an BS Electrical Engineering and M.Sc (CS) alumni. This work is an extension of his successfully defended thesis from FAST-NU in May 2013.



## Training session on personal development



Personal development program plays a key role in lifelong learning. Quality Enhancement Cell Islamabad campus arranged a faculty training session on 'personal development program' on February 10 through video conference.

Faculty members from Islamabad campus actively participated in the training. Dr. Gohar Wajid from University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia, was the keynote speaker.

The session was organized by QEC Khyber Medical University and duly moderated by Higher Education Commission. Various updated approaches for making personal development programs were discussed including portfolio development, learning needs assessment and implementation plans development.

## Lahore campus students visit NJHPP

The FAST association of Civil Engineers (FACE) Lahore campus arranged a three days educational trip to Neelum Jehlum Hydrel Power Project (NJHPP) and Naluchi Bridge in Muzaffarabad from February 5 to 7. Ninety students of 2011 and 2012 sessions participated in the trip. Mr. Hamza Shahid and Mr. Azaz Ahmed Ghumman arranged the tour.

The NJHPP is a run-off the river type project and is installed with hydropower generation capacity up to 969 MW. The project is expected to be completed in 2016.



Three different project sites were divided on each day of visit. The purpose was to study the lineament of dam, tunnel and underground power plant.

On the first day, C-2 site (Majhoi/Thota area) was visited where drilling of headrace tunnel was in progress. Engr. Abdul Wasaan briefed about the technical details of the project. Students got a good chance of one to one interaction with the technical experts.

On the preceding day, C-3 site (Chatter Kalas area) was visited where installation of underground power plant was being carried out. Special precautions were taken to ensure safety of the students.

On the last day, the students visited Naluchi Bridge. Design by Finite Engineering Japan and NESPAK Pakistan, Naluchi Bridge is the first of its kind of cable stayed bridge in Pakistan. It's a 84



meters high, earthquake resistant bridge with a total span of 246 meters. The prime reason of selection of cable stayed bridge is its economical construction for larger spans, high height above river and a nice architecture. The bridge project would be completed very soon.

The trip was a unique opportunity for students to explore practical details of civil engineering projects.

## FAST-NU Karachi organizes nationwide trip



A group of 120 students from FAST-NU Karachi campus left for the most awe-inspiring tour of their lives on January 31, 2014. They travelled from the cities of the southernmost part to the renowned, tall-standing, highlands of the northernmost areas of Pakistan. The group of senior batch students was accompanied by faculty members and the Director along with his family. Dramatics and Extra-Curricular Society (DECS) hosted this expedition.

It took more than 25 hours to reach the first destination - Murree. The students visited Patriata, Shogran, Balakot and a higher ground named Siri. They were also being taken to Naran and Kaghan, the esteem locations of Pakistan. The weary and tired group of students and faculty then headed back to a

small motel near the railway station following which they departed for Karachi in the next morning. It was a tremendous experience for all the tourists.

DECS and its president Muhammad Noman Saleem efficiently managed the tour and made it a lifetime experience for the participants.



## Karachi campus thrives in LUMS PsiFi 2014



The young programmers of FAST-NU Karachi campus won two competitions and stood runner-up in one competition in the LUMS PsiFi 2014 held in Lahore.

Team DevSoc comprising Osman Ali, Arsalan Badar, Mohsin Mansoor and Usman Suhail were the young programmers who took first position in the 'coding conquerors'

competition and were second best in the 'maths gauge' competition. Team ACM with members Ehtisham Irfan, Salman Saleem, Saqib Shehzad, Mohammad Anas and Haseeb Jahangir were declared winners in the 'technopreneurship' competition.

The FAST-NU Karachi has become the first ever team from the university category to clean sweep the event with an amazing percentage of 75 percent.

## Participation in MUNIK - V

FAST-NU Karachi campus successfully participated in the MUNIK - V, an event organized by Institute of Business Administration from January 30 to February 2. The mega event observed four days of debating and was a host to over 1500 participants from all over Pakistan and representatives from other countries.

A delegation of FAST-NU Karachi campus consisting Zain Merchant, Ilsa Khan Baqai, Junaid Zafar, Shayan, Omer Tariq, Ata Ur Rehman, Zohaib Hassan,

Raza Abaas, Umar Ayub Arain and Barya Tabassum won a total of six accolades including a best delegate award by Ilsa Khan Baqai and honorary mentions by Omer Tariq, Ata Ur Rehman, Raza Abaas, Umar Ayub Arain and Barya Tabassum.

Karachi campus was represented for the second time in an MUN after being the third best delegation at KEITMUN. Winning such awards at MUNIK was a wonderful achievement.



## Industry News

### 'Need for a global association of universities'

Nigel Thrift, Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick, UK, recently wrote that universities worldwide need to become better organized to represent higher education's interests, and better self-regulated to avoid being managed by bodies outside the sector.

Coming together to position universities as "some of the most important actors striding onto the world stage" is more straightforward and less fraught with complications than the second idea — a "more integrated global governance of universities." Yet both present tremendous challenges and the first must be accomplished before the second can be gained.

The International Association of

Universities is a global membership organization of some 650 higher-education institutions and organizations. It strives to take on the challenges. Mr. Thrift sets out by being a coordinating body and global representative of higher education.

The world faces global challenges that higher-education institutions are well positioned to deal with, which could serve as a rallying force.

For example, the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals are nearing their deadline in 2015 without having been reached; higher education has an important role to play in helping to achieve these goals to combat poverty, reach universal

access to primary education, empower women and ensure gender equality, among others. Colleges can also help mitigate the problems caused by climate change, including the cultural, economic and social challenges.

Mr. Thrift's proposition that a more formal and more integrated form of global governance may become necessary is an intriguing idea, but one that should be approached with caution.

Given the need to balance institutional autonomy with accountability and regulation, clearly, the most powerful and palatable form of governance will be voluntary, signaling that institutions and organizations see a compelling need and will organize themselves to deal with it.

### Developers Society organizes competition



The Developers Society organized a competition 'techno-credibles' on January 29, where faculty members recommended the best projects that were submitted to them during the last semester.

These projects were mostly from courses such as introduction to computers for freshmen, data structures for sophomores, database systems and object oriented analysis and design for

the juniors. While for the seniors, their final year projects were selected. The recommended projects were then presented to a panel of experts comprising Ms. Atika Burney and Ms. Ayesha Urooj. The marking criteria was based on the code, the user interface and the way students presented their projects as a group.

The judges gave trophies and certificates to the winners. The society president presented souvenirs to the judges.

The event was the first of its kind in FAST-NU Karachi campus. The society promised to organize such events on regular basis.

### Participation in NBEAC conference

Assistant Professor at FAST-NU Peshawar campus M. Zeb Khan attended a two-day NBEAC conference in Islamabad held from January 27 to 28.

The objective of this conference, which attracted more than 200 participants including vice chancellors, deans, directors, and departmental heads, was to identify and address emerging challenges of business schools in Pakistan.

The conference was divided into eight sessions that, besides other issues, focused on trends in management education, rethinking business education in Pakistan, developing academia-industry linkages, role of faculty in emerging paradigms and resource mobilization.

The keynote speakers were prominent members from Pakistan who highlighted the main theme followed by panel discussion and question-answer session.

Mr. Zeb Khan actively participated in all sessions and projected FAST-NU with respect to its programs, unique strengths and the role it plays in promoting quality business education in the KPK province and beyond.

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