

FAST-NU holds prize distribution ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 of FAST-NU was held at the Islamabad campus on April 18, 2015. About 87 medals and cash prizes were awarded to the position holders. Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector FAST-NU, graced the ceremony as the chief guest.

The Rector said that FAST-NU not only focused on the academic and professional development of students, but also work on their personal growth to make them

excellent citizens. FAST-NU is focusing on applied research which can make a significant difference to our national productivity, he said.

He said the way to hope and prosperity is to fully and effectively utilize the resources of Pakistan and the biggest asset of Pakistan is the exceptionally intelligent

and well-trained human resources.



CFD campus organizes 2nd Business & Technology Conference

FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus organized the 2nd Business and Technology Conference titled "BIZTECH 2015" on April 11, 2015. A large number of businessmen, IT experts and dignitaries attended the event. Rector FAST-NU, Dr. Amir Muhammed was the chief guest of



the conference. He addressed the opening ceremony and stressed the need of industry and academia collaboration in Pakistan to achieve the goal of a knowledge-based economy.

Mr. Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh, MNA and Member BoG FAST-NU, Dr. Aftab Maroof, Mr. Tahir Chaudhary, President Pakistan Institute of Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mazhar Jamil, CEO Leadership and Management Solutions, Ms. Maria Umar, Founder Women's Digital League, Mr. Arslan Hassan, Founder of tune.pk, Engineer Rizwan Ashraf, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), and Dr. Habib Aslam Gaba, Chairman Academia-Industry Linkage FCCI, were

among the keynote speakers.

Mr. Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh addressed the conference on recent trends and opportunities on the business arena of the country. Mr. Tahir Chaudhary spoke on entrepreneurship and business development opportunities in Pakistan. Dr. Mazhar Jamil gave an inspirational talk on leadership skills. Ms. Maria Umar presented her ideas on contributions of women towards the society and opportunities for women in the digital market. Dr. Asif Mahmood Gilani, Director CFD campus, expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guests and participants from the industry and academia for making BIZTECH 2015 a successful event.

Participation in INQAAHE Conference in USA | FAST-NU wins INQAAHE scholarship

The Quality Enhancement Cell of FAST-NU actively participated in the conference on "Changing Landscape of Higher Education: New Demands on Quality Assurance" organized by International Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) from March 30 to April 3, 2015 in Chicago, USA. Manager QEC Mr. Farrukh Idrees represented FAST-NU in this prestigious global conference.

The conference elaborated innovative global future trends in managing quality assurance frameworks for conventional, hybrid and distant learning higher education management models. Various

papers were presented to contemplate upon the development of quality assurance frameworks which may fit to the requirements of emerging industrial and research strategies.

This year INQAAHE allocated nine scholarships worldwide to facilitate scholarly contribution by quality professionals in the subject convention. Three out of nine fellowships were won by Pakistan. The recipients of Pakistani scholars belong to FAST-NU, Higher Education Commission (HEC), and Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar. This landmark achievement is a testimony to higher quality

standards followed by Pakistan in academic excellence.

FAST-NU QEC contributed in all the pertinent sessions of the conference and pre-conference workshops. Further, our QEC manager delivered a presentation in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan to apprise the audience about existing quality model of Pakistani universities and shed light on the future trends in the higher education management. FAST-NU QEC efforts for continual improvements in education management were highly appreciated by the audience.

Lahore campus starts series of graduate seminars



Electrical Engineering Department of FAST-NU Lahore has planned to organize a “Graduate Seminar” on the first Friday of every month. Faculty members will present their research work in these seminars. Tutorial presentation on a particular research topic will also be arranged. The

management will also invite distinguished guests from academia and industry in these seminars for knowledge sharing with students. The decision was taken on the guidance and instructions by Rector FAST-NU Dr. Amir Muhammed. A committee comprising Dr. Arshad

Hussain, Head of Electrical Engineering Department, and Dr. Amjad Hussain will oversee the progress of seminars. Dr. Amjad Hussain is designated as coordinator of the Graduate Seminar.

Two seminars had been conducted on March 6 and April 3. Dr. S. M. Sajid and Mr. A. D. Raza addressed the first seminar. Dr. S. M. Sajid presented an overview on “Optical Wireless Communication”, whereas Mr. A. D. Raza presented his published work titled “Bounds on the Capacity of an Optical Wireless Relay Channel”.

Dr. Arshad Hussain and Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Raza presented in the second seminar. Dr. Arshad Hussain gave a short tutorial on “Cramer-Rao Lower Bound (CRLB)”, while Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Raza presented a derivation of “Analytical Expression for CRLB on the Variance of Unbiased Non-Data-Aided (NDA) Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) Estimates of the Hyper-Cubic Modulated Signals”.

Achievement in business competitions

FAST School of Management, Karachi campus has received three laurels in three leading Business Competitions. FSM won the SZABIST Karachi Business Challenge event beating over 40 teams from leading business schools. The FSM team also stood runner-up at LUMS Marketing Challenge held at LUMS, Lahore. Fifty teams from major institutions of Pakistan participated in this competition. FSM got 6th position in KSBL International Business Challenge competition and also won consolation prize for being the only BBA level team beating many MBA teams. It is noteworthy that in all of these competitions, mostly MBA teams from across Pakistan participated. While FAST-NU students from BBA 6th Semester thrived in the contests.

FAST-NU wins LUMS Sports Festival 2015

Fast Sports Society Lahore won All Pakistan LUMS Sports Fest 2015, deemed as one of the biggest sports competitions of Pakistan. This is the third consecutive year that Fast Sports Society has won this tournament. FAST-NU students won gold medals in cricket and table tennis, silver medals in table tennis, badminton, lawn tennis and squash. FAST-NU Lahore was

also the Best Delegate Trophy winner.



Workshop on COMSOL Multi-physics



ICE NUCES Student Chapter Lahore organized a workshop on teaching the basics of ‘COMSOL Multi-Physics’ on March 20. Dr. Muazzam Ghous, Faculty Member and Student Advisor, was the moderator of the workshop. He taught students various aspects of software mainly focusing on the operations and functions related to the

physics of the software. Different operations were explained briefly while precisely describing modules. The students in their senior year significantly benefitted from the workshop. Dr. Moazzam also shared his views with the audience and encouraged students to continue participating in such student development initiatives.

Mega Challenge 2015 held at Peshawar campus

Mega Challenge 2015 (MC-15) was held in FAST-NU Peshawar on April 4 and 5, 2015. This was the second event of its kind in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province after the first Mega Challenge held in 2013. Educational institutions from across KPK participated in the MC-15. Competitions in fourteen categories were organized during the event. These categories included qirat, naat, bilingual declamation, humorous bilingual declamation, painting, sketching, calligraphy, photography, ad making, video making, quiz competition, drama, Urdu singing competition and Pashto singing

competition. Provincial Minister for Mineral Development KPK, Mr. Zia Ullah Afridi was the chief guest of opening ceremony and cultural night. Local politicians and KPK government officials also attended the ceremony. Director General Sports and Youth Affairs, KPK, Capt. (Retd) Mian Adil Iqbal was the chief guest of the closing ceremony. He awarded

prizes to the winners and runner-ups of different competitions. Gomal University stood winner of MC-15.



Peshawar campus students attend Pak China Business Forum



The students of FAST-NU Peshawar campus visited Pak China Business Forum 2015 organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Islamabad from March 27 to 30. The forum offered an opportunity to businessmen of the two countries to meet and share their business ideas in order to enhance bilateral trade relations and boost economic activities. Students of FAST-NU attended

the forum and interacted with many Chinese businessmen to gain knowledge and information about different Chinese and Pakistani products. The visit helped students to understand the contemporary market for products and especially the Chinese business market. This event also provided an opportunity to our students to get innovative ideas for their research and entrepreneurial activities.

Lahore campus holds CPD training

The Electrical Engineering department of FAST-NU Lahore campus organized a workshop on “LaTeX” under the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program on April 4, 2015. This was the first workshop since FAST-NU Lahore renewed its Professional Engineering Body (PEB) status with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). Around 38 faculty members

and graduate students participated in this hands-on training. Ms. Farah Nadeem, Lecturer, Electrical Engineering Department, Lahore campus, conducted the workshop which was managed by Dr. Saima Zafar, PEB coordinator, Lahore campus. The participants were awarded certificates along with CPD points which contribute to their PEC membership.



Research paper published

Mr. Majid Khan, Assistant Professor, Sciences and Humanities at Islamabad campus, has got his two research papers published in highly reputed international journals named Journal of Intelligent & Fuzzy Systems and Neural Computing and Applications with the impact factor 0.986 and 1.763, respectively.

The titles of papers were “A novel construction of substitution box with Zaslavskii chaotic map and symmetric group” and “Construction of S-box based on chaotic Boolean functions and its application in image encryption”.

It is a privilege for FAST-NU Islamabad Campus that Mr. Majid Khan has established his place as the pioneer of implementing mathematics in the field of information hiding and security.

FAST-NU Lahore organizes SOFTEC' 15

FAST-NU Lahore campus organized SOFTEC 15 on March 28 and 29. Around 32 teams from different prestigious institutions including FAST-NU, Punjab University, COMSATS, IQRA University, UCP and many others showcased their projects in software competition. Projects varied across domains and technologies with most notable projects on Kinect, AI, augmented reality, virtual reality, and computer vision. Each team was evaluated by more than five judges from the industry. The projects were also analyzed by sponsors, software house representatives, and faculty members of FAST-NU Lahore campus. Final Year Project group "Pixoshot"

comprising Muhammad Zeeshan, Wajiha Hameed, and Sharjeel Ahmad Qureshi from FAST-NU won the first prize at SOFTEC 15. Their project was supervised by Ms. Saba Rasheed Malik, and Co-Supervised by Dr. Usman Farrukh. Pixoshot is a research and development based project to automate manual process in advertising agencies to verify TV ads. Domain of the project is image processing.

Meanwhile, thirty one students along with two faculty members from FAST-NU Peshawar campus took part in six competitions of SOFTEC 15 including web development competition, graphic design, programming competition, software

competition, gaming (fifa) and engineering project competition.

Team of Peshawar campus won 1st prize in web development category and achieved fourth position in speed programming category.



Conference paper presented



Dr. Summaira Sarfraz, Associate Professor, presented her research paper titled "Teachers' and Students' Perceptions of the Communicative Language Teaching Methodology in the CALL Environment: A Case Study" co-authored by Ms. Zahida Mansoor and Ms. Raheela Tariq, in the International GlobELT 2015 Conference under the banner of British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL – UK) arranged from April 16 to 19, 2015 in Antalya, Turkey. BAAL Conference is a prestigious research forum in the area of Applied Linguistics. The paper being the first interdisciplinary research, discusses the communicative language teaching methodology and language acquisition process that identify the psychological factors responsible for forming different perceptions of the students and teachers in a Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) environment. The presentation was highly appreciated by the participants of the conference.

Students visit Pakistan Engineering Council



The students of Batch 2010 and Batch 2011 of Electrical Engineering Department at Islamabad campus visited Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Head Office in

Islamabad to study and analyze the first on Grid Solar Power Supply system installed at PEC. They took keen interest in the system and were briefed about it by PEC officials.

Guest lecture on cloud computing

A special guest lecture by Mr. Muhammad Rizwan Arshad, General Manager IT Services, IT Operations and GIS at K-Electric, was arranged by FAST-NU Karachi Main campus on March 10, 2015.

Mr. Rizwan, who holds more than eleven years of experience in technical and managerial skills in the field of Information Technology and expertise in enterprise level infrastructure solutions, business analysis and core technologies, gave an overview about the IT infrastructure for SAP installation at the K-Electric Company. As a technical expert, he discussed about the issues faced by IT department during SAP's initial deployment and post production. Furthermore, he also talked about K-Electric's vision towards hybrid

computing. Faculty members including Mr. Nadeem Kafi, Mr. Nauman Atique and Mr. Bilal Hayat Butt and students attended the session.



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