

## ▶ 34th Convocation at Peshawar Campus ◀

### Degrees conferred upon 101 students

As many as 101 students received their degrees in the 34<sup>th</sup> convocation of FAST-NU and the 8<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of Peshawar Campus on September 28. Shahzeb Hussain (BS Electrical Engineering), Khadija (BS Computer Science), and Aisha Ghazi Aurakzai (BBA) received gold medals for their outstanding performance in their academic career.

Dr. Amir Muhammad, Rector FAST NU, was the Chief Guest of the event. Besides graduating students, their parents, faculty members and university officials, Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajmal, BOG Member and Justice (Retd) Usman Ali Shah, former Member of BOG also attended the ceremony.

Dr. Amir Muhammad, in his address, said, "We are saddened by the recent tragic incidents in Peshawar in which many innocent people lost their lives due to the evil designs of enemies of Pakistan and of humanity." Such events highlight the importance of quality education and inculcating a spirit of character building to inspire the students towards nation building and serving humanity," he stated. He congratulated the graduating students for their significant accomplishment by achieving a prestigious degree. He said that the main objective of the University was to produce highly knowledgeable and skilled professionals in various disciplines, with high moral character and leadership qualities. While appreciating the students for their performance, he said, "No matter wherever you go, this University's culture should always remain your identity." He advised them to hold and guard this identity of honesty, hard work and integrity as their inseparable entity.



Dr. Muhammad Tariq Rahim, Director, Peshawar Campus, apprised the audience about the progress of the campus. He mentioned the initiative of the campus on starting new graduate and postgraduate studies programs including MS Maths leading to PhD, MS Electrical Engineering, MS Computer Science, and MBA.

### CFD Campus gets HEC approval



recognized campuses of the University on its website.

This is indeed a great achievement of the University as the campus has been recognized for providing quality education and research facilities in the region. The Commission in its letter stated, "CFD campus fulfilled the requirements for an approved campus in the private sector."

The management has congratulated the students, faculty, staff and people of Chiniot-Faisalabad region on achieving yet another milestone. The University expressed its commitment to providing quality education facilities, particularly in rural

In a significant development, Higher Education Commission (HEC) approved FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad (CFD) campus as recognized educational campus after elaborate evaluation and recommendations of its inspection committee on September 23. HEC has added the name of CFD campus of the University in the list of

areas of the region.

The campus has started B.S. (C.S), BBA & BS (Accounting and Finance) degrees. The campus has planned to start B.S Electrical Engineering degree program for which application for accreditation has been forwarded to the PEC. The campus has been inspected by PEC and the decision is awaited soon.

The management is committed to follow all the recommendations and directions of the HEC to ensure quality education to the students. "The University will leave no stone unturned in transforming the lives of thousands of people by imparting quality education and making students a productive part of the society."

## Pride of FAST-NU

### Mishaal becomes Google Student Ambassador

It is a distinction for FAST-NU that one of the leading global internet companies — Google — has appointed FAST-NU's Computer Science student, Ms. Mishaal Tauseef as the Student Ambassador for 2013-14 session. Ms. Mishaal was selected in the recently announced 1st ever batch of "Google Student Ambassadors" (GSAs) in Pakistan. She is one of the only four Google Student Ambassadors in Pakistan who were selected after fulfilling Google's selection criteria for this great honor.

Mr. Badar Khushnood, Pakistan Country Consultant, Google, in his message, congratulated the management, faculty and students of the university on this landmark achievement. "We, at Google, hope that this appointment will further enhance the ongoing and lasting relationship between Google and FAST-NU," he stated.



### Orientation ceremony held at Peshawar campus



FAST-NU Peshawar campus held an orientation ceremony on September 2 to welcome and acquaint the newly enrolled students in Fall Semester 2013 with academic rules and regulations as well as the culture and academic system of FAST-NU. Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajmal, Member, Board of Governors, FAST-NU, was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr. Fazli Qayyum welcomed the

students and their parents. He familiarized them with the aim, objective and broad functioning of the university and educational facilities available at campus. Over 350 students, their parents and faculty members attended the ceremony. Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajmal said students were the only ray of hope for Pakistan. He said it was their responsibility to act with maturity and seriousness to pay back to their homeland. "The first and the foremost duty that you have is to take your studies seriously," Justice Ajmal remarked.

## Industry News

### UK launches free online courses

The UK has launched its biggest online university project with more than 20 colleges offering free courses. The project, called Future Learn, is going to bring UK universities in the global market of massive open online courses (Moocs). The project is aimed to revolutionize conventional models of formal education and help serve the unmet demand for university courses, particularly in the international arena.

According to the BBC, the Future Learn project will have 21 UK universities apart from Trinity College Dublin and Monash University in Australia to offer courses that are taught and assessed on the internet.

Many people will have a chance to follow university-level courses without any travel or cost and at a time that suits them. Out of 20 short courses announced, eight will start this year. The study material will be provided by the British Library, British Museum and British Council. The universities are anticipating that each Mooc course will attract 20,000 students worldwide and they will also see the project as a way of recruiting students to degree courses.

## Microsoft awards project to FAST-NU

In a landmark development, Dr. Affan A. Syed of Islamabad campus has been awarded a research grant from Microsoft Research (Redmond) for a project titled Soft UPS. This project aims to provide an ICT-inspired solution to replace the current inverter plus battery solution used in Pakistan to handle load-shedding. This solution will run over a smart-grid infrastructure with demand-side load-management enforced by signals from the utility companies. Soft UPS aims to be more cost-effective, efficient, and flexible than the current UPS-based deployments.

This project is also recognized by Microsoft Research as a partner for their recent "Lab of Things" initiative with FAST-NU as the only partner university from outside the USA and UK.



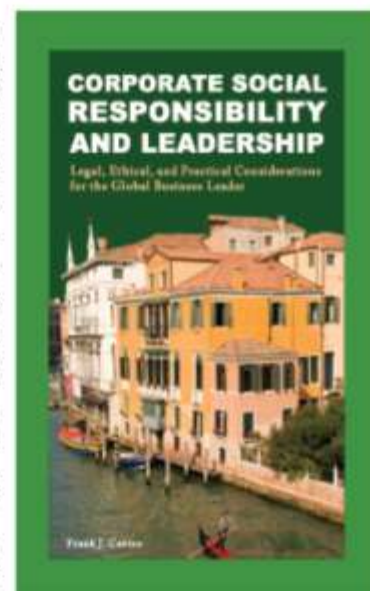
## QEC organizes training on self-assessment

Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Islamabad campus recently organized a training session on self-assessment for capacity building and organizational development of QEC Program Team. Mr. Abdul Wahab, Advisor Quality Assurance, Air University, was the keynote speaker. The objective of the session was to enhance self-assessment capabilities and effective self-assessment report writing skills of the participants. The team also attended a two-day training session on self-assessment in HEC for development and improvement in performance.



## Book chapter published

The book chapter of Mr. Zeb Khan, Assistant Professor, Fast School of Management, Peshawar campus on "CSR and Human Resources Management in a Spiritual Context" has been published in the book "Corporate Social Responsibility and Leadership: Legal, Ethical, and Practical Considerations for the Global Business Leader" written by Frank J. Cavico. The book will be available in the market by November 2013.



## Dr. Tariq Rahim takes over as Director, Peshawar campus

Dr. Muhammad Tariq Rahim is the new Director of FAST-NU Peshawar campus who took charge on September 17. With a PhD degree in Mathematics from GC University Lahore, Dr. Tariq possesses vast experience in academic and research field. He has been serving FAST-NU for the last six years. He has over 30 research publications in international journals and has refereed papers in reputed journals including Discrete Math, Discrete Applied Math, Utilitas Math, Ars Combinatoria and Quaestiones Mathematicae. Dr. Tariq has reviewed a number of papers for Math Scinet (American Mathematical Society) and Zentralblatt Math (Germany). He is also a Member of Academic Council and BoF, FAST-NU, Member of Board of Studies, Abdul Wali Khan University and Islamia College University, and Member of HEC's Mathematics Curriculum Revision Committee.





## FAST-NU implements PM's scholarship program

FAST School of Management (FSM), Islamabad campus successfully conducted and concluded the Prime Minister National ICT Scholarship Program 2013 (PMNICTSP-2013) during the summer. Principal Investigator of the Program, Mr. Hashir Ibne Irshad and Program Manager Mr. Attiq Hassan Shah organized a three-month long program that reached out to over 9000 participants across Pakistan. They were ably assisted by a field team of over 200 dedicated and committed personnel including students from FAST School of Management, Islamabad.



The program had two major components, namely, Training of Teachers (TOT) and Foundation Training Program (FTP). PMNICTSP-2013 was aimed at ICT capacity building through engaging students and faculty from marginalized communities. The number of participating schools/colleges exceeded 700 for this year with 194 centers and around 600 faculty members were trained by the FAST-NU team for the delivery of a rigorous boot camp targeted at empowering 9000 participating students in skill development and test taking techniques. The eventual goal was optimal capacity building in the realm of ICT that could help talented students from non-metropolitan communities tackle the chasm of social, cultural and educational divide by enabling them to become part of top level universities in Pakistan.

The program was originally conceived by a team of FAST-NU headed by Mr. Hashir in 2006 and since then it has become the most celebrated and productive program of its kind in the country. The success of the program is evident from the fact that it has been running non-stop for the last eight years during which time scholarships worth billions of rupees have been distributed and lives of not just tens of thousands of students but their respective communities have been turned around. The year 2013 saw the program delivered to the most far flung areas with maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

FAST-NU takes extreme pride in being the pioneer and the most productive executor of this program and takes this opportunity to welcome the students who have made it to FAST-NU and to other top universities in Pakistan through PMNICTSP-2013.

## FAST-NU Lahore Campus gets new Director

Professor Dr. Zafar Iqbal is the new Director of Lahore campus who assumed the charge on September 9, 2013. Dr. Zafar holds a blend of engineering and management science qualifications. He did B.Sc Engineering from UET in 1985, M.Sc. DIC from Imperial College, London, UK, in 1987, and got his PhD degree from University of South Australia in 2004. Dr. Zafar's doctoral thesis was on an Islamic Perspective on Public Finance. His teaching expertise and areas of research interest include portfolio management, asset and liability management, Islamic finance, distributive justice and public finance, and financial markets.

Dr. Zafar joined FAST-NU in 2004 and has ascended to the Director's office with more than twenty-five years of professional and academic achievements to his credit. He is the founding Head of the Department of Management Science at Lahore campus and the Dean of the FAST School of Management. He has also played an active role in HEC's National Curriculum Review Committee for Business Administration. Prior to that, Dr. Zafar worked for several years in the field of investment management in some of the top financial institutions in the Middle East and Australia.



## PEC grants accreditation to BS Engineering degree program

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has granted accreditation to FAST-NU's Electrical Engineering degree program at Karachi campus. Officials of PEC visited Karachi campus on May 30-31, 2013 for accreditation of Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Specialization in Electronics). Accreditation was granted to Batch 2009 students in its 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of EA&QEC held on June 28, 2013. The accreditation is very crucial for the engineering students as this is mandatory for students to be registered engineers with PEC. FAST-NU has always strived hard to maintain higher standards of professional education.

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