

99 graduates receive degrees at Peshawar campus convocation

The 41st convocation of FAST-NU Peshawar campus was held on October 3, 2015 in Peshawar. 99 graduates of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Business Administration disciplines were awarded degrees during the convocation. The convocation was attended by corporate luminaries, leading academicians, intellectuals, media, parents and the students.

Mr. Muhammad Atif Khan, Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector FAST-NU, distributed degrees, while the chief

guest awarded medals to award winners in respective disciplines. Justice (R) Mian Ajmal Khan, Member of the Board of Governors FAST, was also present on the occasion.

In his address, the Education Minister Mr. Muhammad Atif Khan congratulated the graduates and their parents. He praised FAST-NU for having won a prestigious position among the leading universities of Pakistan by providing and promoting higher education amid challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He asked the graduates to work hard and said they had an important role to play in resolving various issues such as poverty, illiteracy and dearth of technological advancement.

While addressing, the Rector Dr. Amir Muhammed welcomed and thanked the chief guest for gracing the occasion. He welcomed the guests and parents of graduating students. He reminded the students that getting a degree from FAST-NU was just a beginning of their journey for a successful career. They would have to work hard in their careers and show strength of character to become successful professionals. He hoped that the students, having acquired knowledge and requisite skills, would get not only lucrative positions



in reputable organizations but would also become pioneers of thriving business ventures and employers of talented persons like their predecessors.

Out of the 99 graduating students, 55 were awarded degrees in (BS) Electrical Engineering, 29 in (BS) Computer Science and 4 in Business Administration (BBA). Moreover, five MS Computer Science scholars, five MS Electrical Engineering scholars and one Ph.D scholar Murtaza of Mathematics also received degrees.

Campus Director Dr. Tariq Rahim apprised the audience about the campus progress, the quality standards, its employees, and how FAST-NU positioned itself as the centre of higher education in Pakistan.



FAST-NU inks accord with Queen Mary University of London



FAST-NU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Queen Mary University of London on October 15 at FAST-NU Headquarters. The agreement was signed by Professor David Sadler, Vice Principal International, Queen Mary University of London and Dr. Amir

Muhammed, Rector FAST-NU. The key objective of the MoU was to enter into friendship bond and to work together in identifying areas of mutual interest to develop further cooperative projects.

Both sides further resolved to explore specific collaborative activities of mutual exchange of faculty, students as well as research projects. The ceremony was attended by Professor Kathryn Richardson, Director School of Language Linguistics and Films, Ms. Harriet Howse, Mr. Nabeel Vehra of Queen Mary University



of London, and Rana Ghulam Shabbir, Secretary General FAST, Dr. S. M. Husnine, Dr. Summaira Sarfraz and Dr. Latif Virk, Registrar FAST-NU.

Participation in SAFA competition

Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Assistant Professor Computer Sciences at FAST-NU Peshawar campus, has successfully participated in the Critical Assessment of protein Function Annotation (CAFA) competition held in USA, in which researchers from top-notch universities of the world submitted results of their algorithms on an extensive data set provided by CAFA. The algorithm of Dr.

Hafeez almost took 2 months on annotating 100,000 sequences provided by CAFA.

The results of the competition have been published, and his algorithm stood out among the selected top schemes that produced high accuracy results. The results have also been selected to be published in a highly prestigious journal of the field with an impact factor of 10.81. Notably,

FAST-NU Peshawar campus is the only south Asian (as well as second Asian) university appearing in the shortlisted Author's affiliation list.



CFD campus arranges guest lecture



FAST School of Management, Chiniot-Faisalabad (CFD) campus, arranged a

guest lecture on the "Role of Information Technology/Information Systems in Businesses of 21st Century" in the second week of September 2015.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Khan was the guest speaker. He has over 23 years of experience in IT, governance, budgeting, strategy formulation, and technology procurements to ensure compliant, agile and customer centric information technology solutions and services. He has worked as IT business

partner in Unilever Pakistan as his last assignment.

The session was conducted online at CFD campus with the coordination of FAST-NU Karachi campus. Students and faculty members attended the session. Mr. Iqbal delivered a lecture on dynamically changing business practices with the increased role of information technology in businesses. A question-answer session was also held after the lecture.

CFD campus welcomes Batch 15

Chiniot-Faisalabad campus arranged a reception to formally welcome the students of Batch 15 in the campus on September 30. Current students from all the batches participated in the event while Batch 14 was the key host. Students were wearing traditional clothes to represent Punjab's rural culture.

CFD Campus Director Dr. Syed Asif Mahmood Gillani was the chief guest of the event. In his address, he emphasized on the importance of discipline and extra-curricular activities as the norms and values of CFD campus. He also appreciated the efforts of the organizers.



Proposal accepted for Early Adopter Award 2015



A proposal by Mr. Jawwad Shamsi, Head of Computer Science at Karachi campus and Mr. Zafar Nasir, Faculty Member of Computer Science, titled "Software Engineering for Parallel Programs" has been accepted for an early adapter award from IEEE TCPP. Early Adopter Program has been initiated through a joint venture between IEEE Technical Committee on Parallel Processing (IEEE

TCPP) and National Science Foundation (NSF), USA. The program is focused on strengthening parallel and distributed computing topics in BS Computer Science curriculum. The award is based on the proposal to update and strengthen software engineering curriculum at BS (CS) level by incorporating testing and validation for parallel programs.

QEC conducts survey in CFD campus

Quality Enhancement Cell successfully conducted faculty and course review survey in Chiniot-Faisalabad campus during September 2015. This survey is a prerequisite of Self-Assessment Process

(SAP) of quality Assurance adopted by FAST-NU under the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and accreditation councils of different subjects. These

surveys perform key roles in strategic planning process by the senior management of the university. Mr. Shakeel Khalil, Manager QEC, CFD campus, coordinated the survey process.

Research paper presented in Turkey

Ms. Beenish Niazi and Ms. Sania Batool, from BS Accounting & Finance Batch 2012 of Islamabad campus, presented their research paper titled “Types of Corporate Social Responsibility in Pakistani Industry and their Effectiveness” at the 5th Organizational Governance and Social Responsibility conference held at Tekirdag, Turkey, from September 9 to 13, 2015. The students represented FAST School of Management at this international

academic forum. The conference consisted of presenters from all over the world including UK, US, Bangladesh, Spain, Cyprus, Australia, Germany and Pakistan. The audience of the conference appreciated the presentation and research of FAST-NU undergraduate students.

The students were approached by Professor David Crowther from De Montfort University, Leicester, who offered them the publication of their research in one of



his books titled “Corporate Responsibility and Stake holding” which is expected to be published in 2016.

Faculty member attends AoM meeting

Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Associate Professor and Director Management Advancement Research Centre (MARC), presented her research paper “ERP Implementation: An application of the Nadler’s Congruence



Model” at the 75th Meeting of the Academy of Management (AoM) held in Vancouver, Canada, from August 7 to 11, 2015. The paper was co-authored by Ms. Neelab Kayani, who has completed her BBA from FAST School of Management and is currently employed as a Research Officer at the MARC at the Islamabad campus.

AoM is recognized as the most prestigious management conference and is attended by renowned scholars from across the world. Dr. Sadia attended various sessions by management experts including Hendry Mintzberg, Jeffery Pfeffer, Stewart Clegg,

Andrew Pettigrew, Ann Tsui and Thomas Cumming. She held meetings with the management scholars to refine the design of various Ph.D courses at FAST School of Management.

Dr. Sadia also held meetings with her international research group, Cross-Cultural Management Network (CCMN), which is housed at IESE Business School, Spain. She has worked with the network for about eight years, and has started her next research project with the group which focuses on job embedded-ness and trustworthy behaviour.

Career counselling session held

The Placement Office of FAST-NU Islamabad campus organized a career counselling session to help students explore career opportunities and techniques to secure a career position. Human Resource Specialist and Career Advisor Mr. Naveed Anjum shared his experience based knowledge with the students of Batch 2015. The session was received brilliantly by the fresh batch as they enthusiastically learned about the details of career planning and

progression. A main part of the session was based on the emphasis on loyalty, trust and confidence, as Mr. Anjum underlined the core values for undergraduate and postgraduate students for successful career.

Mr. Anjum shed light on today’s labour market trends and competencies required by industries. Mr. Anjum thoroughly answered the queries of students in the question-answer session. A souvenir was presented to the speaker in the end.



Guest lecture on strategic management & business strategy

FAST-NU Islamabad campus held a guest speaker session on “Strategic Management & Business Strategy” for the students of Batch 12 on September 8, 2015. Mr. Salman Malik, CEO at LDI Telenor Communications, was the guest speaker. The students studying the courses of Strategic Management in BBA and Business Strategy in BS Accounting & Finance at FAST School of Management attended the lecture.

The session was a true depiction of the

strategic management views from the corporate sector and how it involves evaluating business goals, objectives and plans in light of company focus on effectiveness and efficiency.

Mr. Salman shared his in-depth experience in areas of business analysis, project management and strategy. He discussed why strategic management was essential for a business and how important it was for a leader to be a visionary and able to challenge the norms and ultimately

deliver out of the box. He explained how external factors dominated the market and understanding them was of core importance for an organization.

The session was intellectually inspiring and bridged the gap between theory and practical strategic management. Mr. Usman Chaudhry, Assistant Professor at FAST School of Management, Islamabad campus, presented a shield to Mr. Salman at the end.

Chancellor FAST-NU visits Peshawar campus



The Chancellor FAST-NU Mr. Waseem Sajjad, Rector FAST-NU Dr. Amir Muhammed and Secretary General FAST Rana Ghulam Shabbir visited Peshawar campus on August 23, 2015 to assess requirement of additional covered area and approve new construction plan. Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajmal, Member Board of Governors, also joined them on this occasion.

Campus Director Dr. Tariq Raheem informed the visiting delegation about the current status and requirements of the campus. A plan was presented to the Chancellor for construction of a new floor on the Academic Block to accommodate library, an auditorium with 320 seating capacity, common room and discussion room.

Earlier, Rector Dr. Amir Muhammed also interacted with the faculty and discussed the objectives of their visit. He apprised the faculty briefly about the history of FAST-NU since 1980 and laying the foundation of Peshawar campus and its development over the period.

The Rector expressed his pleasure on successful completion of new enrolment by the Peshawar campus in BS Electrical engineering and BS Computer Science programmes. He appreciated the management for its capacity to accommodate additional students. Dr. Amir Muhammed also responded to the queries of the faculty members in the question-answer session.

QEC Qualifies as AQAAIW honorary member

The Quality Enhancement Cell of FAST-NU has been successfully qualified as an honorary associate member of Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (AQAAIW). This honorary status has been awarded to FAST-NU QEC in response to its membership application supported with substantial evidences for prolific contribution at national and international forums of quality assurance in higher education. The AQAAIW adopts the Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2009 and the QA-Islamic Constitution. It's all participating agencies, universities, and ministries work together under the QA-

Islamic umbrella towards the enhancement of quality in the higher education in countries of the Islamic world.

Some other Pakistani universities who have successfully obtained AQAAIW membership include Bahria University, GIKI, Institute of Space Technology, Khyber Medical University, University of Agriculture, Peshawar, and Riphah International University. With this membership, FAST-NU QEC would be able to collaborate with the international members of AQAAIW for benchmarking and standardization of best practices in higher education quality management as



well as enhance its spectrum of activities and visibility in the international community of higher education and participate in its pertinent events as a contributor and participant. Further, obtaining such memberships also carries weightage in HEC ranking frameworks.

Re-accreditation of BS Electrical Engineering

Subsequent to the visit of Pakistan Engineering Council during June 2015, BS Electrical Engineering 2011 and 2012 batches at Karachi campus have been granted re-accreditation. Karachi Campus has also been allowed the change of Scope (Nomenclature) in its BS (EE) Program from "BS Electrical (Electronics) Engineering" to "BS Electrical Engineering".

Training session for government officials



Karachi campus organized a training session for the senior government officials from all over Pakistan. The event was organized in collaboration

with National Institute of Management Karachi. Keynote Lecture was delivered by the Director Karachi campus Dr. Zubair A. Shaikh.