

## 18th Convocation of FAST-NU Karachi held 365 graduates awarded degrees



The 18th convocation of FAST-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences Karachi Campus was held on 30th January.

Three hundred and four Bachelor degrees were awarded to students of Telecom Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science and Business Administration.

Sixty one students were given Master degrees in Computer Science, Software Project Management and Business Administration.

Dr. Javaid R. Laghari, Chairperson, Higher Education Commission was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

He congratulated the students for their achievements. He also applauded the faculty for their contribution in maintaining internationally competitive standards. Dr. Laghari appreciated the contribution of FAST-NU towards

building technologically advanced Pakistan and highlighted the role of HEC in improving the quality of higher education.

The Rector FAST-NU Dr. Amir Muhammad underlined the importance of research and urged the students to redefine their roles as professionals of international repute.

The Director Karachi Campus Dr. Zubair A Shaikh talked about the progress of the University and put forward his future expansion plans.

Later, the chief guest awarded medals to the graduates for academic excellence. In BBA, Gold medal was awarded to Tehsin. Mir Fahad Iqbal and Sandeep Kumar Manwani received silver and bronze medals respectively.

In BS Telecom, Asif Ali Khan, Fehmeena Fatima, Syed Farhan Ali received gold, silver and bronze medals

respectively.

In BS Computer Engineering, Osma Nasir earned gold while Ali Bin Zafar received silver medal. In BS Computer Science, Sameer Jalees, Gulnar Mehdi and Syed Muhammad Umair earned the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively.

In MS Computer Science Saima Khan and Syed Danish Hassan Naqvi received gold medals, Rizwan Raza received silver while Yasir Zaheer and Beenish Mustafa received bronze medals.

In MS Software Project Management Sadaf Qamar, Naureen and Jahanzeb received gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. In Master of Business Administration Kailash Kumar Gemanani, Ayaz Aijaz Memon and Mahmud Mashood Khan earned Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals respectively.

### Alumni feedback

"I am your student from Batch 2001-A. I am currently pursuing my MS on Fulbright Scholarship from Carnegie Mellon University. I am proud to admit that the quality of education I received at FAST-NU is comparable to any world class institute. Equipped with the knowledge gained at FAST-NU, I am finding no difficulty in pursuing my Masters in US whereas some of my friends from India, China and rest of the world appear to be struggling to keep pace."

**Mr. Nisar Ahmed (FAST-NU alumni), now MS student at Carnegie Mellon University, USA - via e-mail to the Rector.**

## Seminar on 'Opportunities in US Job Market for FAST-NU Graduates'

The Old Students Association of FAST-NU (OSAF) arranged a seminar at FAST-NU Lahore Campus on "Opportunities in US Job Market for Graduates of FAST".

Mr. Asif Rafiq Ahmed of Batch 91 of Lahore Campus was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. He has recently retired from HP that had acquired Saber Consulting through acquisition of EDS last year. Asif was Chief Technology Officer at Saber and helped build a company from the

ground up with revenue going from \$2 million to \$25 million within 8 years. His expertise are in large technology implementations in the government sector with project size ranging from \$20 million to \$100 million employing teams of 20-200 technical staff.

He employed over 20 FAST graduates in his company making it one of the largest concentration of FAST alumni with one employer outside Pakistan.

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## FAST-NU, PEEF sign MOU to assist needy students

FAST-NU Lahore Campus and Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) signed an MOU on 30th January at a reception hosted by Chief Minister Punjab Mr. Shahbaz Sharif.

According to MOU, FAST-NU and PEEF will provide financial assistance to bright under privileged students, ensuring equitable access to quality higher education.

PEEF will pay 50% of fee as scholarship to 20 students at FAST-NU Lahore campus with monthly family income of Rs. 15000 or less. Remaining 50% will be funded by the FAST under "Qarz-e-Hasna" scheme.

Later, addressing the signing ceremony, the Chief Minister Punjab expanded the program to 50 students and Rs. 3.5 million in scholarship money this year. Mr. Shahbaz Sharif praised the quality of education at FAST-NU.

He emphasized the importance of sending talented children of the economically deprived families to the "best institutions of Pakistan" for quality higher education. Dr. Arshad Hussain Director FAST-NU Lahore Campus also addressed at this occasion.

Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) is one of the flagship programs of Government of the Punjab. The fund aims to provide equitable opportunities of education to under privileged but bright boys and girls especially from the southern districts of the province. This fund is nurturing much needed human capital for social and economic development of Pakistan.



*Director FAST-NU Lahore Campus Dr. Arshad Hussain and CEO PEEF Dr. Kamran Shams signing an MOU to assist needy students.*

## Prize distribution ceremony at Lahore Campus

A prize distribution ceremony related to 'Dareecha' was held in Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing (CRULP) at NU-FAST Lahore Campus. 'Dareecha' is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training program for rural area school students and teachers. The Project 'Dareecha' training program was conducted by CRULP in ten rural schools of Sargodha, Chakwal and Attock districts.

The project included the setup of computer labs with Internet connectivity at all schools and culminated in a final website development competition during the summer 2009 between all participating schools. Entries were invited in three categories including community website, school website and individual website.

Around 57 entries were received and evaluated by a panel of judges from the IT industry, education, government and other relevant sectors, who expressed appreciation of the effort put into the development of the websites, which give a unique insight into local culture and traditions. Approximately 250 project participants, including school heads, teachers and students attended the prize distribution ceremony. A large number of guests from relevant areas were also present on the occasion.



## FAST-NU Lahore Campus holds Graduate Colloquium

Department of Computer Science, FAST-NU Lahore Campus organized a "Graduate Colloquium on Computer Sciences" (GCCS).

Main objective of the colloquium was timely dissemination of the research work done in the Department of Computer Science, FAST-NU Lahore.

Eleven research papers by MS, PhD students and faculty were presented and accepted in the colloquium. A large number of faculty and students attended the colloquium.

The event was divided into two parallel sessions each having three session chairs.

The proceedings of the colloquium shall be available on the GCCS website.

The organizing team consisted of Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, Dr. Furrukh Nadeem, Dr. Usman Bhatti and Dr. Sarmad Hussain while Dr. Adnan Noor Mian coordinated all activities.

## Ties being tightened between FAST-NU and top colleges, schools

FAST-NU Karachi has continued the trend of visiting top colleges and A-Level schools in Karachi for university presentations and career counseling sessions.



*Students at St. Joseph Women College taking keen interest in FAST-NU presentation.*

FAST-NU has also been inviting these colleges for complete guided tours showing them the state of the art facilities at the Campus.

Information about university, its degree programs, admission tests, scholarships and financial aid were provided to students.

Faculty members from each department i.e. Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Management Science along with the Placement & Liaison team represented FAST-NU in these events.

## Workshop

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Mr. Nauman Skeikh of Batch 92 also spoke to the alumni and students on the occasion. He is the COO of Credit Chex, a SaaS based service provider in the business intelligence and analytics area for the Pakistani market. He moved to Pakistan in 2007 to setup the venture with JS Group in Pakistan. Prior to that he has been working in the enterprise data warehousing in US. In addition to data architecture, he has expertise in statistical modeling, finance, banking and direct marketing and is actively working towards promoting these concepts in the Pakistani market.

At the end, OSAP President thanked all the distinguished Alumni who took their time out to share their experiences with other alumni and students.

## Islamabad Campus holds 'Tamasha 2010'

### Students from 30 universities took part in events

FAST-NU Islamabad Campus organized a three day event 'Tamasha 2010'.

Around 200 students from 30 universities put in their best efforts for top positions in various competitions, including essay writing, bilingual declamation, painting, theatre and cultural performance.

Islamabad Campus Director Dr. Aftab Maroof while addressing the inaugural ceremony said the event has been organized to provide students with ample opportunities to show their skills in various competitions. "Our students can make waves in every sphere of life due to their unmatched talent and skills, but there is a need to provide them with better opportunities to enable them utilize their potential to the fullest," he said.

In Urdu essay writing, Shaista Zeb of NUML got the first position while Muhammad Hassan of UET and Hafiz Mudassar of Gomal University grabbed the second and third positions respectively.

In English essay writing, Farrukh Zafar of PARC, Waqas Maqsood of Punjab University and Rabel Mustafa of FUMC secured the first, second and third positions respectively.

In the painting competition, some 18 students were given two days time to complete their work under the themes of 'Renaissance', 'Psychedelic' and 'Conceptual Art'. Aysha Kamal of NCA grabbed the first position for her painting, while Habib Akram of Punjab University came second. The team of Punjab University was awarded as best in the 'concept'

category.

In theater performance, the students showed their artistic skills in street performance, 'notanki' and mime (silent). Songs were also included to attract attention of the audience. In cultural show titled 'Mehndi' the performing students portrayed local cultural norms and traditions.

The declamation competition encouraged the participants for healthy discussion for the purpose of elucidating truth and influencing action.

At the end prominent poets provided fun and excitement to the audience that enjoyed a real fun time amid cheers by the students.



*FAST-NU Islamabad Campus Director Dr. Aftab Maroof uncaging a pigeon before formal inauguration of 'Tamasha 2010'.*

## NexGIN presents seven papers in international e-health conference

Director NexGIN RC Dr. Muddassar Farooq and Associate Professor Dr. Arfan Jaffar along with two medical doctors and a team of engineers presented seven papers in E-HAP conference.

E-HAP was the first international e-health conference of Pakistan with primary aim to educate the community on adverse human health effects associated with the environmental exposures and collaborate with the agencies and other organizations working upon e-health to take comprehensive steps to reduce exposure in a community. Four papers were in hardware domain and three were in software domain. Papers were highly appreciated by the house members especially in software domain presented by the research engineer Humayun Irshad.

These papers gained tremendous amount of interest from e-health companies. Here it is worth mentioning that Sehat First Pvt. Ltd. and FAST-NU through NexGIN RC are signing a MoU for working closely on developing "low cost e-health value chain" for poor and underprivileged population of our society.

## FAST-NU and DOST join hands to promote Science & Technology

FAST-NU Peshawar Campus and Directorate of Science and Technology (DOST) NWFP signed an MOU on 13th February to promote science and technology through joint activities in the form of seminars, research projects, workshops, trainings and financial support.

Director Peshawar Campus Dr. Ghiasul-ul-Haq and Director DOST Mr. Khalid Khan signed the MOU. Minister for Science and Information Technology Mr. M. Ayub Ashari was the Chief Guest at the ceremony.

Dr. Ghiasul-Haq in his welcome address highlighted the role of FAST-NU Peshawar Campus in promoting professional education and its academic achievements in short span of eight years since establishment.

He drew the chief guest's attention to the support given by the Sindh and the Punjab governments to FAST-NU Karachi and Lahore Campuses in the form of scholarship for their students. The honorable minister, in his address, promised that he would fight for the rights of deserving students of NWFP both at provincial and federal levels.

On this occasion the minister distributed cash prizes and certificates to position holders in academics and prize



*An MOU is being signed by Director FAST Peshawar Dr. Ghiasul-ul-Haq and Director DOST Mr. Khalid Khan to collaborate in science and technology.*

winners in provincial and all Pakistan talented students' competitions.

The Chief Guest commended the excellent academic and co-curricular performance of the students and announced cash award of Rs one lac for the position holders and Rs. one lac grant for the campus.

The minister along with his team also

visited various labs and classrooms. He appreciated the sophisticated facilities being provided to students and faculty at FAST-NU Peshawar Campus.

Later, University shields were presented to the Chief Guest, Secretary and Director DOST. Faculty and students of FAST-NU Peshawar also attended the ceremony.

### BBA Lahore students shine at P & G Competition

Proctor and Gamble (P&G) organized University Challenge for the first time in Pakistan. 'Business Launch Competition' was a major competition held under the University Challenge umbrella from 7th-8th February in Lahore School of Economics.

P&G assigned a brand tool kit to all participating students, according to which the proposed launch plan was to be presented on the competition days. Two teams from FAST-NU, Lahore Campus, made it to top ten from over fifty participating teams. FAST BBA-06 students team consisting of Miriam Mehdi, Ali Ibrahim, Omaira Rashid, Sehrish Riaz, Hafsa Mehboon and Gulmina Javeed stood third in the overall competition.

### IDRC President visits FAST-NU Lahore Campus



*Dr. David Malone, President, IDRC, Canada being presented souvenir during his visit to FAST-NU Lahore Campus.*

Dr. David Malone, President, International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and Dr. Stephen J. McGurc, Regional Director, IDRC Canada, visited the Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing (CRULP) at FAST-NU Lahore Campus on 4th February 2010.

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director of FAST-NU Lahore Campus welcomed the guests and briefed them about the University and the Foundation. Dr. Sarmad Hussain gave a detailed presentation on the PAN Localization research projects being conducted at CRULP.

Later, Dr. David Malone and others visited different departments of FAST-NU and expressed their satisfaction over various projects underway at the university.