

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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supercomputer in
Pakistan



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marathon

EDITOR'S NOTE

The first quarter of the New Year saw NUST experiencing rapid multi-dimensional growth. Students and faculty incessantly remained engaged in academic and research pursuits. NUST achievements both at national and international fora speak of the commitment and diligence Nustians display towards pursuing their goals. Though the scope of NUST activities is beyond the grasp of NUSTNEWS, every effort has been made to give maximum coverage to the University accomplishments in this quarterly edition. I wish you an enjoyable reading and look forward to your feedback.

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Seminar on Regional Peace and Economic Development – Role of China and Pakistan

Varsities' role termed indispensable

Taking into account the viability of enhanced Pakistan-China cooperation based on the factors constituting the unique bilateral relationship, the prospective partnership of the leading higher education institutions across the two countries can help establish extended collaboration in various fields of mutual interest. Though Sino-Pak trade presently revolves around the figure of USD 9 billion, the level of economic cooperation still is far from being optimum. Therefore, it is incumbent upon leading educational institutions, especially NUST and Tsinghua University, to add their vital share to Pak-China economic development.

The speakers expressed these views at the seminar on Regional Peace and Economic Development – Role of China and Pakistan held at NUST on Jan 16. A high-profile Chinese delegation, senior and comprising faculty

students of Tsinghua University and South-

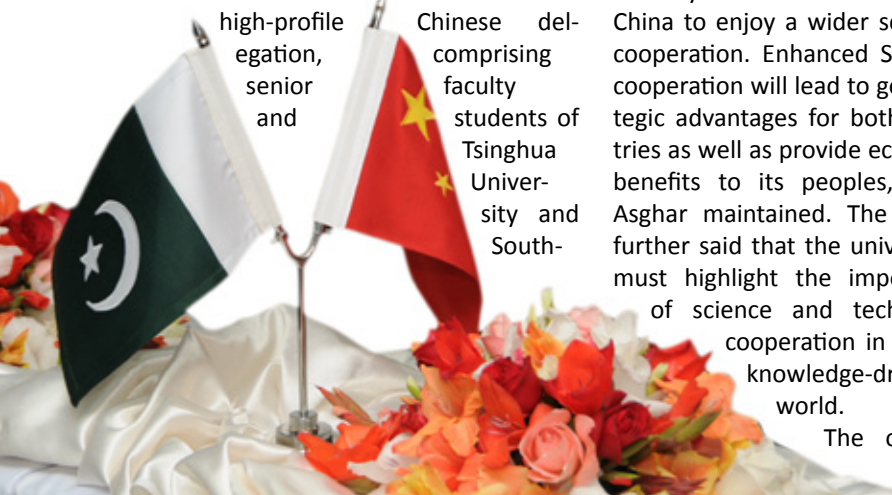
west University of Political Science and Law, also attended the seminar. The daylong event was a follow-up of recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tsinghua University, China and NUST, during the China-Pakistan Cooperation Conference held at Beijing in October last year.

In his keynote address, Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar regarded the conduct of the seminar a step forward towards promoting bilateral collaboration between the two countries in vast fields of mutual interest. "Considering the environment of bilateral trust and friendship, the strategic geographical locations of both the countries in the regional and global perspectives, and the immense but the largely unexploited potential for mutually beneficial collaboration, there is every reason for Pakistan and China to enjoy a wider scope of cooperation. Enhanced Sino-Pak cooperation will lead to geo-strategic advantages for both countries as well as provide economic benefits to its peoples," Engr. Asghar maintained. The Rector further said that the universities must highlight the importance of science and technology cooperation in today's knowledge-driven world.

The one-day semi-

nar consisted of three sessions with the participation of distinguished individuals from Pakistan and China. The speakers proposed implementable strategies for ensuring stability and economic development in Asia in the face of global strategic transition. The intelligentsia from two of the highest ranking universities of China, as well as some of the prolific thinkers and strategists on the Pakistan side, discussed the importance of stability in the region with emphasis on mutually beneficial economic cooperation. For both China and Pakistan, the seminar provides a forum for convergence of mutual interests, and an ideal opportunity to further expand the breadth and depth of strategic cooperation as well as to consolidate, deepen and enhance Sino-Pakistan partnership. It also allows for a chance for shared learning in areas of bilateral interest which will bring together universities, business communities, and the public sectors of Pakistan and China together in productive knowledge-based networks.

Among the prominent speakers at the occasion were Mr. Riaz Hussain Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; Professor Li Xiguang, Dean of Tsinghua University International Centre for Communication Studies; and Doctor Sohail Naqvi, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Dr. Javaid



Laghari, Chairman HEC, also attended the seminar.

Later, the Chinese delegates along with NUST high-ups attended a roundtable to discuss

ways for intensifying cooperation between NUST and its counterparts in China. The roundtable culminated with the launch of China-Pakistan joint think tank.

After the roundtable, NUST also inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei.



Int'l business plan competition, Istanbul

PM Gilani rewards winning teams from NUST

On behalf of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar distributed cheques worth Rs. 3 million among NUST students who excelled in an international business plan competition, Global Innovation through Science & Technology (GIST) - Battle of Ideas World Cup 2011, held in Istanbul from December 3 to 6. The cheques award ceremony was held at NUST main Campus on Jan 30.

Secretary MoST commended the NUST teams (Sahara and Saltech) for their impressive performance at the global business plan contest in which the best entrepreneurs from 43 countries participated.

The Secretary felicitated the NUST teams, saying the youth of Pakistan had no dearth of potential and the performance of NUST students was its true reflection. It is pertinent to mention here that these young NUST entrepreneurs had called on the Prime Minister after proving their mettle before the world. The Premier had appreciated the young minds on making the nation proud with their cherished accomplishment in the mega event and also announced a prize of Rs. 3

million for the students. The Chief Executive lauded the role of National University of Sciences and Technology in nourishing budding entrepreneurs and intellectuals, who play vital role in the national development.

Earlier, Secy MoST also attended an important consultative conference between NUST high-ups and a team of World Technopolis Association. The conference was held in connection with the development of NUST Science and Technology Park.



NUST – UNDP

Roundtable on Human Development

NUST in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Islamabad chapter held a Roundtable on Human Development at its main campus. The Roundtable was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Secretaries of the Planning & Development Division, and Ministry of Human Rights, the Resident Representative of the UNDP, Director of the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP in New York, representatives of various UN bodies, international financial institutions, academics, researchers, former federal ministers, Rector NUST and students of the NUST Business School.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to sensitize the government, policymakers, academics, development partners and others to the importance of human development. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission highlighted the salient features of the new growth framework and pointed out that the new framework was based on four pillars i.e., quality of governance, vibrant markets, creative cities and youth and community. He said these four elements, when put together, set in motion the dynamics of growth. Rector NUST, Engr. Muhammad Asghar highlighted the role of higher education in economic development. He argued that innovation require knowledge and knowledge be provided by the universities, therefore, investment in education including higher education the key to success. Rector NUST appreciated the role of the Planning Commission in supporting higher education in Pakistan and hoped that it would continue to support higher education in Pakistan.



Dr. Khalid Malik, Head of the Human Development Report Office, presented various human development indicators of South Asia and emphasized that Pakistan should give importance to improving these indicators. He pointed out that social policies are as good as economic policies. While we give importance to economic policies to promote growth, what is important is the quality of growth. Growth should benefit the largest segment of society. In other words, there should be democratization of growth. He argued that poverty and inequality should be at the centre of economic policy in Pakistan.

Dr. Ashfaq H. Khan, Principal NUST Business School emphasized upon investing in people. He argued that given the age structure of Pakistan's population where 50 percent are below the age of 20 years, Pakistan has no option but to invest in people, particularly the young population to make them productive citizens

of the country and reap the benefits of demographic transition for five decades.

Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, the Resident Representative of the UNDP talked about reducing poverty by pursuing Millennium Development Goals. He argued that in some cases, Pakistan is ahead of others in indicators but is lagging behind in many indicators. Hence, Pakistan must redouble its efforts to achieve the MDG targets.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed of the SDPI talked about enhancing social justice, equity and sustainability. He attempted to differentiate between bad and good globalization.

Dr. M. Akram Sheikh, the former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, while summarizing the discussion, announced that the NUST and the UNDP, along with the HDR office, New York have agreed in principle to set up NUST Human Development Studies, centre in its Business School. The purpose for setting up this centre at NUST is to con-

duct quality research on various aspects of human development. An Advisory Board would also be set up under the Chairmanship of Rector, NUST and comprise renowned professionals working in the areas of human development. Furthermore Annual Conference will be held on human develop-

ment under the auspices of the newly established NUST Human Development Studies Centre where scholars will be presenting their papers on human development. It has been further agreed that Annual Human Development Awards will be given to those scholars who have contributed

to the fields of human development. Post-doctoral fellowship will also be awarded by the UNDP/HDR Office for those who intend to work in the field of human development. The UNDP will also provide internship to the students of NUST.

NUST unveils fastest supercomputer in Pakistan

In an impressive ceremony held on March 6 at Research Centre for Modeling and Simulation (RCMS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) inaugurated its fastest supercomputing facility. The ceremony was presided over by Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Javaid R. Laghari.

While highlighting some of the unique features of this state-of-the-art computing facility, recently acquired by NUST through a financial grant by Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Govt of Pakistan, Principal RCMS Engr. Sikandar Hayat informed the audience that the supercomputer installed in NUST was the fastest GPU (Graphics Processing Unit)-based parallel computing system operating in any organization / academic institution in Pakistan till date. This supercomputer can perform parallel computation at a peak speed of 132 Teraflops i.e., 132 Trillion Operations per Second. It is equipped with multicore processors and graphics co-processors with inter-processor communication speed of 40 Gbps. Besides, its extensive utilization in the computation-intensive research projects in the areas of Fluid Dynamics and Biosciences, this massively parallel facility can also be utilized to handle huge data processing applications of social sciences such as Flood and Weather Forecasting, Oil and Gas Exploration, Energy Efficient Building Designs and Transportation Management at national-level.

The chief guest in his address appreciated the efforts of the entire team associated with the project and encouraged all institutions to come forward and benefit from this massive computational facility acquired by NUST. He also assured full support by HEC in this regard.

Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar in his welcome address shared his strategic vision and thoughts. He specifically mentioned that acquisition of this supercomputing facility would be a source of inspiration for our valued PhD scholars

abroad to return to Pakistan. This will give an impetus to the collaborative research between universities and other research organizations in country and abroad, he maintained.

Dr Imran Akhtar, the key note speaker, gave a highly motivating and thought provoking talk at the occasion. He encouraged the young researchers to come forward and exploit the facility at its maximum by using their domain knowledge and expertise in computational science in solving the national challenges in the areas of engineering, bio-informatics, political science, psychology and social sciences.



NUST, PCST ink MoU to set up dope testing lab

In an impressive ceremony at NUST chaired by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mir Changez Khan Jamali, an MoU was signed between Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on March 16 to establish a much-needed National Analytical Lab for Substances of Abuse.

Mir Changez Khan Jamali commended the two institutions and hoped the project would save the nation's huge foreign exchange and time by developing indigenous research capabilities in the important field of drug abuse prevention. He particularly praised growing increase of female participation in and contribution to the fields of higher education and research. The ceremony concluded after the MoU signing between NUST and PCST.

Earlier at the meeting, the Rector NUST highlighted how Atta-ur-Rehman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB) had grown into a centre of excellence where highly qualified and experienced

researchers were working on numerous research projects of national importance and where the proposed lab would be established by the end of 2012.

ASAB Principal Dr Ashraf gave presentation on salient features of the school. ASAB is a rare national facility focusing on advancement of healthcare, industrial and agriculture bio-technology. It was highlighted that the facility could do dope, alcohol, steroid, marijuana, hashish or heroin testing.

PCST Chairperson Dr Mudassar Asrar highlighted the importance of this venture and explained how it would enhance our national capability. He cautioned against the alarming increase in the number of drug users which, Secy MoST, required attention at the national level.

Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar appreciated this initiative and hoped that it would render useful service to the nation in particular and to the mankind in general.



'Conserve water for life'

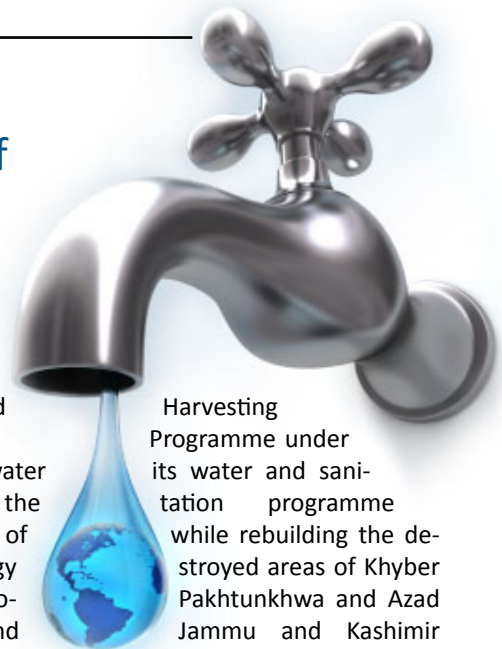
Speakers highlight the importance of rainwater harvesting as one of the most effective systems of water conservation

The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) in collaboration with NUST arranged a seminar to celebrate World Water Day 2012 and to highlight the importance of water conservation. The event was held at SCEE seminar hall on March 22. Ambassador of Cuba, representative of US Embassy, Dr. Shehbaz from UNESCO, Paris and other delegates attended the seminar,

while Lt Gen Sardar Mahmood Ali Khan was the chief guest. Management of scarcity of water and exploring avenues for the effective implementation of water conservation strategy in Pakistan was the main focus where international and national experts, considered rainwater harvesting as one of the most important and effective systems of water conservation. ERRA introduced the Rain Water

Harvesting Programme under its water and sanitation programme while rebuilding the destroyed areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir after 2005 earthquake.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dy Chairman ERRA Lt Gen Sardar Mehmood Ali Khan said that though Pakistan is blessed



with surface and groundwater resources, the rapid growth in population unplanned urbanization and unsustainable water consumption practices have placed immense stress on the quality and quantity of country's water resources. "In Pakistan only, over 250,000 child deaths occur every year due to water-borne diseases" he said.

He said that in order to popularize rainwater harvesting, ERRA is implementing the Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Project, in 20 Union Councils of the affected areas of AJ&K and KPK.

Lt Gen Sardar Mehmood Ali Khan further said that a viable national strategy for water conservation could be successful if academicians, civil society, professional education institutions and media are on board.

Pro-Rector NUST Engr. Muham-

mad Mushtaq highlighted the importance of need for conserving water as the population increase and the lowering of water level in cities like Islamabad need immediate attention. He also invited



the researchers and people with innovative ideas to make use of the institutions like NUST where projects of national importance can be implemented in a proactive research environment. Appreciating ERRA's efforts in initiating the rainwater harvesting project at national level and at NUST, he said such measures would increase awareness among

younger generation.

Dr Shahbaz Ahmed of UNESCO, Paris shared his experience where rainwater harvesting was being used as a source of water conservation internationally.

Later, Lt Gen Sardar Mehmood Ali Khan inaugurated a rainwater harvesting model installed at NUST.

Tarik Feroze, DG Water and Sanitation ERRA; Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Renowned hydrologist; Dr. Liaqat Ali, Associate Dean NUST Institute of Civil Engineering; Mr.

Ajaz Ahmed, a CDM expert at the National Energy Conservation Centre, ENERCON and Dr. A.D. Khan, Director Groundwater Management and Geographic Information Systems at the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources were some of the experts present at this occasion to mark World Water Day presentation.

NUST hosts Seerat Conference

Bazm-e-Pakistan, the literary society of NUST, convened Seerat Conference on Feb 17 to honor the birthday of revered Prophet of humanity, Muhammad (PBUH).

The guest speaker, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, along with Rector NUST, Engr. Muhammad Asghar was present to grace the auspicious occasion. Held at SCEE auditorium, the conference started with a spirited vibe amongst the jam-packed audience. Mr. Ilyas Chishti commenced the event inviting Captain Hafiz Rasheed for the recitation of Holy Quran. Afterwards, Qari Saeed, Omar Abd-Ur-Rehman, and Muhammad Zeeshan recited naat one after the other.

In his address, Mr. Khalid Zaheer enlightened the audience with a few golden aspects from the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said that the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gives us the lessons of religious tolerance, justice, humbleness and compassion. He maintained that it is our religious obligation to spread the message of our beloved Prophet (PBUH) among the humanity.

Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar also addressed the gathering at the occasion. He urged students to shape their lives according to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Quoting a few ahadith, the Rector also laid great emphasis on the importance of education.

Later, students asked the chief guest a host of questions, while the latter gave logical answers to all their queries.



NCVI named 'Atta-ur-Rehman School of Applied Biosciences'

In order to pay tribute to Dr Atta ur Rehman's eminent services as a leading scholar and a proficient scientist, renaming ceremony of NUST Centre of Virology and Immunology (NCVI) as Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences was held on Feb 7 at ASAB Auditorium, NUST H-12 campus.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished members of the scientific Community like Dr Anwar Naseem, members of NUST administration, Principals and Deans of NUST Constituent Schools/Colleges and the faculty and students of ASAB.

In his opening remarks, while giving an overview of ASAB's journey since its inception in 2007, Prof Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Principal ASAB highlighted various accomplishments of the school. He specifically mentioned the Centre's mission to contribute towards eradication of animal and plant infectious and autoimmune diseases like Dengue, Hepatitis B/C, Cotton Leaf Curl Virus, Wheat Rust, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Diabetes Mellitus Type II, etc. He exclusively highlighted the quality and richness of NCVI faculty and their research interests. He further remarked that during the past 4 years NCVI had published 75 research articles in high Impact Factor International Journals



(Impact Factor: 166) along with winning over 25 research grants from various international agencies like US State Department, EU Commission, Bill Gates Foundation, COMSTEC/TWAS, etc.

Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar while expressing his gratitude to the venerable scientist on consenting to name the Centre after him graded Dr Atta-ur-Rehman as an icon within the academic circles. He further added that it was only through his extremely dedicated and committed endeavours that Pakistan was able to achieve laurels in higher education.

Engr Muhammad Asghar also urged the youth to follow the footsteps of the person of a great stature like Dr Atta. He also emphasized the urgency of excelling in the field of sciences and technology in order to make a mark and also to be recognised

as a nation with sound intellect within the academia.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr Atta-ur-Rehman extended his heartiest gratitude to the Rector NUST for conferring upon him this unique honour. The chief guest valued the extremely efficient functioning of NUST within the circles of sciences and technology and appreciated the way it meets the research needs of the scholars.

The great scientist also asserted that the scholars should realize the urgency of directing all their energies towards personalized evolution of innovative sciences. He was also of the view that Pakistan had never been victimized by the scarcity of individual talent, potential and natural resources; the only need was to exploit all those reservoirs.



Training workshop for ORIC managers of 14 Pakistani universities

The Higher Education Commission, in collaboration with NUST and British Council launched a five-day capacity-building programme for the staff of the Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) of 14 universities on Jan 23. As many as 45 directors and managers of universities across the country attended the training held

at NUST, Islamabad. NUST Rector Engr. Muhammad Asghar and Dr Nils Tömes, Director Education for South Asia, British Council, co-chaired the opening ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, the Rector thanked the HEC and the British Council for providing NUST with the opportunity to host the training. He highlighted the role of the universities and the steps taken by his university for accomplishment of these goals. The first day set the tone for the week by exploring the role of universities in the 21st century and by further introducing the context of establishing ORICs as per the vision set by HECs MTRF, supplemented by British Council's Knowledge Exchange Programme. The participants of the workshop were introduced to ORIC ecosystem at NUST. Day 2 and 3 covered the various integral aspects of Research Proposal Writing and Networking through various activities while Day 4 covered the all important concepts of R&D at Universities using NUST as a case study. Day 5 capped the training by exploring how to build a research culture at universities, using NUST School



of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science as a case study and finally the training culminated with a briefing on the Tech Transfer and Business Incubation Processes at NUST.

It is heartening to note that there was a consensus amongst all ORIC managers regarding the significance of Research, Innovation & Commercialization at universities given the added responsibility that HEIs of the 21st Century now have to shoulder.

It was decided at the training that while the ORICs managers would of course look towards HEC for guidance and support, especially in regards to Aligning Faculty Evaluation criteria with the new mission given to universities, they would also try to collaborate with each other to make these recommendations work. To this end, as proposed numerous times during the training, it was strongly suggested that the ORIC Association of Pakistan be created and be used as an effective platform for sharing information, expertise, linkages, projects and resources so as to eliminate redundancies and create synergistic results.

Alumni Talk Series by Mobilink

NUST arranged a series of lectures for the students at different schools at NUST under the programme "Alumni Talk Series". The Alumni Talk series is aimed at giving students a sneak peek of what life might be like once they enter the corporate world after graduation. For the said purpose, a session for Marketing Discipline was held on Feb 27 which

covered areas of career planning, experiences of the corporate world and entrepreneurship. The lectures were conducted in collaboration with Liaison Office at NUST.

NUST Alumni now working at Mobilink were invited as speakers for the event. Mr. Osama Amin, a senior manager and Mr. Umair Yousaf, Assistant Manager Product Services, graced the occasion with their presence. Students thoroughly availed the opportunity to interact with members of the industry.

NUST celebrates International Women's Day

Hope prevails as conditions for women in Pakistan change slowly but surely



At NUST, students celebrated the International Women's Day by paying tribute to female scientists and professionals. The event was held at SCME on March 8. The three guests included Dr. Bina Shaheen Siddiqui, Dr. Asghari Maqsood and Engr. Muniba Zaheer who were engaged in a two-and-a-half-hour talk-show.

Dr. Siddiqui who has been awarded 12 patents for anti-cancer constituents and bio-pesticides and has written more than 250 research articles was asked what inspired her to become a scientist to which she responded, "I was inspired to be a scientist from the very first time I stepped into a laboratory." But, she cautioned, "women have to fight at both fronts: the house and the work place".

Dr. Asghari Maqsood, faculty member at NUST, said women can handle both home and work if they get the right support. She was of the view that there was every reason to believe that one

can pursue both one's passion and career simultaneously.

Engr. Muneeba Zaheer, a senior Pre-Sales Engineer at Alcatel-Lucent Pakistan stressed on commitment, persistence and sacrifices women in general should make in materializing their dreams. She has made significant contributions to medicine and agriculture through her study and classification of indigenous plant materials. She further said, "parents don't tend to encourage their daughters to work in the industry. However, there is no point of learning, without applying what you have learnt".

She added that times had changed and the workplace environment had become a lot friendlier than in the past.

The emphasis throughout the programme remained on more recognition for women and their work. It was also highlighted that women need to contribute more towards the development of the country.



Global Citizenship Course

After its success in 2011, the British Council launched the second Global Citizenship Course (GCC) in collaboration with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) under their Global School Partnerships (GSP) programme on Feb 14.

Funded by the UKAid, the GSP programme of the British Council is an 'effective way' of raising awareness about global issues among the young people, mainly students, their teachers and families. "It aims to motivate young people to build a fairer and more sustainable world", said an official.

Regional Education Adviser of British Council Nils

Tomes inaugurated the course. Also present on the occasion were Pro-Rector NUST Vice Admiral (R) Muhammad Mushtaq and Principal NUST Business School (NBS) Dr Ashfaq Khan. They reiterated the importance of GCC in the lives of teachers as education providers.

The pro-rector said that NUST had collaborated with the British Council in various programmes and that the institution was willing to volunteer in hosting the GCC. A group of 25 teachers from all over Pakistan are participating in the GCC. "It will provide the teachers with an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to educate students

to live a more informed, purposeful and active life,” said an official. “It will present a unique and critical look at the core concepts and ideas related to global citizenship,” he added. The participants were asked to generate ideas through active participation strategies that will enable them translate their learning into effective practice. “They were asked to design lessons and unit plans for classroom

teaching in global citizenship projects aimed at further understanding intercultural settings”, he said.

Dr Bernadette Dean, Principal St. Joseph’s College for Girls, Karachi and former Principal, Kinnaird College, Lahore delivered a lecture. She said that participants from both the sessions of GCC would be developing publications which would help improve the course further.

40 institutions participate in NUMUN

More than forty schools, colleges and universities from all over the country attended the NUMUN 2012 organized by students of the NUST’s Debating & Dramatics Society (NDDS), on Jan 30.

Rector NUST, Engineer Muhammad Asghar inaugurated NUMUN 2012. He praised the efforts of the host team. “I am inspired by the motivation shown by the group of students in coming together and working determinedly for several months to organise the event.” He dilated upon the role of the United Nations in managing peace globally. Asif Durani, Director General UN in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, enlightened the students in international diplomacy and the role of the United Nations in managing peace around the world. Dr Afshaque Khan, Principal and Dean of the NUST Business School also spoke at the ceremony.

Participants set up global village stalls and dressed up in the cultural attires of their countries to depict their countries’ heritage and present their knowledge of the world’s current foreign affairs. Many served food items relative to their nation and handed out other items to passers-by stopping at



their stalls. They were judged by the Committee chairs of NUMUN’ 12.

The second day of NUMUN 2012 began on a smooth note as committee sessions started right on schedule. The debate in the committee sessions held great promise as delegates representing different countries brought forth convincing arguments on the topics being discussed. The debates focused on controversial topics such as the Rwandan genocide, nuclear terrorism, world health issues and the supervision of existing nuclear power plants.

Unleash your hidden potential

To inspire students and rekindle their entrepreneurial spirit, a series of seminars were arranged at SEECs under the title “Unleash your hidden Potential” NUST Entrepreneurs Club organized the event on Jan 6. It was a two-day activity participated in by students, faculty and staff. The first session of seminar was headed by Mr. Rehan Al-

lahwala, founder and President of Super Technologies Inc. A United States-based company started in the field software solutions for telecom industry. He shared his success story how at the age of 13 he formed his first company called “Pakistan Computers” and than at the age of 16 was creating commodore computer accessories to becoming CEO of



different companies around the world. He further talked about entrepreneurship via technology and social media and the one million business project: how to start a business on \$100 and grow to a franchise and generate at least dollar 300 a month.

The next day, Dr. Zsuzanna Fajcsak, a renowned clinical Nutritionist and psychologist shared her expertise on the topic, "Refocus and unlocking the special in you to turn your life around". She is also the founder of a non-governmental organization ALIVE which is a nutritional programme. She implored the students to change their lifestyle, mindset and take proper nutrition to maintain a healthy and happy balance in life. She urged them gain optimum potential and slow

down the aging process.

"Let your inner shine and transform your outer world", said Dr. Scuzanna while taking a few minutes to have the students close their eyes, block out the negative elements and gain inner peace if only for a few seconds.

This was followed by a 3-hour session by Tony Lazaro, a business football coach from Sydney. He dilated on the topic, "What sport and street can teach you to become the entrepreneur in your life".



CES-NUST inaugural ceremony held

Several overseas delegates participated in the CES Inaugural ceremony held at NUST on Jan 9, 2012 to acknowledge and commemorate the generous contribution by NRG Biofuels Inc Canada in the form of high-end research equipment and their continued support towards the renewable energy programme. Initially, NUST launched the Centre for Energy Systems (CES) in 2011 to provide a pivot to its Institutions involved in energy sector and to support and consolidate the various projects/programmes that make good sense for scalable and sustainable operations with a view to contributing to industry and national economy in times of energy crisis.

In his welcome note, the Principal CES, Dr. Mohammad Bilal Khan thanked the overseas delegates who had come all the way from various parts of the world to grace the occasion on a short notice. He emphasized the need to exploit vast resources of the energy available in the country. The speakers included J. Chris Willmann CEO NRG Biofuels Inc. (Canada), Mr. Richard Wolfli (Capital Venturist), Prof. Kendra V. Sharp, OSU USA, Dr. Xingying Liu, Wits, Dr.



M. Bassouyni, KAU, SA, Dr Zeeshan Nawaz SABIC, SA and Mr. Suhail A Khan, VP ICI Akzo Nobel. Rector NUST chaired the ceremony and delivered the keynote address. Mr. Chris Willmann motivated the students to make best use of the excellent facilities available at NUST. He said that energy and industrial development go hand in hand. The NRG-NUST model should encourage other institutions to follow this lead.

Mr. Wolfli expressed that he found genuine friendship everywhere in Pakistan.

He had raised in excess of USD 200 M for various companies and would be more than glad to motivate other industries to invest in NUST. He paid glowing tributes to NUST as a leading institution

and expressed his full confidence in CES, NUST. Prof. Kendra Sharp offered her services in research and education and to conduct joint projects with NUST in the renewable energy sector, including faculty-student exchange programmes. She discovered a site in the vicinity of Islamabad for putting up NUST's first community outreach micro hydel pilot station. Dr. Liu emphasized that alternate energy could solve financial and energy supply problems. He introduced the idea of biomass gasification leading to the production of motor fuel. Dr. Bassouyni expressed his willingness to field joint research grants on applied projects. Dr. Zeeshan offered his services to NUST in the area of high fidelity reactor design and his expertise to develop complete technology from catalyst to reactor design and from design to commercialization.

Mr Sohail A. Khan said that CES is need of the hour. He introduced ICI business and its diverse range of operations. He was of the view that lack of credible knowledge was the reason behind the energy crisis and CES can give valuable contribution to the indus-

try in this regard.

In his concluding address, Rector NUST touched upon the Geo Political constraints that were largely responsible for preventing flow of energy across borders. He stressed that scarcity of energy had forced austerity measures across the globe. Energy and stability go together. He presented a four-point agenda as a response matrix namely, sound policies combined with effective governance, sustainable growth model, creating community awareness, energy conservation and reuse and realigning policies to boost the energy sector. He mentioned the importance of entrepreneurship in all fields. He cited the example of Global Entrepreneurship Competition in Turkey where three teams from NUST were among the top 25 who made it to the final round. The official CES website and the inaugural issue of the energy magazine "GREEN Pakistan Energy Solutions" was launched at the occasion. Rector NUST inaugurated the newly established Renewable Energy Labs at CES-NUST.

PDC organizes workshop on Construction Claims and Dispute Resolution

Professional Development Centre (PDC) organized a workshop from Jan 26 to 27 on Construction Claims and Dispute Resolution at NUST. The two-day event brought together 35 participants from NUST and the industry. The key objective of the workshop was to provide sufficient knowledge of contract management, claim management and dispute resolution. The workshop was intended to enable participants to learn how to practice the concepts, tools and techniques at their projects to manage them systematically and efficiently by protecting interests of their employers and to improve creativity in thinking about construction claims and their resolution.

Dr. Rafiq Muhammad Choudhry, Head Department of Construction Engineering and Management, SCEE-NIT, was the Resource Person for the workshop. In his presentation, he said that many construction projects faced situations in which contractors filed claims in the form of Extension of Time and Additional Payments. These claims, he added, could lead to disputes and recourse to legal proceedings. He was of the view that a project would always be a major beneficiary provided those claims were managed properly and professionally by all stakeholders including clients, contractors and consultants.



Rector participates in global human development forum in Istanbul, Turkey

The global human development forum on sustainability and equity at 'Marmara-Esma Sultan Palace' was attended by the Rector NUST, Engr Muhammad Asghar in Istanbul on March 22. It was jointly organized by Turkey's Ministry of Development and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was a unique opportunity for the international community to explore and agree on urgently needed action to ensure human development, progress and a healthy environment for future generations. Rector NUST was a panelist in the technical sessions during which he delivered his address to the forum.

During his visit, the NUST delegation headed by the Rector himself visited Middle East Technical University (METU), for extended collaboration with METU Department of Architecture in curriculum development at the School of Art, Design and Architecture (SADA), NUST. He had a meeting with President of METU and visited departments of Architecture and Industrial Design. Principal SMME,



Dr. Abdul Ghafoor and Principal SADA, Dr. Sikander Khan were also part of the delegation.

This visit provided a forum for convergence of mutual interests and an ideal opportunity to further expand the depth of strategic and educational co-operation between the two well renowned institutes.

Second PEC Accreditation Status Tracking Conference

The second PEC Accreditation Status Tracking Conference was held on Jan 09, at NUST main campus in Islamabad. It was chaired by Pro-Rector Dr. Asif Raza and was attended by the Deans and HoDs of all NUST Engineering Institutions. Recitation from the Holy Quran was followed by a welcome address by the Pro-Rector (Academics). Deputy Director Quality Assurance Engr Salahuddin Adil Qazi delivered a presentation highlighting the actions regarding the decisions enunciated in 1st PEC Accreditation Status Tracking Conference and the current status of accreditation of all NUST engineering programmes. Dr. Abid Ali Khan, HoD Aerospace Engineering from College of Aeronautical Engineering (CAE) gave a detailed presentation on the "Mechanism of distributing the 06 credit hours of final-year project in more than one semester" which was followed by an extensive discussion on the subject.

Later, all the NUST engineering institutions presented the PEC accreditation status of their programmes. They also provided updates on the actions taken on the observations made by the PEC Teams during their previous visits to their respective programmes. Institutions expecting any visit before the next conference in April, 2012 also discussed major parts of their AC-1 Forms. Various decisions were enunciated by the chairman to improve the quality of NUST Engineering Programmes.



Techtalk on wind and solar power held

A techtalk on wind and solar power was held here at School of Chemical and Materials Engineering, NUST on March 22. In an interactive session with Dr. Sohail Zaki Farooqui, students were introduced to the practical prospects of wind and solar power in Pakistan. Students came up with queries regarding various technological aspects of wind and solar power production.

Dr. Farooqui has a vast experience in the field of Wind and Solar Power Generation. He has designed, fabricated and successfully tested several types of Horizontal and Vertical Axis Wind Turbines in the power range of 300 to 1000 watts. Indeed, several of his wind turbines are currently operating in the premises of PNEC, Karachi. Moreover, Dr. Farooqui has also monitored the wind data collection and analysis project of the Government of Pakistan along the coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan. While addressing students and faculty members, Dr. Farooqui stressed, "wind and solar energies are our future." He said that the world is focusing on renewable alternatives for energy. He further said that Pakistan also needs to fulfil its energy requirements through shifting its energy production from non-renewable sources to the cleaner renewable ones. Dr. Farooqui maintained that wind energy has a huge potential in Pakistan.

The Ghara Corridor alone has the capacity to produce 40,000 MW of electricity on-shore and a further 50,000 MW of electricity off-shore. Dr. Farooqui also highlighted that Pakistan's high solar irradiation areas in Western Balochistan are 80% as good as the best sites in the world. He maintained that the first step towards solving the country's looming energy crisis was to change the mindset about renewable sources of energy and start adjusting with a world that would heavily rely on renewable energy.

Techtalk, is a regular feature of the NUST Science Society, which aims to introduce students to latest technologies in the world.

NUST, British Council launch training course on International Resource Centre

A seven-week training programme on setting up of international education resource centre was held at NUST under the auspices of the British Council on March 16. The inaugural session was attended by directors and faculty from different schools and resource persons from British Council.

"This initiative will make us aware of the opportunities in the global world, and we can apply them at NUST" said Pro-Rector Academics in the inaugural speech. He further said that this training could help promote and enhance international education programmes with the goal of increasing knowledge transfer, student and staff mobility and best practices sharing between the academic communities in Pakistan and UK.

This was followed by a presentation on introduction to international resource education by a British council representative. Later, the interactive session, in which various segments of internationalization were discussed, concluded with the idea to formalize and evolve internationalization strategic plan for NUST that might be followed by tailored coaching and mentoring sessions in future if required.



“Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Unilever employer session

The Information Liaison Office at NUST invited Unilever to conduct an Employers Session at NUST. The session was attended by students from College of EME, SEECS, SMME, SCME, SCEE and NBS and was held at the SCEE Seminar Hall on Feb 13.

The Director HR Unilever Mr. Ahmed Ali Zia was the main speaker for the event. Mr. Ahmed introduced Unilever and briefed students on the hiring process. In a rather interactive session, he answered all questions put forward by students. A NUST alumni now working at Unilever, Mr. Usman Gul Malik was also present at the event and shared his experiences with the students. The employer session was followed by the Recruitment Drive. Over 250 plus students from all NUST constituent schools/colleges



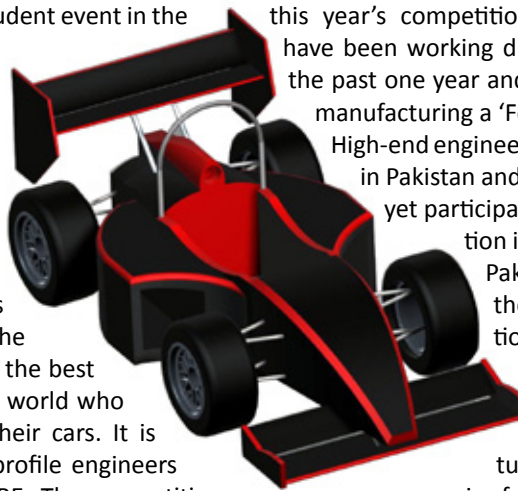
appeared in the Unilever Management Trainee and Summer Internship Program Test.

A team of Unilever Pakistan headed by Mr. Hammad Mozaffar, HR Business Partner and Mr. Haroon Khan, Territory Manager Islamabad also visited NBS for Management Trainee & Summer Internship Program 2012.

NUST on formula car race mission

Students of the NUST-PNEC have formed the team Formula NUST, which is in the process of building a race car for a student event in the UK this summer.

'Formula Student' is an annual educational motorsports competition held under the mentorship of Institute of Mechanical Engineers ImechE in collaboration with Society of Automotive Engineers SAE. Being the premier motorsports engineering competition of the world it attracts students from the best engineering universities of the world who then design, build and race their cars. It is backed by industry and high profile engineers such as Patron Ross Brawn OBE. The competition aims to inspire and train enterprising and innovative young engineers.



Team Formula NUST has taken up the mantle of ensuring that Pakistan also lines up at the grid at this year's competition. For this purpose, they have been working diligently on this project for the past one year and now are in the process of manufacturing a 'Formula Student' race car.

High-end engineering is virtually non-existent in Pakistan and no team from Pakistan has yet participated in this event. Participation in this competition will have Pakistan rub shoulders with the leading engineering nations of the world.

Collaboration with Team 'Formula NUST' is also a very lucrative opportunity for local brands and companies from a diverse range of fields to have their logos on display at the international and national stages.



Renowned international scholars at ASAB

A 30-members delegation of scholars from different Muslim countries paid a visit to Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences on 28th Feb, 2012. The delegation comprised renowned scientists from Malaysia, Philippines, Iran, Oman and Bangladesh as well as Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Director H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, who were introduced to ASAB's current research activities. The visit to ASAB intended to develop and promote biotechnology related research between scientists of different Muslim countries and seek grounds for collaborative research in the innovative field of biotechnology.



Chief of Staff, Indonesian Air Force at CAE

Air Chief Marshal Imam Sufaat, Chief of Staff, Indonesian Air Force visited College of Aeronautical Engineering on Feb 7. He was received by Air Commodore Ahmed Ejaz Nadeem, SI (M), Commandant CAE. The dignitary was briefed on the training activities of the college and was taken to various classes and labs. He took keen interest in the activities and expressed his profound appreciation for the training regimens being followed at CAE.



Delegation from International Burch University, Bosnia and Herzegovina

A three-member delegation from International Burch University (IBU), Bosnia and Herzegovina visited NUST on March 5. The delegation was headed by Prof Dr Huseyin Padem – Rector IBU. The other members of the delegation included Dr Abdul Razaque Memon – Head of Genetics & Bio Engineering Department and Dr Azmat Akbarov – Head of English Department. The delegation was briefed on the genesis of NUST, its institutions, existing programmes, research activities, and future plans. Both sides discussed the matters of mutual concern and showed interest in establishing formal relationship between the two universities in the areas of joint research and exchange of faculty and students. After the briefing, the delegation visited Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), where Dr Abdul Razaque Memon conducted a seminar on “Transcriptomics and Metabolomics Analysis of Metal Accumulator Plants in Brassicaceae”. The presentation generated interesting discussion, which highlighted the possibility of future research collaboration between the two universities. Later, the delegation visited the research laboratories of ASAB and NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



Warden of Rhodes House, Oxford University

Professor Dr. Donald Markwell from Warden of Rhodes House, Oxford University, UK visited NUST on March 28. He was accompanied by Mr. Waseem Sajjad, former Chairman Senate. After their arrival, a detailed briefing on NUST's academic and research programmes, departments and campuses was given. Later the guests were conducted a round to SECS, NBS AND CIE to observe the academic environment at NUST. A dinner reception was also hosted at NUST in honour of the visiting team.



NSTP evaluation team

The National Service Training Program (NSTP) evaluation team comprising Prof. Deong-Seong Oh, Secretary General World Technopolis Association (WTA), Chungnam National University, Republic of Korea and Dr. Malcom Perry, Director Science Park University of Surrey visited Centre for Energy Systems and SCME as part of their visit to various NUST constituent schools on Jan 30.

The team attended a meeting chaired by Dr. Bilal Khan. At the occasion, faculty members along with foreign guests gave presentation including Mr. William Chettem and Mr. Munir Lone. He emphasized that the primary theme was interfacing education with the financial engine, and the energy sector was no exception to this. He also briefed the visitors on the industry-specific projects being undertaken by CES and NUST Schools.

Mr. William Chettem an oil & gas magnate from Canada, who is involved in setting up coal-fired power plants in Punjab, shared his working experience in Pakistan with participants. He suggested that project approval protocol could be shortened for speedy execution. Mr. Munir Lone, MD Campus

Consultants U.K, shared his thoughts which revolved around the idea that there is a need for encouraging entrepreneurship at universities. We should produce graduates with requisite skills to start up their own businesses, who are job providers not job seekers.



Dr. M. Mujahid, Principal SCME introduced the School of Chemical and Materials Engineering to the foreign delegates and the participants. He also outlined the present and future plans for the School. Dr. Shamshad Ahmed

briefed on the current industry trends in manufacturing technologies used in producing (ETA-free) cables for automobiles and high tech industry. He also outlined the research for producing gems from ordinary stones using irradiation technology. Mr. Syed Khawar, Project Engineer at CES, gave a brief description about the solar photo voltaic systems; and shared the technology and economics of producing solar cells in Pakistan.

The visitors were also conducted to research labs and were briefed about the equipment and facilities provided to researchers.



Delegation from University of Birmingham, UK

A delegation from University of Birmingham, UK led by Mr Thomas Veit, Director of International Relations and External Recruitment visited NUST on 27th February, 2012. The delegation met with Pro-Rector (Academics). During the meeting, Executive Director NMCP, Registrar, Director Academics, Director Research, Director Student Affairs and Director QA were present. Both sides discussed the matters of mutual interest and showed interest in establishing formal relationship between the two universities in the areas of joint research and exchange of faculty and students. The delegation made a campus tour before the departure.



Pakistan Navy War College delegation

A delegation of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore visited NUST on Jan 24. The delegation headed by Cdre Shahid Sohail Rao, Deputy Commandant of the College included members of faculty and course members from 11 different countries including Pakistan. The delegation was briefed by Engr. Muhammad Ismail, Director QA on the genesis and growth, development plans, academic programmes, research capabilities, and industry and international linkages of NUST. The briefing session was chaired by Dr Asif Raza, Pro-Rector (Academics) NUST and also attended by Registrar, Director Student Affairs and Principal NUST Business School. The briefing session was followed by Q&A Session. Later, the delegation made a campus tour before the departure.



BUAA, China delegation

A four-member delegation from Beihang University of Aeronautics & Astronautics (BUAA), China visited NUST on Jan 12. The delegation was led by Dr Weng Jingnong, Vice Dean International School, BUAA. It was briefed on the NUST Institutions, programmes and research activities. An MoU was signed between NUST and BUAA for collaboration in the areas of faculty and student exchange and promotion of teaching and research. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Rector and Pro-Rector (Academics) along with other officials of NUST and members of BUAA delegation. The delegation also visited the research labs and facilities at NUST School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SECS).



Commander Sri Lankan Air Force

Air Marshal H.D Abeywickrama, Commander Sri Lankan Air Force visited College of Aeronautical Engineering on 21 February, 2012. The dignitary was received by Air Commodore Ahmed Ejaz Nadeem, SI (M), Commandant CAE. He was conducted to various labs of the college. The SLAF Commander appreciated the professional knowledge of the faculty and students and took keen interest in their research projects.



Army Medical College Convocation 175 receive MBBS, BDS degrees



Upon the successful completion of 30th MBBS and 9th BDS Courses, as many as 175 graduates of the Army Medical College, a constituent college of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), received degrees in 29th Undergraduate Convocation held on Jan 27.

Out of 175 fresh graduates, 144 were conferred Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) degree, while the remaining 31 received their degrees in the discipline of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS). Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman graced the occasion as the chief guest and awarded degrees to the successful students. Held at the College Auditorium, the ceremony was attended by graduating students, their parents and faculty members.

The chief guest felicitated the proud parents of the graduating students on the success of their children and fulfilment of the long cherished dreams about their future. He said that the professional knowledge and training acquired by the young medicos would help them play their role in alleviating the health problems of the mankind.

The distinguished guest remarked that the performance of the graduates in the examinations, as evident from the results, truly reflected the hard work put in by the students, tremendous



efforts of the faculty and the excellent academic atmosphere being provided on the campus. He asserted that the affiliation of Army Medical College with NUST had further enhanced its capacity to train and produce young doctors of exceptional capabilities.

Chief of the Air Staff was of the view that new discoveries in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the diseases were rapidly changing healthcare in a revolutionary manner. He said that those developments were not only exciting but also demanding. He opined that it was particularly imperative for the new graduates, who were at the threshold of their professional career, to keep themselves abreast with this ever expanding sea of knowledge and make every effort to learn new modalities and methods in their respective domains.

Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar also addressed the gathering at the occasion. He extended his heartiest felicitations to the graduating

students, their parents and the esteemed faculty. He further said that it was a momentous day for the graduates and hoped that they would make best use of the expertise gained at the College in serving the ailing masses. The Rector also briefed the audience on the progress NUST had made in a short span of time.

In her opening remarks, Principal Army Medical College Maj. Gen. Shahida Badshah also congratulated the graduates and advised the graduates to continuously improve their knowledge and skills.

It is pertinent to mention here that 29th Medal Distribution Ceremony of the Army Medical College was held a day earlier at the college premises. Lieutenant General Azhar Rashid, Surgeon General/ Director General Medical Services (Inter services) of Pakistan Army awarded medals and Distinction Certificates to the graduates of the 30th MBBS and 9th BDS courses. Members of the faculty along with senior officers of the Army Medical Corps were present at the occasion.

Inauguration of Jamiluddin Aali Library at SADA

NUST invited Jamiluddin Aali's son as the chief guest to inaugurate the Jamiluddin Aali Library at the School of Art, Design and Architecture (SADA), NUST in Islamabad on March 15. The library was graciously sponsored by Murad Jamil as a salutation to his father, Mirza Jamiluddin Ahmed Khan who is considered as one of Pakistan's greatest poets.

Rector NUST, Engr. Muhammad Asghar, Principal SADA Mr. Sikander Ajam Khan were also present in the ceremony along with faculty and students. The Rector spoke on the occasion about the importance of preserving knowledge and spreading it. He briefly introduced the libraries at NUST, ranked among top 250 universities in the fields of science and technology, worldwide and boasting a student body of 11,000 students.



Mr. Murad Jamil, Jamiluddin Aali's youngest son and nephew of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, expressed his delight at being present at the occasion and informed that he is in contact with some academics for the translation of his father's magnum opus "Insaan".

"Architecture is not just a matter of constructing building, it actually interprets one's thoughts and then materializes them in a certain shape. A great architect knows how to interpret beautifully", said Principal SADA, Sikander Ajam Khan. He further said that this is not just a library, but also an opportunity for the second-year architecture students of SADA to experiment with designing the library space.

Sahabzada Yaqub speaking on the occasion said that it is important for an artist to be inspired. He also showed great gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Murad Jamil on his donation to the library on behalf of his revered father.

The ceremony concluded with a plaque-unveiling ceremony.

Seminar on Change Management at NBS

A Seminar on "Change Management" (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) was organized at NUST Business School on Feb 10. The chief guest, Mr. Bradley Emerson, Regional Director CIMA was assisted by Ms. Javeria Hassan, Country Manager CIMA and Ms. Zunaira Riaz, In-charge CIMA Islamabad office in conducting the seminar.

'Your expectations should be greater than your wants', said Mr. Bradley Emerson while addressing the students. He was of the view that one must embrace change as means of moving forward and facing challenges of the global world. This was followed by a question-and-answer session.

IMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) is a United Kingdom-based professional body offering training and qualification in management accountancy and related subjects. This seminar was organized with the purpose of developing management accounting in students. As many as 110 students from the campus attended the seminar. The students learnt management accounting particularly change management on which the seminar laid most emphasis.



Efforts of NCSC volunteers acknowledged

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) Awards/Appreciation Ceremony was held on March 06 at the SCEE Seminar Hall to formally acknowledge the efforts of NCSC volunteers towards community service during their term of service in the society i.e., the year 2011.

Air Commodore (R) Shabbir, the patron-in-chief of Rashidabad Memorial Welfare Organization (RMWO), was the chief guest at the occasion. The motivational talk on compassion and serving the masses by Mr. Shabbir had the students enthralled during the entire one-hour session.

RMWO, a not-for-profit organization, is a 100-acre mini-city, equipped with all necessities of life, from schools, residential areas, state-of-the-art hospitals down to its very own railway station. The project, an initiative of the Air Commodore (and named after his late son Flight Lt. Rashid) presents an administrative wonder, with different trusts and NGOs given administrative authority and day-to-day operational task of various facilities within the complex.

After the chief guest's speech, President NCSC, Athar Mushtaq highlighted NCSC's achievements during the course of the year 2011, specifically pertaining to the flood relief efforts. Later, the chief guest distributed certificates among the NCSC volunteers to acknowledge their efforts towards community service.

At the end Pro Rector Academics, Dr. Asif Raza, also spoke of the importance of rendering services for the common good and its overall positive impact on a community. He commended the efforts of NCSC and thanked the Air Commodore for his presence at the occasion.



Blood donation drive

NUST Volunteers Club's (NVC) Blood Donation Wing, pursuing its spirit of rescuing lives arranged a blood donation camp from Dec 29 to Jan 2 at the Campus in liaison with a team of skilled doctors and paramedics from Armed Forces Institute of Transfusion (AFIT) at the Mushtaq Baig Medical Centre EME College.

An awareness speech from the Commandant AFIT was arranged by NVC, a day prior to the camp to eradicate any misconceptions among the students and the college staff regarding Blood transfusion. More than 300 bags of blood were collected in just two days, reflecting the true spirit of compassion prevalent among the youth.

Another blood donation drive arranged from Feb 29 to March 2 was a commendable success. The event was arranged by NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) in

collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) where the students from NICE played a leading role in running the show. The event was managed and monitored professionally whereby the general physician ensured that each volunteering student first went through the weight and haemoglobin level screening.

The students befitting the criteria were then registered for the blood donation phase which started with the blood pressure check and a prescription of vitamin C juice along with a folic acid tablet.

A total of approximately 400 people took part in donating blood, out of which 40 were rejected on medical grounds. They were able to collect 360 blood units. The collected blood was handed over to the PRCS team so that it is used at hospitals around the capital for the service of the needy.



NUST Fine Arts Club inauguration ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of NUST Fine Arts Club was held in the seminar room at School of Art, Design and Architecture (SADA) on March 2. The event was attended by members of the Club, administration and faculty. A renowned Pakistani surrealist Mr. Aqeel Solangi was the chief guest at the occasion.

The event started off with a welcome speech and a presentation on the club's achievements by the president, Rehab Ahmed. This followed a speech by the faculty sponsor, Ms. Bilqis Ajam. It was a proud moment for the club as they introduced the famous artist Mr. Aqeel Solangi, who is presently teaching at National College of Arts gave a brief presentation on his life and works. He shared his contributions and experiences with the audience. He is the proud recipient of the Young Talent Award 2006 by Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the students got busy with the exhibition where the members displayed their work. The best two art pieces by the winners, Rehab Ahmed and Masooma Asghar from ASAB were given prizes by the chief guest. After the exhibition, the Pro-Rector shared his views about the Club which were more than encouraging. He said that the Club aims to provide students with the opportunity to realize their artistic abilities and showcase their talent.



Learning the art of pottery making

A workshop was held at SADA on Jan 7 to give students hands-on experience of making pottery. The workshop aimed at teaching members of Fine Arts club the techniques of clay handling and sculpture making.

"Instilling dignity into a common object elevates the human spirit, and lies at the core of the art of a potter" said Naeem, the professional potter invited to inspire students with his artistic abilities. A potter's wheel was organized, on which clay vessels were made by the members assisted by guests.

These kind of artistic and educational activities are organized at NUST School of Art, Design and Architecture fostering a high standard of craftsmanship through programmes, workshops and classes, and to instil an appreciation for pottery and clay art in students. The members got their hands mud stained discovering their talents and interests in the field of sculpture making while enjoying the workshop thoroughly. The participating students termed the workshop a welcome stress relief from exam preparation. The workshop was free of cost for all members, and expenses for the clay, tools and equipment were borne by the club. NUST Fine Arts club plans to hold such activities in future, providing an energetic atmosphere that will enable the art and design students to develop their creative intellect and potential to the fullest.



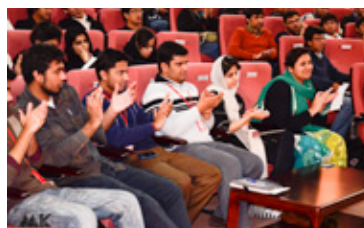
Tech Talk Programme Clean coal technologies viable source of energy: experts

"Clean coal technologies are rapidly becoming a viable source of energy. These technologies will address the environmental concerns of using coal on long-term basis and would help Pakistan overcome the current energy crisis," experts said while speaking on "clean coal technologies" at the Tech Talk Program of the Science Society at NUST on Feb 21.

The event aimed at increasing public awareness on the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of low emission, clean coal technologies and their varying applications to implement solution-focused mechanisms and strategies for government, society and industry. Guest speakers of the colloquium were Dr. Ashraf Tahir and Engr. Shahid Ansari from SCME, NUST. Dr. Ashraf Tahir's professional career spans over a period of 39 years which includes numerous dilations as well as several research papers, one of them presented at the 10th International Symposium on Coal Bed Methane/ Coal Mine Methane held at Beijing, China in October 2010.

The speakers gave an insight into the state-of-the-art approach to Fischer Tropsch (FT) technology and explained the basic principles and terminology that are required to understand the application of FT technology, gasification of coal and synthetic gas (Syngas). They stressed that the greatest opportunity for the coal industry to reinvent itself as a clean power source lies in the maturation and deployment of carbon capture and FT technologies.

When burnt, coal releases carbon dioxide and other emissions in fuel gas. Gasification avoids burning coal altogether. With integrated



gasification combined cycle (IGCC) systems, steam and hot pressurized air or oxygen combine with coal in a reaction that forces carbon molecules apart. The resulting syngas, a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen, is then cleaned and burned in a gas turbine to make electricity. According to the speakers, with coal playing a key role in Pakistan's energy mix, low emissions coal technology may become an option in the long-term.

NUST students up on profiting from LMS

Intrigued by the breathtaking developments occurring in the domain of Information and Communication Technology, NUST has taken a step forward to promote on-campus learning through leveraging ICT.

Learning Management System (LMS) is a software application engineered to enhance classroom learning environment. It optimally balances short-term needs versus long-term requirements within an educational institution by automating administration of planning, delivering, documenting, managing, tracking and reporting all learning events. This is an easy-to-use application,

specifically customized at NUST keeping in view the exposure of the University's teachers and students to computerized educational means. Since the majority of teachers in Pakistan are long accustomed to conventional methods of imparting education, NUST LMS has made it convenient for teachers to create and manage training courses for students in a user-friendly manner.

Initially, NUST launched LMS only at School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. Being impressed by the benefits achieved from the successful experience, NUST management

decided to expand the scope of LMS project to more schools. Two years down the road, NUST LMS has reached the milestone with 5131 students and 466 faculty members are now active users of this system.

At present, LMS is functional at six institutions of NUST viz. NBS, SCEE, SCME, SMME, SEECs and RCMS, all located at the University's H-12 campus. The next phase envisages bringing the remaining schools of H-12 campus onboard and then extending its services to other NUST schools located in different cities of Pakistan.

Display Hall and Iqbal Hostel inaugurated at MCE

The inaugural ceremony of a Civil Engineering Display Hall was held at Military College of Engineering on Feb 6. Rector NUST, Engr. Muhammad Asghar was the chief guest at earthbreaking ceremony. This display hall has been developed at MCE with a purpose to expose the students with latest and modern trends in Civil Engineering equipment and tools. The hall encompasses complete cutout models of airport, pavement and building designs for better practical comprehension of students, also the latest fitting and materials used in construction industry were displayed to familiarize the students with different materials which they come across in their field.

The Rector also inaugurated the Iqbal Hostel at MCE located on Nisar Shaheed Road the same day. The hostel was made with the purpose to facilitate students. It is expected to have 108 rooms, a lounge, a dining hall. Other distinguished guests at the occasion included Maj Gen M. Rafiq Sabir HI(M), Commandant MCE Brig Fiaz Hussain Shah and Commandant Engr Centre Brig Tariq Mahmood.



Workshop on Stress Management

With a view to focusing on personal development and social awareness Sha'our, a NUST Volunteers Club (NVC), invited C3A to organize a two hour workshop on 'Stress Management' at the College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering on January 6.

Generally, Students especially experience stress meeting academic demands, adjusting to a new environment and managing relationships.

The session highlighted the difference between positive and negative stress and how to avail it as a motivator or an energizer. Turning life events into challenges and learning from experience was emphasized. Useful coping strategies and techniques to handle internal and external stressors were discussed. The importance of decision-making and reducing cognitive dissonance were also addressed. Sharing of personal experiences and group interaction was encouraged to address issues and devise suitable interventions.

The workshop format was to help identify stress at a personal level and internalize learning. For this, a written test was given to the students to assess their own stress level and then suggestions were given to handle the intensity.

The session concluded with a very encouraging feedback from the participants, indicating an involved audience. It was also resolved to organize such events not just for students but also for faculty and staff members. The workshop was attended by 90 participants including students and faculty members.



SMME conducts course on hydraulic and pneumatic systems



School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SMME) in collaboration with IMECHE NUST chapter organized a course on hydraulic and pneumatic systems from February 20 to March 11. As many as 60 students attended the workshop from different institutions and organizations.

The modules covered by the experts in training sessions included basic pneumatic system layout, advanced electro-pneumatic system layout, basic

electro-hydraulic system layout, etc.

Working professionals and employees from NESCOM, SMME, HITEC, IIU and CEME were also present to attend the course where lectures from different experts were delivered. On successful completion of the course, certificates were awarded and a competition was also held between different teams. Winning teams were awarded cash prizes.

NVC and IEEE organize Web Development Workshop

WEB Development Workshop (PHASE II) was conducted with the joint efforts of NUST Volunteers Club and IEEE on Feb 10-11. The workshop included three technical sessions focused on Dynamic Web Designing.

Mr. Asad Naeem started the workshop with a brief address on the need for a dynamic web designing and its effectiveness in database management; proceeding further, he discussed the basics of PHP, its use and implementation in web designing. He then put an introduction of hypertext processing and also described the flow chart of communication between the user and the server. Mr. Asad told the participants that PHP is being used by 70% of web developers and the reason of its popularity is that it is easy to understand and implement. Day 1 of the workshop concluded with some examples and then participants were asked to install the software and later they were given hands-on experience using software and web server.

The next day, another technical session of two hours was held. Mr. Asad demonstrated a presentation on dynamic form designing tutorial. A detailed

discussion was held between participants and the instructor about the syntax to be used.

Furthermore, Mr. Asad instructed the participants about another tool MYSQL for dynamic web designing in the third technical session. Emphasizing on the importance of MYSQL, he said that MYSQL deals with user account management. It allows the website to remember information for people even if they are on a different computer anywhere in the world. At the end of the sessions, Mr Asad suggested the participants to visit regularly and practice the examples available on a free website: www.w3schools.com



Lifelong Learning Workshop on Leadership

'Lifelong Learning Workshop on Leadership' was arranged on Jan 3, in Cadets Mess at E&ME College. Dean, College of E&ME, Brig Dr Younus Javed was the chief guest at the occasion. Dr. Akhtar Nawaz, ex-dean College of EME, addressed the students and enlightened them with his views on leadership and discussed ways to arouse the leader lying dormant in each of them.

Video clips including inspiring extracts of speeches from movies based on leadership were played. The interactive session followed thereafter in which students were divided in teams for useful activities. One such activity tested the leadership ability of the head of the team and the team's ability to work effectively as one unit. Each team head was given a

shape and he had to assemble his team members in the required shape without using gestures or sounds. Another activity called '9 by 9 matrixes' quiz was designed to show if a student was more people- or work- oriented. A leader is the one who possesses both these qualities in a balanced way. Other such activities engaged the students in a fun learning environment.

In the end, forms were distributed among each student to be a formal member of the "Lifelong Learning Forum". Participants took keen interest to join the platform.



NUST and NAYS jointly organize workshop on SPSS

A two-day training session on Statistical Package for Social Sciences, SPSS was organized by NUST Science Society in collaboration with National Academy of Young Scientist (NAYS) from March 24-25. The workshop was held in the computer lab of SCME to provide participants with hands-on training of the software.

Mr. Nouman, a faculty at NUST and a member of NAYS, delivered a lecture on basic statistics which established a relationship between his subject and SPSS. It included presentation on the base software that included, Descriptive Statistics, Bivariate Statistics, Prediction for Numerical Outcomes, Prediction for Identifying Groups. It was followed by a session by Syed Mohsin Raza, an experienced SPSS trainer, who provided the participants with an interactive, hands-on training of the software.



Tree plantation drive at NUST

A tree plantation drive kicked off at NUST on March 29, in which a total of 294 saplings were planted at various places in the University's main campus. Rector NUST, Engr.

Muhammad Asghar inaugurated the ceremony by planting a 'Fiddle Wood' tree. At the occasion, Deputy Director Horticulture gave an overview of the horticulture efforts being carried out at the University premises.

Earlier, another tree plantation campaign had started at NUST on Feb 28. Pro-Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Mushtaq had inaugurated the ceremony held in this connection at the University Campus and planted a 'Putajin' tree to mark the occasion. Director Administration briefed the participants on the horticulture efforts being carried out at the University premises. He also touched upon the plans for spring 2012 and urged the students to take upon themselves the responsibility to save nature by planting trees in their respective areas.



PNEC organizes 13th Open House

Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC) conducted an Open House for the graduates of BE Mechanical, Electrical & Electronics Engineering on Jan 19. In this job fair, projects by graduates were displayed. It was partially sponsored by FUJITSU.

Dr Atta Ur Rahman, former Federal Minister & former Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan was the chief guest. Afterwards, the chief guest visited the project stalls and showed keen interest in the work displayed. Dr Atta Ur Rahman stressed upon the requirement of enhancing the R&D culture among faculty & PG students of the College. Souvenirs were presented to the representatives of industries and guests at the occasion.

As many as 25 renowned industries and companies participated in the event. Lotte Pakistan PTA Ltd conducted written test. Whereas, Unilever Pakistan & Descon Pakistan representatives guided the graduates for interview and resume writing skills through presentation.

It is worthwhile to mention that PNEC Alumni are being employed in leading Engineering firms and research organizations of Pakistan namely SUPARCO, SIEMENS, SHELL, ENGRO FERTILIZERS, MTC, DFML, PTCL, KESC, Hino Pak Motors, Engro Chemicals Pak, LOTTE PPTA, Amreli Steel and many more. The talent of young engineering graduates of PNEC was very much appreciated by the industrial representatives.



Active Citizens Workshop meets objectives

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) arranged Active Citizens Workshop at NUST School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SMME) from February 18 to 19. Active Citizens Workshop, an event conducted in 22 countries across the globe, is a British Council initiative aimed at enhancing teamwork, leadership and communication skills of the participants and to enable them become more socially aware citizens.

Saad Mian, the facilitator of the workshop, kept the students engaged during the two-day event through garnering participative discussions and interesting activities. Interactive sessions the students participated in included important topics like gender discrimination and its social repercussions. The activities ranged from building a map of Islamabad to the attendees drawing a self-portrait of themselves, all aimed at stimulating the students' interest in things around them and their role in society. Also, it aimed at inculcating among the students the need to give back to society in some measure and motivate them towards social action projects.

Judging by the creative input of the students and the socially constructive nature of the discussions, it may safely be asserted that the workshop was a success. With a student turnout of more than fifty participants (comprising NCSC and the Youth for Peace members), the workshop did at the end of the day achieve its objective i.e., to make students start thinking about the society and ways to improve its well-being.

In the end, the attendees were given certificates for their constructive participation. The British Council team thanked the NCSC members for their efforts in organizing the successful event.



Students from NUST attend a conference at OMAN

Earlier this year, two members of the NUST Community Service Club were sent to Oman to attend a conference arranged by the Arab Open University and HEC, sponsored by NUST. This effort was to increase the cultural literacy of the students, and to give them an understanding of the perspective of enterprising youth from other areas of the world. The students team included

Athar Mushtaq and Mashal Ma-bood, led by Dr. Irteza attended the conference at the Arab Open University with the title, 'Orientalism in Oman'. The theme of the paper was how the culture brings the Muslim world together and how close ties between neighbouring countries bond them together. The NUST delegation, participated in the conference with maximum zeal. They engaged in interactive sessions with the speakers and actively participated during question answer session about how Pakistan and Oman share the same bonding.

"The one thing which I always felt and was strongly refreshed during my stay at Oman was the positivity and drive that make up our students at NUST", related Dr. Irteza. The AOU faculty in acknowledgement of their participation invited the delegation to another AOU conference scheduled to be held in September 2012.



CSP chapter launched at MCS

In a graceful ceremony held on Jan 04 at Military College of Signals, student chapter of Computer Society of Pakistan (CSP) was launched at the department of CSE. Software Society of the department organized the event.

The purpose of launching MCS chapter is to provide the students of the Department of CSE in particular and to all students of MCS in general, an opportunity to participate in the national and international activities related to software technology. Moreover, representatives of CSP will keep on visiting MCS to suggest necessary improvements by interacting with students and faculty members.

Mr. Tahir Chaudhary, President CSP, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mr. Chaudhry has been associated with CSP since its inception in 1973. He is also the president of Pakistan Institute of Entrepreneurs and currently runs a large software house by the name of Falcon Technologies in Islamabad. He congratulated students on becoming new members of CSP and apprised them of the benefits of the membership. He talked about the influence of CSP on all major companies in Pakistan, including Mercedes-Benz and Siemens. Earlier, Brig (Retd) Dr. Ashraf Masood, Dean MCS, welcomed all the guests to the launching ceremony. He talked at length about the merits of CSP and its membership.

NUST represented at Centre for International Development and Conflict Management, USA

A programme on "Multi Track Diplomacy: Transforming Violent Conflict" was attended by Mr Ali Baz and Mr Sher Shah from NIPCONS-NUST at The Centre for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM) University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, USA from Jan 9-21. CIDCM seeks to prevent and transform conflict, to understand the interplay between



conflict and development, and to help societies create sustainable futures for themselves. The aim of attending the workshops and conferences was to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate the transformation of protracted political, ethnic, nationalist or religious conflicts, within or across borders, into constructive processes of social change, sustainable peace and coexistence even with differences, using the techniques of citizens' or multi-track diplomacy. Prof Jonathan, Head of International Studies, was eager to explore the possibility of cooperation on academic/research programmes between UMD and NUST.

World Tuberculosis Day observed

In a seminar conducted by ASAB on March 26 in connection with World Tuberculosis Day, experts expressed deep concern over the rising number of tuberculosis (TB) patients in Pakistan.

The speakers cautioned against the high penetration rate of the disease in Pakistan, the sixth largest country with regard to the number of TB patients according to a World Health Organization (WHO) report.

Presentations by various faculty members and students highlighted various aspects of this disease, including different strategies adopted by the pathogen to evade natural defences. The purpose of the session was to focus on latest research occurring in the field and updating students

about the current scenario. Faculty, students and Principal ASAB, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf attended the event.

Even though more than a century has passed, TB still remains one of the major causes of human death and disease. Globally, 1 person dies every 20 seconds due to tuberculosis and over one third of the population is infected with TB pathogen, highlighted a student in his presentation. This pathogen has achieved the amazing feat that it can persist in a fully healthy human being and can eventually attack and cripple when his natural defences are down. According to the speakers, there is a need for awareness since the treatment for the disease is now available i.e.,

lengthy and cumbersome but highly effective.

The presenters shed light upon the immune evasion mechanisms of the bacteria, the models and mechanisms of resistance emergence as well as influence of our genes on modulation of therapeutic response. Rabia Shakeel, a senior faculty at ASAB, was declared the best speaker of the day.



Career counselling session at E&ME College

Choice of an appropriate career has always been an ambiguity on the minds of students appearing in secondary school examination. Realizing this need, NUST Volunteers Club (NVC) Academics Wing tried to answer some questions raised by students of Army Public School EME branch.

The event was organized by Amal Rauf under the guidance of Umer Huzaifa, Farjad, Ayesha Shafi, Umer Anwaar and Nauman Noor. On Feb 22, a team of 8 well experienced people including Muhammad Umer Anwaar, Ayesha Shafi, Nauman Noor, Amal Rauf, Hafiz Muhammad, Muhammad Ahsan, Dania Murad and Ammama Furrukh Gill went to counsel the inquisitive minds of class 10 on the suggested day.

"Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life" was the crux of the message delivered by the team. A formal presentation



was given by Umer Anwaar followed by Amal, Hafiz Muhammad and Muhammad Ahsan after an informal introduction of the team. Personal experiences were shared and certain scenarios were also discussed. Question-answer session was also conducted afterwards. Principal of E&ME College was also present on the occasion, who enthusiastically participated in the discussion which further boosted up students' morale. The session was conducted in a highly interactive and friendly environment which encouraged the young scholars for easy communication.

Floral art arrangement

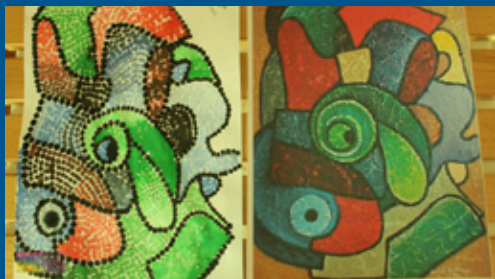
Floral art is an innovative aesthetic skill that celebrates the power of the flower. The workshop on floral art arrangement was held in SEECS–NUST to invoke love for this beautiful art among students. Floral Art Society, Pakistan was invited to conduct the workshop held from Jan 30 to Feb 3. The event intended to teach precious lessons of life which can neither be taught nor found in books. The participants learnt the art of creating flower arrangements in vases, bowls, baskets and making bouquets.

Farhana Azim was invited as a facilitator of the workshop. The students and faculty members were taught how to use various materials of different textures along with different shaped vases together to form one composition. The workshop proved to be very useful as it helped students learn different color compositions and how to create themes of their own.



Ink Painting Workshop

An ink painting workshop was organized at School of Art, Design and Architecture on March 17. Students from all NUST institutes participated which required them to bring along only a pack of cotton buds and fountain pen inks, which were to be used as tools for replicating different paintings on plain paper. The three-hour workshop started with a demonstration on pointillism technique by the president of Fine Arts Club, Rehab Ahmad, accompanied by other members of club from SADA. After the demonstration, each student was provided with different paintings and was asked to replicate them using the pointillism technique. Members from other schools of NUST also got intrigued by the newly experienced art technique. NUST Fine Arts Club organised the workshop to encourage students unleash their creative side.



Students participate in clean-up hike

NUST Environment Club, Institute of Earth Sciences and Engineering (IESE) organised a clean-up hike at the hiking trails of the Margalla hills in Islamabad on March 4. It was done in synchronization with the mountain trekking event organised by the NUST Adventure Club (NAC) so as to gather the maximum number of participants.

Members of the club, faculty members, including Dr. Muhammad Nasrullah Khan (Principal SCEE), and students of the university participated in this activity that involved collecting waste materials, like wrappers and PET bottles which had been carelessly dropped in the bushes along trails 3 and 5 by hikers, and disposing them off properly in bins. The clean-up hike continued all the way up to Pir Sohawa. At Pir Sohawa, the General Secretary of NEC, Syeda Asma, talked to the manager of a local restaurant to get a drift of the situation of solid waste management at the famous hotel.



Stage Ablaze introduces 'Mind Your Language'

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the audience, 'Stage Ablaze' at NBS introduced numerous theatrical performances that have become a source of relentless entertainment to NUST students. This year was no exception, when hollers of laughter echoed around the seminar hall to Mr. Brown's multicultural class in the British series 'Mind your Language.'

On 14th March students were gathered at NBS hall as Mr. Brown, acted by Shafa'at Gillani from NBS, began teaching his class the alphabets. The cast, thirteen students from different batches of NBS, exceeded expectations of the audience by their depiction of the ever green characters of the show.

Brimming with talent and enthusiasm, the actors paused at the appropriate moments, milked every punchline to the maximum, and so as a combined effect rendered brilliant performances.



NUST team shines in workshop at LUMS

Muneeb Ullah Khan and Ahmad Raza Khan, students from MCS represented NUST at a workshop held at LUMS. The five-day BLS and MTP workshop was conducted by LUMS emergency medical services (EMS) from Feb 22 to 26 at their Lahore campus. A total of five universities including Kinnaird College University, University College Lahore, Beaconhouse National University and NAMAL participated in the national event.

Apart from learning basic life service techniques and the process of setting up emergency medical services at their own institution, NUST team also claimed the first position in Intervarsity quiz competition.

"GAMERS COLOSSEUM 2K12 – Call of Duty 4"

NUST has always been on the forefront in promoting new and intuitive ways to provide opportunities for entertainment to its students. NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science e-gaming society recently organized an e-sports event "GAMERS COLOSSEUM 2K12 – Call of Duty 4" from Jan 28 to 29. The e-gaming has become a global phenomenon and the tournament was a step towards promoting it in the society.

The event was based on 'Call of Duty 4' which is one of the most played multiplayer games and has a community of over 13 million gamers. The e-gaming event was a pioneering effort to call upon 8 of the best COD4 teams across Pakistan and provide a platform where they could showcase their skill and talent. It was also good to see that the tournament was organised following international standards and provided some of the best features like live streaming, spectator rooms, high performance PCs for gaming and attractive prizes. Rector NUST graced the closing ceremony of the event as the chief guest.



AMC holds inter-company parliamentary debates



Inter-company parliamentary debates were held on March 27 at the Army Medical College in Ayub Auditorium. The judges for the event were Madam Ishrat Hyatt, a veteran journalist and Prof. Shaista Zaid, a renowned newscaster.

The students acting as presidents and vice-presidents debated on the topic, 'Culture is the most important factor in a nation's stability'. After a very fiery de-

bate, Nisar-e-Fatima Changezi and Sidra Riaz, from the Ayesha Company, stood first in debates thus winning the trophy. The runners-up was Razi Company represented by Daniyal Kamal and Hamza Jahangeer.

Later the other day, a bilingual declamation was held at the college on March 28. The chief guest for the event was Mahmud-ul-Hassan, ex MS and DG Surgery of the Armed Forces.

The event was organized by Fahad Shakil, Vice President of the Debating Society. Farah Bano was declared first in the humorous category whereas, Sher Shah Khan and Zaheer Babar shared the first prize in the English serious. Ayesha Rehman stood first in the Urdu serious categories. The trophy was won by Fatima Company. The chief guest distributed prizes among the winners.

Nustians stand out in International Robotics Contest

Students from Department of Mechatronics Engineering at College of E&ME proved their mettle at the International TechFest Competition, organised by IIT Bombay, India on Feb 5. The team from NUST comprising Muhammad Ehtesham, Talha Wahab, Aamir Sohail and Sajid Mushtaq, stood first in the qualifying round at LUMS for Techfest 2012 IIT Bombay and got 2nd position in Magneto event of Techfest 2012 by eliminating two Indian teams and became the only Pakistani team to qualify for the finals.

This initiative, also called "Umeed-e-Milap", was launched by IIT in partnership with LUMS-Spades to bring together the students of both India and Pakistan.

To qualify for that event, the NUST team secured first position in pre-qualifiers, "Spades IIT TechFest", event held at LUMS, Lahore last year. The NUST team was selected as a part of Pakistani delegation to participate in "Magneto Competition of TechFest 2012, IIT Bombay".

Twenty teams participated in the competition at IIT Bombay which included sixteen top teams of India



and four from Pakistan. The selected eight teams entered the knock-out round. College of E&ME team was the only Pakistani team, which not only qualified for the semifinals but also made it to the final of the event and secured second position. The Department of Mechatronics and the University itself is very proud of the team for its outstanding performance in an international event.

Quiz competition on Coastal and Marine Ecosystem at PNEC

Based on the theme of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem, a quiz competition between the personnel of COMKAR and COMCOAST Commands was held at PNS Jauhar auditorium on March 20. Commandant Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC), Rear Admiral Syed Imdad Imam Jafri SI (M) graced the occasion as the chief guest.

COMKAR-B team won the quiz competition, while Zohaib Ahmed PN of COMKAR-A team got the runners up prize.

Addressing the ceremony, the chief guest lauded the commitment of the youth towards protecting the natural environment. He said that the quiz competition would help create an urge among the PN personnel to contribute their share towards saving the nature. In the end, the chief guest congratulated the prize winners and thanked HQ Commander Karachi for extending the requisite support for the event.



NUST Science Society unleashes 'Sci-toons'

Students from all over Pakistan participated in 'Sci-toons', an event which gave them the opportunity to create their own comics i.e., a blend of both science and art. This venture was unleashed by NUST Science Society on Feb 14 in collaboration with SPARK and Mark 92.

These endeavours aimed at instilling creativity and scientific awareness among students, testing their abilities and building in them the passion for science. The students sketched comics on the themes of Science Mnemonics, Environment-friendly Science, etc. Many students came up with comics that were unique, creative and carried a scientific message. These creations also encouraged the young scientists by highlighting

the contribution of science in our daily lives.

The comics were judged by the widely acclaimed social network comic gurus: Kachee Goliyan Comics and Comics by Arsalan. Syed Ayaz (NUST-SCEE) stood first and Zain Ul Abedin from Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro got second prize, while Seerat Fatima from K.M.C Girls Primary School, Karachi got the third position. Cash prizes and comics were distributed among the winners.



SMME team wins Thermocon 2012, GIKI

Thermocon 2012 was held from March 2 to 4 at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute at Topi. A total of 17 teams from all over Pakistan participated in the event, organized by American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) GIKI chapter.

Two teams from SMME, namely Mechanical Flukes and Thermistors, performed exceptionally well throughout the competition. The main event was 'Stacked Up'

which had further three modules; Brainiac, Thermal Tempest and Innovation.

The team competed well and won the Brainiac model after clearing the general IQ test, Rapid Fire round and the third round of Thermal Tempest. In Thermal Tempest, each team was given a map of GIKI campus and multiple choice questions based on thermodynamics. After facing tough competition, Team Thermistors from NUST won the challenge and Mechanical Flukes got the third position.

In the Innovation challenge, the teams had to construct a wind turbine from household items such as two Pepsi bottles, a rubber pipe, a cardboard, etc. Mechanical Flukes won the challenge. The trophy for Thermocon '12 was awarded to team Mechanical Flukes of SMME for consistent performance throughout the event.



NAC organizes trekking trip

NUST Adventure Club organised a trekking trip to Pir Sohawa on March 4 with over 450 students participating in it.

The students gathered at IESE and soon afterwards left for trail number 3. For many, it was their first hiking experience and the excitement was apparent

in their faces. "Standing at the southern spur, off shooting from the main Margalla Hills, one gets the breathtaking panoramic view of Islamabad. It was a great event and gave us the opportunity to explore such amazing landscape. I am definitely coming back next month," said one of the students from NUST. All the hikers reached the top at the end of three-hour

continuous hike and helped themselves to the delicious cuisine at the local restaurant.



Second Intra-NUST Wall Climbing Competition

The second Intra-NUST Wall Climbing Competition was held at the Ibex Club, Lake View Park, Islamabad in the month of January. The club holds one of the best and tallest walls of Asia scaling at a height of 60 feet including inclinations at different angles to make the ascent ever challenging. Over a 100 participants from H-12, AMC, MCS and EME College took part in the event with different categories for boys and girls. It was organized by the NUST Adventure Club.

The climb was both physically and mentally challenging, one that tested the climber's strength, endurance, agility and balance along with their mental control. However, students from NUST accepted the challenge and many of them made it to

the final round.

In this challenging competition, a new record was set by Mir Manzar Ilahi of SMME who scaled the wall in a breath taking 31.84 seconds breaking last year's record. The competition went equally energetic and challenging in the girls' category.

Tahir Imran Khan, President of the Adventure Club of Pakistan and mentor of NUST Adventure Club distributed shields and certificates among the top five position holders in both the categories.



500 Nustians run marathon

With the advent of spring, NUST organized a marathon participated in by an overwhelming number of faculty and students on March 8. As many as 500 participants were divided into various groups according to their age and gender. The marathon was a test of endurance, stamina and most of all the mental strength of an individual since physical fitness alone is not enough. One needs to have the determination and the willingness to keep pushing forward. The athletes had to cover a distance of approximately four kilometres. NUST Adventure Club in collaboration with the Administration Directorate organized the event. The event turned out to be a very colourful spectacle with the contestants fully enjoying it. Before the marathon started, the jubilant youngsters also performed traditional 'bhangra' at the beat of 'dhol.' Pro-Rector (RIC) Engr. Muhammad Mushtaq was the

chief guest at the occasion. He declared the marathon open by setting free pigeons. Mr. Arif Mahmud Siddiqui, Director Administration NUST HQ and Dr. Nasrullah Khan, Principal School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, also took part in the race. The marathon concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. Prizes were given to the winners namely, Mishal Saif (Girls' category), Ahmar (Children's category-boys), Fazeela (children category-girls), Awais (Boys' category) and Abrar Butt (Faculty/staff category).

For most, this was not really about winning; it was about challenging their own abilities and pushing the boundaries of their endurance levels and finding the strength that they never thought they had. It was a delight to watch students crossing the finishing line.



Badminton, table tennis championships

Formidable NUST sends QAU, COMSATS packing

Intervarsity Badminton (M) Zonal Championship 2011-12 (ZONE 'C') was held from Feb 10 to 14 at Muzaffarabad. Azad Jammu and Kashmir University hosted the competition played on knockout basis. NUST beat University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila and Preston University in the quarterfinal and semifinal respectively. In the final match of the competition, NUST took on Quaid-e-Azam University and outsmarted the latter with style. With this victory, NUST also qualified for the final of All Pakistan Intervarsity Badminton (M) Championship. Meanwhile, Intervarsity Table Tennis (M) Zonal Championship 2011-12 (ZONE 'C') was held

from Feb 14 to 17 at Islamic International University, Islamabad. NUST team comprised five players. After remaining unbeaten in the quarterfinal and semifinal matches, NUST forced its way into the final. COMSATS team, the other finalist, did its utmost to get hold of the decisive match of the competition but their every effort went in vain as Nustians eventually rose to the occasion and clinched the trophy. The winning team also qualified for the final of All Pakistan Intervarsity Table Tennis (M) Championship.

Later, Rector NUST Engr. Muhammad Asghar met with the NUST teams and congratulated them on their winning performances. At the occasion, he also presented souvenirs and cash prizes to the players and officials of the teams.



SEECs organizes sports gala

NUST SEECs Sports Gala 2012 was held from Feb 24 to 26. The much awaited event kicked off with a "Bake and Sale Competition" for girls and "Go Kinect Tournament" for boys.

The undergraduate students were divided into four houses: Jinnah House, Liaquat House, Iqbal House and Sir Syed House. While the postgraduate students were divided into two houses: Qasim House and Tipu House. Four house stalls were displayed in the academic block. They all marketed the sport gala activities, registering the students for different games and selling maximum goods to earn reward points for their house.

The preliminary competitions between houses were held in the days following the launching ceremony. Not only students but also staff participated actively in games like cricket, football, badminton, table tennis, volley ball etc. Competitions in a few other sports including swimming, lawn tennis were also held later on February 25 and 26 at Sports Complex, Islamabad.



06 ACHIEVEMENTS

Abdus Salam Award bestowed upon ASAB faculty



Assistant Professor Dr. Muhammad Tahir from Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences was awarded Abdus Salam Award for the year 2010 in the field of Biology. The prize was given for his discovery of three new species of begomoviruses (Pepper leaf curl Lahore Virus, Pedilanthus leaf curl Virus, Bittergourd yellow vein virus) and a new strain of Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus. The Abdus Salam Award (also known as Salam Prize) is an award in natural and physical sciences, awarded in recognition of high achievements and

contributions in physical and natural sciences.

The ceremony was held in Pakistan Academy of Sciences on Dec 29 and the Prize was given by world-renowned scientist Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman.

Achievements of Dr Manzoor Hussain acknowledged

Acknowledging his meritorious achievements, Dr Manzoor Hussain, a NUST faculty, was awarded Richards S Ladd Standards Development Award by American Society for Testing and Material (ASTM) International. He proceeded to Atlanta, Georgia on Jan 30 to receive this honorary award. The award, granted by ASTM D18 Committee on Soil and Rock, is in recognition of his contribution in preparing new ASTM Standard D7608 for testing of soils. Richard S.Ladd, a top-notch professional in Geotechnical Engineering was also present at the ceremony.

An Excellence Award ceremony was also organized on Feb 29 at MCE-NUST to acknowledge his achieve-

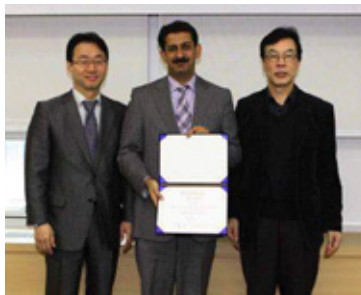


ments. Maj Gen Rafiq Sabir HI (M) Director General Engineers graced this auspicious occasion as the chief guest. Other distinguished guests included Pro-Rector NUST and Principal of school of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Dean of College of Aeronautical Engineering.

GM TIC becomes first Pakistani InfoDev Certified Incubation Trainer

Accomplishing a rare feat after a rigorous selection process, Mr. Akhtar Ali Qureshi, General Manager Technology Incubation Centre- NUST, has emerged as the first and only Pakistani to become InfoDev Certified Incubation Trainer. InfoDev is the Incubation support arm of the World Bank.

The "Training of the Trainers" programme was held in Istanbul, Turkey with an intense bootcamp-like training for a week (Feb 19 – 25) and interactive presentations to Master trainers to become a "World Bank InfoDev Certified Incubation Trainer".



Only a few participants were apprised of the official result at the end of the training and even fewer were provided with an opportunity for an actual training to Incubation Managers from over 30 countries who had paid for a two-day training. GM TIC was amongst the selected few for both the confirmation

and delivering training on behalf of InfoDev

It is indeed a proud moment for the country in general and NUST in particular. Prior to this achievement, Mr Qureshi, who has attributed the recent success to unstinting support of NUST, was also nominated for a training in Korea for Science and Technology

Parks establishment. GM TIC was awarded the Best Participant Award from among participants of 14 countries across four continents.

Joint stall of STV-NUST & NCP wins 1st PSF prize for innovative energy projects

Mr. Waqas Ahmed from NUST along with NCP officials jointly represented NUST and National Center for Physics (NCP) in the 5th International Conference and Exhibition on Power Generation (Power Gen Pak 2012) titled "Future Energy Mix in Overcoming the Power Crisis" at Marriott, Karachi. The event was jointly organized by The Institute of Research Promotion (IRF), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Center (PASTIC) and

Energy Updates. The NUST-NCP stall exhibited the biodiesel production technology and design for 150 liter biodiesel pilot plant for various biodiesel feedstocks including Jatropha, Cotton Seed oil, Waste Cooking Oil.

The NUST-NCP won the first PSF Prize Rs. 50,000/- in "Innovative Energy Projects" Competition amongst twenty three stalls from various universities and private companies from all over Pakistan representing their 50 plus projects in the power generation and renewable energy sector. The team supported their projects with their R&D

being translated into 150 liter prototype biodiesel pilot plant. Sindh Electric Power Minister Shazia Marri along with CEO Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB) Arif Allaudin, Chairman Independent Power Producer's Advisory Council (IPPAC) Yousuf Abdullah, and Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) Dr. Manzoor Soomro visited the stalls and valued the team efforts to transform biodiesel R&D into 150 liter pilot plant.



Best Performance Award by HEC

Mr. Muhammad Arif from Management Information Systems (MIS) Department of Military College of Signals (MCS) participated in the Video Conference Training held from Feb 27 to 29, at HEC Islamabad. At the completion of the training programme, after a rigorous test of all the participants, Mr. Arif was awarded with 'Best Performance Award' for 2nd Technical Training of Video Conference Setup. He was conferred an Honorary Shield by Prof. Dr. Nasser Ali Khan, Member Operation & Planning, HEC, Islamabad.



NUST professor honoured in South Africa

Professor Dr. Asghar Qadir from Centre for Advanced Mathematics and Physics (CAMP), NUST was honoured by the School for Computational and Applied Mathematics at University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The professor was recognized during the conference on symmetries, differential equations and applications which he was attending as a plenary speaker. He was awarded for his contribution to research activity of the school at University of Witwatersrand.

PEC accredits engineering programme

Pakistan Engineering Council has accredited the BE Environmental Engineering Programme of NUST School of Environmental Science and Engineering (SCEE). This accreditation is for the batch of 2008.

NUST as a world renowned institute of science and technology offers a vast array of engineering programmes for specialization and pursues their accreditation.

PCST confers awards upon scientists from NUST

Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) has recently conferred the productivity award to scientists, who are a part of the esteemed faculty of National University of Sciences and Technology in different categories based on their research productivity. Dr. Mubasher Jamil from CAMP and Dr. Asghari Maqsood from SCME received this award for year 2011-2012. They were placed as category A Scientists.

Other faculty members who received this honorary award included Iftikhar Hussain Gul (SCME), Muneer Ahmad Rashid (CAMP), Asghar Qadir (CAMP), Safia Akram, Tayyab Kamran, Muhammad Ashraf (ASAB), Tauqeer Ahmed (ASAB), Faiz Ahmed (CAMP), Matloob Anwar (CAMP), Muhammad Ali (ASAB) and

Muhammad Qasim Hayat (ASAB).

PCST gives these awards to Pakistani scientists for producing quality research work at the international level.



Nustians excel in Windows Phone Appathon

Microsoft Pakistan in collaboration with P@SHA and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan organized a Windows Phone Appathon. The competition was based on developing maximum number of Windows Phone 7 applications in approximately 15 days.

As many as 60 students from different universities of Islamabad, including 16 from NUST, participated in the competition. Three students from NUST were also selected as judges and mentors for the contest. The finals were held in COMSATS Chak Shahzad on 31st March and 1st April.

The total number of applications developed in the competition was 367 out of which 222 were developed by SEECs students. Overall, SEECs students remained at the top with a lot of applications and prizes to their credit.



SEECs student wins Excellence as an IT Student Award

Muhammad Wajeed, a student at SEECs was awarded with the 10th Excellence as an IT student Award by Teradata. Teradata National Excellence Award is a highly competitive award for those who produce distinguished work in IT industry. It speaks of the high quality education imparted at NUST that Teradata nominated its student for the award.

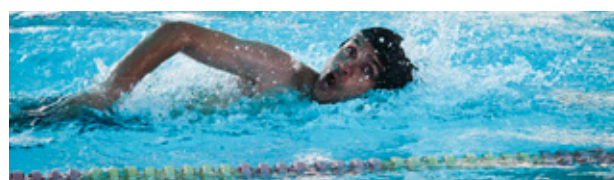
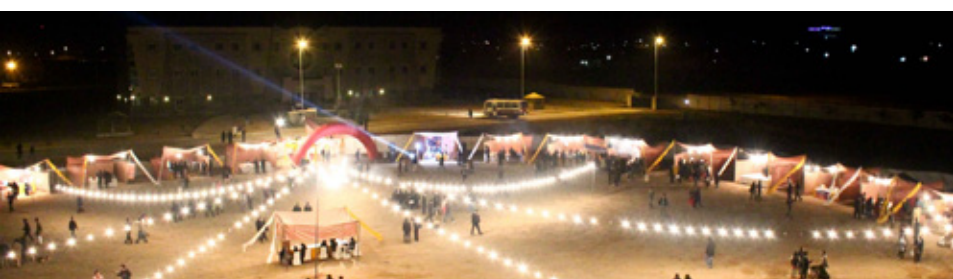
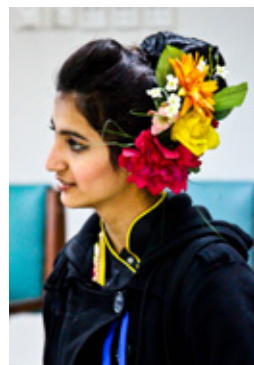
ASAB Faculty Publications

Saheeb Ahmed Kayani, Rehan ul Haq Siddiqui, "Mineralogical and Thermal Analyses of a Bangle Shard from Harrappa, an Indus Valley Settlement in Pakistan", Scientific Annals of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University - Geology Series (AUI-G), Vol. 57, No. 1, July 2011, pp. 69-73.

Saheeb Ahmed Kayani, "Using Combustion Analysis to Determine Origins and Nature of a Rare Meteorite Debris", Military Technologist, Vol. 19, 2009-2010, pp. 46-49.

Saheeb Ahmed Kayani, "X-ray Diffraction and Thermal Analyses of a Bangle Shard from an Indus Valley Settlement", Proceedings of Ninth Swiss Geoscience Meeting (SGM), November 11-13, 2011, Zurich, pp. 115-116.

In a SNAP-SHOT





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