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4

SMME holds DICE Automotive Conference - 2015



8

Earthquake Relief Campaign - 2015



10

SMME-developed Fascia Closure Device . . .

Segments

1 IN THE SPOTLIGHT 3-11

2 CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS 12-20

3 CO-CURRICULARS 21-25

4 COMMUNITY SERVICE 26-28

5 IN A SNAPSHOT 29-30

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Nustians pay tribute to martyrs of APS Peshawar



December 16, 2014 will be remembered as a black day in the history of Pakistan. It was on that day that a group of terrorists martyred as many as 144 people, including 122 students, while injuring several others. It was a brazen and dastardly attack which not only moved the whole nation but also strengthened the resolve of the government, the armed forces and the general public to purge the country of terrorism.

To commemorate the first anniversary of the heart-wrenching incident, a ceremony was held at the main campus of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on December 16, 2015, to pay tribute to the martyrs and their families. The event was attended by students, faculty and staff from all over NUST.

On the occasion, one of the survivors of the incident, who is now enrolled at NUST as an engineering student, narrated the students' ordeal experienced in the face of terrorist attack. He expressed the resolve on the behalf of all his fellow students from APS that they would take revenge on the terrorists by not ceasing to seek education. He expressed how their spirits were high even when the terrorists made every single effort to bring their determination to the ground.

A short video of an interview conducted by Arooba Khan, a NUST student, with the father of two martyrs was also screened. His words moved the whole audience as he expressed his gratitude on his sons not showing their back in the wake of savagery shown by the brutes.

Towards the end, Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar also spoke high of the APS attack victims and their families who had braved the incident with fortitude leaving a message for the oppressors that their courage and determination to rise as a nation would never falter come what may. He also praised the untiring efforts of the armed forces to drive the curse of terrorism out of the motherland. He also spoke about the importance of understanding the true values of Islam to make Pakistan safe and great amidst all odds.

Later, the participants, led by the Rector, held a solidarity walk on the campus. The students were holding placards and banners with slogans expressing their support for the victims of the previous year's attack. The day of commemoration culminated with a candlelight vigil and prayers for the lost souls as well as the strength and protection of the whole nation.

SMME holds “DICE Automotive Conference - 2015”



DICE Automotive Conference - 2015, an annual event co-hosted by NUST School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SMME) and DICE Foundation (USA), kicked off this year at NUST Islamabad Campus on November 26, 2015. The occasion was graced by President of Pakistan Mr Mamnoon Hussain with his presence.

The event's primary purpose was to establish a platform providing opportunity to the university students to showcase their knowledge and skills in the field of automotive industry. DICE-Automotive Conference mobilizes academic institutions conducting research in auto industry to come together and focus on innovation and entrepreneurship with the aim to improve local automotive industry.

Mr Mamnoon Hussain, in his address, acknowledged the efforts of NUST and DICE in bridging the gap between industry and academia, and highlighted the impact of automotive Industry on the economy.

Principal SMME Dr Abdul Ghafoor expressed his gratitude to the guests and sponsors and stressed the need for such collaborations amongst academia, industry, government and entrepreneurs. He also announced the inauguration of DICE Automotive Innovation Center, which is a collective effort of DICE, NUST, NED Karachi, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) and Muhammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU).

Chairpersons of prominent automotive industry organizations also attended the event. The speakers included Dr Khurshid,

Chairman of DICE Foundation, Pakistan, Chairman PAAPAM, Mr Manshaad Ali, CEO Indus Motors, Mr Pervez Ghias and Dr Hiro Fumi Gao, CEO Suzuki Motors. All the speakers highlighted the importance of innovation and discussed the policymaking involved in it.

In his remarks, Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar focused on the importance of the role of academia in industrial and economic development. He talked about the initiatives that NUST had taken in this respect which included ventures like NUST Corporate Advisory Council (CAC), NUST Technology Incubation Center (TIC) and National Science and Technology Park. He also stressed upon the importance of automotive industry and the need for innovation, research and industry-academia linkages.

Besides NUST, the participants hailed from various universities such as Air University, NED, and Dow University to name a few. The projects on display ranged from Robotic Arms and Gesture Controlled Robots to high efficiency, high speed cars. Shell Eco Marathon and Formula Student also took the opportunity to showcase their potential.



Convocations

MCS

The 23rd Convocation of Military College of Signals (MCS) was held on November 21, 2015. Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission graced the occasion as chief guest.

While delivering the convocation address, Chairman HEC congratulated the graduates and their faculty and parents. He stressed upon the need for producing trained scientists and technologists, and transforming the tertiary educational institutions into centers of excellence, with high standards of teaching and a culture of sustained learning.

Commandant MCS, Maj Gen Amjad Ahmed Butt, in his welcome address, presented the college report, highlighting the progress the college had made over the last 6 decades.

Postgraduate degrees were conferred on as many as 74 students in Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering and Information Security. President's Gold Medals were awarded to Danish Ilyas, Maj Ubaid-ur-Rehman Khan, Irum Abdur Rehman, Umar Ghafoor, Khawar Mehmood, Maj Muhammad Sharjeel Zareen and Wajiha Habib.

Undergraduate degrees were awarded to a total of 424 students in Electrical (Telecom) and Software



Engineering. President's Gold Medals were awarded to Sundas Nayab Khalil, Aqsa Hasan Siddiqi, Capt Jamal Ahmed and Capt Wajahat Sultan. Chief of the Army Staff Gold Medals were received by Capt Aftab Hussain, Capt Muhammad Qasim, Capt Jamal Ahmed and Capt Wajahat Sultan. Rector's Gold Medals were awarded to Hameer Abbasi, Aqsa Hasan Siddiqi, Capt Syed Irfan Tasneem and Hasan Iqbal. Chancellor's Silver Medals were awarded to Aabgeenay Khan, Wardah Sarmad, Capt Syed Irfan Tasneem and Usama Zafar for their outstanding performances in their respective degree projects.

Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar, Major General Sohail Abbas Zaidi, HI (M), Signal Officer-in-Chief, faculty members, educationists and a large number of students were also present at the ceremony.

SMME, ASAB and SNS

"Pakistan needs institutions like NUST to exploit the great potential of human resource in the country," said Mr Sikander Mustafa Khan, Chairman Millat Group of Industries, at the convocation ceremony held at NUST Jinnah Auditorium on November 17, 2015, to award BS, MS and MPhil degrees to the students of School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SMME), Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Bio-Sciences (ASAB) and School of Natural Sciences (SNS) in their respective disciplines. He advised the gradu-



Chief Guest, Mr Sikandar Mustafa Khan, Chairman Millat Group of Companies, awarding medals and certificates to the award winners at the convocation

ates to work hard and contribute towards national development. As many as 115 BS and 117 MS / MPhil degrees were awarded on the occasion to the high achievers, besides medals and certificates. Best Teacher and Best Researcher Awards were given to the faculty members for their outstanding performance. Community Service awards were also given to the students and faculty members. Earlier, in his welcome address,

Rector NUST highlighted the major milestones in the growth of the University since its inception in 1991. He underscored the significance and role of higher education in national development and the need for investment in the sector. He lauded the role of Higher Education Commission in bringing qualitative and quantitative changes in the sector. He also spoke about the achievements of NUST as a premier national insti-

tution with international standards. "The University promotes entrepreneurship to create jobs and infuse the spirit of enterprise among the students," he said, while stressing that NUST was a university for the middle and lower middle class, accepting students purely on merit, and supporting talented and needy students through various initiatives.

PNEC



The 27th Convocation of Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC) was held at Bahria Auditorium on 19 November 2015 to commemorate the academic accomplishments of students. Mr Mamnoon Hussain, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan graced the occasion as Chief Guest, first ever visit of any President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Naval College. On arrival the Chief Guest was received by Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah, NI(M), Chief of the Naval Staff, Engineer Muhammad Asghar Hilal Imtiaz Rector NUST, and Cdre Dr Nassar Ikram, SI(M) Com-

mandant PNEC.

288 graduates were awarded degrees at the convocation out of which 43 received Masters Degrees whereas 245 received degrees in the discipline of Bachelors of Engineering and Management Information Systems. To acknowledge the outstanding academic performance of students in their respective disciplines, 33 medals were also awarded to the position holders which included 14 President Gold Medals, 03 Chief of the Naval Staff Gold Medals, 07 Rector Gold Medals and 09 Chancellors Silver Medals. The convocation

was attended by large number of senior officers from Pakistan Navy and distinguished civilian guests. After the convocation ceremony, President Mamnoon Hussain also cut the ribbon of Team PNEC NUST's Prototype Concept, Fuel-Efficient, Car, in order to appreciate their efforts in the automobile sector of Pakistan. The President was greatly inspired by the team's efforts to promote fuel economy and acknowledged the Faculty and students for promoting such healthy activities in the university.

SEECs

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, a remarkable convocation ceremony was held at NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at H-12 NUST Campus, Islamabad. This was the 8th undergraduate convocation of NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to award the degrees to 248 graduating students on completion of their degree in the disciplines of Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, Information and Communication Systems Engineering and Information Technology. The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests from academia, government departments, corporate centers, and the parents of the graduating students. Chief Guest, Mr Nadeem Malik, Country Manager, Microsoft, Pakistan and Rector NUST, Engineer Muhammad Asghar, presided over the convocation. On this occasion, President and Rector gold medals were awarded to outstanding graduates on the basis of academics and projects.

The Chief Guest, Mr Nadeem Malik, Country Manager, Microsoft, Pakistan, in his convocation address, complimented NUST on its excellence and hard work to stimulate research and innovation in the country. He encouraged the fresh graduates by telling that Pakistan is a state full of talent; it is now their duty to surpass the domains of brilliance. He extended heartiest felicitations to the students and their parents on the successful culmination of their career at the university. He showed keen interest in making industrial collaboration with NUST, mentioning that only two universities has been shortlisted for this purpose and NUST is one of them. He highlighted the extraordinary perception people have about

NUST, which makes it the top engineering university of Pakistan.

In his address, Rector NUST, Engineer Muhammad Asghar complimented Principal, Dr M Hassan Zaidi and his dedicated team of extremely accomplished and exceptional people on transforming this premier NUST School into a quality education and research center. He advised students to envisage the need of pragmatism and application of their education, which he said, was a power that lied in their hands now.

Dr Zaidi, in his speech, briefly touched on the progress and achievements of SEECs and the enriching research culture made possible at the school by its highly capable and dedicated faculty. He exhorted the young graduates to remember to live up to the values inculcated by their alma mater by delivering the couplets of his poetry, which accentuated the teachings of Iqbal and Rumi. The awards and medals were distributed to the brilliant students; President's Gold Medal was given to Faria Kalim BESE-2, Syed Muhammad Imaduddin BEE-3 and Azqa Nadeem BSCS-1; while Chancellor's Silver Medal was awarded to Sundus Mariya BESE-2, Anand Kumar BEE-3, Muhammad Talha Imran BEE-3, Amna Farouk BEE-3 and Aakifa Ishtiaq BSCS-1. Rector's Gold Medal was given to Mateen Ahmed BESE-2, Fahad Mubeen BEE-3 and Fubha Manal Burney BSCS-1. The Best Teacher award was given to Dr Nadeem Ahmed (SHoD, DoC) and the Best Researcher award was given to Dr Awais Shibli.

The convocation concluded gracefully, leaving its indelible imprint on the minds of young graduates and their families.



Earthquake Relief Campaign - 2015

A powerful earthquake of 7.5 magnitude on the Richter scale struck major cities of Pakistan on October 26, 2015, leaving at least 279 people dead and injuring over 1300 people. There was widespread damage in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. The most affected areas from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa include Shangla, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Swat and Chitral. Infact, 81 thousands houses got destroyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone. The quake was also felt in the neighboring countries of the region.

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC), under the supervision and support of NUST administration, initiated its earthquake relief campaign right after the disaster. This included hand to hand collection by NCSC council from Headquarters, residential area, departments, *Masjid-e-Rehmat* and cafeterias inside sector H-12 for three consecutive weeks. Collection of funds included contribution from NUST Volunteers Club (NVC), College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (C of E & ME) and funds collected through Buzz Night conducted by NUST Science Society.

The army authorities in Swat indicated the need for bedding and warm clothing as food and medicines had already been provided in sufficient quantities. Accordingly, residents of Islamabad Campus and



College of E & ME gave a very encouraging response.

As a result, Rs 6.5 Lac in cash and a reasonable quantity of clothing items were collected. As many as 200 sets (containing quilt, pillows, and sheets) of bedding were arranged from Faisalabad and a number of gents/ladies shawls and sweaters along with colored pencils were purchased by the students from the local market.

After necessary coordination, NUST team was sent to Swat on November 22, 2015. They were warmly welcomed by the army authorities. Later, a distribution stall was set up and over 60 deserving families were handed over warm clothing and beddings by the NUST team. Leftover items were handed over to the army for further distribution in the far-flung areas. The kind gesture by NUST was appreciated by the victims.



A day with national heroes



NUST Adventure Club celebrated “A Day with National Heroes” to pay tribute to the champions of the green and white flag at the Jinnah auditorium on December 14, 2015.

The guests, accompanied by Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar, were extended a standing ovation as soon as they entered the auditorium. The event began with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem. After this, an interactive session began with Nustians who managed to capture the attention of the whole auditorium with their lively nature. They introduced the beautiful culture of Gilgit-Baltistan and its integration in Pakistani roots. They informed the audience about the overwhelming achievements of our National Heroes and invited them to the dice.

The first speaker was Mr Hassan Sadpara who de-

livered an incredibly sentimental speech depicting love for the motherland. Next up was Moin Khan, a lively and extremely inspirational personality that had the whole audience stirred with every word he said. He also showed a personally made video of his travels with an Australian man along the farthest reach of the northern regions.

Mr Ashraf Aman then talked about the growth of the tourism industry of Pakistan in the last 35 years. Last but not the least was Mr Jawwad Sharif who screened the trailer of his marvelous documentary with Ms Iara Lee “K-2 and the Invisible Footmen” that showed the unimaginable labors that High Altitude Porters go through to summit K-2. Later the esteemed guests responded to the queries raised from amongst the audience.

C³A arranges session by HR consultants

Center for Career Counseling and Advisory (C³A) arranges different events for disseminating awareness and information among students and NUST employees, regarding international higher education programs and application procedures. In this series, C³A arranged a session in collaboration with HR consultants who provided detailed information about the application and visa procedures for the foreign universities of the USA, UK, Australia and Canada. The session aimed at gearing up the career counselors and guidance practitioners with updated information to facilitate their students in pursuing higher studies abroad. The target audience for the session were career counselors, psychologists, national and international liaison officers of different NUST schools and faculty of C³A.



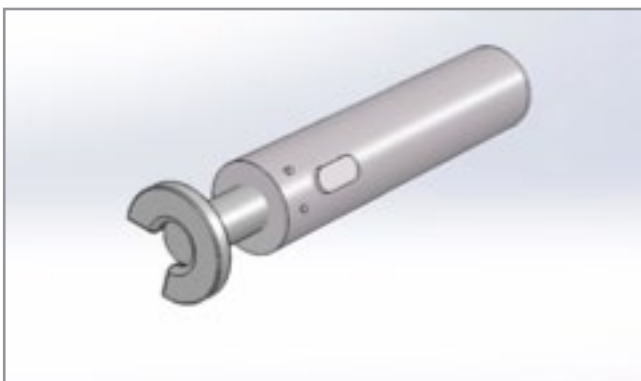
NUST signs MoU with Senate Secretariat for internship program

An MoU was signed between NUST and Senate Secretariat for the paid internship program on December 23, 2015. The program will offer a great opportunity to students and fresh graduates in the academic disciplines of Law, Social Sciences and Management Sciences to practically experience the parliamentary system and interact with lawmakers and assist them in Senate sessions. The duration of internship may vary between 2 to 6 month as per interns' choice.



SMME-developed Fascia Closure Device delivered to Shifa International Hospital

SMME and Shifa International Hospital had signed an MoU to expand bilateral R&D relationship. In this connection, SMME has successfully developed a functional prototype of Fascia Closure Device, which has been delivered to Shifa International Hospital, for the closure of abdominal incisions and prevention of needle stick injuries in highly frequent surgical procedures. The device precisely replicates traditional hand suturing techniques and prevents accidental needle sticks by containing the sharp point of the needle in a protective cartridge when not in use.



TIC Incubatee earns laurels



Umer Adnan, an incubatee at NUST Technology Incubation Center, has earned several awards for his product: a small device collar called "Cowlar" for the cows and cattle. The device monitors the temperature of cows, thus alerting the owner of the cow to take necessary measures accordingly. Cowlar has the added feature of enhancing milk yield. His product was a national award winner at Future Agro Challenge; Runner-up at Pakistan Innovation Foundation; First prize winner at Google HackFair; and national award winner at The Challenge Cup. It was also one of the top 30 start-ups at SLUSH Finland and was selected in Blackbox 2016, USA.

RCMS faculty member earns PhD

Ammar Mushtaq, a lecturer at RCMS, defended his PhD dissertation titled, "Numerical solutions of nonlinear radiative heat transfer problems for boundary layer flows" in November 2015. Ammar's research, including twelve ISI indexed journal articles with cumulative I.F Σ 21 and citations > 50, was supervised by Dr Miraj Mustafa Hashmi. Professor Dr. Saleem Asghar, an eminent scientist in the field of Mathematics attended his oral defense.



NUST Mentorship Program

NUST Industry Liaison Office in collaboration with NUST Alumni Office has launched a NUST Mentorship Program for the students to interact with the university's alumni, industry partners and other resource persons to get guidance on career planning and higher education. The offices jointly arranged NUST Mentorship Talk Series at Military College of Engineering (MCE), Risalpur. Entrepreneur, Mr Jibran Hasmi, Managing Director Encon Pakistan encouraged the students towards self-employment. Around 100 students attended the session.

Iqbal Day celebrated at NUST Girls Primary School, Darya Khan

Allama Iqbal Day was celebrated at NUST Girls Primary School Darya Khan on November 9, 2015 which was attended by students, mothers of the students and some invited guest teachers from other schools of Darya Khan. Students participated in the event through different activities like speeches, stage performances on national songs and different skits. At the end of the event students, mothers and guests were entertained with refreshments.



Dr Hashmat completes his post-doctorate

Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, Principal / Dean NIPCONS, has recently completed his post-doctorate pursued at National Defence University (NDU) from March 2012 to March 2014. During his post-doctorate, besides submitting his main research paper on "Prospects of Enhanced Cooperation among the Muslim World", Dr Hashmat also published an article titled "Need for Enhanced Cooperation among the Muslims in Contemporary World" in Margalla Papers 2014. Moreover, he taught a couple of courses to MPhil classes at FCS/ NDU and delivered lectures at different international universities as well.





International conference on “Post Conflict Rehabilitation”



A two-day international conference on “Post Conflict Rehabilitation” was held at Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from November 10 to 11, 2015 in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Pakistan. Speakers from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Austria presented papers on the subject covering a range of aspects in the area. Mr Peter Felten, Deputy Chief of Mission, German Embassy Islamabad was chief guest at the inaugural session. Mr Neil Buhne, Resident Head of UNDP delivered the keynote address on the second day. Renowned scholars such as Brig (R) Agha Gul, Former Vice Chancellor Balochistan University as well as several scholars from multiple well-reputed universities presented their papers.

Principal NIPCONS, Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, delivered the vote of thanks at concluding ceremony. Afterwards, Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar, distributed certificates among the participants.

MCS holds “National Software Engineering Conference - 2015”

Military College of Signals organized National Software Engineering Conference— NSEC 2015 on December 17, 2015. The one-day conference was aimed to create Software Engineering awareness and exchange information at national level regarding globally critical domains of Software Engineering among execu-

tives and professionals from academia, government and corporate sectors.

NSEC-2015 was particularly focused on recent developments in Software Engineering technologies and the best management practices, along with their applications to achieve secure IT infrastructure and organizational performance. The forum provided a platform to learn about latest technological evaluations in the field of Software Engineering. The conference was a multidimensional event focusing on series of technical presentations including talks by researchers from academia and industry.

The conference was largely attended by scientists, representatives of industry and academia. This helped a great deal in the formulation of new strategies for the future and in developing comprehension regarding organizational governance through the



concept of Software Engineering and necessary skills for its gainful implementation. Participants showed keen interest during proceedings of the conference. Commandant Military College of Signals Major General Amjad Ahmed Butt, graced the opening ceremo-

ny with his presence. In his speech, he highlighted that Military College of Signals, over a period of time, had emerged as an icon in the field of Software Engineering.

Conference on Information Assurance & Cyber Security - 2015 at MCS

Military College of Signals (MCS), organized Conference on Information Assurance & Cyber Security- CIACS 2015 on December 18, 2015. CIACS-2015 was specially focused on recent developments in information security technologies and the best management practices, along with their applications to achieve secure IT infrastructure and organizational performance.

Inspector General Communication & Informa-

tion Technology Branch, Lieutenant General Nazir Ahmed Butt, HI (M), graced the closing ceremony of the event with his presence. He declared the conference as a valuable opportunity to network with peers and to get acquainted with the latest techniques and technological developments in the field of Information Security. He congratulated MCS and organizers of the conference on successful execution of a national-level conference.



PDC organizes “Business Communication Workshop”

Professional Development Centre (PDC) organized a two-day workshop on “Business Communication” at Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) on 29th & 30th December, 2015. The target audience was professionals from Mid-level managers to senior executives representing NDC, MOL, NESCOM & Institute of Chartered Accountant of Pakistan (ICAP). The workshop was announced by participants as helpful in both brushing up their core communication skills and learning high-impact way to communicate within and



outside the organization. The resource person was Mr Furqan Shamsi who is a certified trainer and holds Master of Applied Sci-

ences degree. Being a trainer and a skilled professional, he has varied experience of industry and academia.

NUST celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week

NUST celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week from November, 16 to 22, 2015. For this, NUST Industry Liaison Office organized Entrepreneur Talk Series on 19th November, 2015 at School of Chemical & Materials Engineering (SCME). Around 200 final year students participated in the session. The main objective of the session was to motivate students towards self-employment since, being employed is becoming an ever

increasing challenge in today's competitive environment. NUST Alumni who are entrepreneurs were invited as Guest Speakers to share their entrepreneurial experience with the young minds.



ASAB faculty attends First Belarusian-Pakistan Scientific Workshop

Dr Muhammad Tahir, Assistant Professor and HoD Department of Plant Biotechnology, ASAB was nominated by Rector NUST to attend "The First Belarusian-Pakistan Scientific Workshop" at Minsk, Belarus. Main objectives of the workshop were to bring together scientific ideas from the two countries, Belarusian and Pakistan, in order to promote future collaboration and strengthen scientific cooperation in academia. Dr M Tahir visited different institutions, took part in group discussions and also delivered a presentation on the activities of plant virology lab and plant biotechnology research at ASAB. Belarusian scientists greatly appreciated the ongoing research at Plant Biotechnology Department, ASAB. Deputy Chairman National Academy of Sciences Belarus (NASB) showed keen interest in initiating joint scientific ventures with ASAB. The Deputy Director for Science and Innovation, Minsk, Belarus is currently in the process of preparing a draft for collaboration with ASAB.



C³A holds “British Council Counsellors’ Symposium”

NUST Centre for Career Counseling and Advisory (C³A) in collaboration with the British Council held a symposium, “British Council Counsellors’ Symposium”, at NBS seminar hall on November 19, 2015. Participants from all over the country attended the symposium which had been supported by Education UK in partnership with NUST, Durham University, Study in Scotland and University of London External Programmes. The symposium was as part of a regular series by the British Council, a unique annual event that provides professional development opportunities for career advisers, student counsellors, consultants and educationists.

The session commenced with welcome notes from the host institutions. The chief guest, Director Publishing and Student Affairs Dr Safdar Ali Shah, formally welcomed all the dignitaries. Mr Stuart Easter, from the University of Edinburgh, described the prominence of Scotland as a higher education destination in the field of career counselling. A number of participants asked questions from Mr Easter on various aspects ranging from



finances to the weather in Scotland, to which he responded in depth. Mr Saad Wasim from University of London talked at length about external education programs in general and the University of London External Programmes in Pakistan in particular. Two former students from University of London External Programs were also present who spoke briefly about their experiences. Later, Mr Wasim, answered the questions raised by the audience. Ms Sharne Proctor from Durham University also addressed the audience on “Effective planning and subject selection for higher education in the UK”.

ASAB faculty wins Research Grant from HEC under National Research Grant Program for Universities

Dr Saadia Zahid, Assistant Professor at Department of Healthcare Biotechnology, Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB) has been awarded research grant worth Rs. 2.89 M, under National Research Grant program for Universities (NRPU) of HEC on her submitted research proposal. The research project is focused on complete elucidation of the various therapeutic effects of Amphetamine, a commonly used psycho-stimulant, and natural compounds extracted from local medicinal plants having psycho-stimulant properties on mice models of Alzheimer’s disease. The project is planned to be completed in a period of 2 years and will be conducted at Neurobiology Research Laboratory, ASAB.



Seminar on “Prevailing Situation of Water Resources in Pakistan” held at NIT



Pakistan, once a water-surplus country, is now a water deficit country. Rainfall is neither sufficient nor regular to meet the growing needs of water. About 70 per cent of the annual rainfall occurs in the months of July to September. The surface water resources of Pakistan mainly consist of Indus River and its tributaries, which bring in 138 million acre feet (MAF) of water annually. The Indus River alone provides 65% of the total river flow, while the share of Jhelum and Chenab is 17% and 19% respectively.

In order to address this issue, a lecture on “Prevailing Situation of Water Resources in Pakistan” was held on 4th November, 2015 at NIT Auditorium for the UG 2012 and 2013 Civil Engineering Batch of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering. The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr Tariq Altaf, currently serving as head of Water Resource Department at NESPAK, from Lahore.

The guest speaker stated that Pakistan had been facing a continued drought for last three years. It was so severe that precipitation was significantly less than or closer to the historical minima. This reduced the inflow of snowmelt from the catchment areas of the Indus River ultimately resulting in a significant reduction in the annual river flow of the Indus basin, leading to water crisis in the country and inter-provincial water conflicts. The annual river flow downstream Kotri Barrage was also less than the historical minimum flows of 10 BCM, adversely affecting the downstream ecosystem. Thus information of water resource is essential for management of agriculture under the drought conditions.

Guest speaker was also shown different ongoing projects pertaining to water resource problems in Pakistan.

In the end, a question answer session was held in order to clear the doubts of the audience.



Seminar on “Instructional Theory and Techniques” held at MCE

A one-day seminar on “Instructional Theory and Techniques” was held at MCE on November 14, 2015. Major C. L. Howard, of British Army, was the resource person of the seminar. He remained instructor in UK Military Training Team (UK MTT) at the college for various CEMS courses. The aim of the seminar was to develop instructional skills of the participants. There were a total of 38 participants in the seminar.



MCE organizes seminar on “Sustainable Urban Transportation System: Concept, Challenges & Opportunities”



Many cities in Pakistan are plagued with seemingly endless congestion, environmental degradation, road accidents and lengthy commute times, thus compromising on overall urban mobility. Sustainability in urban transportation is quite complicated and is linked to many factors including long-term development of urban infrastructure, model split, land use planning paradigms and related policy measures. There is a need to reinforce knowledge on sustainable urban transport; based on the principles of socio-economic and environmental factors, understand the concepts of transportation demand and supply management, recognize congestion mitigation measures through developing mass transit systems, and related policy measures. To educate on the subject, a one-day seminar titled “Sustainable Urban Transportation System – Concept, Challenges & Opportunities” was held at Military College of Engineering, Risalpur under the acquiescence of Pakistan Engineering Council. Semi-



nar was attended by Civil Engineers, professionals in the field and MS Transportation Engineering Students of the College.

The resource person, Lt.Col Dr Muhammad Irfan conducted the seminar. The seminar focused on “Urban Transport Sustainability and its Issues, Performance Indicators and Challenges”, “Transportation Demand and Supply” and “Congestion Mitigation through Developing Mass Transit System and related Policy Measures”.

Col. Shahid Iqbal, Chief Instructor/Dean Civil engineering wing (MCE) concluded the seminar and stressed upon the need for awareness of different stakeholders about the importance of transportation system and advised the participants to spread the knowledge gained during the seminar. He thanked the participants and appreciated the efforts of resource persons and organizers of the seminar.

Seminar on “Role of GIS & Remote Sensing in Disaster Management” at MCE

Geographical Information System (GIS) provides essential Disaster Management decision support and analysis capabilities. To educate professionals and MS Disaster Management students, a one-day seminar titled “Role of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Management” was held at Military College of Engineering, Risalpur on December 19, 2015 under the compliance of Pakistan Engineering Council. The seminar was attended by civil engineers, fire engineers, architects, building owners, contractors and building officials. The resource person, Lieutenant Colonel Engr Fawad Akram conducted the seminar.



The seminar focused on “Cognizance about Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS in Disaster Management”, “Application of GIS in Hydrological Modeling and latest trends in Scientific Research around the theme of Water” and “Application of CPT in Design and Analysis of Foundation Systems”.

Commandant MCE, Major General Muhammad Aj-

mal Iqbal emphasized upon the need for awareness of different stakeholders about the importance of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Management during the closing remarks. He appreciated attendance of participants who came from across the nation to acquire knowledge and share their ideas on a technology so critical for emergency preparedness.

ASAB faculty delivers talk at University of Bonn, Germany

Dr M Tahir, Assistant Professor/HoD Department of Plant Biotechnology, ASAB, was invited to attend a workshop titled “The inter-disciplinary workshop on research and curriculum development in Pakistan” at University of Bonn, under the financial assistance of DAAD, Germany.

The aim of workshop was to bring together research and academia leaders from Pakistan and Germany to discuss and extend mutual cooperation. Dr M Tahir delivered a presentation on “The potential of plant biotechnology research in Pakistan” and highlighted the research areas which could be a focus for potential collaboration between the two countries. The visit also provided him an opportunity to meet with representatives from Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, German Research Society and DAAD for possible funding of shared projects.



ASAB student awarded research fellowship at UNSW, Australia

Adeena Shafique, a postgraduate student enrolled in MS Healthcare Biotechnology program under the supervision of Dr Saadia Zahid at Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB) has been awarded research fellowship under Practicum Exchange Program at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia to carry out her MS research work. Ms Shafique successfully completed her coursework with a CGPA of 4/4 at ASAB and is currently working in Lowy Cancer Research Centre at



UNSW. Ms Shafique, is the first Master's student of ASAB who has acquired a foreign fellowship at one of Australia's leading research and teaching universities, ranked 46th in the 2015 QS World University Rankings. The securing of this scholarship by their student is a source of pride for ASAB and NUST.

Seminar on “Resume Writing”

Miss Atiya Zulfiqar of Career Development Center (CDC), NUST delivered a lecture on “Resume Writing” on December 3, 2015 at SCEE auditorium. This session was arranged for UG 2013 Civil Engineering Batch of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering. The guest speaker elucidated the methods and techniques for good resume writing. She pinpointed the mistakes made by graduates who are in quest for jobs. Resume, being a marketing tool needs to be tailored according to job description so that it responds to the specific requirements of job you're opting for. Aim of the resume is to win an interview. In the end, a question-and-answer session was held to further clarify any sort of ambiguity.



Seminar on “Hydropower Potential in Pakistan”

Pakistan is endowed with plenty of natural resources, including water resources. Besides water supply and irrigation, water resources are also utilized to produce electricity. National water resources have rich potential for hydropower generation, estimated as 60000 MW which could be economically harnessed. The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) has already been successful in attracting significant investment in developing hydropower projects, which are currently at different stages of implementation.

In an effort to cultivate deeper understanding on the subject, a lecture on “Hydro Power Potential in Pakistan” was arranged on November 4, 2015 in NIT Auditorium for UG 2014 Civil Engineering Batch of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering. The guest speaker for the occasion was Engr Munawar Iqbal who is working as a Director in Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB).

Guest speaker on the occasion first introduced the concept of hydrology and management to the students. He then emphasized the importance of water in energy sector.

The speaker advocated hydropower as the best available option in the current scenario of meeting challenges of projected future energy demands of our country as it is sustainable, reliable, renewable, clean, low cost and indigenous. It is therefore

imperative to put all-out efforts towards development of the untapped hydropower potential without further delay. Accordingly, there is a transition in policy priority i.e. shifting from development of gas/oil based thermal power plants with merits of comparatively shorter construction time and lower capital investment to hydropower generation.

The guest speaker mentioned that Pakistan is a country having abundant hydropower resources and the Government is keenly facilitating private investors to promote hydropower generation in the Country. Pakistan is endowed with hydropower resources of about 60000 MW, almost all of which lie in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K). The hydropower resources in Pakistan are mainly located in the mountainous areas in northern region of the Country. Numerous promising hydropower sites have been identified in the region of Gilgit-Baltistan. The total installed capacity of the hydropower projects in the country is about 6720 MW, out of which 3849 MW is in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1699 MW in Punjab, 1039 MW in AJ&K and 133 MW in Gilgit-Baltistan region.

In the end a QA session was held to cater for the curiosities of an enthusiastic audience of upcoming engineering professionals.

Bazm-e-Pakistan organizes “*Mashal-e-Rah*” at SCEE

NUST *Bazm-e-Pakistan*, in collaboration with Renaissance by Social Innovation Pakistan (RSIP), organized an interactive session on peace and role of state in the light of Islamic principles on November 18, 2015 at SCEE seminar hall.

The president of NBPK delivered an enthralling inaugural speech to start the event. Afternoon term took on a lighter note, as the chairperson of RSIP, Mr Muhammad Ayub Ayubi, conducted a session of Human Bingo to entertain the crowd and encourage their participation.

Afterwards, distinguished Islamic scholar affiliated with Understanding Islam UK (UIUK), Dr Khalid Zaheer, took the stage and shared his wisdom by

answering a series of questions posed by RSIP representatives.

Amidst enlightening discussion, the scholar highlighted the role that state has to play in order to prevent the spread of religious bias. Furthermore, he discouraged religious majorities for forcing their beliefs on minorities and advised peaceful religious propagation in Pakistan. Referring to the recent onset of terrorism in Europe, he advised the audience to refrain from entertaining an extremist perspective. At the end, as well as clarifying the meaning of certain ambiguous *Quranic* verses, he disapproved the spread of varying interpretations of ayahs when it came to understanding the true meaning of the Holy Quran.

Later on, individual queries related to Islam in today's society were handled with great aplomb by the guest speaker. Director Publishing and Student Affairs expressed his gratitude to the speaker and esteemed guests, bringing the ceremony to a close. The speaker appreciated NUST *Bazm-e-Pakistan* and RSIP for arranging the event in such a befitting manner. Afterwards, guests were honored with souvenirs.



PDC organizes “PMP Certification Exam” Preparatory Course

Professional Development Centre (PDC) organized a 35 Hours Preparatory Course for “PMP Certification Exam” from 12-16th December, 2015 for working professionals. The course covered essential knowledge on the nine areas of PMBoK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) 5th edition of PMI of USA. Mr Muhammad Kamran Khalid, a qualified PMP and a Six Sigma Black Belt from USA was the resource person of the workshop.





24 Hours of Reality

NUST Environment Club arranged the event “24 Hours of Reality” on November 13, 2015 at SEECs seminar hall, where talks about climate change were held. Climate change is an important issue as it affects us in many ways. Ms Salma, a final-year student of Electrical Engineering at NUST and cultural ambassador at the US Department of State spoke about the current climatic changes and how they were affecting the world at large. She has been trained by the for-

mer US Vice President, Al-Gore and the Climate Reality Project itself to serve as a Volunteer Climate Reality Leader for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. She connected with the audience by discussing about the project climate change and probed the audience to think about how climate change is a reality which hits close to home, in addition to being an international problem.



EME College shines at “A Run for Your Money”

“A Run for Your Money” was an event organized by Shell Pakistan as a part of preparations for the prestigious Shell Eco Marathon to be held in Manila, Philippines from March 3-6, 2016. University teams from all across Pakistan converged on Islamabad for the presentation round on Nov 3, 2015. These teams were judged by a panel of experts from companies like Toyota, Suzuki, Millat Tractors and Shell itself. From a total of 12 teams, Team NUSTAG from NUST College of EME got second position overall, winning a total prize money of 0.75 million rupees. The car design however stood first in the urban concept category beating teams from PNEC and PIEAS, who were part of the Marathon last year. The students who represented team NUSTAG included NS Sarim Khan and NS Haris Mahmood, while Lecturer Syed Fahad Hassan represented NUST in the judging panel.



Tribute to Iqbal

November 9, 2015 was marked as the 138th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammed Iqbal. To pay a tribute to the poet of East, NUST Book Club organized the event: Tribute to "Iqbal: Single Liner". Entries were invited online, i.e., a single sentence to remember Iqbal as a poet and philosopher. More than 50 entries were received, of which 5 were shortlisted and eventually a winner selected. The event allowed students to express their admiration and respect for the man who dreamt a revolutionary dream.



NBC holds Comic Con

NUST Book Club (NBC) organized Comic Con to appreciate comics and related art forms on December 7, 2015. The event began at 5 pm and continued till 10pm in the IGIS Ground. The colourful event was made even more epic by the inclusion of activities like cosplay, e-gaming, photo-booth, anime and competitions. Curfew time was extended for hostelites and transport facility was provided for day scholars for the convenience of all participants.



ASAB student shines at "Conference on Biological Sciences" - Faisalabad

Adeena Shafique, a postgraduate student carrying out her MS project under the supervision of Dr Saadia Zahid at the Department Healthcare Biotechnology, Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), attended the 2nd National Students' Conference on Biological Sciences held at National Institute of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), Faisalabad.

The three-day (October 12 to 14, 2015) conference included various talks from renowned scien-

tists all around the world and several competitions for the students. Ms Shafique participated in the oral presentation competition and competed with 38 post-graduate students from all over Pakistan. She presented her Bachelor's final year project research work, carried out under the supervision of Dr Saadia Zahid and made NUST proud by securing the third position in the competition. She was awarded with a certificate and cash prize.

ASAB bags first position at First National Biotechnology Quiz Competition



Aneeqa Noor, a postgraduate student at Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), attended the 2nd National Students' Conference on Biological Sciences held at National Institute of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), Faisalabad. The three-day conference from October 12 to 14, 2015, included various talks from renowned scientists all around the world and several competitions for the students. Ms Noor participated in the First National Biotechnology Quiz Competition and competed with around a hundred and fifty postgraduate students from all over Pakistan and secured first position. She was awarded with a certificate and cash prize.

NBPK holds orientation for new executives

NUST *Bazm-e-Pakistan* (NBPK) warmly welcomed new executives at the orientation ceremony held on December 10, 2015. Held at NIT seminar hall, the ceremony was hosted by Asim Saeed and Hafeez Ullah. Besides the executive body attendees, the audience included faculty advisor of NBPK Mr Asad and office bearers.



Trip to Margalla Green Farm

In order to demonstrate practical concepts of sustainable agriculture to the students of ASAB, an educational trip to Margalla Green Farm near Fateh Jang was organised on 9th December, 2015. The visitors included students accompanied by ASAB faculty members Dr Rabia Amir, Dr Tehseen Alam and Mr Salik Hasan Aslam (course instructor). The tour provided the students an excellent learning experience and enabled them to witness practical application of methods used in agriculture.



SPORTS

Hockey

Intra-NUST Hockey (Men) Competition 2015 -16 was organized at CAE, Risalpur from Nov 6 - 8, 2015. Four teams (IMCE, CAE, MCS and College of EME) participated in the event. The final was played between CAE and MCE which CAE won by 2-1. Gp Capt Nadir Munir HoD, PCE CAE, was chief guest at the final and handed over winner trophy to CAE team.



Football

As many as ten teams (SCME, ASAB, SNS, IESE, NICE, S3H/RCMS, NBS, SADA, SEECS and SMME) took part in On-campus Football (Men) Competition 2015 – 16, held at NUST Gymnasium from Nov 6 to 12 Nov, 2015. The final was played between SMME and NICE which SMME won by 4 - 3. Dr Abdul Ghafoor, Principal SMME, was chief guest at finals and gave away winner trophy to the SMME Team.



Basketball

Intra-NUST Basketball (Men) Competition 2015 - 16 was organized by College of EME under the supervision of NUST Sports Branch at Indoor Hall, EME, Rawalpindi from Nov 13 to 15. A total of five teams (MCE, CAE, Islamabad Campus, EME and MCS) participated in the event. The final was played between Islamabad Campus and MCE which Islamabad Campus won by 40 - 36. Brig Farooq-e-Azam Director R&D EME College was chief guest at finals and handed over winner trophy to Islamabad Campus team.



Meanwhile, Intra-NUST Basketball (Women) Competition 2015 - 16 was organized by College of EME under the supervision of NUST Sports Branch at Indoor Hall, EME, Rawalpindi from Nov 13 to 15, 2015. Teams from Islamabad Campus and College of EME took part in the event. The final was played between Islamabad Campus and EME which Islamabad Campus won by 38 - 8. Brig Farooq-e-Azam Director R&D College of EME was chief guest at finals and handed over winner trophy to the Islamabad Campus team.



Chess

On-campus Chess (Men) Competition 2015 - 16 was organized at SEECS auditorium, Islamabad from Nov 10 to 11, 2015. As many as 10 teams (SCME, ASAB, SNS, IESE, NICE, SMME, NBS, SADA, SEECS and CAS-EN) participated in the event. The final was played between IESE and SCME which IESE won by 3 - 0. Mr Gul Azhar, DD Hostels NUST, was chief guest at finals. He handed over winner trophy to IESE team.





NUST team renovates school at policelines

A team of 30 students accompanied by 50 workers from NUST visited Islamabad Model School for Boys located in the policelines, Islamabad. Director Administration, Mr Arif Siddique and Deputy Director Administration, Mr Zubair supervised the activities along with Faculty Head NCSC Dr Muhammad Safdar.

The group was split up in teams and each one was assigned a specific task. One group decided to take on the classrooms and began painting the walls and the ceilings, while simultaneously the professional workers began their work repairing the window panes, electrical wirings and installing fans. Another group set out to prune the trees, clearing the landscape and uprooting dead tree trunks. One batch of students joined the workers as they lifted up the walls and plastered them. Meanwhile, a group of girls sat down to paint the furniture being repaired by the carpenter. Sanitary



facilities of the bathrooms were restored and roofs were installed on them. The school entrance was tended to as well; the ground was leveled off and the general area cleared. These activities were carried out on the next day from morning till evening until the whole school was fully renovated. This also included the plaster and paint of the walls and the repainting and installation of the school sign board.

NCSC Blood Donation Drive - 2015

NUST Community Services Club (NCSC) in collaboration with Armed Forces Institute of Transfusion (AFIT) organized a two-day blood donation camp at the University's main campus. The event was held from December 15 to 16 2015. The organizers were kept busy the whole time by a steady stream of donors willing to fulfil their civic duty.

A high standard of hygiene was maintained and proper care was taken during the storage and transport of the collected blood. Safety and cleanliness of the utensils used was also ensured. By the end of day 2, the Wall of Donors got filled with post-its containing quirky and heroic messages from



donors.

The donors were properly screened for medical fitness before being allowed to donate. They were required to take a blood test and get their weight checked. Although numerous people showed up with the intention to donate,

but several were declared unfit. Despite the fact, 227 pints of blood were collected.

All the donors were given refreshments in order to help them recover fully. Transport facility was also available for the donors.

Fempower: an initiative for women empowerment

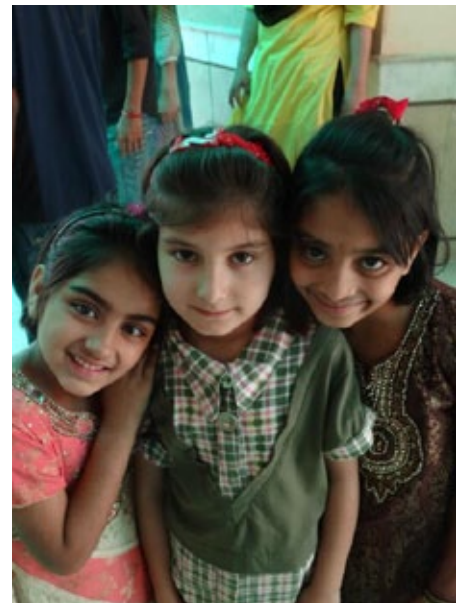
Fempower is an ambitious initiative for women empowerment taken by a group of university students using the platform of NUST Community Service Club. They aim to use the pervasive influence of social media and its wide outreach to raise the plight of women in need. The team covers stories of individuals in troublesome circumstances to share with the millions of users of social media.

Ever since its launch, the campaign has brought forth 7 such stories. The team has made a neutral bank account titled "fempower" where all the donations can be made. As of now, one lady has been enabled to pay back her debt, while sewing machines were provided to two others allowing them to earn respectable income.



Orphans Know More: a project of NCSC

The first visit to Agoush Orphanage under the project "Orphans know more" took place on December 20. The volunteers were warmly welcomed by Mr Bilal Saeed, the administrator of Agoush orphanage, Rawalpindi. He gave the volunteers a brief introduction of Agoush and how it became what it was that day. The volunteers visited the student mess hall, living room, classrooms and bedrooms which were well furnished. After a thorough survey of the buildings, the team finally met the kids who were on the top floor of the 3-storey building. They were eagerly waiting for NCSC volunteers with beaming faces. There was a warm handshake and introduction session between NCSC volunteers and the little ones. The children were pumped up and full of energy.



Renowned philanthropist delivers lecture at SMME

Dr Patricia's Omidian, a renowned philanthropist, delivered a lecture at SMME on December 01, 2015. Dr Patricia has not only developed programs on trauma, psycho-social health but has also conducted research on anthropology of emotion in Pakistan and Afghanistan. During the session, she asked a few questions to the responsive and eager students about the current issues going on in Pakistan. She suggested various strategies and techniques for personal grooming of students. The session was very informative and was well-received by the students.



“Mural Painting” project

Mural painting is a CSL Project aimed to improve the conditions of walls by cleaning and painting them for an attractive and refreshing look. In this connection, the walls of two schools, SAAYA School F-12 and Islamabad Model School for Boys G-11/2 were selected on the basis of their poor condition. The purpose was to make the classroom conditions neat and to give the walls a clean look. Amidst dust and dirt, brushes and rollers were used to whitewash the walls. By the time the participants were done with their work, the walls were presenting a revitalizing and beautiful look.



Vocalize Your Talent 2015

The annual event “Vocalize Your Talent” took place in the NIT seminar Hall on December 22, 2015. The event attracted about 70 students from various schools and colleges of NUST. In total, 24 students had the honor of qualifying the auditions and earned a chance to exhibit their talents in oratory and Naat reciting.



C³A student completes placement at Sir Syed Ideal School

Rashida Maqsood, a student of MS Career Counselling & Education Program, completed her placement at Sir Syed Ideal School from November 9 to 27. She conducted a number of workshops including three each on counselling skills and lesson planning with primary and secondary school teachers. Her work was widely appreciated by the teachers, management and the school principal.



5

IN A SNAPSHOT



- Principal NIPCONS Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat attending Annual General Meeting of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC) in Brasilia, Brazil from September 28 to October 2, 2015.



- Professional Development Centre (PDC) organized a three-day workshop on “Management Skills for Mid-Career Professionals” at Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship from December 16 to 18, 2015.



- Dr Amjad Ali of ASAB has secured HEC research grants for two different projects, each worth Rs. 24,86,682.



- C3A student M Ahmar Khan conducting workshop on “Effective Classroom Management”

- ASAB Students' Club, in collaboration with ASAB administration, organized a "Declamation Contest and Public Speaking Workshop" on December 14th, 2015 at ASAB auditorium.



- Visit of H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo, Italian Ambassador to Pakistan January 19, 2016.



- Dr Jamil Ahmad, HoD Computational Sciences at RCMS, has been awarded the prestigious HEC Best Teacher Award for the year 2014 by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan.



- Center for Counseling and Career Advisory (C³A) conducted two-hour seminar on "Effective Interpersonal Communication Skills" with NUST faculty and NG staff.



- A research paper titled "First principles study of the adsorption and dissociation mechanisms of H₂S on TiO₂ anatase (001) surface", authored by Dr Naeem Shahzad of MCE, has been published in RSC Advances.

- Ammar Mushtaq, a lecturer at RCMS-NUST, successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled "Numerical solutions of nonlinear radiative heat transfer problems for boundary layer flows" in November, 2015.



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Students, faculty and staff of all the campuses of NUST are encouraged to send their Essays, Poems, Book Reviews, Caricatures, Short Stories and Quality Jokes for inclusion in the forthcoming issue of the magazine.

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