

IN PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

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SUPARCO AND ITU EXPLORE AREAS OF COLLABORATION

An esteemed delegation from SUPARCO, the National Space Agency of Pakistan, visited Information Technology University and called on Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian. The delegation was led by Member Space included Director General Irfan Aslam, Director General Muhammad Imran and Director Mr. Syed Abdul Basit Bukhari. This meeting helped the participants strengthen the existing collaboration between SUPARCO and ITU and further explore areas of mutual interests.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian was accompanied by Professor and Dean of Faculty of Engineering Dr. Tauseef Taugeer, Professor Department of Computer and Software Engineering Dr. Rehan Hafiz, Adjunct Faculty Mr. Belal Muhammad Hashmi and Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar.







WASEEM ASLAM QURESHI DISCUSS IT INITIATIVES WITH THE VICE CHANCELLOR

ITU Vice Chancellor Dr. Adnan Noor Mian earlier hosted Mr. Waseem Aslam Qureshi. Trustee of Bano Memorial Trust, Mr. Saad Bin Waseem, Director Eazh Foods, and Mr. Asad Qureshi, CEO AQ Productions Pvt. Ltd.

They called on Dr. Adnan Noor and discussed a wide range of initiatives related to Information Technology and related fields





ITU VICE CHANCELLOR PARTICIPATES IN **'SKILLS OF THE** FUTURE' MEET HOSTED BY PHEC

A meeting on Skills of the Future by Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) attracted luminaries academia. It was held under the convenorship of Chairperson PHEC Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir (TI)

Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, Vice Chancellor Information Technology University, especially participated in this meeting. He contributed to the discourse on Skills of the Future by sharing his thoughts and laying down recommendations to enhance skills particularly among youth.

Other participants included Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, former Chairperson PHEC, Mr. Nadeem Mujtaba, Managing Director, FinTech Group Ltd., UK, Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya Director General Pakistan Institute of Education, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Director Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS) UET Lahore, Prof. Dr. Ejaz Sandhu Pro-Rector Hajvery University, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Mian Muhammad Awais from Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering, LUMS, Dr. Nauman Riaz, Director BIC University of Gujrat, Dr. Sidra Magsood Academic Director Khaldunia Institute of Technology and Applied Sciences, Lahore and Mr. Ayub Ghauri, Executive Director NetSol.







INDUSTRY OUTREACH: STUDENTS VISIT ALPHABOLD

ITU students of BS Computer Engineering visited AlphaBOLD, a leading International Software company, as a part of the Industrial outreach event and a learning opportunity for the students to acquire the best practices. The students learned the latest trends in CRM, Business Applications, Microsoft Dynamics 365, and IT consulting in general. The interactive sessions conducted by leading professionals guided students in career prospects in the disciplines and preparing themselves as a valued member of the profession.

STUDENT SERVICES AND PLACEMENT OFFICE HOSTS RECRUITMENT DRIVE BY SERVICEPATH

The Student Services and Placement Office at ITU earlier hosted a recruitment drive by ServicePath.

ServicePath is a Canadian based company with offices in five countries: Pakistan, United Kingdom, U.A.E., Philippines, and Kosovo. ServicePath CPQ+ is a Configure, Price and Quote (CPQ) platform that is specifically designed to make complex quotes simple. It helps technology vendors, Managed Services Providers, Software companies, SI's and VARs.

ITU students learned about a host of opportunities at ServicePath including internships to full-time positions where they can contribute meaningfully to ServicePath's mission while gaining valuable experience and professional development.

















QEC HOSTS INFORMATIVE SESSION ON OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at Information Technology University organized a session on Outcome Based Education in Dr. Saeed-Ul-Hassan Auditorium ITU as part of its Faculty Development Program series. The session aimed to equip faculty members, teaching/student assistants, staff, and researchers with the necessary tools and insights to align teaching methodologies with specific learning outcomes, modern curriculum design, assessment, and continuous improvement strategies. Through such initiatives, QEC continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing educational standards and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence within the organization.

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ITU'S DR. QASIM SPEAKS AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF EAST AFRICAN SUMMER SCHOOL ON OPTICS AND LASERS 2024 IN KENYA

Associate Professor and Chairperson Department of Electrical Engineering, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Mehmood, delivered his talk at the inaugural session to kick off lab trainings at East African Summer School on Optics and Lasers 2024 at Multimedia University of Kenya.

These lab training sessions are conducted by Dr. Qasim and his MicroNano Lab's research students and members of staff. It is organized by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) with the sponsorship of the International Commission of Optics, OPTICA Society and Multimedia University Kenya. With the aim to promote new theoretical and experimental methods in areas like nano optics, meta materials, laser physics and biomedical optics, this event will help build a larger workforce that will drive laser and photonics research to new heights in developing countries.





KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MS. NAILA AT INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT EVENT

Ms. Naila (Senior Educational Consultant, UNICEF) joined and spoke at the event "UNESCO-International Day of Light" at Multimedia University, Nairobi, Kenya.

The event was part of the program of Summer Scool on the Optics & Lasers, which was organised by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and International Commission on Optics (ICO). ITU Team under the supervision of Dr. Qasim from the Electrical Engineering Department and MicroNano Lab is part of the UNESCO-ICTP-ICO training program.

ITU DELEGATION LED BY DR. MUDASSIR SHABBIR VISITS DIGIFLOAT OFFICE TO EXPLORE AREAS OF COLLABORATION

A delegation of Information Technology University consisting of Dr. Mudassir Shabbir along with his colleagues and team members from the Computer Science Department, Mr. Usama Bin Shakeel representing the Computer Engineering Department, and Manager External Linkages Mr. Ali Bukhari earlier visited the office of Digifloat. Together with the officials from Digifloat, they explored opportunities for collaboration particularly in terms of enhancing educational opportunities and preparing students for the professional world.

Digifloat is a well-established Data Engineering company with a rich history dating back to 2006. It has spearheaded numerous high-impact data projects. The services it offers include: Data Science, Data Visualization & Reporting, Cloud Services & Migration, Data Security & GDPR Compliance, Data Engineering, Cybersecurity and Data Architecture.







LOS ANGELES BASED ROCK-FOLK BAND LEADS A SESSION ON 'ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE'

Raining Jane conducted a scintillating session on Arts for Social Change, where they shared their personal story followed by playing music for the audience. Raining Jane is an independent, eclectic rock-folk band based in Los Angeles, California.

It is a mission-driven band making music and facilitating the joy and healing power of music-making in community. They've been involved in many social impact projects over the years, including co-founding Rock n' Roll Camp for Girls L.A., a non-profit dedicated to empowering girls and gender expansive youth through music. Raining Jane is Mai Bloomfield, Becky Gebhardt, Chaska Potter, and Mona Tavakoli. Catch glimpses from this session captured by the Office of Media and Communication at ITU.













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SESSION ON FREELANCING ORGANIZED FOR STUDENTS

Lincoln Corner Lahore organized an informative session on Freelancing in collaboration with WinSci. The session was led by the guest speaker Ms. Maryam Nadeem. She is an accomplished freelancer having diverse and rich experience in social media and digital marketing. In the session, students learned how to start freelancing and how they can organize their gig. They also learned the art of dealing with a variety of clients.



ISLAMIC SOCIETY AT ITU HOSTS TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Islamic Society at ITU organized a workshop for students on the subject of Time Management. In this workshop, the speaker Dr. Muhammad Asif Hussain shared his valuable insights with the students from diverse academic streams. He highlighted the crucial role of time management and shared practical tips for the students to become more efficient while juggling their academic responsibilities





SESSION ON ISLAMIC BANKING ORGANIZED

Faculty of Business and Management at Information Technology University conducted a session earlier on "Navigating Risk in Islamic Banking Products: Strategies for Effective Management" by Meezan Bank's representative Mr. Muhammad Saad, AVP & Team Lead, Shariah Compliance Department

The session was designed to clear the Islamic Finance related ambiguities of students and how conventional Risk Management concepts and techniques are used in Islamic Banking to mitigate risk. Guest speaker answered several questions and cleared misconceptions related to Islamic Finance along with the explanation of Islamic Banking products to the students.











FACULTY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM ORGANIZED

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at ITU organized another round of its Faculty Research Colloquium. In this session, Assistant Professor Department of Economics Dr. Kafeel Sarwar presented his research titled "Animal Sourced Food and Child Health: Evidence from Pakistan."

Faculty Research Colloquium helps faculty members present their current research and receive valuable comments from the participants.





HAMRA AFZAAL DEFENDS HER PHD THESIS

Congratulations to Dr. Hamra Afzaal from Computer Science Department on successfully defending her thesis titled "Formal modeling and verification of a blockchain based crowdsourcing consensus protocol." Her thesis supervised by Dr. Muhammad Umar Janjua and co-supervised by Dr. Muhammad Imran.

It is a proud moment for Dr. Hamra Afzaal, her parents and her teachers. Information Technology University wish the best to her for all her academic and professional pursuits.





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IET ON CAMPUS ITU AND CONFINITI JOINTLY ORGANIZE A SESSION ON CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGIES

An enlightening discourse on 'Cutting Edge Technologies' was hosted by IET On Campus ITU and Confiniti. Esteemed guests from Vanar, a pioneering company in Blockchain Technology, engaged with the students and imparted valuable insights related to future technologies. The speakers included Mr. Mohsin Hassan from NetSol, and Mr. Emad Zaheer and Ms. Sara Ashraf from Vanar.

While addressing the students, Mr. Mohsin Hassan delved into cutting-edge technologies offering invaluable guidance on skill enhancement in tech fields. Similarly, Mr. Emad Zaheer and Sara Ashraf from Vanar helped students explore transformative power of Blockchain Technology.

On conclusion of the session, students received swag kits, a token of appreciation from IET and the Confinti community for their enthusiasm and participation. The branch counselor Dr. Haris Mahmood thanked the esteemed speakers wrapped up the session and emphasized on the significance of polishing skills of the students including networking.







IMPORTANCE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTED BY OMAIR BANGASH

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at ITU organized a guest lecture on "The Importance of Interdisciplinary Education" by Omair Bangash.

Omair Bangash is the co-founder of TOSSDOWN - one of the first food-tech companies in Pakistan. Over the past 20 years, Omair has worked on a handful of startups and ventures in tech. His latest venture 'WEECOMMERCE' helps women-led businesses by providing them free websites. Omair has experience with technology startups, team building, fundraising and organisational culture. Along with his personal involvement in tech, his areas of interest are economics, philosophy, evolution and the cosmos and would love to share his insights with all.

















POSTERS BY STUDENTS SHED LIGHT ON ISSUES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Dr. Kafeel Sarwar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, organized a poster competition. The competition centered around the theme of "Issues in Economic Development in Developing Countries." Vice Chancellor Dr. Adnan Noor Mian also paid a visit to the exhibition and reviewed the posters displayed by the students.

The event showcased a range of posters providing empirical and visual insights into various socio-economic disparities within health, education, trade, and productivity in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on Pakistan. These posters highlighted critical issues and proposed potential solutions, fostering a deeper understanding among participants. The competition concluded with the distribution of cash prizes for the best posters, recognizing and rewarding the outstanding efforts and contributions of the students.







CHALLENGES FACED BY MINORITIES IN PAKISTAN DISCUSSED

The Department of Governance and Global Studies, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), held an insightful seminar on "Equal Citizenship Rights for Religious Minorities in Pakistan." Speakers included Dr. Yaqoob Bangash, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Naumana Suleman, Chairperson, Minority Women Forum and Salman Farrukh, Project Manager, HRCP.

Esteemed speakers discussed the challenges faced by religious minorities, especially focusing on the youth. The interactive session provided students with strategies to advocate for equal citizenship rights for religious minorities, building a more inclusive Pakistan. The seminar helped shed light on the legal and policy frameworks surrounding the right to freedom of religion or belief.









MR. MANSOOR AHMED DEMYSTIFIES SPACE EXPLORATIONS FOR STUDENTS







INSIGHTFUL TALK ON WHY STUDENTS ARE AFRAID OF PROGRAMMING

Information Technology University hosted an engaging talk by Dr. Zahra Atiq on "Why are Students Afraid of Programming? A Multi-Modal Understanding of Students' Emotions during Programming Tasks." It was an insightful session in which the esteemed speaker talked about her research on what makes learning programming challenging.

Dr. Zahra Atiq is an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at The Ohio State University. Her research interests focus on how novice students learn programming and the non-cognitive factors that affect their learning of programming. Specifically, she is interested in using multi-modal methodologies to understand the interplay of emotions, motivations, and cognition in introductory programming courses. She is also interested in how these complex interactions lead to long-term retention in computer programming, specifically for women and under-represented minorities.







DR. HASSAN MAHMOOD ELEVATED AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCHOOL OF **BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT**

Congratulations to Dr. Hassan Mahmood on his appointment as the Chairperson of the School of Business & Management.

Dr. Hassan has completed his PhD in Strategy and Organization from McGill University Montreal, Canada and Masters in Social Sciences from University of Chicago, USA. Prior to joining ITU, he worked for National University of Sciences and Technology,

His research interests include: 'Organization theory; development; political parties'.



CONGRATULATIONS

to Dr. Hassan Mahmood on his appointment as the Chairperson of the School of Business & Management

Dr. Hassan Mahmood







PHILOSOPHY FEST 2024: CELEBRATING INTELLECTUAL PROWESS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AT ITU

The Department of Economics with Data Sciences at ITU proudly hosted the Philosophy Fest 2024, marking a significant conclusion to the course "Introduction to Philosophy" led by Dr. Abubakr Khan and curated by the EDS 23. The festival was a testament to the creative and intellectual prowess of the students from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences featuring an array of engaging activities.











ITU CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR UPCOMING CONFERENCE ON SOUTH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Information Technology University is organizing a two-day conference titled, "A Crisis of Imagination? Development and the End of Progressivist Teleology in South Asia" scheduled to take place on 15-16 September, 2024. Conveners of this conference are Assistant Professor and Chairperson of



Department of Economics Dr. Muhammad Ali Jan and Assistant Professor Department of Governance and Global Studies Dr. Aftab Nasir.

The focus of the conference will be on South Asia, the largest agglomeration of people in the world and a region with a rich history of theoretical and practical resources for development studies. Nonetheless, we will also be interested in more general theoretical papers in-line with the overall theme.

Interested participants are requested to submit short abstracts (200 words) on one or multiple themes (as mentioned in the poster) to conf.f-hss@itu.edu.pk. The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 15, 2024. The short-listed candidates will be informed by June 25, 2024.

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DR. TAIMUR RAHMAN FEATURED ON "ITU VODCAST" AT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

The Office of Media and Communication at ITU recently welcomed Dr. Taimur Rahman, Professor, Social Activist, and Musician, for an episode of the "ITU Vodcast" on ITU FM 90.4.

In the podcast, Dr. Rahman discussed a variety of topics including education, labor rights, social activism, and the role of his band, "Laal," in advocating for social causes. He also shared his reasons for returning to Pakistan after studying abroad and his dedication to supporting the labor class.

After the podcast, Dr. Rahman met with Dr. Adnan Noor, Vice Chancellor of ITU Punjab, alongside Dr. Yaqoob Bangash, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Ali Jan, Chairperson of Economics. He praised ITU's initiatives, particularly the FM radio and podcast studios.

Dr. Taimur Rahman is a Professor at LUMS, Lead Guitarist of Laal, and author of The Class Structure of Pakistan.





CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE MOMS OF ITU THIS MOTHER'S DAY

This Mother's Day, we proudly spotlight the incredible mothers within the ITU community.

Balancing the demands of their careers with the joys and responsibilities of motherhood, these remarkable women exemplify strength, dedication, and grace.

We honor the resilience and exceptional contributions of our working mothers. Your ability to navigate both professional and personal realms with such poise is truly inspiring.

To all the mothers who shape our community with their unwavering commitment, we extend our deepest appreciation.

Your hard work and nurturing spirit make a profound difference, and today we celebrate you.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Super Moms!





INTRODUCING THE DIPLOMA OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DAS AI)

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Diploma of Advanced Studies in Artificial Intelligence (DAS AI), a distinguished program designed for those seeking to advance their expertise in AI. The DAS AI diploma requires the completion of 18 graduate-level credit hours and covers essential courses such as Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics, and Deep Learning. Admission is open to candidates with at least 16 years of education, a relevant undergraduate degree, and a minimum of 55% marks or a CGPA of 2.0, along with strong computer science, analytical, and writing skills.

The DAS AI program can be completed within one academic year, consisting of two semesters, with a maximum duration of two years. Students must achieve a minimum passing grade in all courses, fulfill credit hour requirements, and maintain satisfactory academic standing to graduate. The program offers flexibility with options to convert from the diploma to an MS Data Science program or from an MS program to the DAS AI diploma, subject to approval by the Board of Study.

Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate in a style approved by the institution. Students may also request a semester freeze based on valid reasons, with decisions made by the Board of Study and the department Chairperson.

For more information on the DAS AI diploma, including application procedures and detailed program guidelines, please visit our website or contact the admissions office.

