Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) assumes charge as Rector NUST

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Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) assumes charge as Rector NUST

Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) took over as the Rector of National University of Science and Technology (NUST) on November 18, 2016. He has succeeded Lt Gen Muhammad Asghar HI (M), (Retd) who retired after having served the university for over 9 years. The new Rector carries with him immense experience both in academics and human resource management. Earlier, he remained on the faculty of Pakistan Military Academy, School of Infantry and Tactics and Command and Staff College during his illustrious professional career. At National Defence University, he initially officiated as Directing Staff and later became the Commandant. In recognition of his long meritorious military career, he has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

DICE-2016

Govt poised to launch Knowledge Corridor after CPEC: Minister

Distinguished Innovations, Collaboration and Entrepreneurship (DICE-2016), an event aimed at building a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan, kicked off at the main campus of NUST on December 21, 2016. Federal Minister for Planning Development and Reforms Prof Ahsan Iqbal graced the inaugural session as chief guest.

Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest commended the efforts of DICE Foundation in promoting the entrepreneurial
spirit in the country through providing a single platform for academia, industry, government, entrepreneurs and expatriates. He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would prove to be a game changer for Pakistan, and that the initiatives like DICE needed to align their goals with that of CPEC. The minister further said that Pakistan is the 3rd biggest e-lancing country having experienced digital economic boom in the last decade.

The minister also elaborated the role of critical thinking and inquisitiveness to reap maximum benefits from entrepreneurship. He highlighted Government’s plan to open up a university in each district of Pakistan and to establish Pak-US "Knowledge Corridor" in which 10,000 scholarships will be awarded to Pakistani students at top US universities in the next 10 years.

Recounting the achievements of university, Rector NUST Lt Gen Naveed Zaman HI (M) (Retd), said that NUST, since its inception, has been taking steps to foster a culture of producing job providers than job seekers. He added that the course on entrepreneurship was mandatory for every undergraduate student at NUST. He apprised the audience that over 36 startups were currently housed in the university’s Technology Incubation Center, while 20 companies had already graduated from TIC and were generating revenue to the tune of $5 million per annum. Talking about the future plans, he said NUST was fully poised for the establishment of National Science and Technology Park (NSTP), which would prove to be a catalyst for industrial revolution in the country. The Rector also lauded the efforts of DICE Foundation, adding that NUST takes pride in partnering with it.

Dr Khursheed Qureshi, Chairman DICE Foundation USA, vowed to take DICE forward to college and school students and eventually to the masses at large. The DICE-2016 included projects from the categories such as Engineering & Technology, Computer Sciences, Information Technology, Physical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Business, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences and Veterinary Sciences. Director of Education at the British Council, Ms Nishat Riaz said that the British Council would continue to be a part of initiatives like DICE. She commended the role of NUST and Higher Education Commission in the promotion of knowledge-based economy.

Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed graced the concluding session of the event as chief guest. On the occasion, prizes were also distributed among winners of various categories.

This year, the event entailed an exhibition of innovative products as well as a symposium. The exhibition allowed the participants to showcase their products in various categories and the symposium provided a platform for prominent industry leaders and policymakers to sit together and strategize ways to fast-track the growth of value added Industry in the country.
Degrees awarded at SEECS PG, UG convocations

Postgraduate Convocation
Over 350 successful students received degrees at the postgraduate convocation of NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS), at the university’s main campus on December 28, 2016. The degrees were awarded in the disciplines of Electrical Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Science, Computer and Communication Security, Information Security, and Innovative Technologies in Education. Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman, HI (M), (Retd), presided over the convocation. Besides, the ceremony was attended by distinguished guests from academia, government departments, corporate centers, and the parents of graduating students.

At the occasion, gold medals were awarded to the outstanding graduates on the basis of their distinctive academic performances. In the Department of Electrical Engineering, President’s Gold Medals were conferred on Engr Hassaan Saadat and Engr Mohammad Zeeshaan Nawaz of MS-CS batch-2013, and Ms Asma Hamza Bhatti of MS-CS batch-2014. In the discipline of Computer and Communication Security, President’s Gold Medals were awarded to Engr Ayesha Kanwal and Engr Rizwan Muhammad of MS-CCS batch-2011. In the subject of Information Security, President’s Gold Medals were awarded to Engr Haleemah Zia of MS-IS batch-2014, whereas, in Innovative Technologies in Education, President’s Gold Medal was awarded to Engr Syed Mustafa Hassan of MS-ITE batch-2014.

In his convocation address, the Rector NUST extended his warmest felicitations to the
degree recipients, their proud parents and faculty. He advised the graduates to be inquisitive in their approach to life, and seize every opportunity to improve their knowledge and to empathise with the underprivileged, as the real fulfilment in life lies not in the riches but in the service to fellow beings.

Highlighting the NUST achievements, the Rector said that the university had grown at Godspeed in its size and stature, which was manifest in its coveted position among the global leaders in higher education. He made special mention of NUST’s ranking among the world’s elite 100 universities under the age of 50. He also commended Principal SEECS and his faculty for their conscientious efforts to ensure quality teaching and state-of-the-art research.

Undergraduate Convocation
Only a day after its postgraduate convocation, NUST SEECS also held a graceful graduation ceremony for the undergraduate batches at the main campus. As many as 201 students were conferred degrees in the disciplines of Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, and Computer Science. Mr Khurram Rahat, Managing Director of Teradata in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka presided over the convocation proceedings. Prominent among others were people from academia, public and private sector organizations and the parents of graduates.

The chief guest, in his address, complimented NUST on having risen to global prominence by developing its academic and research infrastructure on the most modern lines. He said that NUST had set precedents based on quality and merit, and that the other national universities needed to follow suit. It was for this reason, he added, that its graduates always remain in demand of the corporate sector. He lauded the university for aligning its R&D endeavors with the Quadruple Helix Model, which held promise for the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. He encouraged the graduates to transcend themselves as professionals and, in so doing, inspire the world with their compassion.

Speaking to the audience, Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman Hi (M) (Retd), highlighted NUST contributions to the country’s higher education sector, and the unyielding efforts it was making to strengthen the knowledge-based economy.

At the occasion, gold and silver medals were awarded to outstanding graduates in academics and final-year projects. President’s Gold Medals were awarded to Engr Armaghan Ahmad Khan of BEE batch-2012, Engr Faria Rehman of BESE batch-2012, and Ms Anam Ahmad Khan of BSCS batch-2012; while Chancellor’s Silver Medals were conferred on Engr Ali Ather of BEE batch-2012, Engr Syed Mehdi Raza Jaffery of BESE batch-2012, and Mr Mohammad Shoab Ahmed Siddiqui of BSCS batch-2012. Rector’s Gold Medals were awarded to Engr Hafiz Usman Mehmood and Engr Abdullah Ahmed of BEE batch-2012, Engr Hira Siddiqui of BESE batch-2012, and Ms Anam Ahmed Khan of BSCS batch-2012.
Rector NUST pays maiden visit to College of EME

Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M) (Retd) paid his maiden visit to College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CEME) on December 27, 2016. Upon arrival, he was received by the College Commandant, Brig Tariq Javed, SI (M). Subsequently, the Rector was given a comprehensive briefing on the college infrastructure and teaching and research facilities. Later, he was conducted to all college departments, where he interacted with the faculty and students. The Rector then planted a tree in front of the college headquarters before being presented with the college souvenir by the Commandant.

ASAB hosts Dr Atta-ur-Rahman

Dr Peter John highlighted salient features of the school including various accomplishments, research groups, core equipment, facilities, etc. Dr Atta appreciated the efforts of management and faculty in making the school one of the country’s premier centers in applied biosciences. He also gave his valuable input for further improvements and apprised the faculty of new scientific discoveries and developments in the field. Later, students at ASAB also availed the opportunity to interact with the legendary educationist.
NUST, CEIEC vow to strengthen bilateral cooperation

A delegation of 5 members from China National Electronics Import & Export Corporation (CEIEC), paid a visit to NUST on December 16, 2016. The delegation met Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) in his office and discussed matters of mutual interest, prior to a detailed briefing on NUST. The group was also conducted to a tour of the campus and visit to School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS). The delegates were all-praise for NUST’s infrastructure and enabling environment it provides to its faculty and students to ensure quality teaching, learning and research.

ICCE seeks to build academic ties with NUST

NUST welcomed a delegation from International Centre for Certification and Education (ICCE) of Addiction Professionals at its main campus on December 21, 2016.

Headed by Director ICCE Mr Tay Bian How, the delegation called on Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) and expressed their desire to strengthen working relationship with NUST. Later, the delegates were briefed on institutions, programs, research initiatives and future plans of NUST.

Afterwards, Director ICCE gave a brief presentation on his organization (ICCE). Both sides discussed ways for future collaboration in areas of common interest. The delegates also suggested that a master's program in "Addiction Control" may be launched at NUST.
Dr Rabia Liaqat attends research program at US under ASU-NUST faculty exchange initiative

Alleviating energy challenges of Pakistan through biomass technology

Biogas technology has an uneven dissemination over the globe. The principal factors controlling its distribution include policies and institutions, financial constraints, subsidies, availability of inputs, awareness about the technology, consumer considerations, and the rate of success. However, the biogas technology is deemed multipurpose for it assists in addressing economic, health, social and environmental problems simultaneously. Thus, development and dissemination of the technology certainly minimize energy poverty and improve peoples’ status in the energy ladder.

In order for Pakistan to alleviate its energy problems, it is integral to increase energy production, improve energy efficiency, and promote power sector reforms. In a bid to achieve this end, NUST and Arizona State University (ASU) launched an exchange program with a view to equipping the faculty with diverse exposure, knowledge and experience in the field of biotechnology. In this context, Dr Rabia Liaqat, a faculty member at the energy center of NUST, attended a research program at ASU from August to October 2016. The visit provided her an opportunity to have fruitful discussions with many eminent scientists to build future networks in the field of Environmental Biotechnology and Energy Policy. It enabled her to think beyond the subject’s scope within the confines of her own country.

During the course of her stay at ASU, she participated in several brainstorming sessions and dedicated lectures by ASU faculty and senior leadership. When Dr Rabia was approached to carry forward waste to energy research, I am excited to bring this knowledge back to my country and play a significant role in helping the Pakistan energy future. I would encourage more females to come forward and play their constructive role in energy transition of Pakistan.”

It may be mentioned here that the US-Pak Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) initiative is part of USAID’s larger $127 million investment that will harness applied research to find innovative and practical solution for Pakistan’s energy, water, agriculture, and food security challenges.

The launch of waste to bioenergy projects under USPCAS-E by USAID funds, in collaboration with ASU, is an effort to overcome the capacity building limitations and technology transfer issues for successful operation and move towards sustainable bioenergy resources.

The remarkable working platform of School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS), ASU has provided me with a strategic approach to figure out the problems, opportunities and resources to improve the policy framework by highlighting the use of biomass resources for bioenergy production.

Dr Rabia Liaqat
Assistant Professor and Scientist in Biomass Technology at U.S.- Pakistan Center for advance Studies in Energy-NUST
Communication University of China delegation visits NUST

A seven-member delegation from Communication University of China (CUC) visited NUST on December 9, 2016. The delegation was led by Mr Liao Xiangzhong – Vice President CUC and comprised Dean Faculty of Art, Executive Dean Faculty of International Media and Deputy Director of Finance Department, Head of Center of Cooperative Innovation and Director Scientific Research. After the briefing session and discussion on prospects of enhancing the bilateral cooperation in the areas of joint research, fellowships and exchange of faculty and students, the delegates visited NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (SEECS) and School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H).

DME student appointed Regional Chair ASME

Ali Raza-ul-Islam, a Mechanical Engineering student at College of EME, has been appointed the Regional Chair for the South West Asia Region of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Ali has been engaged with ASME since 2013 when he joined the society as Deputy Director (Human Resource). ASME is the largest professional body of mechanical engineers, with over 140,000 members in 158 countries worldwide. In his capacity as the Student Regional Chair, he will lead all strategic planning and control of activities being conducted under the emblem of ASME across South Asian universities. As Regional Chair of ASME student wing, Ali’s appointment bears testimony to the efforts of students and faculty in earning the department and college its place amongst the leading institutions. The department holds the distinction of having two regional chairs. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor Dr Saifullah Khalid, Lab Engineer Usama bin Pervaiz and Ali Raza-ul-Islam represented the Department of Mechanical Engineering at International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition (IMECE 2016), Phoenix Arizona from November 11 to 17.
RCMS faculty member visits Stratford University, USA

Dr Jamil Ahmad, an RCMS faculty member, visited Stratford University, USA as a visiting professor under Malala Fellowship Exchange Visit Program for four months in the second half of 2016. During this period, he taught four postgraduate courses in the discipline of Computer Science and supervised one capstone project. He also attended an international conference on "Blockchain Applications" organized by George Washington University in Washington DC. Presently, he is collaborating with Stratford University to develop a Blockchain application for the verification of university degrees and transcripts.

Student defies disability to earn master’s degree at RCMS

Mr Waqas Ahmed, a disable MS student at RCMS, successfully defended his thesis on December 22, 2016. After securing CGPA 4.0 out of 4.0 in his coursework, he had undertaken his research study on “Pressure Oscillations in Rocket Combustion Chambers,” supervised by Dr Adnan Maqsood.

Waqas had received fatal injuries in a road accident in the year 2000, which resulted in permanent disability of the lower part of his body. However, he didn’t lose hope and, only after a few years of that tragic incident, managed to get enrolled in MS Computational Science & Engineering program at NUST. He attended all his classes on a wheelchair. Principal RCMS Air Vice Marshall Shahid Niazi met with the distinguished student and lauded him for his resilience and courage of conviction that enabled him to defy his illness and materialize his dream.

Study tour to Noon Sugar Mills, Bhalwal

A study tour to Noon Sugar Mills, Bhalwal was arranged for students of Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB) on December 18, 2016. The establishment of mills dates back to 1964 with the current production capacity of 12000 MT of sugar per day. The visitors included 37 students, studying Fermentation Biotechnology, accompanied by faculty members Dr Tahir Baig, Dr Faraz Bhatti and Ms Azqa.

The trip proved to be a great learning experience for students as it allowed them to see the production of refined sugar from molasses and ask questions about the various processes involved in order to reinforce the concepts studied in the theory. The students also visited the biogas plant and the fractional distillation unit for the production of ethanol.
PNEC students represent Pak Navy, NUST at IDEAS 2016

International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS), a biennial defence exhibition and seminar, was held at Expo Center Karachi from November 22-25, 2016. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif graced the inauguration ceremony as chief guest. IDEAS-2016, Pakistan’s most prestigious defence exhibition, brought together industry players from across the globe to showcase their latest technological innovations. Senior officials of the government and Pakistan Armed Forces along with international delegations, accompanied by dignitaries and traders, attended the exhibition-cum-seminar, which was organized by Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) in collaboration with Pakistan Armed Forces and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

PNEC students had the opportunity to represent Pakistan Navy as well as NUST at Pakistan Navy stall designed, fabricated, decorated and established by the college. They interacted with government functionaries and international delegates representing Indonesian Navy, French Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Thailand Navy, Jordanian Navy, Moroccan Navy, Royal Saudi Arabia Naval Force, etc. The stall lit with fancy spotlights exhibited sophisticated defence products of Pakistan Navy such as F-22P Ship, Agosta 90B Submarine and P3C and a documentary on Pakistan Navy Units including PNEC (PNS Jauhar) throughout the show spanning over 4 days.

NUST wins prize at PIF Awards

PNEC students, who have designed and developed Pakistan’s first Formula Electric Car, participated in “Pakistan Innovation Foundation Awards” at Islamabad on December 8, 2016. At the event, the team, Formula Electric Racing NUST (FERN), competed against 50 various innovative projects from 2016 and won “National Innovation of the Year Award” for manufacturing the car.

Earlier, the team had represented Pakistan at Formula SAE Electric held in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA in June 2016, and raised the green flag high by securing 18th position among 134 teams from around the globe.
FICS’17 brand launch held at NUST

Finding Innovative & Creative Solutions for Society (FICS) is NUST’s flagship program for the promotion of social entrepreneurship in the country. Through the platform, students get an opportunity to get actively involved in social problem identification and think innovatively to devise technology-based solutions. To start with, students submit their ideas in different fields such as healthcare, biotechnology, energy, education, and so on.

FICS’17 Stage 1 ideas’ registration officially opened on November 1, 2016, while the logo was unveiled in the formal brand launch ceremony at NUST Business School (NBS) on November 11, 2016. Dr Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Professor Emeritus NUST, graced the occasion as chief guest. Pro-Rector Academics Dr Asif Raza, Advisor NUST Mr Amer Hashmi, senior management and faculty of the university, industry partners, alumni, students, FICS’15 & FICS’16 winning teams, etc witnessed the beginning of another exciting year of FICS’17. The event’s success owes much to the industry partners because it is with their cooperation and support that FICS is today churning out deployable, practicable and value-adding products and services.

ILO activities

NUST Industry Liaison Office (ILO) endeavors to establish and maintain relationship with industry partners and alumni to facilitate their connection with students and, in so doing, generates a broad range of meaningful opportunities for both. With this aim, ILO facilitated Nescom for its Undergraduate Fellowship Program 2017 for undergraduate students of Mechanical, Mechatronics, Materials, Electrical and Electronics Engineering of NUST. The candidates appeared in the written test at RIMMS Hall and the finalists were interviewed by a Nescom selection board to award fellowships.

Meanwhile, a NUST ILO team also attended University of Management & Technology Career Fair, 2016. UMT invited as many as 110 companies from the fields of Technology, Design & Manufacturing, FMCG, etc. The team met HR personnel of different companies and briefed them about NUST and its Industry Liaison Office. Companies were also invited for employer sessions and on-campus recruitment drives. In addition, ILO facilitated Enrive for an introductory session with UG and PG students on internship opportunities abroad.

Project models displayed at MCE

The Civil Engineering students of Military College of Engineering displayed models of their research projects at the college on November 11, 2016. Maj Gen Muhammad Ajmal Iqbal, HI (M), Commandant MCE, looked over the expertise of graduating engineers at the stalls of a total of 25 projects. The purpose was to provide a platform to graduating engineers to present their ideas before the final conduct of their projects’ display to the industry representatives.
First International Conference on Cyber Security and Digital Forensics (CSDiFo)

NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS) organized the “First International Conference on Cyber Security and Digital Forensics” at NUST main campus from December 7 to 8, 2016. The aim of conference was to promote state-of-the-art research in "Cyber Security" and "Digital Forensics" viewing their huge significance in today’s world of digital communication. CSDiFo brought together researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, private and public sectors.

Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd), Rector NUST, graced the occasion as chief guest. He was accompanied by Secretary IT, Mr Rizwan Bashir Khan. In his address, the Rector emphasized the importance of the two important domains of computer science, saying that they have significant impact on the effective functioning of cyber-space and modern day computing systems.

The focus areas included cyber and information security, systems security, applications and database security, especially in the cloud computing environment, formal methods, legal and privacy issues, and network and critical infrastructure security. In addition, few sessions were also planned on cybercrime investigation and incident response, cloud forensics, cybercriminal psychology and profiling, cyber warfare and terrorism, steganography, digital forensics tool testing, money laundering, theoretical foundations of digital forensics and SCADA forensics.

The 2-day conference consisted of a workshop for students on “Mobile App Penetration Testing” and two symposia titled “Enhancement of Curriculum to Improve the Cyber Security Skills of our Graduates” and “Industry Academia Partnership to Nurture Cybersecurity in Pakistan.”

Senior Industry Members of CAC ICT Sector Committee were part of the opening ceremony. Dr Shahid Mahmood, Chairman and CEO, Interactive Group & Industry Co-Chair CAC ICT Sector Committee, and Mr Khurram Rahat, Managing Director, Teradata, attended the conference along with some other senior representatives from the Industry.
Need for promoting regional connectivity stressed at int'l seminar

International Seminar on “Peace, Growth, and Empowerment: Promoting Regional Connectivity” was jointly organized by National University of Sciences and Technology and Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC) at the university’s main campus on November 30, 2016.

In his opening address, Rector NUST Lt Gen Naweed Zaman HI (M), (Retd) said that the state of regional connectivity in South Asia was far from satisfactory as was evidenced by the extremely low intra-regional trade in South Asia, which amounted to only 5 percent of the total South Asian trade. In contrast, he maintained, the intra-ASEAN trade was almost 25 percent of the total ASEAN trade. He cited a number of reasons for poor connectivity in South Asia such as high levels of trust deficit between India and Pakistan mainly due to Indian intransigence and belligerence, poverty, terrorism, the unresolved Kashmir issue, long turmoil in Afghanistan, and the isolation of Iran. Rapid urbanization in the region, he said, offered a big opportunity for fast-tracking regional connectivity through well-considered measures like reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, public-private partnerships, and business-to-business linkages.

Speaking at the occasion, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), General Ehsan-ul-Haq said, “China, Pakistan, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics (CARs) and other South Asian States have a total population of approximately 3.5 billion which is more than 45 percent of the total global population. This massive population bloc does not deserve to be held hostage to pursuit of negative politics of containment and encirclement.” He further stated that promoting regional connectivity meant fostering inter-regional and intra-regional connectivity and that “One Belt One Road Initiative” and its flagship node, CPEC, were destined to pursue these two types of connectivity as part of a one holistic and concerted approach for maximum peace, prosperity and harmony. He stressed that connectivity at the regional level needed actions by states, economic actors, and socio-cultural forces and agents simultaneously to yield lasting and beneficial results.

Speaking earlier, Mr Ole Thonke, the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, hailed the joint collaboration of NUST and RDDC as a positive step forward in global knowledge-based collaboration. He highlighted the role of Denmark in international peacekeeping and peacebuilding. He stated that Denmark encouraged efforts aimed at increasing regional cooperation and integration and was committed to furthering initiatives aimed at enhancing the level of connectivity in the region.

The two-day seminar consisted of two grand sessions, two plenary sessions and five exhaustive roundtables, bringing to limelight different aspects of regional connectivity, cooperation, and integration. Discussions and deliberations took place on diverse yet related topics like international humanitarian law, peacebuilding, regional development, etc. High-level functionaries, experts, academics, scholars, and researchers from Denmark, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka attended the event.
International Conference on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at College of EME

College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering organized a two-day "International Conference on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (ICRAI)" from November 1 to 2, 2016. The conference, held once every four years, aimed to give every participant a chance to exhibit their research experience; gain knowledge with regard to modern technological advancements; enhance entrepreneurial spark through plenary sessions; test skills of poster design against authors from all over the world; and get hands-on experience of advanced learning in the workshop tutorials conducted by the experts.

The world’s leading entrepreneurs, business leaders and talented researchers converged on the college to enrich the participants with their personal learning experiences during the course of conference. ICRAI’16 ventured out a new path towards the comprehensive open-access source of knowledge covering diverse areas across the cutting-edge research of robotics and artificial intelligence.

Seminar on "Indian Occupation on Junagadh: Policy Options for Pakistan"

MUSLIM Institute and Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) jointly organized a seminar titled “Indian Occupation on Junagadh: Policy Options for Pakistan” at NUST on November 15, 2016. Nawab of Junagadh State, H H Nawab Jahangir Khanji graced the occasion as chief guest. Vice Chancellor of Air University, AVM Faaiz Amir (Retd) moderated the seminar, organized in connection with November 9, 1947 when the Indian forces had illegally occupied the state. Prominent among others were Chairman MUSLIM Institute Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Associate Dean CIPS, NUST Dr Tughral Yamin, Expert on International Law & Former Federal Minister of Law Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Lt Gen Saeed-uz-Zafar (Retd), Maj Gen Ali Baz (Retd) and Former MNA Prince Adnan Aurangzeb Khan.

Engineering Foundation Course

Dr Qaiser Hameed Malik, Director Academics NUST, conducted a one-week condensed version of EGR-100 Engineering Foundation Course for over 700 engineering freshmen (Fall 2016) from PNEC, CAE, and College of E&ME. EGR-100 is a 1.00 CH awareness-cum-skill building course designed to prepare and enable newly inducted students to undertake the rigors of 4-year engineering programs. The course received excellent student and faculty feedback on accounts of its contents and conduct.
Workshop on Green Buildings: US and Pakistani Practices

As a part of collaborative efforts to enhance the capacity of USPCAS-E students and faculty, the center organized a workshop on “Green Buildings: US and Pakistani Practices” from December 13 to 14, 2016. Besides government officials, representatives from industry including ENERCON, Pakistan Green Building Council, SMC, etc., attended the two-day event.

The workshop reviewed several aspects of the green building practices in the US that could possibly be adapted to Pakistani conditions. Attended by as many as 113 students and faculty from NUST, UET-Peshawar and COMSATS Abbottabad Campus, and government officials and industry representatives, the training afforded the participants an opportunity to learn the basic principles of green building practices.

Roundtable on Cyber Warfare

Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), in collaboration with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), recently organized a roundtable on “Cyber Warfare.” At the occasion, Mr Laurent Gisel, ICRC Legal Expert, shared his knowledge with the participants.

Meanwhile, the centre organized another roundtable on “Crises in Syria and Iraq” on December 15, 2016. Renowned scholars participated in the conference to share their insights.

Best Paper of the Session Award

NUST facilitates its students to attend and present their research work in international conferences. Recently, “4th International Conference on Advances in Agricultural, Biological and Ecological Sciences” was held in London from December 1 to 2, 2016. PhD scholar Roohi Aslam from the department of Plant Biotechnology of ASAB presented her research work entitled “Stress induces the retention of introns in ECA3 transcripts in wheat” and received “Best Paper of the Session” award in the conference. She is currently working under the supervision of Dr Nasar-um-Minullah and co-supervised by Dr Faraz Bhatti.
C³A arranges counselling camp for students, faculty

Mindful of the importance of emotional wellbeing, C³A organized a counselling camp for students, faculty and staff. One of the key objectives was to raise awareness about mental health and ways to reduce stressors from one’s life. The camp was inclusive of different activities such as signature analysis, on-the-spot counselling, career counselling, self-hypnosis and testing. Around 300 students registered themselves for different stalls.

Awareness session on use of drugs

Centre for Counseling and Career Advisory (C³A) in collaboration with Antinarcotics Force (ANF) arranged an awareness session on use of drugs and its consequences on December 20, 2016. Force Commander ANF Brig Hammad Ahmed Dogar and Project Officer ANF Mr Jibran Ahmed Yousafzai were invited as guest speakers. The objective of session was to raise awareness among students and teachers regarding use of drugs and its effects on addicts, their families and the society at large. The speaker said that the drug is bad but not the person; therefore one should help them get rid of the menace. The seminar was attended by a good number of students and faculty from NUST.

Dr Bilal chairs session at international conference

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation organized a two-day International Conference on “Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia Incentives and Constraints” at Serena Hotel Islamabad from November 22 to 23, 2016. The chief guest on the first day was Mr Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. Principal USPCAS-E NUST, Dr Bilal attended the conference and also chaired a session that was participated by delegates from China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc.

Adobe Photoshop Training at NBS

A training on “Adobe Photoshop” was recently held at NUST Business School (NBS). Conducted by Ms Hina Butt and arranged for the classes of Strategic Brand Management and Brand Management, the training focused on how to make a brand book using Adobe Photoshop. Students were given hands-on experience with logo design and print advert layouts using the application. The training was organized by HoD IB & M, Mr Kashir Asghar.
Talk on "Entrepreneurship-Opportunities and Challenges"

As part of the series of seminars on “Entrepreneurship-Opportunities and Challenges,” Ms Roubina Taufiq Shah, Ex-Director General Trade Dispute Resolution Organization Ministry of Commerce, delivered a talk to the final-year students at SMME seminar hall on December 7, 2016. The speaker shared her subject knowledge and experience with the students and encouraged them to explore and benefit from entrepreneurship opportunities. Ensuing was an interactive session wherein participants raised queries with the guest.

Workshop on Vision, Time & Task Management at MCE

Dr Muhammad Maqbool Sadiq conducted a one-day workshop on “Vision, Time & Task Management” at Military College of Engineering (MCE), Risalpur on December 31, 2016. A total of 35 professionals in the field along with the postgraduate students benefited from the workshop. Towards the end, certificates were awarded to all the participants. As the workshop was approved as CPD activity by PEC, the participants earned 1.0 point.

NUST faculty delivers talk in Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr Touqeer Ahmed, Assistant Professor at Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences, was invited as a guest speaker at the “5th Biennial Conference of South Asian Association of Physiologists” held in conjunction with “Second Annual Conference of Physiological Society of Nepal” from November 10 to 12, 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. He delivered a talk on “Modulation of fear extinction learning by thalamic neurons” in the neuroscience symposium during the conference. He explained the basic mechanisms underlying fear memory. The conference was a great success with the possibilities to further the collaboration between SAARC countries also came under discussion.
UN simulation ends on a high note at PNEC

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations to promote debate, among youth, pertaining to current issues. Following the successes of previous editions of MUN at PNEC, MUNINP III, with the theme “Peaceful Tomorrow,” was organized from November 10-13, 2016. Delegates from across Pakistan registered for the simulation, which afforded them a platform to understand the dynamics of international relations by stepping in the shoes of world leaders. The four-day activity included debates and exciting social events viz. Yacht Party at Marina Club Karachi for outstation delegates, Qawali Night and Starry Night, with Tamboola followed by a formal dinner. The closing ceremony was organized at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi. CEO & Founder of Pakistan Innovation Foundation graced the ceremony with his presence. He also distributed shields among the best performers.

MCS stands runner-up at "20th All Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Contest" at Burn Hall College

Keeping up with its annual tradition, Army Burn Hall College, Abbottabad, recently organized "20th All Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Contest." Students from all over the country enthusiastically took part in the competition to demonstrate their rhetorical talent. The team from Military College of Signals (MCS) comprised GC Muneeb Hassan Khan and GC Muhammad Salar. Dr Mir Yasir, accompanied the participants to Abbottabad. Audience enjoyed listening to the best speakers from 31 academic institutions of Pakistan. The competition consisted of 2 rounds, wherein only 5 teams made it to the final round. MCS qualified for the final and stood runner-up in the contest. In addition, GC Salar of MCS clinched 2nd position individually in the category of Urdu speech.
Intra-MCE Declamation Contest

Intra-MCE Declamation Contest was organized on December 14, 2016. The college dean, Brig Sarfaraz Ahmed, graced the occasion as chief guest. The bilingual (English & Urdu) competition brought together talented speakers from diverse backgrounds. A total of 10 teams participated in the competition. Each team included one speaker each in serious and humor categories. GC Salaar and GC Nayyar won the first position, while GC Tanawush and GC Mohsin secured the second place. Towards the end, the chief guest presented certificates and trophies to the winning teams.

Fortnightly Debates VII features "US Presidential Debate"

The seventh edition of the NUST Debating Society’s fortnightly debates was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, at the NBS seminar hall. It was a special installment that mocked the United States presidential debate. The Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, was played by Aruba Khan, and the Republican candidate, Donald Trump, by Zohan Tariq. The Chairperson was NDS’ President, Haris Bhatti, who following the standard US Presidential debate rules, asked the nominees a series of questions. Concluding the event, the Chair announced the results, congratulating Zohan Tariq on his victory with a lead of 21 votes.
SNS conducts its first-ever bilingual declamation contest

School of Natural Sciences (SNS) conducted its first-ever bilingual declamation contest on November 23, 2016 at ASAB Seminar Hall. The event, aimed at refining the debating potential of the young scholars, achieved great success with a large audience showing up to witness the proceedings. Principal SNS, Dr Azad Akhtar Siddique graced the event as chief guest. Topics of the speeches both for English and Urdu were divided into two categories, i.e., serious and humor. All contestants spoke with great aplomb and inspired appreciation from amongst the audience. Dr Moniba Shams, Dr Rizwan Khalid and Dr Muhammad Ilyas Chishti were the judges for the contest.

In English category, Syeda Izza Batool stole the show by winning the first position while Mohayyuddin Ahmed and Aimen Zainab remained second and third, respectively. In Urdu speeches, Muhammad Rahib Amanat clinched first position, whereas Waleed Hassan and Izza Qamar secured second and third positions, respectively. In the end, the chief guest distributed shields among the winners as a token of appreciation.

PNEC student wins IMechE video competition

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK organized an online video competition for South Asian Region (SAR). Participants from the seven Southern Asian countries-Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka took part and sent two-minute-long videos on how they planned to engineer their future career. Farrukh Aqil, a student of PNEC, was declared winner amongst a number of international students. He has been awarded a sum of £500 by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK (IMechE) as the winning prize.

SCEE team takes part in "6th Pakistan Mountain Festival"

A team from the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Engineering (IESE-SCEE) represented NUST at the closing ceremony of "6th Pakistan Mountain Festival," held at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). The active participation of NUST students during the "Margalla Hills Trail-5 clean-up drive" was greatly appreciated by all. Talking to mediapersons, Engr Izhar Hussain Shah, Faculty Sponsor of NUST Environment Club, highlighted the role of youth in preserving the environment.
NDC presents *Yeh Main Naheen Hoon*

NUST Dramatics Club (NDC) had its first play of the academic year 2016-2017 staged at the closing ceremony of Distinguished Innovation Collaboration and Entrepreneurship (DICE-2016) on December 21, 2016. The play *Yeh Main Naheen Hoon* depicted society’s harsh realities. On the one hand, it exposed the prevalence of drug addiction among the youth; while on the other, it reflected how peer and parental pressures badly affect an individual. The play received great appreciation from the audience, with the acts by Hamza Nasib, Aleena Kaynat, Ifrah Alloudin, Marium, Haider Ali Baig and Abdul Manan, and the narration by Dr Muhammad Ilyas Chishti being highlights of the evening.

NDC, recently shifted to School of Natural Sciences, is meant to revive the spirit of theatrical excellence at NUST. Its existence is driven by the sole purpose of showcasing students’ latent talents in the field of theater. The club follows a proper mechanism of initial recruitment, talent-hunt drives, scintillating in-house plays, enlightening acting workshops and mesmerizing flash mobs. Its dynamic teams regularly participate in numerous competitions and festivals, and bring home laurels earned through concerted efforts.

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**PNEC Farewell Night-2016**

From the dazzling array of fireworks at the beginning to the string of unique and colorful performances, every segment at PNEC Farewell Night-2016 put the audience into a frenzy of excitement. Besides students, the event themed “A Night among the Stars” was attended by Commandant PNEC, and senior faculty and officers of the college. Outstanding skit performance on “Jauhar News,” enactment of plays “Bhola” and “Insaaniyat ki Azaan,” and a wonderful Qawali, “Parhaku vs Laraku” drew huge rounds of applause from the attendees.

Other allied performances including a series of cultural dances and songs truly energized those in presence, and even brought a large portion of them to their feet. After the dinner, a short video was screened that triggered nostalgia among the graduating batch. Later, the fun-filled event drew to a close with the outgoing students being wished well for their future endeavors.
Fun Day with Surf Excel

Students of NUST Creative Learning School (NCLS) along with the students of School of Art Design and Architecture (SADA) enjoyed a “Fun Day with Surf Excel” on December 22, 2016. Students wearing white t-shirts participated in a painting competition and a football match. A quiz and musical chair activity was also arranged for mothers. It was a day full of fun learning and being creative.
Intervarsity Rifle Shooting Championship

21st All Pakistan Intervarsity Rifle Shooting Men Championship 2016-17 was organized by NUST at Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery, Barki Road Lahore from December 2 to 7, 2016. As many as 16 teams participated in the championship. NUST secured overall 3rd Position in the competition.

In addition, NUST team got 7 medals, i.e., 1 gold medal (team event), 2 silver medals (team event), 2 bronze medals (team event) and 2 bronze medals (individual).

Meanwhile, 7th All Pakistan Intervarsity Rifle Shooting Women Championship 2016-17, was held after the men's championship at the same venue from December 8 to 11, 2016. A total of 10 teams took part in the competition. NUST secured overall 3rd Position in the championship and got 8 medals, i.e., 1 gold medal (Individual) 2 bronze medals (individual) and 2 silver medals (team event) and 3 bronze medals (team event).

Mr Khalid Javed, Former General Secretary Rifle Association of Pakistan (NRAP) was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremonies.
MCE Sports Gala

Military College of Engineering (MCE) held its sports gala from December 5 to 19, 2016. Students took part with great enthusiasm in as many as 17 in-door and out-door sports, including Futsal, Cricket, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Math Marathon, Tug of War, Call of Duty, Fifa 14, Ludo, Rang, Chess, Snooker, Basketball and Relay Race. Prize distribution ceremony was held on December 19, 2016. Colonel Jawad Anjum Ansari, Chief Instructor CEMS graced the occasion as chief guest. He lauded the efforts of organizers and participation of students in the event, and hoped to see such events happening in future.

Intervarsity Squash Women Championship

Intervarsity Squash Women Championship-2016 was organized by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University at PSB Squash Courts, Peshawar from November 27 to 30, 2016. Eight teams including Iqra University Karachi, University of Punjab, Imperial College Lahore, NUST Islamabad, Fatima Jinnah Rwp, LCW Lahore, SBBWU and University of Sargodha participated in the event. NUST women team received the winner's trophy from Former Squash Champion Mr Qamar Zaman. The team comprised Ms Faiza Zafar (S3H), Ms Hiba Jafri, (NBS) Ms Sana Nadeem (NBS), Ms Rukhsar, (NICE) Mr Wazir Gul, Squash Coach, while Ms Robina Anser was the team manager. This is first time ever that NUST has won 1st position in an intervarsity squash women Championship.

Intra-NUST Basketball Championship

Basketball is one of the favorite sports for many students and faculty at Military College of Engineering. They do not miss out on any opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the sport. This time around, it was MCE itself to organize "Intra-NUST Basketball Championship" at the college from November 22 to 27, 2016. Teams from NUST constituent colleges participated in the event. After nail-biting pool matches, MCE and NUST Islamabad Campus managed to qualify for the final, which the latter won to claim the title. Trophies and medals were distributed after the match.
NCSC Blood Donation Drive 2016

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) held a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Armed Forces Institute of Transfusion (AFIT) at NUST Medical Centre from November 15 to 17, 2016. The main aim was to engage the students and faculty in serving the ill with the donation of blood.

Initially, the blood samples of donors were drawn and their weights measured, to confirm eligibility. The medical staff headed by AFIT took all possible measures to ensure the safety of donors, and monitored them throughout the process, giving immediate attention to those who showed any signs of weakness. NCSC expressed gratitude to the donors and treated them with fruit juices and snacks to replenish their energy level after the donation. A total of 280 pints of blood were collected during the drive.

Renowned philanthropist interacts with students

Community Service Learning (CSL) course is mandatory for all the undergraduate students of NUST. The classes are held to give students an insight into the spirit of community service and how it contributes to the well-being of society.

In this connection, Dr Patricia Omidian, a renowned philanthropist, was invited to NUST in December to hold hourly interactive sessions with the course participants. The esteemed guest, who has done tremendous amount of philanthropic work in Pakistan, shared her experiences with students and provided guidance on their community service projects. The main audience was the final year students of NBS, 3rd SCME, SNS, ASAB and SMME.

Educational Visit to The Educators School

An NCSC team reached out to young students of class 9 and 10 of The Educators School, located in Sector G-10 of Islamabad. The two-day program was held from November 26 to 27, 2016. The high school students availed that opportunity to learn the basic concepts of programming, its applications and the different types of programming. Besides, they also acquired some knowledge of electric circuitry in addition to a hands-on experience with practical circuits. The event was open to all Nustians for participation.
Blindfolded Rock Climbing Championship

In solidarity with the visually impaired persons, NUST Community Service Club in collaboration with Pakistan Para Climbing Club organized "Blindfolded Rock Climbing Championship" at IBEX Sports Club, Islamabad on December 31, 2016. The main goal was to raise public awareness regarding blindness and vision impairment as major public health issues. The event was sponsored by Red Sun Associates, Red Bull, IBEX Sports and Adventure Club and Pakistan Para Climbing Club.

The participants were divided into 6 groups of 8 or 9 people. Each group had an interactive session with one visually impaired individual prior to the wall climbing competition. All participants were blindfolded and then asked to climb, so that they could feel how much arduous a challenge becomes without being able to see. The competition comprised on two rounds. Top 10 contestants from the first round were sent to the second round to compete for top 3 positions. Towards the end, 10 members of NCSC core team also scaled the wall with their eyes blindfolded.

Free eye camp set up in a village near Chakwal

NCSC in collaboration with Al-Shifa Eye Hospital organized a free eye camp in a village near Chakwal city on November 26, 2016. Upon enquiry, it was found out that a major portion of the inhabitants were suffering from either long/short-sightedness or cataracts. A group of doctors accompanied the team to the village. Based on the diagnoses, the patients were provided with free-of-cost spectacles and medicines. Around 450 men, women and children benefitted from the camp.

NCSC TABA team visits Zain Welfare Trust

NCSC-TABA team held its first social welfare event for the session 2016-17 at Zain Welfare Trust on November 19, 2016. Islamabad. The Trust, located in Islamabad and headed by Ms Naseem Akhtar, runs solely on donations and provides free education to the poor children from the surrounding sectors, therapy for the disabled, and aid for marriages of the underprivileged people. During the visit, the team organized activities focusing on self-hygiene, science & technology and different games.
NCSC members spend time with SOS children

As part of their "Smile for a While" project, a few NCSC members attended on the children of SOS Children Village for a one-time meal on December 24, 2016. The concept behind the project is to share some happy moments with the children deprived of the love and care of their parents.

Open-mic talks, candid insights by children and gigs were part of this fall’s bonfire party. The fireworks in the end was the most exciting part of evening for the young souls.

NCSC organizes SOS Cricket Challenge

The sun had not yet fully risen to the horizon on December 10, 2016, when a group of children gathered at the ground next to School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME) to be a part of SOS Cricket Challenge. NUST Community Service Club hosted the event.

A sense of competition remained wafted throughout the event as sides tried to outplay their opponents. The children were overjoyed for having been given the opportunity to rejoice themselves in the company of Nustians. The challenge ended with the guests being shown around the campus.

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Albert Einstein
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