



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

JANUARY - JUNE 2017

COMSATS INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ABBOTTABAD



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Editor's Message



Newsletter's team is delighted to present to you the volume 12, issue 1 of our campus newsletter. We decided to go for a bi-annual publication of our newsletter instead of quarterly. We are saddened by the sad demise of our colleague, Dr Ghulam Roqia from department of Mathematics. May Almighty bless her with the highest pedestal in Jannah. In April 2017, with a heavy heart, we bid farewell to our second campus Director, Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon. He had a wonderful seven years stay at CIIT Abbottabad. In addition to this, our Research section has some interesting research related news. We have a hard working faculty on campus, who is carrying the CIIT's flag to new heights. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Saadia Munir
Editor-in-Chief

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Spring Plantation Drive

31 March 2017



Spring 2017 plantation under the auspices of Green Campus Committee (GCC) was launched jointly by faculty and students of CIIT, Abbottabad. GCC members who attended the plantation drive include Dr Amjad Hassan, Dr Qaisar Mahmood T.I., Dr Adnan Ahmad Dogar, Mr Aqeel Abbas, and Mr Muhammad Gulzar. The plant species that were prepared for plantation in this season on campus included the following: Raat ki Rani (Queen of night, *Cestum nocturnum*), with tiny tubular white flowers with powerful sweet perfume released at night, Mootia (Arabian Jasmine, *Jasminum sambac*) with attractive and sweetly fragrant flowers), Jatti Khatti (Sour or Seville Orange, *Citrus aurantium L.*), evergreen

plant with white flowers in spring with soothing fragrance, Saru (*Cypressus speceis*), ornamental plant, Apricot (*Prunus species*), fruit plant, Apple (*Malus species*), fruit plant. Director Prof. Dr Arshid Pervez along with Professor Dr Musarrat Shah launched the drive by planting a sapling of *Cypressus species*. On this occasion the GCC members, HoDs, faculty, students and other staff were present. The participants prayed for the success of the planted trees, and for the progress and development of the institution and the country. Dr Amjad Hassan thanked all the participants who shouldered the responsibility of undertaking this noble task.

Student Won 2nd Prize in Poster Competition

Department of Environmental Sciences

20 March 2017

A delegation of Environmental Sciences CIIT Abbottabad comprising of Dr Qaisar Mahmood T.I., Ms. Shahida Shaheen, PhD Scholar of Environmental Sciences, Ms. Amna Sarwar, PhD

Scholar of Environmental Sciences, participated in the competition. Ms Shahida Shaheen won 2nd best poster award. CCRD Islamabad held poster competition on the occasion of World Water Day

2017 at PCRWR Headquarter on 20 March 2017 in collaboration with IUCN, ICIMOD, Riphah International University, ECO Science Foundation, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad and LEAD Pakistan. Students from International Islamic University, Islamabad, Bahria University Islamabad, NUST, IQRA University, COMSATS IIT Islamabad, Wah, Abbottabad campuses, University of Haripur, APS Westridge III, OPF School and College participated and presented more than 25 posters on waste water. Certificates were distributed among all the participants and shields were awarded to the winners by the worthy

guests of the events, i.e. Chancellor of the Riphah University, DG PMD, Chairman PCRWR, Mayor of Islamabad etc.

1st Position was awarded to Syed Farrukh Hussain and Zuhair Asif, Department of Environmental Science, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

2nd Position was awarded to Ms. Shahida Shaheen, Department of Environmental Science, COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad)

3rd Position was awarded to Ali Khalid and Aliya Riaz, Department of Environmental Science, University of Haripur.

Hazara Higher Education Expo 2017

12-19 March 2017

CIIT Abbottabad participated in Haraza Higher Education Expo on 12 March 2017 and 19 March 2017 in Haripur and Mansehra respectively. More than 250 students participated at both the venues. A number of female students attended. Admission office, Student Affairs office and Environmental Sciences department represented CIIT Abbottabad in the Expos.

Dr Zulfiqar Bhatti, Mr Ghias Uddin, Incharge Student affairs along with MrYasir Mohayaddin, Mr Anwar Khalid, Mr Usman Syed, Mr Tariq Reheem, Mr Shahbaz Khan and a few students of campus represented the Admissions office of COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad in the Hazara Education Expo 2017 on 12 March 2017. Overall the event was successful; a number of feedback and information proformas were received from a number of students, interested in seeking admission at CIIT Abbottabad. COMSATS

Abbottabad's stalls, lectures, video shows, banners and posters were used to provide information regarding the Campus. The team facilitated students in choosing their educational path by knowing about various academic programs offered in COMSATS Abbottabad.

Dr Qaiser Mehmood T.I, Dr Tahir Hayat, Students of ES, and EE, Admission office/Student Affairs team attended the expo in Haripur on March 19, 2017.



CCNA Routing & Switching Certification Course

November 2016-January 2017



The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a comprehensive e-learning program that provides students with the Internet technology skills essential in a global economy. The Networking Academy delivers web-based content, online assessment, student performance tracking, hands-on labs, instructor training and support, and preparation for industry standard certifications.

The CCNA Routing and Switching curriculum is a gateway to entry-level networking jobs and IT careers. The curriculum consists of four courses:

1. Introduction to Networks
2. Routing and Switching Essentials
3. Scaling Networks



4. Connecting Networks.

The first 2 courses prepare the students for the Cisco CCENT certification exam. All four courses are recommended before taking the Cisco CCNA Routing and Switching certification exam.

Academy offered the CCNA R&S course in November 2016. The course duration was forty working days five days a week i.e. Monday to Friday. The course comprised a total 120 hours of lectures and labs. About 19 students got enrolled and 15 completed the course successfully. Cisco Inc. provides 58% exam fee discount voucher to students who completes the course from academy having 75% or above score in academy final exam.

Public Outreach: Dr Nadia Riaz and Dr Nosheen Mirza visited Hazara Public College, and The Concept Academy, Haripur

24 January 2017

Dr Nadia Riaz and Dr Nosheen Mirza, Assistant Professors of Environmental Sciences Department visited the College and the academy one after the other on January 24, 2017.

Dr Nadia gave a brief talk on Environmental Sciences, and it's future career options available to the students from all backgrounds in Hazara Public College, Haripur. Dr Nosheen Mirza then gave



students various career related guidance and what CIIT is doing in the area.

About 200 boys attended the session followed by approximately same number of girls attending separate session. The college management was interested in having their students visit CIIT Abbottabad sometime in future.

Professor Javaid Muhammad, founder of the Concept Academy, Haripur heartily consented to have our speakers, brief the students of his



academy in short. About 50 students attended that session after 3:30 pm. Both speakers guided the academy students in response to various questions and also explained to them about different field. At the end of the session, feedback forms were circulated, and Dr Nadia Riaz also distributed CIIT campus calendars among the Principals.

The students were concerned that the fee structure was high at CIIT Abbottabad and were eager to know about various scholarships.

Freelancing Bootcamp 2017

18 January 2017



COMSATS IT Center arranged a Freelancing Bootcamp 2017 on Wednesday, 18 January 2017. It was a free one day event which was sponsored by Payoneer. Mr Usman Shahzada, Assistant System



Analyst, CITC was the focal person. Event was arranged for the graduate Students of Computer Science Department. Worthy Director, Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon, Additional Registrar

(Academics) and the senior officials of CIIT Abbottabad attended the opening ceremony of the event. Besides the graduate students of CS

department, large number of 7th and 8th semester students, few administrative officers and staff members also attended the training session.

Preliminary Round of Present Around The World (PATW) Competition

Electrical Engineering Department

5 April 2017



Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) is well known multi-disciplinary society which is working with the vision “Working to engineer a better world”. Present Around The World (PATW) is the Institution of Engineering and Technology's global competition for Young Professionals & Students within engineering to develop and showcase presentation skills. “IET OnCampus CIIT Abbottabad Network” is the active network of IET which is working for the Students & Young Professionals of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Abbottabad . To enhance & present the skills of students studying in CIIT, Team IET organized the Preliminary Round of PATW Competition.

The purpose of the competition is to give young engineers and technologists the opportunity to enhance their presentation skills, conveying



complex technical information to mixed technical and nontechnical audiences. Competitors have a chance to win prizes at different levels of the competition, with the overall prize comprising of £1,000 and international travel'

Preliminary Round of PATW was planned by “IET OnCampus CIIT Abbottabad Network” in collaboration with “IET Islamabad Local Network” on 5 April 2017 at CIIT, Abbottabad.

There were seven presenters, about 90 attendees, 10 young professionals & twelve guests. These presenters and attendees who actively participated in this event were from different departments of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad. Young Professionals were MS and PhD scholars. Guests included Director CIIT Abbottabad, Head of Electrical Engineering Department (HoD), Chairman Electrical

Engineering Department, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors & Lecturers.

All the presenters performed very well. There was a tough competition among all. The results of preliminary round of Present Around The World (PATW) competition is mentioned below:

1st position: Naif Yaseen Rajpoot (Electrical Engineering Department)

2nd Position: Helen Mary Fiaz (Biotechnology Department)

After the result were announced, a certificate distribution ceremony was held at the same place to Presenters, Judges & Organizers of this event. Dr Muhammad Saeed Khan distributed all the

certificates along with Dr Jawad Saleem (OnCampus Facilitator). At the same time, it was announced that Naif Yaseen Rajpoot (Winner) has been promoted to Stage-2 of PATW Competition. Where, Winner of Stage-1 will compete with his counterparts from GIKI & IST at Islamabad Local Network in Stage-2.

This Event was supervised by Dr Jawad Saleem (OnCampus Facilitator). Team IET was headed by Mr Muhammad Kashif Sattar (President “IET OnCampus CIIT Abbottabad Network”). Team IET organized the event from scratch and made it successful as per their commitment.

Internship Report Writing Workshop

Department of Management Sciences

April 07, 2017

An internship report writing training workshop was arranged for final year undergraduate business students. The purpose of the workshop was to improve students' report writing skills especially the internship report which is mainly evaluated by external examiners. Mr Assad Razaq discussed the

key elements of an internship report and gave tips for effective report writing. Dr Yasir Bin Tariq (internship coordinator & organizer of the workshop), discussed the report submission process and educated the participants about plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Seminar on Robotics by Dr Yasar Ayaz

Department of Computer Science

10 May 2017

Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering hosted together a seminar under the IET OnCampus activity in CIIT Abbottabad. The seminar included talks on “Robotics” delivered by Dr Ahmaddin (Asst. Professor, Computer Science Department, CIIT Abbottabad) and the invited speaker Dr Yasar Ayaz (Head of Robotics and Machine Intelligence Department - NUST).

Students showed keen interest in the area of AI and Robotics. The seminar ended with a short showcase event by Dr Safdar Zaman (Asst. Professor, CS Department, CIIT Abbottabad) who displayed robotics projects done by his students. In the end, deliberations were made to jointly participate in the AI Excellence Center in which NUST and COMSATS are partners.

Orientation Ceremony for Spring 2017

5 March 2017



Orientation session for the new intake was scheduled on 5 March 2017 at 2:30 pm in main auditorium. The new students and their parents were invited to attend this orientation session in order to be informed about what CIIT Abbottabad stands for as well as about the basic information that will help the newly admitted students. A large number of students from different departments attended the orientation session. The heads of



departments of all the newly offered programs attended the session. The presentation was given by Mr Aziz Ullah Sayal. The hostel availing students reached campus a day earlier with their families. Refreshments were served at the end of the session and parents and faculty mingled together, and answered the questions of students and their parents.

IEEE Students Branch Celebrated Pakistan Day with Students of COMSATS Sweet Home

23 March 2017

On 23 March 2017 Pakistan Resolution Day activity organized by seven members of IEEE COMSATS Abbottabad Student Branch for the children of “COMSATS Sweet Home” from 9 am till 12 pm. “COMSATS Sweet Home” is an orphanage for 8 October, 2005 earthquake's effected children and now these 100 orphan children are completely supported and being educated by COMSATS Abbottabad. It was a one day event which was held from 9:00 am to 4:00

pm. The purpose of the event was to spend quality time, good interaction, encourage & bring awareness of history of the country with the children of “COMSATS Sweet Home” and all of children were found really brilliant. Syed Azaz Ul Hassan is the chapter Chairperson for IEEE CS and Mr Nauman Zafar is the Vice Chairperson of the IEEE COMSATS ATD Student Branch. The activities conducted included Tilawat-e-Quran, Naat, Poem of Iqbal, Drama, Interactive Session,



Speech on 23rd March, Balloon Activity, Question and Answer session, Karaoke, Parade, Gymnastic Show and concluded by a closing Ceremony. IEEE COMSATS Abbottabad Student Branch is a source of technical and professional information, research resources, technology advancements and



network opportunities. It is a thought provoking platform that is devoted to raise consciousness in the students of engineering profession and also serve student members to meet technical professionals in other colleges and universities around the world.

One Day Skiing Trip to Mushkpuri Top

Department of Management Science

18 March 2017



One day skiing trip to mushkpuri top was arranged by Dr Shakir Hafeez, Assistant Professor, Management Sciences Department. The faculty who participated include Prof. Dr Amjad Farid Hasnu, Prof. Dr Shehla Amjad, Dr Amjad Hassan, Dr Bilal bin Saeed, Dr Siddique ullah Baig, Mr Umar Hassan, and Engr. Nauman Tareen. Sixty students were among the participants. It was an



hour and a half hike from Dunga-Gali to Mushkpuri top. After reaching the top all the participants completed five rounds of skiing. For the awareness of students and tourist, on our way back 30 bin bags of trash were collected to clean the naturally beautiful track. It was an overall successful and most enjoyable journey and trekking expedition.

Seminar on Conflict, Peace and Development

Department of Development Studies

21 March, 2017



Department of Development Studies organized a guest lecture for the students of MS and Ph.D. in language lab on 21 March 2017 at 03:00 pm in which two prominent speakers were invited to talk on civil wars and conflict with respect to Nepal and Srilanka. Dr Bahadar Nawab Khattak welcomed the guest speakers.

Dr Raj Subedi from Tribhuvan University Nepal talked on Maoist insurgency up to 2000. Triparthi Agreement, Panchayat system, impact of referendum of 1980 and how 120 ethnic groups inside Nepalese Hung parliament gave rise to horse trading culture. He shared the experience of restoration of democracy.

Dr Uppali Pannilage from Ruhuna University Srilanka highlighted Tamil tigers/LTTE movement in Sri Lanka and how it got momentum,



Bandra Naik and Chandra Naikay agreements and escalation of conflict in 1993, Eelam war 1984-87 with signing of Indo-Lanka peace accord. 19 May, 2009 marked the dramatic end of three decades of armed struggle.

One of the main purpose of the seminar was to learn from the experiences of the partner countries and understand what dynamics worked for the resolution of the conflict in their countries and what can we adopt from them in order to address the issues of insurgency, conflict, and terrorism. The interactive session followed by the guest lectures helped students understand the ins and outs of conflict. The seminar was part of the interactive learning process the three partner institutes agreed to work upon.

Establishment of Housing Society by COMSATS Employees Housing Foundation (CEHF)

6 February 2017

The COMSATS Employees Housing Foundation (CEHF), with the grace of Almighty Allah is pleased to announce a residential scheme for its

members/ CIIT employees by the name of "Islamabad Crescent" at Lethrar Road, Islamabad, located at a convenient distance from CIIT campus



Islamabad.

The CEHF intends to hold launching ceremony for the scheme at Electrical Engineering department, Seminar Hall, Academic Block-1, CIIT, Islamabad Campus on Wednesday the 8 February 2017 at 11:00 am followed by holding Seminars at all other



CIIT campuses for which dates will be announced shortly, where all the faculty and staff members of CIIT would be invited for briefing the salient features of the scheme.

Public Outreach: Dr Aamir Shahzad Visited Govt. Comprehensive Girls College, Abbottabad Department of Electrical Engineering 2 March 2017



Principal Govt. Girls Comprehensive Girls College consented to have a Public Outreach session at their college on 2 March 2017. About 60 female students from CS, Engineering, and Medical background attended the session. Dr Aamir briefed about the career options in Electrical Engineering and its applications. He



also spoke about Biomedical Engineering and encouraged the students to come to this field which is very conducive for females. He elaborated on the scholarship options and told them that finances should not be an issue if someone is keen on getting higher education as there are a number of scholarships available for meritorious students.

The News Education Expo 2017 at Peshawar

3 May 2017

The News Education Expo 2017 organized by Jang Media Group was held on 3 May 2017 at Shiraz Arena, Peshawar. Admission Office Team and Students in the supervision of Mr Ghias Ud Din Shah, Incharge Students Affairs participated in the Education Expo 2017.

Mr Muhammad Atif Khan, Provincial Minister of Education addressed the participants on the opening ceremony and appreciated the participants and the organizers of the event. Different universities and colleges from Punjab, KPK, Sindh, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and

Balochistan participated in the Educational Expo. It was a splendid event organized to attract the valued applicants for admission in Fall 2017 from KPK region. People and students from the surroundings of Peshawar took great interest in COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad's exhibition and wished to visit the Campus. They showed great enthusiasm by filling the form for personal interest and desire to join the institution in future. It was a wonderful whole day event.

Public Outreach Session at Govt. Boys Degree College, Havelian

Department of Environmental Sciences

1 February 2017



Dr Qaisar Mehmood (T.I), Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, CIIT Abbottabad visited Govt. Boys Degree College, Havelian on 1 February 2017 at 11:00 am for a talk on career prospects and future trends.

He motivated the students to go for careers beyond the usual areas and try to research more avenues.



He guided the students on various career options available to them and how they can make better use of their education and do something better for their society, their family as well as for the country as a whole. Dr Qaisar elaborated a number of fields available to the students in much detail. More than 80 students from Medical and Engineering

backgrounds; from HSSC and Bachelor level; attended the session. They filled out the feedback

forms at the end of the session and gave valuable feedback and responses.

Exposure visit of Students of different Universities from Islamabad To Karachi and Gwadar

9- 15 February 2017.



A group comprising three faculty members and 10 students from different departments of CIIT Abbottabad participated in the subject event organized by Pakistan Army.

An official trip of five universities from the Islamabad region, including COMSATS IIT, NUST, International Islamic University, Allama Iqbal Open University and Quaid-e-Azam University was arranged by Pakistan Army, under the umbrella of an NGO called “Voice of Baluchistan”. The funding for this visit was provided by the Government of Sindh and Balochistan. Approximately 200 students and faculty from these five universities gathered at Nurkhan Air Base (Chaklala Airbase), Islamabad. Two trips of approximately 100 students and faculty each were made by C-130 airplane.

Delegates were warmly welcomed by the army officials at Karachi and stayed at Mehran Hotel located at Shahra-e-Faisal. They were joined by



approximately 50 students and teachers from Lasbella University, Balochistan. During these three days in Karachi, visits to Karachi Beach, Mazar and Museum of Quaid-e-Azam, Head Quarters Pakistan Rangers, Dolmen Mall Clifton, DHA Golf Club Phase 8, etc. were arranged. One of the interesting events was a one-day conference organized at University of Karachi, during which political leaders of various parties, MNAs, MPAs and other officials were invited and they presented their views on “Role of Youth in National Integration and Regional Connectivity”. Various questions from the participants were also answered by these political leaders. Later on, we moved by road towards Gwadar, which was nearly twelve hours travel. This allowed us to view magnificent views along the coastal highway. During this trip, we had a stopover at Ormara Naval Base, where all the participants had lunch. At night they arrived at PC Hotel Gwadar.



Next few day the participating team had visits arranged for Gwadar Port, two different beach spots in Gwadar, walk towards the sunset point with Commander Southern Command Lt. Gen. Aamer Riaz, and a was dinner hosted by Pakistan Coast Guards Head Quarters 3 Battalion Liaquat. Delegates were divided into three groups and each group visited a different educational institute in Gawadar such as (Government College for Boys, Government College for Girls and Gawader



Institute of Technology). These students and faculty members warmly welcomed all the participants and showed their interest in visiting Universities in Islamabad area during their upcoming visit. On the last day all the delegates were again divided into two groups and moved from the Gwadar airport to Nur Khan Air Base, Islamabad. This concluded their 7 day trip to Karachi and Gwadar.

Board of Studies (BoS) meeting Department of Chemistry 24 February 2017



As per notified calendar of statutory bodies meetings of CIIT, 9th meeting of the Board of Studies (BoS) for Chemistry was scheduled on 24



February 2017 at 10:00 am and held in conference room of library at CIIT Abbottabad Campus. The main agenda points were:

- Course revision
- Inclusion of new courses
- Inclusion of names of reviewers/examiners for evaluation of MS/PhD thesis

All members of BOS attended the meeting while Prof Dr Iqbal Chaudhry (HEJ) joined the meeting via video link.

Academic Partnership in Digital Youth Summit 2017

by Dr Rafi-us-Shan

Department of Computer Science

The Digital Youth Summit is an international event focusing on youth employment in the technology sector (Information and Communication Technologies related opportunities) and through e-lancing (on line work). Specifically, the event will include workshops with top Pakistani and international experts from the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, as well as an expo of Pakistani tech startups, and aims at building awareness among youth about opportunities in non-traditional areas (tech entrepreneurship and on-line work). The ultimate goal of the event is to strengthen Peshawar (and the KP province) as a growing hub for tech entrepreneurship and innovation, where talented youth access resources (networks, mentors, and more) to become entrepreneurs.

On invitation from the KP IT Board, Dr Rafi-us-Shan represented Computer Science Department in the preliminary meeting of the Digital Youth Summit 2017 (DYS-2017). The meeting was fruitful. It included representatives from

academia, like UET, FAST, IM Sciences and also form the Industry. KP IT Board and World Bank were the organizers. Agenda was to plan and promote DYS -2017. It was concluded that all participating partners will help promote DYS-2017. Following items were finalized:

- Organize Seminars on the subject of choice, in University, in the build-up of DYS, KPITB n World-Bank will support in this regard.
- Maximize the marketing and participation in DYS. KPITB n World Bank will support with marketing material.
- KPITB n World Bank will provide support for participants from far locations
- Each partner will receive the outline MoU around the above context, which they may sign.

KPITB has selected Computer Science department of CIIT Abbottabad as the academic partner for the DYS-2017 to be held from May 5 to 8 May 2017 in Peshawar.

Cyber Defense: A Cyber Security Seminar:

Department of Computer Science

Computer Science Department CIIT ATD organized this event with the collaboration of

IEEE CS Chapter CIIT ATD & Cloud Security Alliance Chapter Pakistan. As this is an important

future issue in upcoming years. So, we organized a seminar which was on Cyber Security Awareness. It was a one-day event which started from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. We Invited Speakers from CSA and their complete executives (a well-known organization in Pakistan) along Mr. Tahir Chaudhary (President and CEO of Pakistan Institute of Entrepreneurship) and a speaker from

NUST came to attend this event. The seminar contained brief introduction of Cyber Security Awareness and how to start a new tech venture (entrepreneurship). Students showed great interest toward this seminar. In this session, lunch was provided to the speakers and guests and then ending the seminar with high success and flying colors.



World Wild Life Day-Celebration with Wild life Department Abbottabad Department of Environmental Sciences

3 March 2017

World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3 March every year to raise awareness about endangered animals and plants, and ways to fight against wildlife crime. Wildlife crime involves illegally selling and buying animal body parts, as well as stealing or killing animals that are protected by government laws. Organizations like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the United Nations (UN) want to end these kind of crimes, so they promote the day by asking people to:

- Back a ranger - donate money to help rangers who protect endangered animals get equipment and training they need to stop

wildlife crime.

- Sign pledges urging governments to strengthen their laws to stop wildlife crime.

In this regard, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Wild Life Abbottabad Mr Iftikhar-uz-Zaman invited Biotechnology students and faculty to celebrate the day and enlighten the importance of wild life to the young generation. The Motto of this year celebration was to encourage the young scientists to come forward to play their role in the protection of wildlife in Pakistan, specifically in the region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr Mohammad Maroof Shah (Head BTY), Dr Amjad

Hassan, Dr Ayesha Baig, Dr Mohammad Ali, Mr Khawaj Muhammad and Miss Zahida Bibi along with the students from Biotechnology program visited the Wild Life Center Abbottabad.

Mr Iftikhar-uz-Zaman, DFO Wildlife Abbottabad briefed the audience about importance of Wildlife and its current status in the Hazara region. He also invited the young students to come forward and play their part in the improvement of wild life in all possible aspects. He also emphasized that students can get the chance of pursuing research and help in preservation of the endangered species. It was very interactive and learning experience for both students and faculty.

Dr Maroof Shah paid his esteems to DFO Wildlife Abbottabad, Mr Iftikhar-uz-Zaman for providing this opportunity to interact with Wildlife Management and to make ourselves aware of the activities that are taking place at Wildlife Center. In addition thanks were paid to Wildlife Department for providing our students a platform for designing their research studies in this important area. Both Wild life Department and BTY program at CIIT agreed to carry out joint research project in all areas of wild life especially genetic conservation and species genotyping using modern biotechnological techniques.

Departure of Ummrah Contingent

20 January 2017

56 members including faculty members, staff and their families departed at 1200 Hours on 20 January 2017 for Umrah. They were dropped at Islamabad International Airport in CIIT Abbottabad's official buses. Director CIIT Abbottabad, HoDs, large number of faculty members and administrative staff gathered near CIIT Abbottabad's monument stone during the departure of Umrahs group. Another group comprising 32 members left on Saturday 21

January 2017. Groups will stay there for 21 days.



Cryptography Workshop **IEEE CIIT Abbottabad Student Branch** **Department of Electrical Engineering** **18 March 2017**

IEEE CIIT ATD SB in collaboration with IEEE CS Chapter CIIT ATD organized Section level event titled "Workshop on Cryptography" an important

& last fragment of "Spark up your Mind initiative by IEEE Islamabad Section" on 18 March 2017. In this workshop, the respected speakers, Dr.

Mudassar Aslam (H.O.D CS) & Dr. Mazhar Ali (CS Dept.) provided thorough and thought-provoking knowledge about Cryptography. It was a one day workshop which was held from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm with later interactive session. Participants from 6 different Universities - (COMSATS WAH, CUST Islamabad, Abbottabad University (AUST), UET Abbottabad, Hazara University, Fuji Foundation University & SIGHT

Chapter Islamabad Representator, including some PhD Scholars)-came to attend this workshop. The workshop timings were divided into two sessions. At the end of first session, lunch was served to the participants along with a university tour. Overall the workshop ended on a good note along with abundant positive feedback from the participants, universities, IEEE SBs & Section.



Visit of Haripur College Students Department of Chemistry 9 March 2017

Undergraduate students (BS Chemistry) from Post Graduate College of Haripur visited the Department of Chemistry on 9 March 2017. Chairman/HoD Professor Dr Abdur Rahman Khan welcomed the visitors. Departmental introduction and activities were presented by Dr Sohail Anjum Shahzad. Chairman Professor Dr Abdur Rahman Khan and senior faculty members further elaborated the departmental research activities and answered the students' questions. Later on, visitors were taken to the Chemistry research laboratories and introduced with the campus infrastructure highlights and the available scientific equipment.

All in all, this event went very well and the students left the campus in rejuvenated and upbeat mood.



Three Days Study/Excursion Trip to Lahore

Department of Development Studies

27 April 2017



Department of Development Studies arranged four days study/exposure visit of Lahore. Accommodation was arranged at the University of Punjab for both boys and girls at Students facilitation center and girls hostel respectively. Students were welcomed and greeted by the Chairman of the Department of Social Work, Dr Muhammad Zahid himself. A session was arranged at the Department of Social Work the next morning where students were briefed about the studies and working environment of the Department. Students from both the departments i.e. department of Social Work at PU and Department of Development Studies at CIIT Abbottabad had an opportunity to discuss issues among selves. The students were keen to know how semester system is different from the annual system and how does the idea of having lectures for three days and field work for the next three days is working for the students of PU. The students from CIIT were inspired by the participatory research approach of the students of PU and asked them questions about their feeling on spending



months in the field. The next day was a trip to Information Technology University at Arfa software technology Park. Director academics at IT University gave a detailed presentation about the university and highlighted different innovative methods used at the university to address the national challenges. The students then visited Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Lab (IPAL). The dynamic team of the IPAL discussed the working model and different projects they were working on or had accomplished. Plan9 is the innovation incubation lab of IT University that incubated the projects like *Markhor*, *Patari*, *Mangobaz* etc. Students were briefed about the whole mechanism of the incubation and were also provided with an opportunity to meet with the project leads working on their projects in the incubation center. On the last day students visited the Fountain House near Lady MacLagin High School. A facility for mentally disturbed people, it was an old *ashram* built for the Hindu widows built in 1921 and handed over to the Fountain House in 1960's. The treatment mechanism like

clay therapy, music, art and wood therapy were awe inspiring. In his briefing executive member of the governing body, appreciated the students' effort to come all the way from Abbottabad for this exposure visit and encouraged them to indulge in maximum social work. The last day was also marked by the visit of walled city of Lahore, Shahi Hamam, Wazir Khan Mosque, and Anarkali. A guided tour was arranged through the narrow

streets of Lahore. Throughout the three days, students enjoyed the traditional cuisine of Lahore be it the breakfasts at Anarkali and Model town, dinners at Lakshumi's famous Butt karahi or the Traditional truck restaurant at Bhera. Overall it was a fabulous trip for which the Department is thankful to the University of the Punjab and Community World Service Asia for financial and logistic support.

IEEE CIIT Student Branch Cricket & Football Matches Followed by an Alumni Reunion

Department of Electrical Engineering

8 April 2017

Healthy activities in form of Cricket and Football matches were arranged for the IEEE members on 8 April 2017. The main purpose of this activity was to give some relaxation to volunteers after many continuous and excited IEEE Events and also to bridge interaction of new volunteers with the previous & current Executive body. This event contained a series of three matches between two teams named as (IEEE ASSASSINS vs IEEE FALCONS). And the series was won by IEEE ASSASSINS by 2-1. Man of match was Muhammad Babar & best partnership scored was amongst M. Saeed-ul-Hassan Raza & Muhammad

Babar by IEEE Falcons. Afterwards friendly football matches were played. Event ended with Alumni interaction and refreshment sessions.



Microsoft Education Project Pakistan

Department of Computer Science

18 May 2017

A team from "Microsoft Education Project Pakistan" visited CIIT Abbottabad on May 18 2017 to meet the Computer science and Electrical Engineering faculty, IT Center staff and students. The primary focus of the visit was to present and

discuss HEC & Microsoft Education Transformation Agreement, Office 365, Windows Products, Microsoft Student Partner Program and Imagine Cup.

Seminar on Career Counseling Office of Development 18 May 2017

Office of Development organized a seminar on career counseling for graduating students on 18 May 2017. Syed Azhar Hussain was the guest speaker. Syed Azhar Hussain is serving as advisor/consultant for COMSATS institute of Information Technology. He has more than 22 years of experience in career counseling,

Education Management, Training of Counselors and advisors teacher and school managers at different levels. In this regard, 7th and 8th semester students of BCS, BTN and BSE attended the session for a better future planning. After the seminar one to one discussion and counseling session was also conducted.



Accreditation Visit of Pakistan Engineering Council Department of Civil Engineering 12 May 2017



Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) conducted an accreditation visit for Civil Engineering Program (Fall-2013 Batch) on 12-13 May 2017. Visiting



team comprised the following:

- Engr. Prof. Dr Ehsanullah Kakar, BUITMS, Quetta: Convener

- Engr. Prof. Dr Hamza Farooq Gabriel, NICE, SCEE, NUST Islamabad: Expert Civil Engineering
- Engr. Muhammad Haroon: PEC Representative

The visit formally commenced with inspection of the department laboratories. They checked the assorted equipment and list of the experiments performed. They visited the departmental library and predominantly looked into the library's book stock pertaining to Civil Engineering core areas.

Scrutiny of the course content taught to the current academic sessions was also the part of visitation. Furthermore, interaction session was carried out with the final semester students and the faculty members separately. After a thorough examination, the team recognized and appreciated the departments' efforts to uphold the standards and following the PEC guidelines upto the mark. The department received full accreditation of its Civil Engineering Programs



OBE Workshop, SB VOLT Session & Membership Drive Department of Electrical Engineering

15 April 2017



Department of Electrical Engineering alongwith IEEE student branch organized Outcome Based



Education (OBE) workshop on 15 April 2017. This workshop was arranged for all faculty of Electrical

and Civil Engineering Departments to introduce them to Object Based Education and implement & develop it at CIIT Abbottabad campus. Resource persons were both PEC approved, and were highly qualified. Overall workshop was ended on high note. Furthermore, IEEE training similar to VOLT was arranged for Student Branch volunteers

on 14 April 2017 and they were trained and guided about What, Why & benefits of IEEE. This training helped new volunteers to better understand IEEE and results in IEEE membership development drive, which succeeded with the recruitment of 18-20 new IEEE Student Members for 2nd quarter 2017.

One Day Seminar on Youth for Development Department of Development Studies 25 May 2017



The seminar on Youth for Development was envisioned to support the joint initiative of Community World Service (CWS) and COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad, particularly the department of Development Studies to mentor a group of youth. Youth are the future visionaries and decision-makers of communities. However, many communities fail to realize that youth are not just “investments” for the future. But have capacities and the right to be involved in creating change today. As a result, youth often lack opportunities to influence meaningful change in their communities, which can contribute to apathy and lack of hope for a positive future. Having hope and a vision for the future is the starting point for



creating positive change.

Youth must be involved in creating the change they want to see. This means inspiring hope and motivation among youth to become positive agents of change in their community. At CWS/DS Department, it means involving youth in the design, implementation, action-planning and evaluation of outcomes of programs building on this, a interactive one day seminar was held for different group of youth who participated from Mansehra and Abbottabad districts. There was a large participation from female students, where out of the 130 participants, 96 were female.

The following were the objectives of seminar:

- To develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes

- to be effective leaders among youth in their communities.
- Strengthen knowledge about different types of leadership
- Expand your knowledge of how sport and play can be used to promote change in communities.
- To develop an action plan for community

Students' Week COMSATS Engineering Festival **Department of Electrical Engineering** **2-7 May 2017**

COMSATS Engineering Festival (CEF) was organized by IEEE COMSATS Abbottabad Student Branch from 2-7 May 2017 with the objectives of fostering technical and innovative events for the better understanding of education degree courses of the students, to fulfill the goals of technological development by organizing various informative seminars and workshops and to provide a positive platform to students and teachers to explore and apply their learning in real life events. Various events in CEF includes, Logic Designer, Innovative Engineers, Mind Mashers, Freelancing Mastery Workshop, Seminar on Power House & Smart Grid, E-Gaming, Code-A-Thon, Speed wiring, Brain Storming Events, Interactive Sessions, Workshop and Seminars.

Overall CEF ended with 14 consecutive events in continuous 6 days run, achieving all of its objectives and targets. CEF was appreciated at Section & SBs and Region level by selection for R10 EA Support Fund 2017 & this got featured on IEEE R10 Today, Quarter 2 - July 2017 Newsletter edition.



Workshop on “Teaching Mathematics at School Level” at ALEF **School and College Community Welfare Projects** **Department of Mathematics** **13-14 May 2017**

Name of Project: Aliabad Education Foundation
This is a Community Welfare Project under which 150 students are getting free education in a faraway backward area of Abbottabad. This is one of prominent foundation which is providing free education services with Computer Center and Science Lab in Aliabad to locality in such a

backward region from 2011 where basic needs of life do not completely exist.

Dr. Zakir Hussain (Chief Evaluator of ALEF), Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Abbottabad, arranged a workshop on Teaching Mathematics at School Level with teaching staff of School and College.

Prize Distribution Ceremony Fall 2016

Student Affairs Office

16 May 2018



Prize distribution ceremony is truly a momentous occasion on an unprecedented scale for the institute and is a custom that is followed in every semester at CIIT Abbottabad. As per CIIT custom, to recognize outstanding students in academics, Prize distribution ceremony for fall 2016 was arranged on May 16, 2017 inside campus. The students, their parents, members of the COMSATS family, including head of all departments, faculty members and administration staff joined the ceremony.

This time CIIT was fortunate enough to have Professor Muhammad Sajjad, Chairman Board of Intermediate and secondary education, Abbottabad as a chief guest. In his professional career of 30 years he has been working as controller of examination BISE Abbottabad for four years. He has an additional charge as chairman BISE Abbottabad.

Every time the ceremony gives a tribute to the known personalities of Pakistan. This time the theme of the event was “Shaheen of Iqbal”, a tribute was given to Allama Muhammad Iqbal who



is called the "Spiritual father of Pakistan" and is regarded as the Shair-e-Mashriq. As he is considered one of the most important figures in Urdu literature with literary work in both Urdu and Persian languages, his eminent poetry was narrated as a source of inspiration to all position holders at the ceremony. The ceremony began with the name of Allah, Muhammad Afzal from computer engineering department recited few verses from Holy Quran. He stood first in qiraat competition during students' week. Qiraat was followed by naat which was recited by Muhammad Ahsan who secured first position in Naat competition in students' week, he is an engineering student. Campus report was presented by Prof. Dr. Shahid Khattak, acting Director CIIT Abbottabad. He warmly welcomed parents of the prize holders and congratulated them and parents on their great academic achievements and hard work. He continued by encouraging the students to keep the consistency in their hard work in future as well.

The chief guest Professor Muhammad Sajjad

shared his views about the ceremony and congratulated position holders on the excellent academic performance in their respective departments. He also stressed upon the importance of personal grooming of the students and gave an advice of being a responsible citizen of Pakistan. He praised the efforts of CIIT in creating a conducive environment for students and imparting high quality education to them.

Position holders were awarded with certificates and prize money. Highest Scorer was Bakht Omer

who is a student in department of Computer Sciences. He secured 4.00 CGPA out of 4.00 CGPA followed by Abbas Ahmed Nawaz 3.97 CGPA, Saad ur rehman 3.97, and Ayesha Ejaz 3.94 CGPA. After the closing of the ceremony, Shield as a souvenir was presented by Dr. Shahid Khattak to Chief Guest, Professor Muhammad Sajjad. After the closing of the program, the guests exchanged their views with CIIT family members on a hi-tea.



Farewell to Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon

27 April 2017



Professor Dr Khan Gul Jadoon was given a befitting farewell party by HoDs, section heads,



faculty, staff and our SG grade employees in main auditorium on 27 April 2017 for his tenure as

Director COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad Campus from 9 April 2010 till 12 April 2017. A pictography of entire stay of Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon in the campus was displayed on multimedia during dinner proceedings. Mr and Mrs Khan Gul Jadoon attended the event. All HoDs and section heads received the guest of honor, at the entrance. The outgoing Director was greeted by everyone in the hall. He personally met everyone by visiting them and shook hands. The event began with the recitation of Holy Quran by Qari Mehraj Muhammad. Prayer of *fatiha* was offered during the proceedings at the sad demise of one of the employees of the campus, Dr Ghulam Roqia. Prof. Dr Arshid Pervez, as the incoming Director greeted everyone in the hall and narrated the comments and wishes of a few of the colleagues for Dr Khan Gul Jadoon. Col. Anjum Hussain

Shah (Retd) also gave a brief address and appreciated the hard work of the outgoing Director, and that he will be dearly missed by the team at campus. Mrs Khan Gul Jadoon was presented with a souvenir by Prof. Dr Shehla Amjad. Prof. Dr Arshid Pervez presented a shield to Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon along with an Islamic calligraphy frame. In the end, Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon shared his views and appreciated the efforts of the CIIT family in giving him a farewell and honor. He briefly explained about his experiences while his stay as Director Campus from start till end of his tenure. He prayed that the coming years for CIIT Abbottabad will be prosperous and that the team will work hard in the same way as they did before, by keeping the CIIT flag high. The session was concluded with a dinner followed by group photographs with Dr Khan Gul Jadoon.

One Day Seminar on Civil War and Conflict

Department of Development Studies

21 March 2017



Department of Development studies organized a seminar for students of MS and Ph.D in language lab on 21 March 2017 at 03:00 pm in which two prominent speakers were invited to talk on civil



wars and conflict with respect to Nepal and Srilanka.

Dr Bahadar Nawab Khattak delivered a welcome address before starting of seminar.

1. Dr Raj Subedi from Tribhuvan University Nepal talk on Maoist insurgency up to 2000. Triparthi Agreement. 1962 Panchayat system, 1980 referendum. 120 ethnic groups inside Nepal Hung parliament and horse trading culture. Restoration of multi-party democracy 12 June 2001 Massacre of king family. Secret talks start 2nd people movement or April uprising 2006
2. Dr Uppali Pannilage from Ruhuna University Srilanka highlighted Tamil tigers/LTTE

movement in Srilanka that how it was rise up. Bandra Naik and Chandra Naikay agreements. Establishment of timil tigers by youth in 1972. Escalation of conflict in 1993. Eelam war 1984-87 with signing of Indo-lanka peace accord. On 19 May 2009 marked the dramatic ends of 3 decade armed struggle. Military collapse of LTTE which was responsible of 400 suicide attacks and displacement of 262629 IDPs.

One Day Exposure Visit to Katas Raj Temples Department of Development Studies 1 May 2017



An exposure visit to Katas Raj Temples was arranged for undergraduate students with assistance of Community World Service Asia (CWSA). The students were amazed by the structures, beauty and architecture. The most remarkable thing was that even after so many years of neglect it is still standing with only minor damage. Students also visited famous beautiful multicolored pond. After the exposure of different sites at Katas Temples the students satdown with



other university students for their experience sharing regarding the event which reiterated the necessity of religious tolerance. The conclusion is the pinnacle of religious tolerance and peace, which we are actually supposed to learn. Across from the Katas Raj temple was a mosque and a temple, standing side by side. Each member of both religions practicing their faith side by side in peace, and respecting each other; that is the message we need to spread.

Training Session on the Role of Entrepreneurs/NGI for Environmental Uplift

Department of Environmental Sciences

5 April 2017

A training session was arranged by Department of Environmental Sciences on "The Role of Entrepreneurs /NGIs for Environmental uplift" on 5 April, 2017 in language lab, at CIIT Abbottabad. Dr Shamyla Nawazish, Assistant Professor of Department of Environmental Sciences had organized this event and the presenter was Mian Abdul Rasheed (CEO Green Emergency Forum) gave his talk on the role of Pakistani Entrepreneurs and their efforts for Environmental uplift in the country.

At the start of the training, a welcome address was delivered by Professor Dr Arshid Pervez, Director CIIT Abbottabad and at the end of session; the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Qaisar Mehmood, T.I, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences

department.

Environmental Sciences faculty who participated in this training included Dr Arshad Mehmood Abbasi, Dr Tahir Hayat, Dr Romana Khan along with the students from department. This two hours valuable session ended with the distribution of certificates among the participants.



Workshop on Islamic Finance for Shariah Scholars & Bankers

Department of Management Sciences

17-18 May 2017



Center of Islamic Finance (CIF) and CIIT Abbottabad in collaboration with State Bank of



Pakistan organized a two day workshop on Islamic Finance on 17-18 May 2017 at COMSATS

Abbottabad for Shariah Scholars and Bankers of the region. More than 80 Shariah scholars and senior bankers attended the workshop. Renowned Shariah scholar Qazi Abdul Samad, Resident Shariah Advisor, Bank of Khyber and International trainer conducted the workshop.

Prof. Dr Shahid Khattak, Electrical Engineering department appreciated CIF for arranging the workshop and extended thanks to State Bank of Pakistan for collaboration in facilitating and sponsoring the event. Mufti Abdul Wajid (District

Khateeb Abbottabad) educated audience with the references of al-Qur ān and Sunnah about finding novel solutions to cater human needs. Mufti Zain-ul-Abidin appreciated CIF and SBP for arranging the workshop and stressed the need to eliminate interest based economic system. Dr Abdus Sattar Abbasi (Head, CIF) welcomed all participants and briefed about Center of Islamic Finance (CIF). The organizers of the event were Mr Jamil Anwar, Mr Ghias Uddin Shah, Mr Awais Rashid, Ms Sania Khalid, and Mr Assad Razaq.

One Day Seminar on Be Bold For Change Department of Development Studies 6 April 2017



Department of Development Studies organized a one day seminar on 6 April 2017. The seminar on 'Be Bold for Change: International Women's Day (IWD) Campaign' was envisioned to support the joint initiative of Community World Service (CWS) and COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad, particularly the department of Development Studies to mentor a group of youth (development practitioner) to challenge bias and inequality, campaign against violence, forge women's advancement, celebrate women's achievement,



and champion women education.

70 students actively participated in the seminar and learnt how women empowerment is necessary and how they play their role in society.

Seminar enhanced the participants understanding of International Women's Day (IWD) and International Women's Day timeline journey. In second part participants learnt about IWD 2017 campaign theme, 'Be Bold for Change'.

In the last part action teams were created and asked to identify problems and challenges in their

communities and develop action plans by linking with 'Be Bold for Change' campaign. Participants' feedback indicated that many of the strategies discussed were practical and could be easily implemented in their communities.

The following were the objectives of seminar:

- Demonstrate understanding to take action within their own spheres of influence that truly drives the greatest change for women.
- To sensitize participants for a more gender inclusive world

IEEE Family Farewell, Grand Dinner & Festivity at Pak Army FF Mess Abbottabad

Department of Electrical Engineering

10 June 2017

A farewell gathering arranged on 10 June 2017 for superb Branch Counselor Engr: Syed Sitwat Hussain Shah and valuable graduating members in this semester, appreciating & honoring their sincere determinations for IEEE society & family. Every member has shown throughout struggles for society especially in Spring 2017 semester, so this celebration was arranged as appreciation of their efforts, interaction with each other and to relieve from the stress of studies & work routine. Everyone was thankful to Student Branch and organizing team, who gave us this memorial event. That was the most amazing interactive session for all the IEEE, WIE & Computer Society members. Proper dress code, fun activities and semester success reports presentation were fragments of the

event to make it memorable. IEEE CIIT ATD Student Branch Spring 2017 semester was declared overall "The Best Era" & Exceptional Executives Lead 2017, since SB establishment in 2012. Later on, two consecutive dinners were also arranged by Student Branch volunteers for successful conclusion of IEEE semester.



Student Start-up Business Center (SSBC) Abbottabad Awareness Workshop

At CIIT, Student Startup Business Centre (SSBC) has been established with the support of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and the Promotion of Education in Pakistan Foundation,

Inc. (USA). The goal of the program is promotion of talented students' entrepreneurship and enhancing their practical learning experience at the Institute. The overarching objective of the



Centre is to promote student startup businesses by offering necessary support both in the form of mentoring and initial financial resources through its Startup Entrepreneurship Fund. The SSBC will provide a continuous stream of student led businesses and innovations at CIIT.

At CIIT Abbottabad awareness session for the center was conducted on 14 June 2017 at 11:30 am in main auditorium. Ms Zainab Bilal from SSBC Islamabad was the guest speaker who briefed



about Entrepreneurship Awareness for the students and faculty of CIIT, Abbottabad. Students showed a huge interest in SSBC and actively participated during the session.

Special thanks to the Worthy Director, HoDs, Dr Yasir Javid, Dr Ahmed Din, Dr Hazrat Ali, Mr Saadat Iqbal, Mr Aqeel Abbas, Mr Muhammad Ali, Ms Saadia Munir, Ms Zainab Irshad, and Mr Waqar Azeem for making it all happen.

Inauguration of IoT Lab Department of Computer Science 5 May 2017



Dr Osman Khalid, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Department established the first Internet of Things (IoT) lab at CIIT



Abbottabad. The lab is equipped with state of the art equipment for Internet of Things. This was a result of the start-up grant of 0.5 Million. The

raspberry-Pi kits are imported from China. There are three super kits to perform actuation related tasks. Two kits are sensor based including sound, vibration, temperature, humidity, light, flame, ultrasonic, obstacle detection, navigation, among others.

Additional Registrar, HoD CS department, and senior faculty of the department attended the inauguration of the lab. The attendees appreciated the efforts done in the establishment of the lab, and

wished to see a lot of benefits for the students in specific and users in general.

Five BS level projects were completed utilizing the facility of this lab and the available hardware. Students won a second prize in VisioSpark at CIIT Wah campus. Three of the projects from the lab were nominated for competitions in FIT conference. Both the undergraduate and masters level students are taking benefit from the lab to produce innovative solutions and quality research.

Two days workshop on Robotics with Arduino and PCB Design Department of Electrical Engineering

20-21 May 2017



Electrical Engineering department organized a workshop on Saturday and Sunday, 20-21 May, 2017. The program was initiated under the leadership of Dr Ihsan Ullah and Engr. Nauman Tareen with the motive of giving students some hands-on experience of Robotics. The event comprised of two sections; lectures by faculty and Hardware implementation.

The first day of workshop included lectures from Faculty and training the participants with the help of a very hardworking, dedicated and trained team of students. Dr Jawad Saleem started the workshop



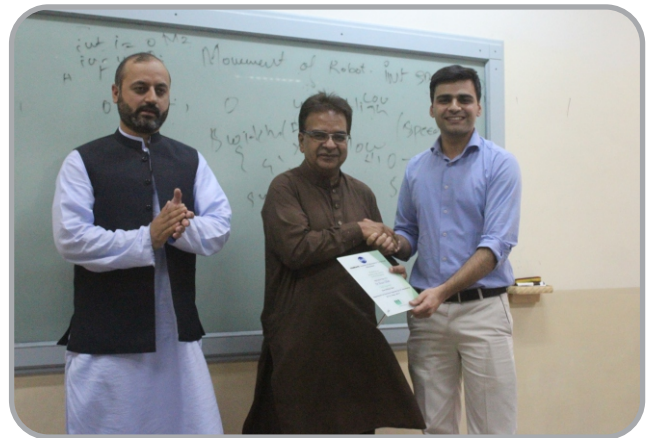
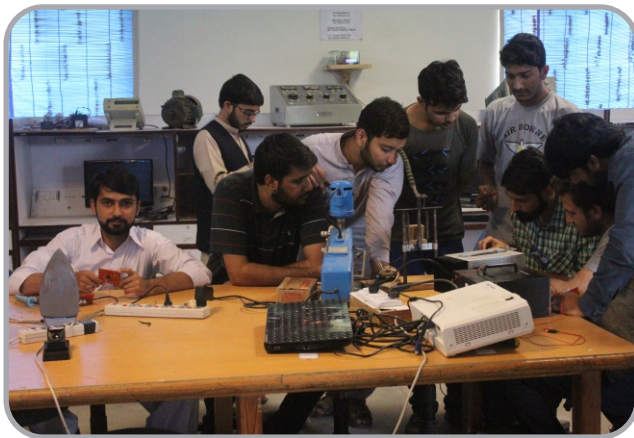
by giving a lecture on PCB designing, its importance and applications. The topic was gradually built up towards the point that in the present day how advanced tools such as Arduino can be mounted on the PCB along with the classical electronic components with application to robotics. The lecture was followed by hands-on demonstration of PCB designing by a team of very dedicated UG students.

From there on Engr Usman Khalid took over and delivered a lecture on Arduino and guided students on getting started with Arduino and all the way up

to interfacing different sensors. The session lasted for more than three hours. Each student was provided with Arduino kit to accelerate their learning and develop their interest in the use of modern technology.

Activities on the second day were mainly focused on integration of the previously learn techniques in PCB designing and Arduino-sensor interfacing. Under the supervision of Dr Ihsan, students spent around four and a half hours in the lab and were able to design the hardware. The hardware design was tested by the team of trained students and its working was ensured. Later that day, Dr Ihsan Ullah gave a lecture on Robotics, its importance, applications and technicalities along with practical

demonstration of a mobile robot. The students were then guided by Engr. Nauman Tareen in controlling the functionality of robot via Android application. To judge the efforts of students and award certificates and prizes to the participants HoD Electrical Engineering department, Dr Abdur Rashid was invited as the chief guest who was impressed and praised the efforts of faculty and students. 40 Students actively participated in the event and a large number of questions from them were indeed impressive. All in all, the event went very well, and quality of workshop was well appreciated by all. The success of this first workshop will indeed pave a path for further technical workshops in upcoming times.



One Day Workshop on Outcome Based Education (OBE)

15 April 2017

Electrical and Civil Engineering Department organized a one day workshop on Objective Based Education (OBE) on Saturday, 15 April 2017. Two well-known experts were invited for said workshop, Dr Imtiaz Ali Taj from Capital University of Science & Technology, Islamabad, delivered a lecture on Continuous Quality

Improvement (CQI), and Dr Atiq-ur-Rehman, from Capital University of Science & Technology, Islamabad, delivered a lecture on Self-Assessment Report (SARs). The sessions were very fruitful and the faculty and staff of both the departments attended the subject workshop.

Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) Visited High Voltage Lab Department of Electrical Engineering 5 April 2017

A group from Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) visited High Voltage Lab of COMSATS Abbottabad on 5 April 2017. The group comprised of 22 people including 2 female and 19 male students along with their teacher Prof Dr Haroon-ur-Rashid. During their visit, they performed different experiments in the lab under the supervision of Engr Shahzada Sufyan Syed as he was coordinator of the visit. Refreshments were provided to the guests followed by a quick visit of university. Different universities including PIEAS and COMSATS Islamabad previously have visited the

High Voltage Lab of COMSATS Abbottabad for their experiments as this is the only High Voltage Lab in the region. The lab was set up by Prof Dr Abdur Rashid.



Student of Biotechnology Wins Global UGRAD Scholarship in Minnesota State University-Mankato, USA Department of Environmental Sciences 2 January- 8 May 2017



Maryam Shahid from the department of Environmental Sciences (Biotechnology program) was selected as exchange student under the program Global UGRAD Pakistan launched by



the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State. She was placed at Minnesota State University-Mankato to study a semester there and be a part of



the university. She got in touch with a warm host advisor and a host family who helped her to adjust in the life of US, they encouraged her and appreciated her a lot. This experience made her more confident and independent and gave her a chance to make people learn more about Pakistan



and present a real better image of Pakistan. Head of Biotechnology program Dr Mohammad Maroof Shah appreciated her and said it is a great honor for the institution to have such competent and brilliant students.

Farewell party arranged in Honor of Fall 2013 Batch **Department of Civil Engineering** **24 May 2017**

Students of Civil Engineering department CIIT Abbottabad organized a farewell for the Batch Fall 2013 on 24 May 2017. Event started with marvelous musical performance. Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Department of Civil Engineering and Dr Khan Zaib Jadoon, Head Civil

Engineering Department congratulated all the students for successfully completing four years of their studies. Event contained different performances including dancing, singing and dramatics. Each performance was appreciated by the audience.

ASSR (Associate Section Student Representative) Celebration

Department of Electrical Engineering

A celebration ceremony was organized for successful appointment of from COMSATS Abbottabad, as Associate Section Student Representative ASSR for IEEE Student Activities Committee (SAC Team 2017), IEEE Islamabad Section Region -10, Pakistan. His past efforts,

volunteerism & dedication were highlighted & appreciated. Moreover, other young volunteers also got motivated & looked upto him as a role model. And as further achievement, he also got selected as Chairperson IEEE COMSATS Abbottabad SB for 2017 tenure.

A Two Day Workshop on Technical Writing, Presentation and Research Methodology

Department of Electrical Engineering

3-4 May 2017

The electrical engineering department at CIIT Abbottabad organized a two days skill development workshop on 3-4 May 2017. The workshop was designed to improve the skills of the student who are pursuing or intend to pursue their carrier as a research fellow. The target audience for this workshop were the graduate students (MS and PhD), undergraduate students and faculty members. The contents of the workshop were planned in a manner to enhance the capability of researcher in terms of research methodology, thesis and technical paper writing and technical presentation preparation. The presenters of this workshop were Dr Shahid Khattak, Dr Owais, Dr Bilal Khan and Dr Muhammad Ali. Speakers addressed the audience on the topics: research methodology, technical presentation skill

development, how to write a thesis at graduate level and technical paper writing skill development. The workshop has got a significant response in terms of attendance and appreciation from the audience. In future, electrical engineering department intends to organize the similar workshops to improve the research and its presentation skills.



Field Visit of Environmental Houses by Dr Shamyla Nawazish with BS Students

Department of Environmental Sciences

29 May 2017

The visit of eco-friendly houses and Marble industries was a healthy initiative conducted by Dr Shamyla Nawazish, Department of Environmental Sciences, COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad. This visit was demarcated with wise use of natural resources regarding environmental impact and Assessment. This activity also inculcated environmental vision among students and made them efficient users of

our naturally existing raw material into the environment friendly houses and to minimize the solid waste debris from the environment. This visit also practically fulfilled one of the course content of Natural Resource Management and Environment Management System. The visit was conducted on May 29, 2017 and was facilitated by Mr. Babar Khan Jadoon.

Bridge and Paper Tower Competition Department of Civil Engineering 2-3 May, 2017



Department and Society of Civil Engineering organized Bridge and paper tower competition in student week Spring 17. The function was attended by Civil Engineering students, chairman and HoD along with departmental faculty members. In amicable atmosphere, the students took part in competition making paper towers and Popsicle



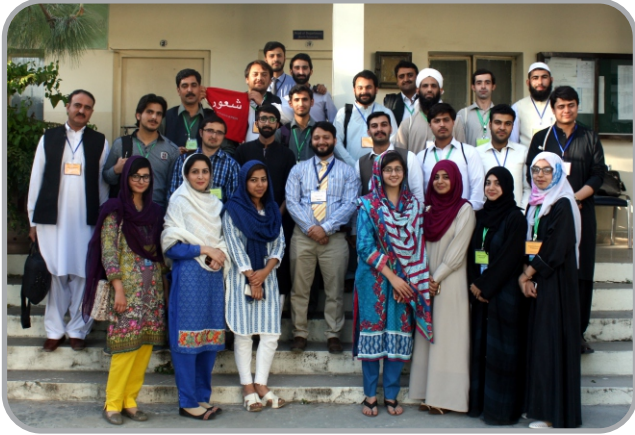
Stick bridges. Prof. Mussarat Shah, Dr Khan Zaib Jadoon and Dr Muhammad Ashraf thoroughly checked the tower and bridge design made by the students and finally announced the position holders of the competition. Position holders were awarded with prizes.

3rd One Day Research Training Workshop “Finding, Managing & Citing Literature” Department of Management Sciences 14 April 2017

Dr Yasir Bin Tariq (Assistant Professor, Management Sciences and Mendeley Advisor) successfully organized and conducted a one-day research training workshop titled “Finding, Managing and Citing Literature” for MS Management Sciences Students. It was a full day workshop consisted of three sessions. The aim of this workshop was to equip MS students with better understanding of research process, the

importance of finding relevant literature & reviewing it. Moreover, participants were given demonstration on how to manage and cite literature using Mendeley, a state-of-the-art document and reference manager. The training feedback suggested that participants found the workshop very useful in improving the quality of their research.

29 participants (MS & PhD students) from three



departments attended this workshop. Dr Shehla Amjad (HoD Management sciences) distributed



the completion of training certificates among workshop participants in the closing ceremony.

Seminar on Bioentrepreneurship Department of Environmental Sciences

8 June 2017

On 8 July 2017 a one day seminar on Bioentrepreneurship was conducted to throw light on the scarcity of food and growing population of the world. The purpose of the seminar was to delve into the question how a bioscience students can have a successful small business that will have the potential to feed, fuel and heal. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students from biotechnology and the faculty members from other departments.

Dr Fazli Wahid and Dr Raza Ahmad were the keynote speakers of the event. Seminar organization team, led by Dr. Amjad Hassan and Dr Humaira Ayub, included Haseeb Ahmad, Hamza Khan, Bilal Rehman, Muhammad Usman, Muhammad Waleed and Malik Sanaullah.

Dr Mahroof Shah addressed the students in which he encouraged the students to prepare the business mind and translate the knowledge into business to

flourish the bio-based economy. He advised students to develop themselves to cope with climate change. The students engaged in a long interactive questions-answers session to learn how they can overcome the problems that arise due to gap between academia and industry. Students were very excited to know that a bio-based entrepreneurship competition will be held by the department soon.



Events Organized by DAWAA Society of Pharmacy Department

The following events were organized by DAWAA Society during the Student Week of Spring 2017

- Healthy Food Making Competition
- Marathon 100 meters race
- Marathon 300 meters race
- Marathon 500 meters race
- Pushups Competition

This was first time that any such event was organized by DAWAA Society, however a good

participation of students and response of audience was observed in these activities. Almost a hundred students participated in all the events.

Management of DAWAA Society thanked all other honorable faculty and students who worked very hard to make the event successful. Joint effort of all the team made events more attractive, charming, thrilling and ultimately successful.

RESEARCH NEWS

Participation in French Day in Pakistan Department of Pharmacy 6 March 2017

Dr Atif Ali was invited by Higher Education Commission (HEC) as Pakistani Higher Education distinguished guest at “French Day in Pakistan” on Thursday 16 March 2017. A team of senior French Professors from various French Universities, senior representatives of Campus France, Ambassador France, EU representatives, local and foreign distinguished guests participated in this event. This fruitful opportunity provided

French Professors to know more about Pakistani Higher Education distinguished faculty, to create awareness of French Higher Education System among Pakistani academia, to encourage Pakistan France academic collaborations at institutional level, promotion of opportunities for doctoral/postdoctoral fellowships and joint research collaborations.

Research Seminars in Conference Department of Mathematics 27-28 April 2017

Dr. Muhammad Ayub presented a research paper titled “Classification of System of ODEs via Symmetry Analysis” in Third National Conference on Mathematical Sciences (3CMS-

2017) 27-28 April, 2017 organized by Department of Mathematics and Statistics, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Dr Asad Muhammad Khan Presented a Paper on Current Research In Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Department of Chemistry

18-20 January 2017



Dr Asad Muhammad Khan presented a paper titled "Interactions of Cationic Surfactants having Complex Metal based Counterions with Colloidal Silica" in an International conference jointly organized by Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Royal Society of Chemistry Pakistan Chapter. The theme of the



conference was "Current Research in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences" and it was held in Lahore (18-20 January 2017) at the campus of Forman Christian College. The conference was attended by some eminent members of academia from Pakistan as well as USA, Germany, China and Malaysia.

Participation in National Conference on “Recent Advances in Biotechnology”

Department of Environmental Sciences

26-27 April 2017

A national conference titled “Recent Advances in Biotechnology” was held in Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) on 26-27 April 2017. Dr Raza Ahmad, Associate Professor, Biotechnology program along with two PhD students Miss Ghazal Khurshid and Miss Anum Zeb Abbasi participated in the conference. Miss Ghazal Khurshid has given the oral presentation on “Development of Photosynthesis Stimulator to

Identify the Potential Targets for Improved Photosynthesis”. Miss Anum Zeb Abbasi has presented the poster titled “Simulation based Modeling of Photosynthetic System for Identification of Potential Targets for Improvement” and won 3rd prize in the poster competition. It was a great learning experience and an opportunity to develop research collaboration with KUST as well as other organizations.

International Conference of Bioapproaches for Environment and Sustainability in National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad,

Department of Environmental Sciences

23 February 2017

Dr Muhammad Bilal, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences Department has delivered the talk at International Conference of Bioapproaches for Environment and Sustainability in National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, on 23 February 2017. The topic was the “Development of Thermochemically Functionalized Activated Carbon from Waste Biomass for Stable Adsorption of Dye in Single and Binary Component System”



Graduate Studies in Germany - Scholarships and Processes

17 February 2017



An information seminar on “Graduate Studies in Germany – Scholarships and Processes” was held at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Abbottabad on Friday, 17 February 2017 at 10:30 am. This seminar was part of a series of seminars organized by the Directorate of Planning, Development and Human Resource Development (P, D and HRD) under the program “Information



Seminars for Higher Studies Abroad” with the objective to educate and orient CIIT prospective candidates with respect to selecting, financing and applying for higher studies abroad.

The purpose of the talk was to educate the young faculty to search, explore and avail admission in MS and PhD degree programs in reputed German higher education institutes. Professor Dr Shahid

Khattak from the department of Electrical Engineering, CIIT Abbottabad shared his experiences and views regarding the avenues available for higher education in Germany in different disciplines.

Dr Shahid Khattak received his PhD degree in 2008 from Technische Universitat Dresden, Germany. He did his MS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, USA in 1997 and B.S in Electrical Engineering in 1993 from UET Peshawar. He is author and co-author of more than 25 ISI indexed journals, international and domestic conferences.

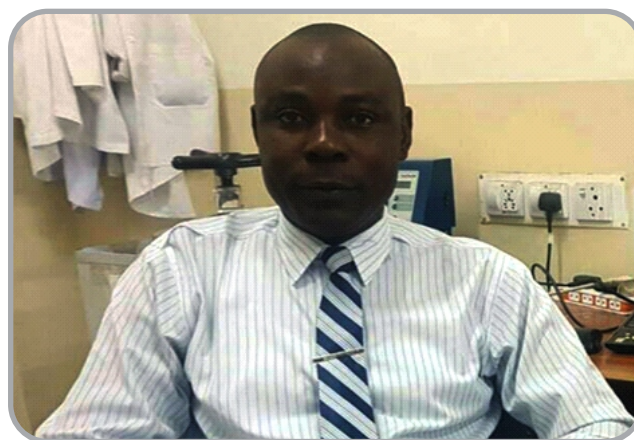
The focus of his talk was on scholarship opportunities available in Germany including scholarships for full degrees, research Grants, and Grants of Language learning. He also briefed

about the Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), the German Academic Exchange Service that is very helpful for international students in seeking scholarships and admissions for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Additionally, he talked about German culture and shared tips with audience regarding how to maximize chances of getting scholarship in Germany.

A good number of the participants attended the talk including faculty and students, who keenly paid attention and participated actively by asking number of questions from the speaker. All the audience applauded the presenter and acknowledged the usefulness of the information provided by the speaker.

Post Doctoral Fellow Center for Advance Drug Research

Dr. Adewole E. from Nigeria, joined the research group of Prof. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal (*T.I.*) as a Postdoctorate fellow from TWAS. Dr Adewole has expertise in Isolation and characterization of pure compounds using natural source. He will continue his Postdoctoral research work under the supervision of Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal in Center for Advance Drug Research, COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad Campus.



Prof. Dr Rehana Rashid Represented Chemistry Department, in 6th International & 15th National Conference in Quetta

Department of Chemistry

9-11 May 2017

Professor Rehana Rashid delivered a lecture on 'Phytochemical Isolation and Biological

Investigations of *Hartmannia rosea* Extracts' and also had the honor of chairing one of the sessions.

The research work conducted at the chemistry Department and presenting it at international conference is a great contribution of the institution since it provides the opportunity to introduce quality of education and research at COMSATS

IIT, Abbottabad. Participation in such ventures develops the national and international collaboration linkages beneficial for the students and faculty in future.

Prof. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal, T.I delivered a plenary talk in International Conference on “Current Research in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences” Center for Advance Drug Research 18-20 January 2017

Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal delivered Plenary talk in three-day international conference on “Current Research in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences” 18-20 January 2017, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore, Pakistan. Moreover, Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal was Invited speaker at First International Conference

on New Horizons in Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Sciences, organized by Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Abbottabad, during 27 - 30 April, 2017.

Talk of Professor Dr Siwatt Pongpiachan from National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Thailand Department of Chemistry 18 April 2017



Prof. Dr Siwatt, the Director of NIDA Center for Research & Development of Disaster Prevention & Management, Thailand gave a talk in



conference room Z-block on 18th April 2017. The title of the talk was “Risk Assessments of PM2.5 Bounded Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

during the Biomass Burning Episodes, 2004 Tsunami, and Antarctica". The talk highlights 3 of Prof. Dr Siwatt & team's research publications, ranging from the investigation of the potential cancer risk due to biomass burnings during Haze episodes in Northern Thailand, risk of

carcinogenic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) after the Andaman 2004 Tsunami, and the quantitative ecological risk assessment of inhabitants exposed to Terrestrial Soils of King George Island, Antarctica.

Research Productivity Award by Pakistan Council of Science and Technology Center for Advance Drug Research

Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal (T.I.) won the Research Productivity Award by Pakistan Council of Science and Technology, in category "A" having

10.82 score. Prof. Jamshed Iqbal got 21st position out of 2896 candidates in various disciplines throughout the Country.

Establishment of a Post-Graduate Microbial Ecology Laboratory Department of Environmental Sciences 23 April 2017

Dr Usman Irshad (AP, ES) won an NRPU project and established a new Post-Graduate Microbial Ecology Laboratory at CIIT Abbottabad. His PGME Lab was inaugurated by Dr Arshid Pervez (Director CIIT Campus) and Prof. Dr Khan Gul Jadoon on 23 April 2017.

Dr Arshid Pervez while addressing the audience said that field of Microbial Ecology is highly important while considering Environmental

growth and development and he further added that this newly established lab will support initiative that encourage knowledge and to remain a learning seat for post graduate students. This new facility at CIIT will enable the students to access various techniques involved in microbiological research to boost scientific temperament and encourage innovative mindset in students.

Productive Scientist of Pakistan by Pakistan Council of Science and Technology Center for Advance Drug Research

Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal (T.I.), attained 2nd position out of 2631 Pakistani Scientist. First draft Directory of Productive Scientists of Pakistan

(PSP) 2016 has published, in which 2631 gainful researchers of Pakistan were evaluated in broad various disciplines throughout the country.

PhD Students Attended Two Courses at Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) Norway

Department of Development Studies

January 07 to February 04, 2017

Three PhD students, Mr. Shakir Ullah, Mr Qasim Ali Shah and Ms Durreshawar from Department of Development Studies attended two courses at Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) Norway. The first course 'The Mechanics of Scientific Writing' aimed at helping PhD candidates to develop writing skills for scientific publications and thesis.

The main objective of the second course 'EDS415 Qualitative Methods in Development Studies' was to provide course participants with a basic understanding of some of the key challenges of research design in the Social Sciences, with an emphasis on the use of qualitative research methods. The course aims to provide a link between general methodological principles and challenges, and the selection and use of a set of research methods and tools for data collection in a PhD project.

This year's course was attended by 13 students consisted of five students from Noragric, three from Pakistan's COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), one from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and four from Stellenbosch, South Africa via the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED).



Conference Participation by Environmental Sciences Faculty

1. Dr Malik Tahir Hayat (Assistant Professor) of Environmental Sciences Department has participated and presented his work in 4th International Conference on Global Environmental changes at GC University, Faisalabad from 4-5 May 2017. His talk was on "Weather effects on Accumulated Marble Dust in Air".
2. Dr Malik Tahir Hayat also attended an International Conference on Environmental

Pollution and Public Health (EPPH 2017), Hangzhou China from 16-18 June 2017. The topic of his talk was on "Health Impacts of Occupational Exposure on Workers Exposed to Petroleum Wastes".

EPPH 2017 is a most comprehensive forum focused on the various aspects of Environmental Pollution and Public Health. Speakers from 20 countries across the globe including USA, Japan, Germany, Canada,

Australia, Korea and Pakistan have participated in this mega-event. Scientists from academia and industry professionals have exchanged their latest research outputs and shared advanced research protocols in public health sector.

3. Dr Muhammad Javid Iqbal (Assistant Professor) of Environmental Sciences Department has participated and presented his work in 4th International Conference on Global Environmental changes at GC University,

Faisalabad from 4-5 May 2017. The title of his talk was “Bio-efficacy of tea (*Camellia sinensis*) leaves blends with Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*)”.

4. Dr. Rafiq Ahmad gave an oral presentation on “Molecular characterization of growth and proteolysis genes in maize under drought stress” in International Conference, “Advances in Agricultural Resource Management” held in University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from 5-7 April 2017.

Research grant awarded to Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal, T.I Center for Advance Drug Research

Prof. Dr Jamshed Iqbal (T.I.) won Higher Education Commission of Pakistan funded project “Provision of Grants to Public Sector Universities and Degree Awarding Institutions for Maintenance

of Scientific Equipment, HEC” for 'BMG FLUO star Omega' amount awarded 1.0 Million for year 2017.

Dr Ahson Jabbar Shaikh Awarded a Research Grant Through HEC-NRPU Department of Chemistry 23 February 2017

Dr Ahson Jabbar Shaikh, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry has been awarded a research grant through HEC-NRPU program for Rs. 13.1 Million. The title of the awarded project is “Efficient Quantum Dot Solar Cells by making Semiconductor Nanoparticle – Metallic Nanoparticle Conjugates”.

The said project is one of the highest funding grants approved by HEC. It is a great honor for CIIT family and specifically Department of Chemistry, COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad. We

congratulate Dr Ahson Jabbar Shaikh on such a wonderful achievement.



HEC-NRPU Awards Department of Chemistry 3 May 2017

It is a matter of great pleasure that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has approved research projects of total worth more than Rs. 30.70 million to our following faculty under NRPU (2016). The amount approved for each faculty is as follows:

1. Dr Afsar Khan (Rs. 8.47 million)
2. Dr Rafaqat Ali Khan (Rs. 8.23 million)
3. Dr Umer Rashid (Rs. 5.26 million)
4. Dr Sadullah Mir (Rs. 3.24 million)
5. Dr Sohail Anjum Shahzad (Rs. 3.00 million)
6. Dr Tariq Mahmood (Rs. 2.50 million)
7. Dr Asad Muhammad Khan (Accepted project (Allocated amount not decided yet))

The Award Letter Distribution Ceremony was arranged at Presidency being chaired by Honorable President of Pakistan on Wednesday, 3 May 2017. Many congratulations to our colleagues for winning the research fundings.

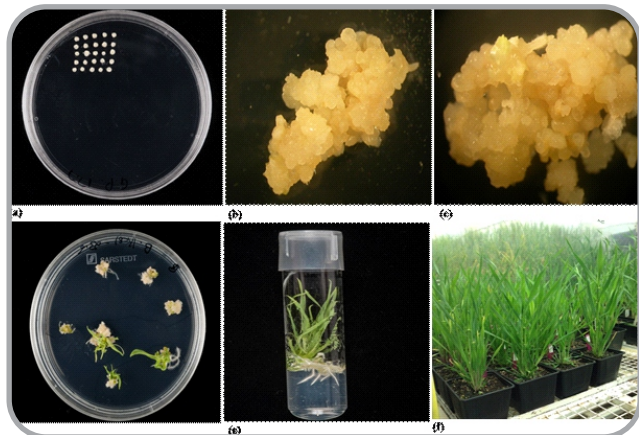
International Conference on Bio-Approaches for Environment and Sustainability IESE, NUST Islamabad Department of Environmental Sciences February 22-23, 2017

Mr Zohaib Hussain, a student of Biotechnology program CIIT Abbottabad working under supervision of Dr Fazli Wahid, participated in International Conference on Bio-approaches for Environment and Sustainability- ICBES- 2017 at IESE-NUST on 22-23 February 2017. Large number of delegates from national and international forums attended the conference, including researchers, analysts, educationists, advisors, extension agents, land managers and policy makers from national, state and local government, universities and the private sector. Mr Zohaib Hussain presented a poster of his BS final year project data entitled "Production of Bacterial Cellulose from Industrial Wastes using *Acetobacter Xylinum*". The idea was well

appreciated by the judges and awarded 3rd position in best poster award. Secretary, Ministry of climate change Syed Abu Ahmad Akif presented certificate to the student. The chief guest emphasized that universities should promote research that contribute towards economy and solving environmental issues.



Ms. Ummara Waheed:
Pioneer PhD Graduate in Biotechnology at CIIT
Department of Environmental Sciences
6 June 2017



It is a matter of honor for CIIT Abbottabad in general and the Department of Environmental Sciences in particular that Miss Ummara Waheed, successfully defended her PhD thesis/dissertation in Biotechnology on "Deciphering In Vitro Regeneration Capabilities of Wheat and Investigations of Genetic Transformation in Wheat and Barley". Miss Ummara is 9th in the series of PhD graduates from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad, 5th in the Department of Environmental Sciences and 1st in



Biotechnology.

Figure illustration shows one of Ms Ummra's PhD research objectives. Different stages of barley transformation (a) before inoculation arrangement of immature embryos (b) development of embryogenic callus from callus induction medium (c) calli initiating shoot formation on transition stage (d) plantlets growth on regeneration medium (e) transformed barley showing rooting (f) Transgenic barley transferred to soil.

TWAS Funded PhD Scholars
Department of Pharmacy
February 2017

Mr Kenneth Akhobe a TWAS funded PhD scholar from Nigeria successfully completed his six months research in February, 2017 under the supervision of Dr Khalid Rauf, in the field of Neuropharmacology. His title of research was Neuro-developmental impact of malaria in pregnancy in wistar rats. He successfully evaluated Neurobehavioral impact of malaria in

wistar rats pregnancy models and has submitted two manuscripts from the work conducted in neuropharmacology laboratory of Department of Pharmacy at COMSATS IIT, Abbottabad. Another PhD scholar Miss Ismot from Nigeria has started working in the same Lab, from March, 2017, exploring antipsychotic potential of locally used plants in Nigeria.

New Horizons in Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Sciences **Department of Pharmacy** **27-30 April 2017**

An international conference "New Horizons in Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Sciences" was organized by Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Abbottabad in collaboration with HEC on 27-30 April 2017. Dr Atif Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy presented an oral presentation titled 'Stratum corneum water content and trans-epidermal water loss evaluation after application of Acacia bark extract cream' and received a

presenter's certificate.



Mr Arshad Mahmood Successfully Defends his PhD thesis at **Institute of Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, Austria** **Department of Pharmacy** **30 March 2017**

Mr Arshad Mahmood who was pursuing his PhD in Pharmaceutical Technology at Institute of Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, Austria under HEC scholarship program "Overseas Scholarships for MS/MPhil leading to PhD in Selected Fields (Phase-II, Batch III)" successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled, "Novel multifunctional excipients for the design of nano and microcarriers for mucosal drug delivery", held on 30 March 2017 at Center for Chemistry and Biomedicine, University of Innsbruck. The productivity of scholar during the course of thesis included six publications as first author and more than ten publications as co-author in internationally recognized high impact journals in the field of drug delivery. Moreover, he presented his key work regarding combination of cell penetrating peptides with self-emulsifying drug delivery systems at

OMICS International European Pharma Congress, 25-27 August 2015, Valencia, Spain. He joined Department of Pharmacy, COMSATS institute of Information and Technology, Abbottabad in May 2017, in order to continue more research in the field of drug delivery and to establish university-industry collaboration that will not only be beneficial for local industry but for country as well.



Poster Presentation by Dr Farhan A. Khan in a Conference held at University of Lahore

Department of Chemistry
13-14 May 2017

Dr Farhan A. Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, CIIT Abbottabad along with his students presented a poster titled, "Antibacterial Potential of *N*-Substituted Indole Derivatives" in the 1st Chemistry Conference held

on 13-14 May 2017. The conference was arranged by Department of Chemistry at The University of Lahore, Lahore. The poster won 3rd position in poster presentation competition.

Participation in Advanced Neuroscience School, Tehran, Iran,

Department of Electrical Engineering
29 April – 11 May 2017

Dr Hazrat Ali from Electrical Engineering department participated in International Advanced School on Neuroscience, organized by Shahed Beheshti University Tehran and Tarbiat Modares University Tehran. During the school, he worked on EEG signal processing and presented his work on studying the effect of breathing on EEG patterns.



One Day Symposium At GCU Faisalabad: Invited Lecture By Dr Sohail Anjum Shahzad

Department of Chemistry
21 March 2017

Dr Sohail Anjum Shahzad (Assistant Professor) presented invited lecture on "Development of Potential Anti-cancer Agents & New Biosensors for the Detection of Cancer Cells" in "One Day Symposium on Drug Development &

Radiolabeled Compounds" in front of prestigious national scientists and a vast number of research students. This symposium was held on 21 March 2017 at Department of Chemistry, Government College University Faisalabad.

HEC-NRPU Award Letter Distribution Ceremony

Department of Pharmacy
3 May 2017

Dr Muhammad Sohail, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy and Dr Imran

Ameerzada, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy attended "National Research Program

for Universities (NRPU)” Award Letter Distribution Ceremony at Presidency being Chaired by Honorable President of Pakistan on Wednesday, the 3 May 2017. Dr Muhammad Sohail is awarded a grant worth Rs. 2.8 M and Dr

Imran Ameerzada has been awarded a grant worth Rs. 2.07 M by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad for strengthening and promoting research culture at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology.

PhD Defence

Dr Hajira Haroon

Thesis Title: Biomass Derived Adsorbents for Chromium (VI) Treatment from Industrial Wastewater

Supervised by: Dr Muhammad Bilal

PhD in Environmental Sciences, notified on 18 August 2017



Dr Tahir Maqsood

Thesis Title: Energy-Efficient Task and Data Scheduling for Large-Scale Computing Systems

Supervised by: Dr Sajjad A. Madani

PhD in Computer Science, notified on 25 May 2017



Dr Sara Khan

Thesis Title: Exploring the Driving Forces Responsible for Stability of Hyperthermophilic Tryptophan Synthase

Supervised by: Dr Umer Farooq

PhD in Chemistry notified on 6 October 2017



LIST OF RESEARCH PAPERS

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Accepted Papers

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Department of Earth Sciences

Published Papers

05

Accepted Papers

02

Department of Computer Science

Published Papers

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Accepted Papers

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Department of Management Sciences

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Department of Civil Engineering

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Department of Environmental Sciences

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Center for Drug Research

Published Papers

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Accepted Papers

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Department of Mathematics

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Accepted Papers

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Department of Humanities

Published Papers

02

Accepted Papers

Department of Administration

Published Papers

01

Mr Anwar Khalid

WHO IS NEW

Department of Electrical Engineering

Dr Faisal Khan
Assistant Professor

Qualification: PhD
Research Interest: Electric machine design
and optimization
Flux switching machines



Department of Electrical Engineering

Dr Fazal Wahab Karram

Assistant Professor

Qualification: PhD in Telematics

Research Interests: Mobility Management in Heterogeneous Networks, Design of intelligent systems, Technology research and standardization, LTE-Advanced, WiMAX, Wi-Fi, 5G / wireless networking technologies



Department of Environmental Sciences

Dr Iftikhar Zeb

Assistant Professor

Qualification: PhD

Research Interest: Global challenges and local solutions: climate change and environmental sustainability



Name Osman Khawar
Reg No FA10-EPE-110
Current Job Design Engineer
Organization Orient Power Limited



Name Sana ur Rehman
Reg No FA14-R09-016
Current Job Inspector
Organization Railways Police



Name Muhammad Asim Khattak
Reg No FA12-BEE-004
Current Job Trainee Engineer
Organization AA Paper Mills Pvt Ltd



Name Abdul Rehman
Reg No SP10-EPE-026
Current Job Power House Co-ordinator
Organization Afroze Textiles Karachi



Name Takreem Tasleem
Reg No FA11-BCS-070
Current Job Access Control Officer
Organization Pepsico International



Name Syed Awais
Reg No FA07-MDS-039
Current Job Manager Administration & Finance
Organization Medecins du Monde



Name Shoaib Sajid
Reg No FA12-BEE-033
Current Job Value-Added Services Support Engineer
Organization Huawei Pvt. Ltd.



Name Muhammad Sharuq
Reg No FA11-BEE-118
Current Job Assistant Manager
Organization Everest Pharmacueticals Islamabad



Name Misba Sikandar
Reg No SP14-R01-015
Current Job Lecturer
Organization University of Haripur



Name Syed Wajih ul Hassnain Shah
Reg No FA12-BCE-045
Current Job Core Engineer
Organization Huawei Technologies Pakistan



Farewell to Prof. Dr. Khan Gul Jadoon

27 April 2017



IEEE Students Branch Celebrated Pakistan Day with Students of COMSATS Sweet Home

23 March 2017



Exposure visit of Students of different Universities from Islamabad To Karachi and Gwadar

9-15 February 2017.

