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NSPP Lahore delegation visits GCU

A delegation of National School of Public Policy (NSPP) Lahore comprising the participants of 92nd National Management Course visited the GCU to discuss the policies and their implementation.

The Vice Chancellor detailed the delegation about the culture of GCU and said, “The apolitical policy promotes the culture of tolerance and intellect through debates, seminars, conferences, lectures and publications. Being the bastion of liberal education in Pakistan, GCU has nurtured some of the most prominent luminaries of the world. He called the GCU motto “Courage to know” the motto of enlightenment which means ‘sharing knowledge’, not imposing knowledge. “Everyone has his own faith, ideas and knowledge. It is not necessary that you should agree with them. However, you should respect their knowledge and ideas.” Later, GCU Director Academic Planning and External Links briefed the delegates about the recent achievements and development projects of the university. The delegates also visited the CASP and were also shown a documentary about the history of the GC University, Lahore.

Vice Chancellor condoled Prof. Dr. Arif Ali Zaidi’s death

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor GCU Lahore expressed grief on the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Arif Ali Zaidi, the Vice Chancellor of Zia-ud-din University Karachi. The Vice Chancellor paid tribute to Prof. Arif Ali Zaidi for his services for the promotion of education in Pakistan and development of GCU Faisalabad as Vice Chancellor in particular. In his condolence message to the bereaved family, Prof. Khalid Aftab prayed to Almighty to bless the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

GCU awards cash prizes to the teachers of FA/FSc examinations 2009

The GC University Lahore rewarded the teachers of position holders with cash awards at a graceful ceremony held at Bokhari Auditorium. The Punjab government gave Rs 1 million to the institution for securing top nine positions in the BISE Annual Examinations 2009 which Prof. Khalid Aftab the Vice Chancellor disbursed among the teachers.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Aftab lauded the Punjab government for initiating special cash prize for teachers of the position holders. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the outstanding performance of the GCU students in intermediate examinations, saying that “elders live through their children and students’ achievements bring laurels to their institution.”

Controller of Examination Prof. A.S Bokhari highlighted the importance of teachers by giving the examples of eminent old Ravians.

The following teachers received cash prizes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muhammad Umar Hayat</th>
<th>Saeed Ahmed Butt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Uzma Hanif</td>
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<td>Saima Sarwar</td>
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<td>Ana Ashraf</td>
<td>Sadia Shafie</td>
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<td>Ms. Mahreen Nisht</td>
<td>Atif Hussain</td>
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<td>Sumbul Muzanne</td>
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<td>Ashraf Ali Zafar</td>
<td>Dr. Haroon Qadir</td>
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<td>Saeed Murtaza</td>
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<td>Syed Arif Ahmed</td>
<td>Nasir Rehman</td>
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<td>Abdul Aziz</td>
<td>Saima Imran</td>
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<td>Ahsan Khan</td>
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GCU EFT Announces 21 Lifetime Scholarships for Students

The GCU Endowment Fund Trust Lahore (GCU EFT) announced initiation of 21 lifetime scholarships for deserving students with the donations by the old Ravians and philanthropists.

Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor emphasised the importance of scholarships and endowment fund in the progress of the universities world over. He also endorsed the fact that the GCU Lahore might be the only public sector university which has active endowment fund, whereas Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has directed all universities to establish their endowment funds. The Vice Chancellor also informed the
audience that every year around 2100 GCU students from intermediate to PhD level apply for the financial aid, but due to limited financial resources the university accommodate only 20 percent of them. He expressed pleasure that the Old Ravians are actively taking part in supporting and strengthening the endowment fund of the University.

Mr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Honorary Secretary of GCU Endowment Fund Trust detailed the old Ravians about the golden and silver scholarships which are initiated by the Vice Chancellor.

**Struggle of Inclusion: The US Experience in Advancing Women and Minority Rights**

“The image of Pakistan as portrayed by the international media is very negative in the United States. The majority of Americans are ignorant about the real Pakistan. There is a need to highlight the true and broad image of the country abroad”. This was stated by Dr. Clarence Lusane a professor at School of International Service, American University, Washington DC while delivering a lecture on ‘The Struggle of Inclusion: The US Experience in Advancing Women and Minority Rights.” at GCU Lahore.

Dr. Lusane also met Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor and discussed matters of mutual interests. He visited various departments of GCU and appreciated the facilities being provided to the students.

**GCU to hold Stress Management Workshops**

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor announced the holding of health and stress management workshops for the university staff members and students. He said that noted health experts would be invited in this regard. He was addressing a general meeting of the university staff members at Bokhari Auditorium. He said that the health is a great blessing bestowed by Almighty and it should be taken care of. He said that the stress and strains which people face in different matters of their life compile into various diseases. He also said that lifestyle, eating habits and exercise routine are the major factors which play role in our health management. He wished all staff members of GCU a healthy and prosperous life.

**Prof. Khalid Aftab Silver Scholarship**

The GC University Endowment Fund Trust announced initiation of a permanent Silver Scholarship with a donation of an amount of Rs 500,000 by the GCU Vice Chancellor Prof. Khalid Aftab. The ‘Prof. Khalid Aftab Silver Scholarship’ would be given to a deserving and bright student of the GC University Lahore on merit every year and it would cover the student’s full university fee.

The Honorary Secretary of Endowment Fund Trust said that it is a phenomenon world over that deserving and talented students manage academic expenses through scholarships from endowment funds and alumni associations. He requested the philanthropists and alumni to come forward and help the needy students.

**Dishonesty diminishes self-confidence**

Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor advised students to rely on their merit and hard work for success. The Vice Chancellor said, “Nepotism, favours and dishonesty will ultimately give you nothing, rather it will diminish your self-confidence.” The heads of administrative and academic departments were also present. The Vice Chancellor’s detailed meeting with the students was aimed at guiding them and addressing their problems, so that they can win laurels for the university in the BISE 2010. Prof. Khalid Aftab also took feed back from the students about the teaching standards and other facilities and directed the concerned quarters to meet the needs of the students. It was also decided that counselling sessions, stress and time management workshops will be held for the intermediate students to ease the stress of preparation for examinations.

**KIU Delegation visits GCU**

Dr. Naja Najam, the Vice Chancellor announced the KIU delegation was detailed about the GCU examination system, QEC, curriculum, faculty assessment reports, cocurricular activities, administrative and recruitment procedures.

The meeting also explored various areas of collaborations between both the universities. Dr. Naja Najam especially offered research collaboration in the field of Botany. She also discussed faculty exchange programmes with the Departments of English and International Relations at KIU.
Later, Dr Najma Najam also shared the cultural background of Gilgit-Baltistan. She informed 30 percent faculty members and 40 percent students of IU are females. She said that the literacy rate in most of the districts of the area is hundred percent at the primary level.

**Governor/Chancellor nominates Prof. Dr. Ikram Ul Haq as Dean Faculty of Science & Technology**

The Governor/ Chancellor GC University Lahore in exercise of the powers vested in him, nominated Prof. Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Professor of Botany/Director Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, as Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology after successful completion of the tenure of his predecessor Prof. Amin ul Haq Khan.

**GCU the Oldest Educational Institution in Pakistan**

The university faculty members celebrated the 146th Founder's Day of the institution. The Vice Chancellor cut the cake on a graceful ceremony held at the Salam Hall to mark the auspicious occasion. The GCU deans, academic and administrative heads of departments participated in the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor said the academic journey which was started in 1864 with just nine students and three teachers produced hundreds of scholars, scientists and literary figures including Poet of East Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Pakistan's only Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam. The GC University blends grand old traditions and modern educational standards to meet the ideals set by its founding fathers.

The Vice Chancellor paid tribute to Dr. Leitner, the first Principal of Government College, who established this premier institution on the pattern of College of London, UK. He hoped the GCU's future generations would maintain its wonderful traditions of academic excellence, research, promotion of new ideas and above all, respect for others' beliefs and views.

**QEC at GCU holds Training for Faculty Members**

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) conducted two month training for the GCU faculty members on Critical Thinking, Presentation Skills and English Grammar Teaching. As many as 48 lecturers and assistant professors of the GCU were trained during two month Staff Training Programme. The resource person for this programme was Ms. Beth Trudell, senior English fellow at US Consulate.

The United States Consul General Lahore Ms. Carmella Conroy was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony held at Fazal-i-Hussain Reading Room.

While addressing the participants, Ms. Conroy highlighted the importance of critical thinking and lauded the efforts of QEC for conducting training sessions in this regard.

Ms. Beth Trudell said the best thing about the GCU faculty members is that they are open to new ideas and she had enjoyed teaching them. Iram Sohail, the Director, Quality Enhancement Cell said the university would conduct more training sessions for the faculty members, so that they can learn innovative ideas of teaching and improve upon the existing teaching methodologies in order to be more effective. The Director, QEC thanked the US Consul General on behalf of the Vice Chancellor and informed the audience of his constant support towards such professional development programmes.

**Centre for Development Research, Bonn University Delegation visits GCU**

A delegation from Centre for Development Research, Bonn University, Germany visited the GC University Lahore and met the Vice Chancellor to discuss the scope of collaboration in the fields of research and faculty and students exchange programmes. Talking to the delegation, the Vice Chancellor said that GCU is focusing on producing indigenous and qualitative research both in the fields of natural and social sciences and it has developed active linkages with local industries and foreign universities for research development. He said that the university is ranked among top universities of Pakistan for producing a large number of quality research papers in national and international journals.

The delegation comprising of Dr. Conrad Schetter and Ms. Katja Miekle showed keen interest in the visit of students from Bonn University to GCU. Dr. Conrad Schetter said that he has been working in Pakistan for the last several years and has fallen in love with this country. The delegates said that they wanted to show the world the real and true Pakistan. They also lauded the hospitality of the Pakistani people.

**Strategic Export Control Division Delegation visits GCU**

A delegation headed by Mr. Naeem Aziz, Director "Licensing and Regulations Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV)" visited the GCU and appreciated the research facilities at Chemistry labs, Institute of...
Industrial Biotechnology and Centre for Advanced Studies in Physics under the "SECDIV Outreach and Awareness Programme." The Dean, faculty of Science and Technology Prof. Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq briefed the delegation about the university’s various research facilities. The delegation appreciated the working of the GCU students and professors on various projects. Mr. Naeem Aziz apprised the university professors and officials about the export control on various goods, technologies, material and equipment related to nuclear and biological weapons. He said that the Government of Pakistan is committed to provide all kind of assistance to the universities’ scholars for research purposes.

Group of students from Balochistan visit GCU
A group of 18 female talented students from Balochistan visited GC University Lahore and were enthralled by music performances and fine arts exhibition at the university. The students also visited the GCU Natural History Museum which is one of Asia’s oldest natural history museums established by Dr. Lt. Col. Stephenson in 1906. In reply to their queries, the students of Balochistan were told that the museum has more than 5,000 preserved specimens which are used for teaching and research purposes. In addition, the Museum has a fair collection of butterflies and bird skins. The students also liked the newly established section called “The Fauna of Pakistan”.

Colourful Gymkhana Events of GCU
A large number of colourful Gymkhana events took place at GCU Oval Ground as a closing ceremony of GCU’s 110th Sports events. Lt. General (r) Arif Hassan, President, Pakistan Olympics Association was the Chief Guest at the event.

The competitions of Chatti Race, Musical Chairs and Tug of War between elderly Old Raviens and GCU Sports Board senior officials remained the most enthralling events of the 110th Annual Sports Day. The Oval Ground resounded with whistles and cheers during the Gymkhana events.

Prof. Khalid Afzal, the Vice Chancellor, congratulated the Department of History for securing maximum points in the interdepartmental games and winning the trophy.

Old Raviens pledge to support deserving Raviens
The Old Raviens celebrated their annual reunion at the University Oval Ground with a pledge to support the deserving students of their Alma Mater. Khawaja Muhammad Sharif, the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court was the chief guest. A large number of bureaucrats, noted industrialists and politicians attended the gala. The GCU building was also illuminated for the old Raviens.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Khawaja Sharif said that GCU produced scholars like Allama Muhammad Iqbal and scientists like Dr. Abdus Salam besides great Sportsmen and Olympians. The Chief Justice paid tribute to his teachers and highlighted their role in his life.

ORU President Kamran Lashari, the architect of reunion gala, said that Old Raviens remembered their Alma Mater not because of their degrees but due to the values, morals and confidence that the Government College taught them. He thanked the Vice Chancellor for patronising the Old Raviens Union.

The Honorary Secretary, ORU said that the old students unions do not only attend reunions and dinners but also support the development of their Alma Mater and the needy students of the University. Old Raviens Union’s general body passed a resolution to support the deserving GCU students through the Endowment Fund Trust.

Khawaja Muhammad Sharif also gave away shields to the old Raviens who played eminent role in the development of GCU. Later, noted singers including Waris Baig, Aany and Arif Lohar rocked the Bokhari Auditorium with their songs. Comedian Hassan Abbas, amateur and Old Raviens singers and other groups also performed at the reunion gala.

Career Fair 2010 at GCU
The Career Guidance and Placement Centre (CGPC) organized the ‘Career Fair 2010’ at Bokhari Auditorium to explore the possibilities of placing the GCU graduates in reputed organizations besides giving them opportunities to avail foreign scholarships. Around 24 international and national organizations took part in the event. Written tests and on campus interviews were conducted by the organizations to short list the candidates. However, the stall of United States Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) remained the centre of attraction at the fair. The foundation representatives briefed the students about various foreign scholarships including Fulbright and guided them about the procedures, requirements and eligibility criteria.

CGPC Incharge Mr. Yousuf Bashir said that the Career Fair is organized to build a strong foundation for professional career of students.
The Placement Officer said that Career Fair has become an annual feature as the CGPC has been organizing it for the last three years.

Later, Dean, faculty of Arts and Social Sciences presented shields to the representatives of the companies. He also appreciated the active participation of the students and multinational companies in the fair.

**GCU awards PhD degrees to its Scholars**

GC University Lahore awarded PhD in the fields of Urdu, Botany, Chemistry and Statistics.

The Vice Chancellor GCU Prof. Khalid Aftab congratulated the researchers on the completion of their higher degrees. However, he advised the students that PhD should not be their final goal, rather it should be the beginning of a new goal for them. He said that GCU had produced 19 PhD scholars only in the field of Mathematics in 2009.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Research Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sania Naeem</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>The Critical Analysis of Urdu Ghalal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shazia Hamid</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mujahid Hussain</td>
<td>Botany</td>
<td>Studies on the improvement of yeast strain for the biosynthesis of L-Phenylalanine Carbomide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamid Bukhari</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Immobilized Enzyme and Cell Systems for Hydrolysis of Proteins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmed Faisal</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Child Labour: A Statistical Study using Multistage Probability Proportional Stratified Systematic Sampling</td>
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**Five days International Weed Science Conference on the theme of ‘Judicious Weed Management- Road to Sustainability’**

The 22nd International Asia Pacific Weed Science Conference was held at the GC University Lahore. The experts from Indonesia, United States, Bangladesh, Australia, Sudan, Jordan, Iran and India participated in the five day conference on the theme of ‘Judicious Weed Management- Road to Sustainability’ and 150 papers were presented during the international conference.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, Meritorious Professor of Weed Science Dr. Khan Bahadur Marwat said the weeds lost in Pakistan amounted to Rs 250 billion annually in the major field crops of maize, wheat and rice. Besides economic losses, invasive weeds are major threat to our biodiversity; many of the weeds cause allergies and also promote insect and disease proliferation. Dr. Bahadur said that Canada thistle, a weed of sugarcane had developed resistance against specific herbicides and spread to other crops in Peshawar Valley.

Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq, Dean, faculty of Science and Technology said weed scientists were confronted with inculcable challenges in eradication of weeds injurious to crops.

He said that the changing behaviour of weeds was also causing problems for vegetation managers, which was compelling the human attitude towards sustainable management of weeds.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Khalid Hameed Sheikh, Prof. Emeritus said, “All researches are useless unless implemented. The research done in the field of weeds and seeds should be forwarded to the farmers, so that they can draw benefits from them.”

Robert Zindhal, Prof. Emeritus, Colorado State University gave a comprehensive presentation on his finding on “Parasitic Flowering Plants in Jordan.”

**Developing Small Molecule Therapeutics Against Drug Resistant HIV-I**

The Department of Chemistry organized a lecture by Dr. Akbar Ali, currently working as Research Assistant Professor in Chemical Biology Programme of University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. The topic was “Developing Small Molecule Therapeutics Against Drug Resistant HIV-I”. He also presented his research work on structure based design and discovery of new protease inhibitors that are more effective against clinically relevant Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) protease variants.

The guest speaker elaborated that HIV-I currently infects an estimated 33 million people worldwide, and the numbers of infected people and deaths due to AIDS continue to rise despite the availability of antiviral drugs. HIV-I protease inhibitor represents the most potent antiviral agents currently in use for the treatment of HIV-AIDS. The efficacy of these drugs, however, is increasingly compromised by the emergence of (MDR) protease variants. The lecture ended with productive question and answer session.

**GCU awards three PhDs in Mathematics at ASSMS**

Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences Lahore awarded three PhD degrees in the field of Mathematics. Asia Rauf, Saifyan Ahmad and Muhammad Naeem defended their PhD theses successfully before a board of examiners comprising of Peter Schenzel (Germany), Muhammad Anwar Rao (Pakistan), A D Raza Choudary (Pakistan), Barb Bercaneu (Romania) and Juergen Herzog (Germany).

Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the students on completing their doctorate programme. He said that the GCU is standing to its commitment of providing young scientists to the nation in order to compete with the rest of the world in the 21st Century.
Math experts interact at ASSMS
The three-day International Conference on "Mathematical Inequalities and Applications" was held at Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences, in which around 200 mathematicians from 19 countries participated in the conference. As many as 80 papers were presented during the proceedings of conferences.

At the closing ceremony the international scientific committee of the conference, the PhD scholars Krista Krusic from Croatia, Naveed Latif and Muhammad Sarwar from the Charles University, Prague and Muhammad Sal Moslehi from the University of Mashad, Iran were declared as winners of young speakers prize.

Dr. A D Raza Chaudhry, Director General, ASSMS while addressing the concluding session, said the conference was a great academic success for Pakistan, which was attended by a large number of mathematicians from various parts of the world. It provided a platform to the Pakistani researchers to interact with the best minds in the field of convex analysis.

He also appreciated the role of the government, particularly the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, in making the GCU ASSMS as a centre of excellence which is now recognized the world over.

ASSMS holds International Moot on MIA 2010
The international seven days conference on Mathematical Inequalities and Applications (MIA) 2010 was held at the Abdul Salam School of Mathematical Sciences. 73 noted mathematicians from 15 countries including France, Germany, Russia, Romania, Georgia, Holland and Iran presented their papers at the conference organized by ASSMS in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), UNESCO, International Mathematical Union (IMU) and ICPT, Italy. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Prof. Josip Pecaric highlighted the importance of the conference and talent of Pakistani students.

Dr. A. D. Raza Chaudhry, Director General, ASSMS said that the conference aimed at providing valuable opportunities for the Pakistani researchers to interact with a large number of experts from different parts of the world.

Dr. Samar Mubarakmand
Inaugurates Atomic Accelerator, Laser Labs at CASP
Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, renowned nuclear scientist and Member, Planning Commission inaugurated the recently-installed 70 million high-tech 4-MeV Pelletron Accelerator and Rs. 40 million Laser Laboratories at Centre for Advanced Studies in Physics (CASP) at Government College University, Lahore. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Samar gave a wake-up call to the national scientists, saying Pakistan is extremely rich in minerals especially coal, copper and gold and what it needed is indigenous technology for exploitation of these resources. "We should not let the foreigners exploit our resources and pay us peanuts in form of royalty," he said.

Dr. Samar who remained associated with country's Nuclear and Missile Programme for 42 years called on the national scientists to design their research projects which are relevant to the industrial and economic needs of Pakistan. He offered the Vice Chancellor the installation of more high-tech equipment at GCU for research, on behalf of the Planning Commission.

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor, GCU referred to the early days of Hi-Tension laboratory. "We need to emphasize the importance of strong traditions of CASP and its contribution to the field of science and technology, which is reflected in two personalities Dr. Abdus Salam for Science and Dr. Samar Mubarakmand for Technology." He said that Accelerator is the legacy of Prof. Rafi M. Chaudhry and Installation of Pelletron Accelerator would not have been possible without the support of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Planning Commission of Pakistan.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ijaz Ghauri, Director CASP gave a briefing on the recently installed high equipment at CASP, including Materials Testing Laboratory, Materials Fabrication Laboratory, Transmission Electron Microscopy Laboratory, Scanning Electron Microscopy Laboratory and Sample Preparation Laboratory.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad, GCU Rafi Chair, described the features of new Accelerator and the research projects of GCU science scholars. Later, Dr. Samar visited various sections of CASP and lauded the Centre's research facilities.
Department of Economics organizes a Report Launching ceremony on “Fan Industry of Pakistan: Dynamics of Small, Medium and Large Size Firms”

The Department of Economics at the GCU Lahore and Strathclyde University, Glasgow established a joint link in 2007, under HEC-British Council Joint Higher Education Links Programme (HELP-Phase II).

The basic purpose of the link was to develop and strengthen the institutions and capacity of the Department of Economics to conduct research in the area of small and medium enterprise development of Pakistan. The key members Mr. Aqeel Wahga, Mr. Uzair Ashon and other faculty members from the department of Economics completed a detailed research on Fan industry of Pakistan: Growth Dynamics of small, medium and large enterprises under the guidance of Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor, GCU Lahore.

This report is based on field survey research covering a range of quantitative and qualitative attributes of entrepreneurs and firms in the fan industry of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Altaf Ali Sheikh Member (Academics), HEC Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Many professionals from the SME development organizations, academics and entrepreneurs in fan industry participated in the event. The report shall be disseminated to all the key stakeholders in the field of academics, industry, chambers of commerce and industry. It is hoped that the findings of research would generate understanding and debate about the issues related to SME development especially in the context of Pakistan’s Economy.

Prof. MA Khan’s death condoled

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor expressed grief over the sad demise of Prof. MA Khan, a noted educationist and former Principal of the Government College Lahore. The Vice Chancellor lauded the services of late Professor for the GC and overall for the country’s education sector.

In his condolence message to the bereaved family, Prof. Khalid Aftab prayed to Almighty to bless the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to his family members to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

Prof. M A Khan was father of Dr. Nosheen Khan, the Chairperson English Department, GC University Lahore.

Thoughts of Fathullah Gulen

Niagara Educational Services Instructional Coordinator Dr. H Ali Yurtsever a Turkish scholar speaking on the occasion laid stress upon holding interfaith and intercultural dialogues across the globe to promote peace and harmony. He said “There are misconceptions about Muslims which needed to be addressed and dialogues with non Muslims are the best way to preach the true spirit of Islam.”

The colloquium was aimed at discussing the thoughts of noted Turkish-based Muslim Scholar Mr. Fathullah Gulen. He also highlighted the importance of interfaith dialogue to end conflicts among the people of various sects, saying that ignorance, poverty and disunity are the three biggest enemies of Muslims. He said love and tolerance are the most essential spiritual sources which can prevent both social and individual conflicts before they are born. Terror cannot survive in a society, in which individuals have accomplished their inner peace, accept others as they are, with their personal thoughts and values and respect their individuality.

During the question and answer session Dr. H. Ali Yurtsever said, “For Muslims democracy is most viable political system in the present times as it does not clash with the preaching of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Democracy is a process of consultation and the Prophet (PBUH) promoted consultation in all matters of his life.”

Prof. Mirza Ather Baig, Chairperson, Department of Philosophy GCU also spoke on the occasion.

Exhibition on “History of Civilizations”

The ancient civilizations from Greek to Romans and Islamic to European clashed at GCU in the art exhibition and contest on the ‘History of Civilizations’. This was organised by the Brett Philosophical Society, where more than 100 students took part in the contest. Model homes and buildings of various ancient civilizations including Babylonian, Islamic, Chinese, Indus Valley, Egyptian, Greek, Roman deities, slaves and citizens of Athens and Vedic were displayed.

Models of Civilizations of Indus Valley, Chinese, and Babylonian clinched 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. The model of Khanah Kaba’ah remained the centre of attraction at the exhibition.

Dean, faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Dr. Farhat Mehmood gave away prizes to the winners of the competitors.

Salam’s 84th Birthday celebrated at GCU Lahore

Salam Chair along with the Jones Physics Society of GCU Lahore jointly organized a function to mark Prof. Abdus Salam’s 84th birth anniversary on January 29, 2010. A very large number of students and faculty gathered to hear about the life and work of the first Pakistani Nobel Laureate, Prof. Abdus Salam.

Prof. G. Murtaza, the Salam Chair Professor gave biographical account of Prof. Salam’s life, starting from his humble beginnings in his home town in Jhang and from there to Government College Lahore and then on to Cambridge University UK.

The audience listened to Prof. Salam’s achievements as a physicist and also the role that he played in setting up the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy under the auspices of UNESCO and IAEA. This Centre, unique of its kind was renamed as Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics after the great scientist who passed away in 1996.

Prof. Hassan Shah gave a brief introduction to the importance of the theme of unification.
in Physics and explained why Prof. Salam’s work is considered so important within the context of unification. Dr. Asim Malik gave a talk on the electroweak theory, the work for which Prof. Salam received the Nobel Prize in 1979. Mr. G.M. Piracha senior bureaucrat who was a close friend of Prof. Salam from the College days, gave an account of Salam as a young college student and interaction that he and Prof. Salam continued to have throughout his life, and narrated how the British Government had wooed Prof. Salam to take British nationality so that they could own the Nobel Laureate. Prof. Salam however, refused this offer as he did not want to share his achievements and honours with any country except Pakistan. Salam kept his Pakistani passport and in accordance with his wishes was brought back to Pakistan for his burial.

GCU exhibits Paintings of Islamic Architecture
The department of Arabic & Islamic Studies organized a painting competition-cum-exhibition on theme of ‘Islamic Architecture’ at Salam Hall. The paintings of famous mosques and other Islamic structures including buildings of the holy Mecca and Madina and famous Taj Mahal were put on display at the exhibition by the students of eight participating educational intuitions. Sobia Naseem of Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB) bagged the top position, while Madhia Shah of Defence Degree College for Women, Lahore and Ifat Sadiq of IUB stood second and third respectively. Samina Zulfiqar of Punjab University and Mazahar Naveed of National College of Arts got consolation prizes.

GCU Lahore wins Badminton at Chief Minister Punjab Sports Cup
The GCU University, Lahore badminton team won the Intercollegiate Badminton Contest at the Chief Minister Punjab Sports Cup. The University’s badminton players defeated Punjab College of Commerce (PCC), Faisalabad in the finals. GCU students Hafiz Irfan who is also the All Pakistan Under 19 Badminton Champion defeated a strong rival from Punjab College of Commerce Faisalabad by 2-0 in the singles. In the doubles, Amir Butt joined Hafiz Irfan and they smashed the PCC sportsmen once again by 2-0 and bagged the title.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Khalid Aftab congratulated both the players on their achievement.

Old Ravians beat Raviants at annual festival cricket match
The Old Ravians squad beat the Raviants by 30 runs at the annual festival cricket match at the Oval Ground. The Old Ravians scored 168 in 15 Overs at the loss of just six wickets. Mujhaid scored 43 for Old Ravians. However, Raviants 11 was bowled out for just 138 runs. Col (R) Rafi Naseem former Secretary Pakistan Cricket Control Board was the Guest of Honour.

NAMS pays tribute to Mirza Ghallib on 212th Birth Anniversary
Nazir Ahmed Music Society (NAMS) paid a glowing tribute to Mirza Asadullah Ghallib, in connection with his 212th birth anniversary. The Society held special music sessions in which students sang Ghazals and poems of the great poet. The faculty members and students of Urdu and Persian were present on the occasion. Dr Saadat Saeed highlighted the various aspects of Ghallib’s poetry.

Painting Exhibitions at Fine Arts Department
Minhas Art Gallery at GCU displayed the work by various artists using different mediums i.e. Ceramic, Watercolours, Oils, etc.

The Chief Guest Prof. Nazish Ataullah inaugurated one of the exhibitions and admired the paintings and appreciated the efforts by the artists. Mr. Erfan Ullah Babar Chairman, department of Fine Arts praised the work of young artists from NCA. He also informed the audience that Minhas Art Gallery has been providing opportunity to art community to display their work for the art lovers and Raviants.

GCUxDC Enthralled the Audience Once Again
Government College University Dramatics Club (GCUxDC) enthralled the theater lovers of Lahore choosing a wide range of performances from an adaptation of an absurdist play to performing parody and even a piece of Broadway musical. GCUxDC staged the play “Kamraa”, an Urdu adaptation of Manuel de Pedrolo’s play Tecnica de Cambra (The Room), at Bokhari Auditorium.

The play is a global allegory expressing an absurdist reflection on the reality of our existence. The desire for power is the key element in the play that is inherent in human nature and the consequences that come along the process. The purpose of life and its reality in its entirety is portrayed with a more abstract and absurdist tinge. The cast of the
play included Usman Mumtaz Butt, Afsheen Farooq, Rida Akram, Zohrain Bhaur, Maham Naz, Ali Sher and Faizan Ahmed Riaz. The Play was directed by Moosa Abbas, President GCU DC and Produced by Dr. Farhan Ebadat Yar Khan In charge GCUDC.

**GCUDC and American Voices Organize Workshop**

GCUDC in a joint venture with American Voices, an American Broadway Theatre group, arranged a five day workshop focusing on choreography and comedy theatre. The three member group from the United States included John Ferguson, pianist and the Executive Director of American Voices, Michael Parks Masterson, vocalist, choreographer and Director, and Carole Hanna Mc Cann, writer and choreographer. The workshop produced “Fifteen Minute Hamlet” by Tom Stoppard, a twenty minute parody of Shakespeare’s Hamlet and a musical performance of an excerpt from the famous Broadway musical “Les Miserables”. The workshop was conducted and the plays were staged at Alit institute and at the residence of American Counsel General respectively.

**Faiz Seminar Hall Inaugurated**

The GC University Lahore paying tribute to eminent Urdu poet has set up a Faiz Ahmed Faiz Seminar Hall at the University. Speaking on the inaugural ceremony the Vice Chancellor said “The GCU will keep the traditions of Faiz Ahmed Faiz alive, which have been handed over to us by a generation of good teachers and students and we will keep transferring them to the future generations. These traditions are like lamppost which guides us to prosperity, peace and progress.” He highlighted the various aspects of Faiz’s personality and said, “Faiz was a very humble person. His love for humanity was free of the prejudice of race, colour or nationality.”

While addressing the audience, Veteran writer, Mr. Hameed Akhtar, the Chief Guest of the ceremony, said that Faiz had a very positive approach towards life. “Apart from a revolutionary poet, he was also a poet of beauty and love, and there was no difference between the three, love, beauty and revolution had become identical in him,” he added. The ceremony was arranged by Majlis-e-Iqbal. The Deans, academic and administrative heads, faculty and students were present on the occasion.

**Inaugural Ceremony of Noon Meem Rashid Seminar Hall**

Renowned poet and Director Majlis-e-Taraqi-e-Adab Lahore Shahzad Ahmed inaugurated Noon Meem Rashid Seminar Hall at the PG Library GCU Lahore.

Shahzad Ahmed in his address stressed the need to explore the literary nuances in the poetic works of NM Rashid. He lauded GCU’s efforts in compiling an anthology of criticism on Rashid’s poetic art by Prof. Tabassum Kashmiri, a distinguished teacher, which is expected to be published at the centenary birth anniversary of the poet.

**GCU Equipped to Fabricate and Test Advanced Alloys**

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated Materials Fabrication and Characterization Laboratories for fabricating and testing advanced alloys at Centre for Advance Studies in Physics (CASP). The laboratories are established with a cost of Rs. 80 million funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan and are one of the advanced and sophisticated Hi-tension facilities available to any educational institution in Pakistan, whereas the engineers from China, Japan, England and Singapore provided their technical support in establishing these laboratories.

The Vice Chancellor said that GCU has always encouraged innovative and qualitative research and would provide all facilities to its students for this purpose. He called on the researchers to make the country self reliant in the field of Science and Technology. He also directed the centre’s management to keep the equipment operational, in order to provide optimum facilities to the researchers for desired outcomes.

Prof. Dr. Ijaz Mujtaba Ghauri, Director CASP briefed the Vice Chancellor about the functioning of various equipments at the laboratory and research projects being carried out.

**GCU Lahore Awards PhD in Psychology**

The Controller of Examinations GC University Lahore notified Iram Fatima as PhD in Psychology after the approval of her thesis on Belief in a just world and subjective well-being in mothers of normal and down syndrome children. She completed her
research under the supervision of Dr. Kausar Sohail. The Vice Chancellor congratulated Iram Fatima on the completion of her PhD.

**International Conference at GCU Lahore on Forensic Psychology**

Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor, chaired the inaugural session of International Conference on “Forensic Psychology: Issues and Interventions” and compelled the researchers to analyze the quandary of terrorism and violence in the society which potentially contribute not only to the understanding of these issues but also to their solutions. He appreciated the department’s efforts for arranging the mental health week to address the current psycho-political scenario and urged the mental health professionals to resolve these issues. Participating teams and academicians from the leading institutions appreciated the efforts of Chairperson and faculty members of department of Psychology for organizing the event at a time when addressing the issue was needed the most.

In her keynote address, Prof. Najma Najam Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University, Gilgit said that the terrorist is not born out of one act but is indoctrinated through repeated physical and emotional training which turns him to a virtual human time bomb. She said that suicide bombers are not real terrorists, but the criminals are those who train them.

Eminent psychologists, researchers, psychiatrists and academicians deliberated on the perceptions about terrorism in Pakistan, its factors and coping strategies at the first day of the conference. The experts also discussed in detail depression, anxiety and stress among the survivors and family members of the victims of suicide bombings.

Dr. Anila Kamal and Rabya Nayab from National Institute of Psychology, QAU presented a paper on “Terrorism Catastrophizing, Perceived Stress, Death Anxiety among the University Students.”

Prof. Dr. Yasmin Nilofer and Maria Habib from Department of Applied Psychology of University of Punjab presented a research paper on “Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) among Survivors of Lahore Suicide Bombings” said that female scored higher on depression, anxiety and stress, even higher than security officials who were directly targeted by terrorists. Mudassar Ahmed from University of Punjab briefed participants about his research based on interviews of families of terror attack victims. The study indicates that there was a significant negative relationship between time of blasts which causes high psychological distress among the members of these families. He said that females of these families use avoidance and religious focused coping strategies while males mostly prefer practical coping.

Amjad Tufail from MAO College Lahore called on the media to revise the pattern of the coverage of terrorist attacks as they are already aimed at creating panic and shaking the confidence of people. Hina Haq presented a research paper on psychological implications of terror attacks on traffic wardens.

**GCU Pays Tribute to Azad**

The Department of Urdu organized an international seminar paying tribute to Mulana Muhammad Hussain Azad in connection with his 100th death anniversary. Agha Salman Baqir, the great grandson of Azad, gave away 500-year-old manuscript to the Vice Chancellor form the personal collection of Azad. He hoped that the precious manuscript would remain safe in the GC University Library and future generation would benefit from it. Addressing the seminar, Prof. Khalid Aftab said Azad was a writer with unique literary sensibility. “His master piece Aabe Hayrat captures the literary traditions of the Muslims of subcontinent.” Intizar Hussain, Dr. Aslam Ansari, Dr. Shamsur-Rehman Farooqui also spoke on the inaugural session of the seminar. Prominent literary figures and scholars were also present on the occasion.

**All Pakistan Poster Exhibition Highlights Effects of Violence, Terrorism**

The Department of Psychology organized the All Pakistan Poster’s Exhibition 2010 in connection with the Mental Health Week to highlight terrorism, violence, child abuse and drug addiction and their effects on mental health. As many as 200 posters inscribed with messages, ‘Crossing Eternal Peace’ ‘Stop Destruction’, ‘Still We Have the Chance’, ‘Misspelled Morality’, ‘Legal Terrorism by United States’, ‘Our Future?? Stop Killing’, ‘Pain’ and ‘Fug of Peace’ were put on display at the Salam Hall. The newspapers clippings were used in a large number of posters to highlight the misery of people due to terrorism.

Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Chief Guest of the event, said that the competition was aimed at mobilizing students to find ways to help the nation against terrorism and violence. He said that the students could play important role in enabling Pakistan to face the challenges the country is struggling with. He appreciated the art work of the students, by stating that the artistic expression was best way to create awareness among people.

**Waves of Revenge in Polluted Ravi**

The Sustainable Development Study Centre (SDSC) organized the World Earth Day. Mr. Sajjad Saleem Hotina, Secretary Environment Punjab. Dr. Javaid Iqbal, Managing Director, WASA. Prof. Ikram-ul-Haq, Dean, faculty of Science and Technology, GCU and a large number of young researchers attended the seminar.

Noted environmentalist and Director SDSC Prof. Amin-ul-Haq said pollution ultimately
comes back to those who initiate it, and the River Ravi is returning it to the citizens of Lahore in form of fatal diseases. "We have only two options either we should set up hundreds of hospitals around the River Ravi or take steps to end pollution from the site." Prof. Amin believed that the environment laws are there and the most effective way of controlling pollution is strict implementation of these laws. "All plans will ultimately fail, if these laws are not implemented."

The river Ravi has been shrunk just to a polluted river-bed and archaeological site where the river used to exists and seeing the pathetic condition, the Punjab Environment Department has planned the conservation and restoration of the river, views expressed by Sajjad Saleem Hotiana ,Secretary Punjab Environmental department at the seminar. He further said that universities should also come forward and give recommendations to the committee that which kind of technique and technology should be used to restore the glory of Ravi.

Concluding the seminar, Dr. Javid Iqbal, MD, WASA brought the attention of the students about the scarcity of pure water in the city. He said that the underground water level is decreasing by 3 feet in Lahore every year and if proper steps are not taken, the future generations would face disastrous consequences. He said that a bill is being drafted to empower WASA to stop the wastage of water.

**SDSC Organizes a Poster Competition on the Theme of “Many Species, One Planet, One Future”**

Sustainable Development Study Center (SDSC) organized a poster competition in connection with World Environment Day on Friday. The theme was ‘Many Species, One Planet, One Future’.

More than 200 students took part in the competition. The posters highlighted that a world without biodiversity would be a bleak place. Millions of people and millions of species all share the same planet and only together can they enjoy a safer and prosperous future.

Prof. Dr. Amin-ul-Haq Khan Director SDSC said that humans were risking their own survival by destroying the natural habitats of millions of various species. He said that according to a UN report, around 17,291 species are threatened with extinction and many species have at times become extinct before they could be discovered. "2010 was declared as the year of conserving biodiversity, but in this year incidents like the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico have hit biodiversity the most. He said as per a United Nations report around 17,291 species were known to be threatened with extinction and however, many species have disappeared even before they are discovered. Nothing much has been done in Pakistan to save biodiversity," he said, adding that the aim of the GCU SDSC behind arranging the poster competitions, seminars and workshops on environmental issues was to connect the youth with nature and turn them into responsible inhabitants of the earth.

Anmol Tabassum and her friends secured first position for their poster showing the earth saying that "Today it's Me, Tomorrow it will be You". Later, Dean, faculty of Science and Technology GC University gave away prizes to the winners of the competition.

**Chairman HEC Inaugurates Student Services Centre at GCU Lahore**

The GCU Lahore established purpose built Student Services Centre with the financial support of Rs. 24.773 million by the Higher Education Commission. Dr. Javid R. Laghari, Chairman HEC inaugurated the Student Service Centre.

The Chairman, accompanied by Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor, GCU and Barrister Kamal Azfar, an eminent old Ravian visited and inspected various services and facilities of Student Service Centre and interacted with the concerned staff and students.

In her welcome address, Ms. Fouzia Shahin, Project Director, Student Service Centre and Director, Academic Planning and External Links elaborated the services and facilities being offered at the Centre, including Career Guidance and Placement, Student Counseling, Health Services, Ambulance Service, Career Resource Library, Computer Laboratory, Conference Hall and Faiz Ahmad Faiz Seminar Hall. She also mentioned that a girls Cafeteria and university bookshop are also housed in the centre.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr. Laghari emphasized on universities for developing resources for generation of funds. He said that the world over universities have established their endowment funds amounting to billions of dollars with the help of their alumni.

Talking about the Centre, he said that the services being provided by GCU to its students are highly beneficial for future social networking between students and their alma mater. He advised the public sector universities to market their research to generate revenue and also assured the HEC support for promotion of quality education in the universities.

Prof. Aftab said a university is as good as its resources are and the public sector universities are dependent on HEC and provincial governments for the financial support for their development projects. He said that GCU has established an endowment fund in 2003 and it has been working for generating funds to help the needy students of the university and its developmental projects.
The Vice Chancellor GCU Condolences Death of Farkhanda Lodhi

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor GC University, expressed profound grief on the sad demise of Ms. Farkhanda Lodhi, former Chief Librarian GC University and a noted novelist and educationist. She achieved the Pride of Performance from the Government of Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor paid tribute to her on account of her meritorious services rendered in the realm of literature and library and information sciences.

Her contribution to Urdu and Punjabi fiction is also acclaimed at the international level. She was instrumental in the introduction and refinement of the service structure for the librarians serving in the public sector of Pakistan. She was highly respected literary figure whose contributions have been acknowledged by contemporary literary critics at large.

In his condolence message to the bereaved family, Prof. Khalid Aftab prayed to the Almighty Allah to bless the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

GC University Library Gets Holy Quran in Braille for Blind Students

The Center for Special Students (CSS) received full text of the Holy Quran in Braille, donated by Mr. Anees Qari, Chairman IQRA Educational trust, UK.

The Chief Librarian GC University said that the donated copy of the Holy Quran is divided into twelve parts and has been placed in the Centre for Special Students (CSS). He said that the Holy Quran is published in Saudi Arabia and the Braille paper is acid-free. Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor issued special directions to provide all kinds of facilities to the university's special students. He further said the University has already digitalized curriculum and pleasure-reading books for the visually impaired students besides printing them in Braille. The GCU CSS has high-tech computers which can easily run heavy screen reading software.

The special students expressed pleasure at the availability of the Holy Quran in Braille at the Centre, saying that it would provide them an opportunity to read the Quran, the greatest gift by the Almighty to mankind.

University Teachers should have PhD Degrees

Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor GC University Lahore highlighted the importance of quality research said that people teaching in universities should have PhD degrees in their relevant fields. While addressing the faculties of Arts & Social Sciences and Languages, Islamic & Oriental Learning he said, “Days are not far when PhD would be the minimum required qualification for the appointment of lecturer in a university. So, make yourself ready for that time.”

The Vice Chancellor urged GCU young faculty members to get themselves enrolled in the PhD programmes and produce quality research. He assured them of all-out support from the university administration for their admissions to the PhD programmes locally and abroad. He also told the aspiring candidates about the various available scholarships of the Higher Education Commission and other donor agencies.

He said that as many as 28 teachers of GCU are at present studying for PhD degrees abroad. Two faculty members of the Department of Statistics have been selected for the Fulbright PhD Scholarship. The Vice Chancellor highlighted that the Tenure Track System is available to the productive research scholars and teachers.

Later, the Vice Chancellor discussed in detail problems being faced by the young faculty members in getting registered in the PhD programmes. On the request of faculty members, the Vice Chancellor directed the Quality Enhancement Cell GCU to arrange workshops on writing research proposals for the PhD programmes for the aspiring candidates. The Vice Chancellor said that the quality research is the demand of modern education system besides being mandatory for development of the country.

GCU Academic Council Members Elected

The elections for the categories of Assistant Professor and Lecturer members of GCU Lahore Academic Council were held under the supervision of Dean faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Prof. Khalid Pervaiz Dr. Humayun Abbass Assistant Prof (Islamic Studies) and Dr. M. Nauman Qureshi Assistant Prof. (Physics), Saeed Ahmed Butt, Lecturer (History) and Nadeem Ahmad Lecturer (Political Science) were elected new members of the Council. The Vice Chancellor congratulated the newly elected members of the Academic Council.

Final Dissemination Event of HEC-BC Links Programme-Phase II Research in Fish Immunology

The Department of Zoology, GCU successfully completed the HEC-BC Joint Higher Education Link Programme (JHELP) run jointly by British Council and HEC, Pakistan. The Final Dissemination Event of HEC-BC Links Programme-Phase II was held in Islamabad. Mr. Adam Thompson, British High Commissioner, Mr. David Martin, Country Director, British Council, Dr. Javeid R. Leghari, Chairman, HEC, Dr. Sohail Naqvi, Executive Director, HEC and Prof. Khalid Aftab, Vice Chancellor GC University Lahore graced the occasion. 35 Link Institutes were invited from all over Pakistan to put up their stalls. The promotional tools included the banners, flyers, reports, research publications, calendars and multimedia presentations. Mr. David Martin presented the shield to Dr. M. Sharif Mughal, the Link Coordinator on successfully completing the Link programme.

The Pakistani Link Team included Prof. M. Sharif Mughal, Chairperson of Department of Zoology, GC University Lahore as Link Coordinator & Mr. Imran Sohail Lecturer Department of Zoology GCU Lahore as assistant link coordinator.
The UK Link Team included Prof. Dr. C.J. Secombes Head School of Biological Sciences University of Aberdeen UK as Link Coordinator & Mr. Steve Bird of the same university as Assistant Link Coordinator.

This has been an excellent programme allowing, young researchers the opportunities to be exposed to different research environment and develop their careers. The linkages established will greatly benefit both partners and helped improve research in fish health for sustainable Aquaculture.

HEC Establishes CPDC at GCU

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has established a Continuous Professional Development Centre (CPDC) at the GC University Lahore for conducting Professional Competency Enhancement Programme for Teachers (PCEPT). Iram Sohail, Director-QEC who is also the Project Coordinator of CPDC said in her inaugural remarks that the Centre will provide modern and world-class professional development to university teachers through conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses. She said that it was impossible to take such initiatives without the constant support and guidance of the Vice Chancellor. As many as 30 teachers from GCU and other universities took part in the training programme spread over 24 days / 70 sessions.

The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Dean faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. He also expressed pleasure on the establishment of CPDC and hoped that it would play an important role in faculty development.

Prof. Seik Weng meets the Vice Chancellor

Prof. Seik Weng, top scientist in the field of X-ray Crystallography from University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur conducted a week long professional training programme for the staff and research students of department of Chemistry on recent advances in the field of Crystallography.

Prof. Seik Weng said that modern machinery and software have made research in the fields of natural sciences easier. He said that researchers in some disciplines are producing two research papers daily. The foreign professor told the GCU researchers modern techniques of expediting the research work and retrieving more information from the machines through latest softwares. Prof. Seik Weng met Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members.

Sajjad Ahmad said that PECS used pictures instead of words to help children and had proved to be very useful in clinics and schools. He said a child could be trained in PECS by a parent, caregiver, or therapist who had learned the method. In the early phases of PECS training, the child chooses a picture of a desired food, and receives the food in exchange for the picture. Getting the food was the positive reinforcement for using the picture to communicate. He said that as the child begins to understand the usefulness of communication, the hope is that he would then begin to use natural speech.

Universities Facing Quality–Training Challenges

A Professional Competency Enhancement Programme for Teachers (PCEPT) concluded after lasting for 24 days. The intensive training, organised by QEC at GCU and Higher Education Commission, brought together participants from six leading universities. The training was programmed on broad areas of pedagogy, andragogy, communication and research. Faculty members from GCU, Punjab University, Lahore College for Women University, FC College University, University of Veterinary, Lahore College for Women University, FC College University, University of Veterinary and University of Health Sciences and King Edward Medical College University actively took part in the 70 training sessions.

Addressing the concluding ceremony, Prof. Khalid Aftab, the Vice Chancellor said that the biggest challenge being faced by the universities in the 21st century is the quality human resource, adding that such modern and quality based training programmes play vital role in meeting the challenge. He also called upon the teachers and professionals to actively participate in such trainings to keep themselves at par with modern needs of their profession.
The Director QEC said the training provided an opportunity to the teachers of almost all disciplines to know in detail about the personality development, multiple intelligence, planning and management skills, passion for teaching, fostering networks for academic sharing, microteaching, course designing, student assessment, guidance and academic counselling of students, teacher behaviour and appearance, motivation techniques, body language signals, research tools and academic supervision. The participants appreciated the choice of the resource persons and said that the training had motivated their desire of teaching the future of this country. They further said that modern techniques taught to them during the training would certainly prove helpful in their working. Later, the Vice Chancellor gave away certificates to the participants.

I.Com in 2010 Academic Session

The GC University Lahore has announced offering Intermediate in Commerce (I.Com) in the academic session of 2010. The decision was taken at the meeting of Academic Programmes and Examination Regulations Review Committee chaired by the Vice Chancellor.

Talking to media, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Khalid Aftab said that the GCU has upheld the tradition of excellence at all levels. Last year, the GCU intermediate students secured 07 out of 12 top positions. GCU student Muhammad Akram Karimi topped the results in all groups and got the highest score of 1,036 out of 1,100. He said that 2009 was the 16th year in a row that GCU was placed on top of all institutions on the basis of the Intermediate level.

Prof. Khalid Aftab said that the GCU has appointed the Director Intermediate so that all FA/FSc students are supervised in a standard learning environment that meets the approved curricula of the Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education and the mission statement of GCU.

Observatory Tour of Khanas Pur to Know Socio-Economic and Landforms

The Department of Geography conducted a socio-economic and landforms study tour to Khanas Pur and Nathia Gali along with 50 students.

The purpose of the tour was solely to provide students sound basis of understanding Geography by physical contact with environment.

Department of Geography Signs MOU to Develop Phata Database

The students from Department of Geography will digitize manual maps and develop a database for the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency, Punjab (PHATA) by applying modern techniques of the Digital Cartography. Prof. Khalid Aftab and Mr. Rashid Manzoor, Director General PHATA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard. The Chairperson, department of Geography and Director Academic Planning and External Links, highlighted the main areas of the MOU where GCU will organise workshops for the officials and experts of PHATA on the latest tools and technologies of Geographic Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning System (GPS), Total Station and Automatic level. The PHATA will provide internship opportunities and research projects to the students of GCU. The university and planning agency will also collaborate to hold conferences and seminars on water resource management, disaster management and land use planning.

Addressing the MoU signing ceremony, the Vice Chancellor laid stress on interdisciplinary research, saying the challenges and problems of urban development are so diverse and complicated that experts of one discipline cannot address them. He also emphasized and said “There is dire need to bring together engineers, geographers, economists and experts of different disciplines on one platform to solve the issues.” The Vice Chancellor revealed that the university is also planning to establish Urban Development Study Centre where experts of various disciplines would work on urban planning and resources management.

The Director General PHATA said that the mushroom and haphazard growth of content is the biggest challenge of the 21st century which cannot be addressed without the cooperation of the experts. He vowed that the university students would be provided all-out support for their research projects.

He hoped that the formal link between GCU and PHATA would prove vital to boost result oriented research.

GCU Lahore contributes first ever book from Pakistan to WDI

The GC University Lahore contributed the first ever digital book from Pakistan to the World Digital Library, a cooperative project of the Library of Congress and UNESCO. The University shared with the world a historical book titled “The History of the Afghans” published in English in 1829. The Chief Librarian said that the Government College University Lahore Library was the only library in the world which houses the 181-year-old book and this information can be accessed from the electronic catalogue of the World Digital Library.

The book is the first history of the Afghan people translated from a non-Western language to appear in a European language. The original work was composed in Persian in 1609-11 by Neametullah in the court of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Neametullah based his work on material compiled by Hybet Khan, an attendant of the Afghan General Khan Jahan Lodi. The translation is done by the German philologist Bernhard Dorn (1805-81). The book covers the history of Yacoob Israel, to whom the work attributes the origin of the Afghans.

Abdul Waheed said that GCU now stands with seven institutes like Library of Congress, Yale University Library and Brown University Library which have shared material on Central and South Asia through the platform of World Digital Library. The Chief Librarian also informed, “Only 37 libraries of World are successful to add their digitized books on World Digital Library electronic catalogue as its criteria is very high.” The Vice Chancellor expressed pleasure on this achievement executed by GCU Library.

GCU Pays Tribute to Prof. Khalid Saleem

Prof. Khalid Aftab and the staff members paid glowing tribute to the services of Prof. Khalid Saleem (Late), the GCU Staff Secretary. The Vice Chancellor while addressing on condolence reference said that the personality of Prof. Khalid Saleem was a role model for all of us. The gap created by his sad demise cannot be filled in centuries. He was out of those teachers who had dedicated their life for others. He prayed to Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.