IN PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE ON PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

My message to all the students and parents, my colleagues and all the readers is that we can make our homeland stronger and prosperous only from within. ITU has already transformed many lives since its founding in 2012. ITU envisions to serve as a hub of research and innovation for all Pakistanis in such a way that our youth does not have to desperately run to foreign shores to find better opportunities. Our students deserve a life of choices rather than a life of despair. We vow to give our students world-class research infrastructure and employment opportunities here in their own homeland. We are making our Pakistan the next trailblazer in Information Technology, science, engineering and entrepreneurship. I ensure that we have all that is required to prepare our youth for the brightest future and we are proudly paving the way path of Digital Pakistan.

Pakistan Zindabad!

VC CALLS ON CHANCELLOR BALEEGH UR REHMAN

Vice Chancellor of ITU Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian called on honorable Chancellor/Governor Punjab Mr. Baleegh ur Rehman. Important matters related to academics, construction of ITU's main campus and university's progress were presented to honorable Chancellor.

Chancellor Mr. Rehman appreciated strides made by ITU in cutting edge research and leading the innovation front in the country and assured his support to the university.

Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar also accompanied the Vice Chancellor and participated in the meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS:

ITU CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN

ITU held a cake cutting ceremony to mark the Independence Day of Pakistan.

On this remarkable occasion, faculty, students and members of the university management vowed to join hands to celebrate strength and unity. In line with the vision of ITU, it was revisited that we can create a digital revolution that empowers our nation and enhances the lives of our people. Working hand in hand to foster creativity, knowledge, and innovation for a stronger, brighter Pakistan was promised on the blessed day of Pakistan's Independence Day anniversary.

ITU HOSTS US APPAREL AND TEXTILES DELEGATION

The Faculty of Business and Management Sciences at Information Technology University hosted an esteemed delegation of US Apparel and Textiles. The delegation led by Mr. Abdul Jabbar Athar, Director Projects & Sustainability at US Apparel and Textiles, consisted of six members including Mustafa Ahmad (GM Sustainability), Salar Sikander (DGM Projects & Sustainability), Najam us Saqlain (DGM Projects & Civil), Umar Farooq (Manager Sustainability & Projects) and Asaad Iftikhar (Manager Energy Projects). Hosts from ITU included Dr. Sara Khawar (Dean FBM), Dr. Nokhaiz Tariq Khan (Assistant Professor, FBM) and Jiad Ali Cheema (Student of BSMT 2020).

The tour provided for exchange of ideas and exploring areas of collaboration between US Apparel and Textiles and ITU.

ITU STRENGTHENS BOND WITH LCCI

A delegation of ITU visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry to exchange ideas, explore avenues of collaboration and strengthen the academia-industry bond. The delegation consisting of Dr. Faisal Kamiran and Dr. Usman Younis was received by senior officials of LCCI.

Detailed presentations were given by Dr. Faisal Kamiran and Dr. Usman Younis on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science Technology, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Technology.

In his concluding address, LCCI President Mr. Kashif Anwer appreciated growing collaboration between LCCI and ITU and ongoing cross-fertilization of ideas.

ITU AND PAKISTAN POST TO JOIN HANDS FOR IT- RELATED ENDEAVORS

An esteemed delegation of Pakistan Post visited ITU. The delegation consisted of Post Master General Mr. Moazam Mansoor and Div Superintendent Miss Shaista Anjum. They met ITU Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar and Treasurer Mr. Ashraf Ali Khan along with other members including Mr. Hassan Mutahhir, Mr. Ali Bukhari and Ms. Sadaf Sultan.

The meeting resulted in a joint agreement to create a synergy and to forge a collaboration in various IT-related endeavors. Honorable Post Master General showed particular interest in enhancing operational efficiency of Pakistan Post by automating the processes for which ITU's advisory may be sought.

ITU AND ATOM CAMP JOIN HANDS TO OFFER DATA ANALYTICS FOR GOVERNANCE COURSE

ITU and Atom Camp signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to mark the beginning of a partnership wherein ITU will launch a Data Analytics for Governance course.

This course will be a useful tool for students, public policy professionals, government officials and development professionals.

The course can be registered here with special discount for ITU students and ITU alumni:

https://www.atomcamp.com/analytics-for-gov/

REMEMBERING DR. SAEED- UL- HASSAN'S SHINING LEGACY ON HIS 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Saeed-ul-Hassan had breathed his last while battling brain hemorrhage in the UK last year. Aged 37, Dr. Hassan left the world with many teary-eyed and shocked, across the world. Today is the first death anniversary of this man who was a father, a son, a husband, a teacher and a friend with a heart of gold. ITU remembers today and will always remember his shining legacy.

Dr. Saeed-ul-Hassan is recognized for igniting the spark of curiosity and learning in countless Pakistani students. He was an inspiration for curious and inquisitive youth who needed nurture and support every step of the way. In the process, he had inspired a whole generation of students who miss their mentor and guide dearly.

Associate Professor and former chairperson Department of Computer Science, Dr. Saeed-ul-Hassan, was one of the leading scientists and researchers at ITU. He was the Director of Artificial Intelligence Lab with more than 15 years of hands-on experience in AI, Machine Learning, and Software Development client work. Dr. Saeed's research interests lay within the areas of Data Science, Machine Learning, Contextual Scientometrics, Altmetrics Bibliometric Tools for Evidence-based Research Policy Formulation, Information Retrieval, and Text Mining. He published more than 50 papers in reputed international journals and conference proceedings including highly reputed venues like TKDE, WWW, JCDL, Journal of Infometrics, and Scientometrics. He had received the James A. Linen III Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding academic performance. More recently, he was awarded Eugene Garfield Honorable Mention Award for Innovation in Citation Analysis by Clarivate Analytics, Thomson Reuters and listed among top 2% global scientists by Stanford University.

Besides his academic accolades, he was a great humanitarian with a deeply caring heart. He was a lifetime volunteer of Pakistan Hemophilia Patient's Welfare Society and technical lead of the National Patient Registry of people with a bleeding disorder in Pakistan.

Dr. Saeed's association with ITU was as old as the university itself. ITU held a commemoration ceremony to pay homage to the departed Dr. Saeed's association with ITU was as old as the university itself. ITU held a commemoration ceremony to pay homage to the departed soul. Members of Dr. Hassan's family, ITU VC, colleagues and friends, and students shared their thoughts. One of the speakers quoted Dr. Hassan once saying, "ITU runs in my blood." From giving Eidi to the students and supervising their PhD theses, from representing ITU at local and international forums to supporting the deserving students, Dr. Saeed-ul-Hassan was remembered for his various contributions. To acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Hassan, ITU management renamed the 6th floor Auditorium "SAEED UL HASSAN AUDITORIUM".

On his first death anniversary, ITU is steadfast in its commitment to remember Dr. Saeed-ul-Hassan for his excellence in research, kindness, generosity, and shining legacy of tremendous strides for knowledge economy in Pakistan. We will never forget his infectious smile. Rest in peace, Saeed.

RAVIAN RAHEEL SHARIF RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Since 2021, GCU Lahore has been conferring the Lifetime Achievement Awards on some of its outstanding alumni who have made a mark in their respective fields. This year's Lifetime Achievement award has been awarded to General Raheel Sharif. He has led Pakistan Army with honor and distinction. Currently, he is serving as the Military Commander of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition of 41 nations since May 2017.

Vice Chancellor ITU Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian also graced the occasion as guest of honor. Here he is pictured while receiving a souvenir from General Raheel Sharif.

ITU'S FOUNDING VC UMAR SAIF BECOMES IT MINISTER

Heartiest congratulations to ITU's Founding Vice Chancellor Dr. Umar Saif (Sitara-e-Imtiaz) on assuming the charge of Federal Minister of IT & Telecom, and Science & Technology, Caretaker Government Pakistan.

We are excited and confident that he will render his global exposure and public service experience to support and further the cause of information technology in Pakistan.

IEEE INDUSTRY- ACADEMIA LINKAGE WORKSHOP 2023 HELD AT ITU

IEEE ITU Student Branch and IEEE APS/CAS/MTT/SSC Joint Chapter Lahore Section arranged IEEE Industry-Academia Linkage Workshop 2023 held at Information Technology University. Highlights of this workshop included Elevator Pitch Competition for students (Cash Prizes up to 10,000 for the winners), insightful talks by acclaimed industry and academic experts on enhancing industry-academia linkages followed by industrial tour to Siemens, Lahore.The workshop offered a unique opportunity to the participants to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry practices, equipping them with practical skills, industry insights, and networking connections that enhance career prospects. The event was sponsored by Industry Relation Company of IEEE Region 10.

MEETINGS OF BOARD OF ADVANCED STUDIES AND RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD

The 9th meeting of Board of Advanced Studies and Research was held under the chairmanship of Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian. The board recommended Graduate Education Policy 2023 and Thesis Titles and Synopsis for MS and PHD along with supervisors.

Simultaneously, under the chairmanship of the Chairperson Academic Council Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, 26th Academic Council Meeting was also held. The Academic Council Meeting adopted Anti-Plagiarism Policy, Undergrad Education Policy – 2023 and implementation of the curriculum for BSCS and BSAI programs according to HEC. Several other academic agenda items were discussed and recommended for the approval of the university's Syndicate. Deans of Faculty of Sciences, Engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Business and Management Sciences, Heads of Departments, Controller of Examination and Registrar participated in the meeting.

ITU HOLDS FIRST ROUND TABLE OF CYBER SECURITY EXPERTS TO DELIBERATE ROOM FOR ADVANCEMENTS

Information Technology University (ITU) gathered together top Cyber Security experts, industry professionals and academics under one roof for the first Round Table conference deliberating prevalent trends, threats, bottlenecks and avenues of research and collaborations in this domain. The Round Table hosted by Acting Vice Chancellor ITU and UNESCO Chair of ICTD Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian particularly discussed offering Cyber Security specialization and assessed the prospects of launching a new MS program by ITU.

In the context of today's interconnected world, cyber security plays a pivotal role in safeguarding our digital infrastructure and protecting sensitive information. With the ever-increasing frequency and sophistication of cyber threats, it has become imperative for organizations and individuals alike to strengthen their defenses.

With this perspective in view, Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian took the initiative of hosting the first Round Table in which diverse viewpoints and experiences sparked cross-fertilization of ideas and offered room for networking and collaborations. During the discussions led by Dr. Adnan Noor, a range of subjects including the importance of indigenous cyber security systems, product development, teachers' training and certifications, student counselling, demand and expectations from cyber professionals in the market, evolving market trends and practices etc. were brought up by the participants. It was stressed that there is a huge potential for qualified and able cyber professionals in local and global markets and that good undergraduate students should certainly be incentivized to pursue Masters in Cyber Security.

Prominent industry leaders and academics who took part in the first Round Table included Ahrar Naqvi (CEO Ebryx), Dr. Zartash Afzal Uzmi (Confiz Limited/LUMS), Wahaj Khan (CEO Codesgic), Dr. Hasan Islam (Director WATHEQ Cyber Security Testing and Validation Lab), Dr. Arshad Ali and Dr. Haroon Mahmood (FAST-NUCES), Saad Moten (Security Program Expert, Nokia Networks), Mubarak Mustafa (Cyber security consultant ACET), Adil Irfan (CEO Arhamsoft), Javaid Zahoor (Virtual Force / Kualilatum), Khawaja Faisal Javaid (CEO Codegic), Faheem Akhtar, Asif Iqbal, Dr. Umer Suleman and ITU faculty including Dr. Arif Mehmood, Dr. Umar Janjua, Dr. Khurram Bhatti, Dr. Tauseef Tauqeer, Dr. Qasim Mehmood and Dr. Sara Khawar.

It is hoped that this initiative by Acting Vice Chancellor ITU Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian will lay strong foundations and provide room for rich experiences and multiple perspectives to come together and create a synergy in the domain of Cyber Security domain and beyond.

CENTERS OF NANO TECHNOLOGY, QUANTUM COMPUTING, AND NEW MANUFACTURING LAUNCHED IN PAKISTAN

A graceful ceremony marked the launching of Centers of Nano Technology, Quantum Computing, and New Manufacturing in Pakistan. VC Information Technology University Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor and Dr. Muhammad Qasim Mehmood attended the inauguration ceremony. ITU's Nano-Metamaterials (Nano-Meta) Lab is one of the labs of the National Centre for Nanoscience

and Nanotechnology. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Mehmood is the lead Principal Investigator (PI) of the Nano-Meta Lab, whereas Dr. Tauseef Tauqeer and Dr. Haris Mahmood are the Co-PIs of the lab. The inauguration was graced by the presence of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, alongside distinguished dignitaries including Mr. Deputy Speaker, Chairman HEC, Secretary Planning, Vice Chancellors, and other honorable members from the Ministry of Planning and Development.

In his keynote address, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal underlined the urgency to embrace emerging technologies like biotechnology, computer technology, robotics, telecommunication, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing, and stressed on interdisciplinary approaches to address complex challenges.

Highlighting the key pillars of reform, Minister Ahsan Iqbal outlined a seven-point performance framework for higher education institutions. He emphasized academic excellence, research, innovation, academia-industry linkages, community service, technology capability, and corporate governance as essential components of this framework.

The establishment of the Centers of Nano Technology, Quantum Computing, and New Manufacturing represents a significant leap forward for Pakistan's technological landscape.

ITU AND RIPHAH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY CELEBRATE WORLD ENTREPRENEURS' DAY

Information Technology University in collaboration with Riphah School of Business & Management organized an interactive session featuring young entrepreneurs and professionals from both universities. Talks and activities were organized with reference to World Entrepreneurs' Day 2023 celebrated on August 21.

Young entrepreneurs from both universities shared their experiences, challenges, breakthroughs, and keen insights from their practical experience. Furthermore, an interactive panel discussion by highly acclaimed and experienced educationists and professionals was the highlight of the day.

Participants learnt a great deal from vast practical experience and insights of budding entrepreneurs as well as professionals.

August 21 is celebrated as 'World Entrepreneurs Day' every year. This international day celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. It celebrates the role played by businessmen in creating employment opportunities and nurturing economic development across various industries globally.
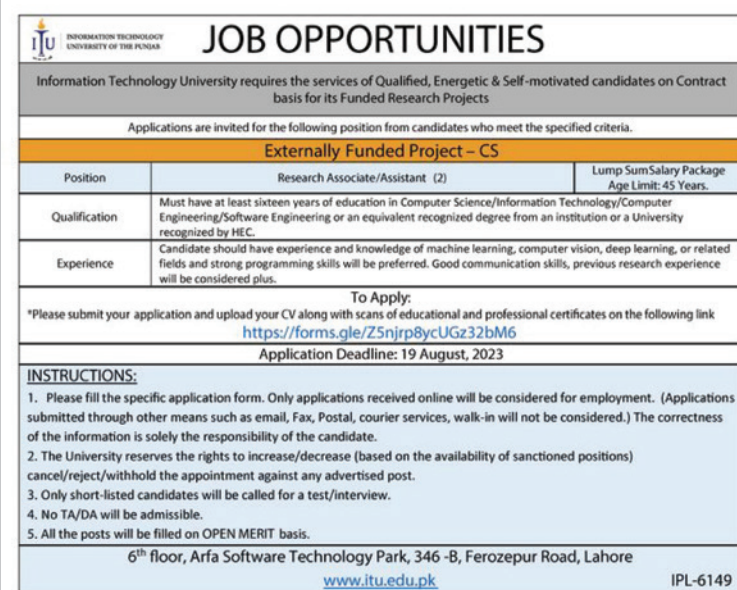
Journal Publication
Predicting Functional Roles of Ethereum Blockchain Addresses

Accepted for publication in the Springer journal, Peer-to-Peer Networking and Applications

Author:
Dr. Muhammad Umar Janjua
Assistant Professor
Department of Computer Science

Dedicated to the Memory of late
Professor Dr. Saeed ul Hassan

SUMMER TRAINING ON UNDERSTANDING EU AND ITS UNION HELD

As part of the Jean Monnet Modules, funded by the European Union, Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash from the Department of Governance and Global Studies, taught a two-weeks course on 'Understanding Europe and its Union.' This introductory-level course helped students equip themselves with the history, present state, and inner workings of the EU. It also enabled them to draw lessons from the EU experience for Pakistan, its growth, and its development. Students from all backgrounds, educational levels and interests keenly participated in the course. Spanning over two weeks, this course featured lectures on Development of the Modern State, Antecedents of the European Union, Towards European Integration, and The EU Today: Governance Structures during the first week. The second week featured lectures on Nation States and the EU, Is the EU an Economic Powerhouse?, Climate Change, COP Process and the EU, Is There a 'European' Culture?, and EU Expansion: Why Do Countries Want to Join?.

SUMMER TRAINING ON REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: LESSONS FROM THE EU HELD

Under the Jean Monnet Modules in Governance and Policy awarded by the European Union, Dr. Abiha Zahra, a Public Administration expert at the Department of Governance and Global Studies at ITU, led a summer training course on Reforming Local Government: Lessons from the EU.

Participants gained knowledge of Local Governments landscape in Pakistan by deriving lessons from the EU. It welcomed applicants from all diverse fields of interest.

The program included modules including: Local Government Landscape in Pakistan, Autonomy and Austerity: The Need to Reinvest in LGs, Decentralization and Devolution to Grassroot Level, Local Government Financing, Enhancing Local Public Service Delivery, Visit to Local Public Sector Organizations, Accountability: Making Difference for the Citizens, Citizen Participation: Co-Creating Value, Behavioral Public Administration: Nudging Citizen Behavior, and Autonomy, Performance and Participation: Local Public Sector Reforms Lessons.

ITU WELCOMES THE NEW BATCH OF STUDENTS

Whole ITU family including the students, teachers and the university management wholeheartedly welcomed the new batch of students in BS, MS and PhD programs. It was witnessed in the Orientation held for the incoming students.

Students interacted with their faculty and learned about the vision, research culture and ITU's rich legacy. Moreover, a number of exciting ice breaking events were organized including Scavenger Hunt, Ice Breakers (Charades and Truth or Dare) and Movie Night.

These events and activities will help them the new students with smooth transition to kickstart their exciting journey at ITU.