

IN PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER **DECEMBER 2023**

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ITU CELEBRATES ITS 4TH CONVOCATION

Information Technology University proudly hosted its 4th Convocation in the last week of December. The esteemed event, presided over by Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of ITU, witnessed the culmination of academic journey for 526 graduates who received their degrees in 12 different programs. He also led the ground breaking of the student hostel at the main campus.

Chancellor of ITU Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman praised teachers and parents of the students for their tireless commitment to education. He stressed on the vital role of critical and analytical thinking and research in today's age of misinformation where tolerance and space for co-existence is diminishing.

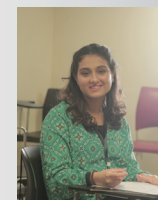
Notable personalities in attendance included Caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, Prof. Dr. Sarfraz Khurshid (ex-VC ITU), Dr. Asghar Zaidi (ex-VC GCU Lahore), DG e-governance PITB Mr. Sajid Latif, Deans and Chairpersons and departments Heads.

The diverse graduating class of 2023 included 209 from Faculty of Sciences (147 from Computer Science, 62 from Data Science), 190 from Faculty of Engineering (161 from Electrical Engineering, 29 from Computer Engineering), 57 from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and 70 from Faculty of Business and Management Sciences.

We wish our graduates the best and hope that they continue keeping up the high standards of intellect and character that ITU has inculcated in them.







ITU VOICE SOCIETY HOSTS INAUGURAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

The inaugural Parliamentary Debating Championship by ITU Voice Society, titled "Afkar-e-Taza", was held successfully.

The flagship event of the Voice Society featured 120+ participants from all over Pakistan. More than fifty teams from twenty institutions participated in the event that brought the finest speakers under one roof. Speakers engaged in enthralling parliamentary style debates on a range of topics from inclusivity to economics and the implications of technology in our society. Esteemed judges included both international and national level speakers and adjudicators.

ITU Treasurer Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Ali Khan and Additional Registrar HR Mustafa Sajid Tirmizi participated in the closing ceremony and distributed shields among the winners and runners-up. Finally, the debate was settled on the question of who would be the first to conquer!

We wish heartiest congratulations to the members of ITU Voice Society on successfully organizing the first edition and special congratulations to all the winners.



PANEL TALK ON WATER QUALITY WOES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN LAHORE HELD

The Department of Governance and Global Studies, as a part of Climate Governance and Sustainable Development series, organized a discussion on "Water Quality Woes and Environmental Governance in Lahore." In this discussion, Dr. Nousheen Zaidi, Director of the Cancer Research Centre (CRC) at the University of the Punjab, and Dr. Ameer Lutfi, Assistant Professor of History and Anthropology from LUMS, shared invaluable insights from their ongoing research on mapping water quality of the city. They highlighted the sources of water pollution, the risks it poses to public health, and stressed on the urgent need for adopting effective environmental governance strategies.



DR. AMMAR JAN TALKS ABOUT STUDENT UNIONS AND THEIR IMPACT

The Society of Aggregates; Economics & Policy (SAEP) at ITU hosted a thought provoking session on "Student Unions and their Social and Political Impact" by Dr. Ammar Ali Jan.

The speaker highlighted the significance of student unions and the role they serve in fostering a healthy environment for exchange of views and giving a platform for youth to voice their opinions and demand their rights.

Mr. Jan is historian, activist, youth leader and academic.

The session was moderated by Afnan Ibnayunaid who is the Vice President of the Human Rights Society at ITU.



AWARENESS AND OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN ARRANGED

A heartening "Outreach Program" arranged by IET On Campus ITU unfolded with the noble purpose of fostering the technical awareness of underprivileged children at the Lahore Scholars School System. The youngsters were guided through the process of constructing a line-following robot, turning this initiative into a triumph. In addition to technical skills, the children not only enjoyed the educational journey but also embraced the joy of learning with enthusiasm.



HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT HOSTS TALK ON SINDHI NATIONALISM

The department of Humanities and Social Sciences at ITU hosted a guest speaker session by Dr. Asma Ul Husna Faiz.

During her interactive session with the students, she shared her insights about her book "In Search of Lost Glory: Sindhi Nationalism in Pakistan."

She is an Associate Professor at LUMS. She did her Ph.D. in Political Science from Sciences Po, Paris (2017) and M.Sc. in Political Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2011).



CANVA CRAFT WORKSHOP HELD

IET On Campus ITU in collaboration with IEEE ITU Student Branch arranged a workshop on Canva Craft. The workshop included the basics of designing and how to make designs on Canva. The Facilitator for the workshop was Bilal Arshad, a final-year Electrical Engineering student at ITU. The event was conducted in Lincoln Corner, ITU.



ITU OFFICE OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATION HOSTS CELEBRATED MEDIA PERSON SAHIR LODHI

ITU Office of Media and Communication hosted renowned media personality Mr. Sahir Lodhi. During his visit, he called on ITU Vice Chancellor Dr. Adnan Noor Mian and exchanged views on a range of topics. Later, he participated in an engaging conversation for ITU FM 90.4's special session hosted by RJ Seemal Bilal. As a versatile and multi-talented person who is a TV actor, host, director, a PhD scholar in Astrophysics and an entrepreneur, Mr. Lodhi shared his journey and thoughts with the listeners.

Mr. Sahir Lodhi also interacted with ITU students at the Lincoln Corner. He inspired the students to go for their dreams with faith and consistent efforts without being affected by pessimists. He also motivated the students to help others. The motivational and inspiring talk was followed by a Q and A session with the students.

Inquisitive students learned how our esteemed guest braved challenges to achieve so many milestones in his professional career.



IEEE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING STUDENT BRANCH INAUGURATED

Inauguration of IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Information Technology University Student Branch Affinity Group was held. The major focus of opening this new chapter in ITU under IEEE is to empower women in STEM fields and create opportunities for them as signified by the slogan of WIE that is to focus on empowering, inspiring, engaging and encouraging women.

Going forward, WIE ITU will organize mentorship sessions, technical workshops, women-oriented scholarship sessions and outreach program to encourage women in STEM fields. Congratulations to IEEE WIE ITU Chairperson Bushra Shafqat and Branch Counselor Ms. Hadia Sajjad on taking this wonderful initiative.

Several esteemed scholars and academics graced the inauguration ceremony with their participation and sharing their thoughts. These included Dr. Adnan Saddique, General Secretary IEEE Lahore Section, Dr. Tauseef Tauqeer, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Usman Younis, Chairperson of Computer and Software Engineering Department ITU, Miss Maria Baddar, GIS Expert at PITB, IEEE WIE Vice Chair and Spatial Data Scientist, Ms. Hira Yaseen, Teaching Fellow at ITU and Dr. Rehan Ahmad, ex-branch Counselor of IEEE ITU Student Branch.



IEEE ITU STUDENT BRANCH HOSTS INSIGHTFUL TALK ON PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

IEEE ITU Student Branch hosted a special event titled "Find Yourself" featuring Abu Saad, an exceptional Muslim Entrepreneur with extensive professional experience across various corporations.

This event was organized by IEEE ITU Student Branch in collaboration with the Youth Club. Abu Saad shared insights on self-discovery within the context of Islamic principles, providing valuable guidance on personal and professional growth.



TALK ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT HELD

Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford, Stefan Dercon, gave an insightful talk on "Gambling on Development: Why Some Countries Win and Others Lose." He elaborated how various factors hamper the growth in developing countries that have their own set of unique challenges and opportunities.

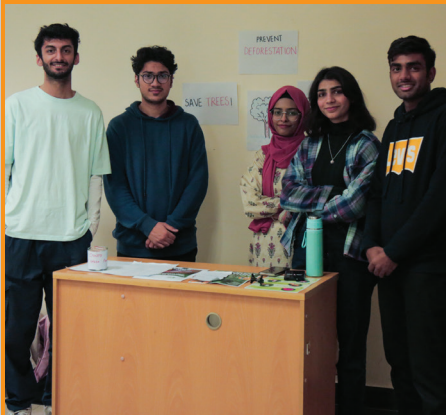


AKHUWAT HELP DAY ORGANIZED TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Student Services & Placement Office arranged an Akhuwat Help Day in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation. Activities included registration of ambassadors and volunteers for Akhuwat-ITU Chapter, registration for prospective internee and community workers, charity drive through tickets, in-kind donations (books, clothes, toys, blankets etc.) and any other donations in the form of Sadqaat & Qarz-e-Hasna.

Akhuwat is a non-profit organization established in 2001 with the objective of providing interest-free microfinance to the impoverished and underprivileged members of the society so as to enhance their standard of living and enable them to improve their livelihoods.

Akhuwat strives to alleviate poverty by creating a system based on mutual support in the society. It has adopted microfinance as its operational strategy with the loans being offered in accordance with the Islamic Finance doctrine of interest-free loans.



STUDENTS TOUR LAHORE WALLED CITY

ITU Voice Society in collaboration with Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) earlier organized a visit to the walled city. Students visited different places of historical significance in order to understand their history, culture and heritage. Students had debates on certain traditions and practices with contrast to the present in order to determine their importance and to learn from them.

The faculty advisor Dr. Aftab Nasir and the Assistant Director WCLA were present as well. Students visited Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Shahi Qila, Sheesh Mahal, Masjid Wazir Khan, Gawal Mandi food street, Langa Mandi Bazaar, Iqbal's Tomb and Gali Surjan Singh.



STUDENTS DISPLAY INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AT FC COLLEGE UNIVERSITY'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP FIESTA 2023

ITU students from the School of Business and Management participated in Entrepreneurship Fiesta 2023 by Forman Christian College University. They set up two stalls at the exhibition showcasing their innovative projects. The projects were titled, "Yadein- Not Letting Memories Fade Away" by Shehroz Yasir, Nauman Amir and Taqi Zahdi and "Ai.antsQ- The Next Generation AI writing tool" by Talha Mumtaz, Areeb Ishfaq and Hanzala Malik.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed and made the best of this opportunity to receive feedback and further improve on their exciting projects.

Dr. Sara Khawar, Dean of Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, accompanied her students and participated in the event as a special guest.

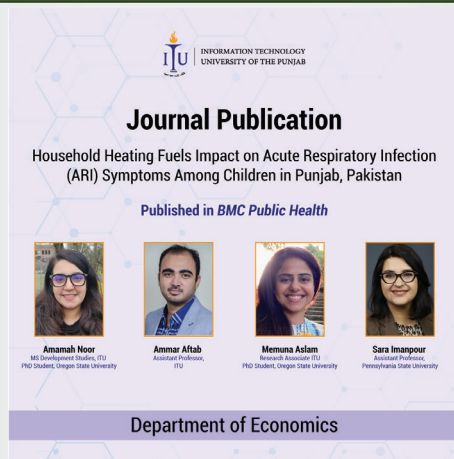


RESEARCHERS FROM ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT PUBLISH PAPER IN PUBLIC HEALTH JOURNAL

Researchers from the Department of Economics have published their paper in the journal BMC Public Health. It is titled, "Household Heating Fuels Impact on Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Symptoms Among Children in Punjab, Pakistan."

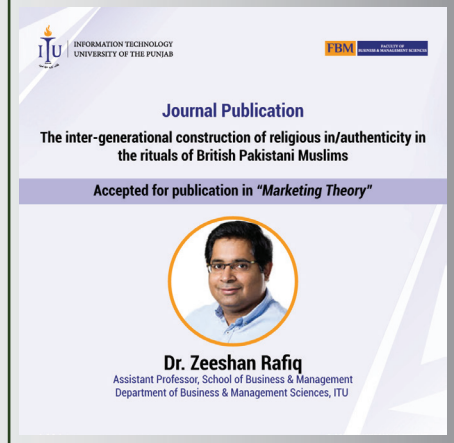
Authors include Amamah Noor, MS in Development Studies alumnus from ITU and currently pursuing PhD at Oregon State University, Ammar Aftab, Assistant Professor at ITU, Memuna Aslam, Research Associate at ITU and PhD Student at Oregon State University and Sara Imanpour, Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University.

It is another testament of Information Technology University's focus on quality research.



ITU PROFESSOR PUBLISHES RESEARCH IN MARKETING JOURNAL

Dr. Zeeshan Rafiq, Assistant Professor of Marketing, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences at ITU, has published his paper titled "The inter-generational construction of religious in/authenticity in the rituals of British Pakistani Muslims" in the esteemed "Marketing Theory" journal. This journal is ranked A by ABDC and 3* by AJG/ABS, making it a highly regarded publication.



ITU ALUMNUS TO PURSUE PHD AT GERMANY'S TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

ITU alumni continue to make their mark in academic pursuits and make their alma mater proud. We are pleased to share that our former student, Abdullah Mustafa, has secured PhD admission in Technical University of Berlin, Germany.

Abdullah Mustafa belongs to Executive MBA batch 2017. Recently, he has been serving as Assistant Director at the Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) at GIFT University, Gujranwala. He has had a demonstrated history of working in the Entrepreneurial ecosystem in various roles in his professional career.

Information Technology University takes pride in his latest achievement and wish him the best as he embarks on a new academic journey.

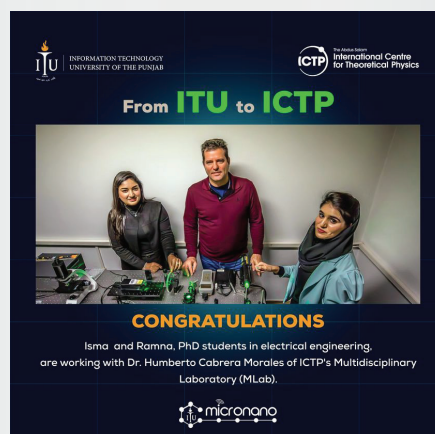
Congratulations to you, Abdullah.



PHD STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT THE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Congratulations to Isma Javed and Ramna Khalid- two PhD students in electrical engineering from ITU's MicroNano Lab- who are currently spending three months at International Centre for Theoretical Physics gaining hands-on experience working side by side with Dr. Humberto Cabrera Morales of ICTP's Multidisciplinary Laboratory (MLab).

Isma Javed and Ramna Khalid will be able to bring back rich experience. It is a proud moment for the Department of Electrical Engineering especially Dr. M Zubair and Dr. M Qasim Mehmood from ITU's MicroNano Lab. This visit is organised through the ICTP's Training and Research in Italian Laboratories (TRIL) programme, in collaboration with the government of Pakistan. We wish Isma Javed and Ramna Khalid the best.



COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCHERS PUBLISH PAPER IN ESTEEMED TPAMI JOURNAL

Researchers from the Department of Computer Science have published their paper in IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI). It is titled "Domain Adaptive Object Detection via Balancing Between Self-Training and Adversarial Learning."

Authors include Muhammad Akhtar Munir, PhD student at ITU, and Dr. Mohsen Ali, Associate Professor, ITU. This work was done in collaboration with Dr. Muhammad Sqaib Sarfraz, Deep Learning Lead, Mercedes-Benz and Dr. Muhammad Haris Khan, Assistant Professor, MBZUAI.

TPAMI is one of the most respected journals in this field with an impact factor of 23.6. It is the first paper from our Intelligent Machines Lab published in TPAMI.



VC INAUGURATES ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT ITU'S MAIN CAMPUS

Vice Chancellor Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, visited ITU's main campus site at Barki Road for inauguration of road construction. It will be another milestone as ITU management is focused on early completion of the main campus. Prior to that, a research centre, cricket and football grounds have been completed. Sports fixtures and welcome ceremony of the new batch have also been held here in the past.

VC was also accompanied by Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar, Treasurer Mr. Ashraf Khan, Controller of Examinations Mr. Faisal Ijaz and Dean of Faculty of Business and Management Dr. Sara Khawar and several others.



CAKE CUT IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Faculty members, officials of university administration and staff members from various departments gathered to celebrate the festive occasion of Christmas 2023. A cake cutting ceremony provided an opportunity for everyone to share moments of joy and happiness. Vice Chancellor ITU Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian especially graced the occasion and distributed cheques among staff members.



ITU OFFERS ADMISSION IN SHORT COURSES BATCH 6

The Center of Executive Trainings is offering an exciting range of short courses in its 6th batch. Admissions are open, so gear up for rigorous learning and make the best of this opportunity.

Visit : <https://itu.edu.pk/application/>

ADMISSIONS OPEN

6th Batch

SHORT COURSES

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Application Deadline:

20th December

APPLY NOW

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ITU HOSTS CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY OF SHORT COURSES BATCH 3 AND 4

Information Technology University held a certificates distribution ceremony of its 3rd and 4th batch of short courses. ITU Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar graced the occasion by his participation along with instructors of the courses in attendance.

It is a big milestone in lives of the students who have successfully completed the course and have gained knowledge and hands on skills. Students and learners are now set to embark on the journey where they can use their learning and skills to kick start their career or further excel in freelancing or their professional career.

Registrar Mr. Adeel Asghar heartily congratulated the successful participants upon completion of the courses and wished them well in their academic and career pursuits ahead.



FIRST ALUMNI HOMECOMING REUNITE FORMER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

ITU's Alumni Association hosted the first Alumni Homecoming at the university's Main Campus site on Barki Road. It was a graceful ceremony that helped us all cherish old memories and reunite with our students who have shown exceptional talent in their professional and academic journey after their stay at ITU. Chief guest of the esteemed event Ms. Samina Amjad, Chairperson - Arfa Karim Foundation, graced the occasion with her presence and addressed the participants. VC ITU Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor, along with Deans, Department Heads and Chairpersons especially participated in the event that featured a banquet, musical event and a lot of networking opportunities. Alumni shared their insights, challenges and initiatives with fellow alumni making a great learning experience for all.

We congratulate the alumni association on hosting the first homecoming successfully.

