IN PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

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FEDERAL MINISTER PROF. AHSAN IQBAL LAYS FOUNDATION FOR ITU'S NEW ACADEMIC BLOCK

Information Technology University took a monumental step towards expanding its infrastructure with the groundbreaking ceremony for its first academic block at the Barki campus in Lahore. The event was graced by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, who emphasized the transformative role of education and information technology in Pakistan's future development. During the ceremony, Minister Iqbal laid the foundation stone for the new block and also planted a sapling, symbolizing ITU's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

This historic day also witnessed the signing of two groundbreaking MoUs with leading Chinese universities, cementing ITU's global partnerships. Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, ITU's Vice Chancellor, highlighted the university's achievements, including cutting-edge programs, collaborations with global tech leaders, and a highly selective acceptance rate of 4.78%.

The event concluded with the Minister's inspiring message: "Embrace emerging technologies and innovation to secure Pakistan's future," and the presentation of a commemorative souvenir by the Vice Chancellor.
This milestone is a testament to ITU's vision of excellence in education, research, and innovation.
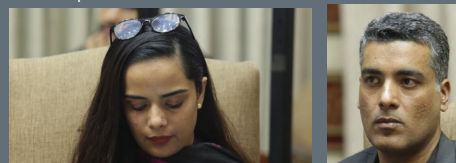
ITU HOSTS POLICY DIALOGUE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS

The Department of Governance and Global Studies at ITU, in collaboration with the Local Government and Community Development (LGCD) Department Punjab, organized a policy dialogue on "Reforming Local Governments: Autonomy, Performance, and Citizen Participation" at the Civil Secretariat Lahore. Part of ITU's Jean Monnet Modules on Governance and Policy, the event convened key stakeholders to discuss financial autonomy, performance, and citizen engagement in local governance.

The dialogue was chaired by Local Government Secretary Mian Shakeel Ahmed, with Fawad Hasan Fawad (Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister) delivering the keynote address. Representatives from PILDAT, CPDI, the former Mayor's Office Lahore, former MPAs, and local government directors participated in the discussions.

Dr. Abiha Zahra presented a policy report on local government reforms, which will be shared with relevant authorities along with evidence-based recommendations. This initiative highlights ITU's commitment to advancing governance research and policy development.

BUILDING A WINNING TECH CAREER

The Department of Computer Science at ITU hosted an inspiring session, "Reinventing Yourself: Building a Winning Tech Career," featuring Touseef Liaqat, an engineering leader and entrepreneur. He shared insights on embracing change, skill development, and building scalable systems, motivating students to stay adaptable in the evolving tech industry.

LEVERAGING DATA ANALYTICS TO ELEVATE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN PAKISTAN

Professor Dr. Tauseef Tauqeer from Information Technology University introduced the Result Evaluation & Analysis Dashboard (READ) at a Punjab Boards Committee of Chairmen (PBCC) Consultative Session on "Reforms in Assessment Systems." Hosted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi and organized by the Higher Education Department (HED), Punjab, the session highlighted the role of data analytics in transforming education.

By analyzing examination results, READ enables data-driven decision-making, optimizing resource allocation and benchmarking educational performance at regional and international levels.

Key officials, including Mr. Muzammil Mehmood, Chairperson CM Task Force on Examination Reforms, and Dr. Farrukh Naveed, Secretary HED, emphasized the importance of transparency, merit, and curbing malpractice through dedicated reforms. The initiative aligns with the Chief Minister's vision of reshaping Punjab's education system through technology and innovation.
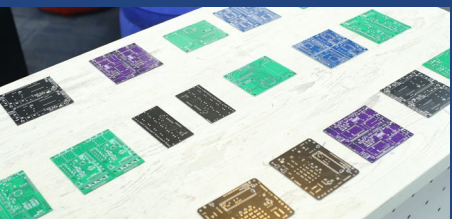
HANDS-ON PCB DESIGN WORKSHOP AT ITU

The IEEE ITU Student Branch organized an interactive PCB Design Workshop at Lincoln Corner Lahore, led by Mr. Nouman Ali. Participants gained hands-on experience in schematic creation, component placement, and PCB design essentials through guided tutorials and practical exercises.
The workshop provided valuable insights and real-world application, equipping students with essential skills in electrical engineering.

FULBRIGHT INFORMATION SESSION AT LINCOLN CORNER ITU

The Fulbright Information Session at Lincoln Corner ITU provided attendees with key insights into the Fulbright Master's/PhD and Global UGRAD semester exchange programs. Led by Madeeha Ali, Senior Program Officer at the USEFP, the session offered valuable details on program requirements, application processes, and recruitment strategies.

Madeeha's extensive experience with U.S. Department of State-funded initiatives enabled participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available through the USEFP. The interactive session also provided prospective applicants with the chance to ask questions and receive personalized guidance on how to apply for fully funded programs.

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GENERATIVE AI

The Department of Artificial Intelligence at Information Technology University recently hosted an enlightening session on the transformative potential of Generative AI, featuring Data Scientist extraordinaire, Mr. Usman Farooq.

Mr. Farooq shared invaluable insights into the world of predictive modeling and data mining algorithms, along with MLOps architectures and the importance of cross-functional collaboration. He also addressed complex architectural challenges, providing a deeper understanding of how Generative AI can revolutionize various industries.

This session highlighted ITU's commitment to staying at the forefront of AI advancements, equipping students and professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to harness the full potential of generative technologies.

US EMBASSY STRENGTHENS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TIES AT ITU

Miss Cynthia Nicholas, Regional Public Engagement Specialist from the U.S. Embassy Islamabad, visited Information Technology University to meet Mr. Adeel Asghar, Registrar ITU, to explore innovative approaches for boosting Lincoln Corner's role in youth development. Their conversation centered on fostering youth productivity and collaborative initiatives for mutual benefit. ITU continues to prioritize partnerships that nurture future leaders.

PROFESSOR ANDREW JORDAN LEADS GUEST LECTURE ON EU CLIMATE POLICY AT ITU

The Department of Governance and Global Studies at ITU hosted a seminar-style guest lecture by Professor Andrew Jordan, a distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia and a member of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

As part of the Jean Monnet Module on Climate Policies in a Comparative Perspective, Professor Jordan discussed key insights from his co-edited volume, Environmental Policy in the EU: Actors, Institutions, and Processes, covering both the historical context and future prospects of EU environmental policy. The session provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage with an expert in EU environmental and climate policy, gaining deeper insights into the evolution and future of environmental governance.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL STUDIES
Jean Monnet Modules on Climate Policy in a Comparative Perspective
CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERIES

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN THE EU
Actors, Institutions and Processes

Speaker : Andrew Jordan
Professor of Environmental Sciences,
University of East Anglia

THURSDAY
14 NOV 2024
02:00 PM - 3:00 PM PKT
9:00 - 10:30 AM UK TIME
Join via zoom

ITU AND RESTORE PARTNER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Information Technology University has partnered with RESTORE to introduce Nature-based Solutions (NbS), aiming to create a greener and healthier environment for the ITU community.

An MoU was signed to develop a Climate Action Plan, positioning ITU as a model institution for sustainability and research. The collaboration will include the creation of ultra-dense forests, edible gardens, and more, transforming the campus into a hub of environmental innovation and sustainability.

EXPLORING HUMAN RIGHTS AND POPULISM AT ITU

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at ITU hosted a civic education session with renowned lawyer and activist Muneeb Qadir in the Department of Economics.
Titled "Human Rights: Are They Universal or Local?", the talk addressed critical issues such as gender equality, religious freedom, and civic awareness, emphasizing the importance of questioning and introspection. Mr. Qadir also discussed his upcoming book on populism, highlighting its global rise and the challenges it presents.
The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, sparking thought-provoking discussions among students.

ITU CELEBRATES GIS DAY 2024 WITH IEEE GRSS LAHORE CHAPTER

The IEEE GRSS Lahore Chapter, in collaboration with the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) REACT, celebrated GIS Day 2024 at Information Technology University (ITU) with an engaging webinar and quiz competition.

The event brought together GIS enthusiasts and professionals, offering a platform to expand knowledge, connect with experts, and win exclusive GRSS swag. The session not only deepened participants' understanding of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) but also fostered a sense of community in this vital field.

ITU STUDENTS SHOWCASE DATA-DRIVEN ECONOMIC RESEARCH

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at ITU successfully hosted a poster presentation event for 5th-semester students in the Economics with Data Science program at Barki Campus, Lahore. The event showcased empirical research where students applied econometric models using cross-sectional, time series, and panel data.
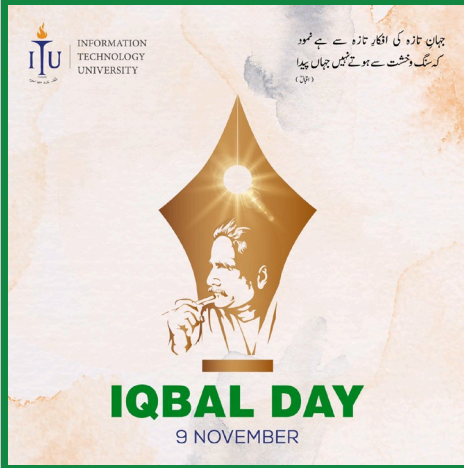
In their first exposure to econometrics, students excelled in real-world data analysis, utilizing STATA and Excel to conduct research and create insightful visualizations, including detailed maps of Pakistan and its provinces. Their analyses drew from reputable sources such as PSLM, LFS, WDI, PBS, and SBP.

Guided by Dr. Farrukh Mahmood, a Ph.D. in Econometrics from PIDE, students demonstrated impressive analytical and communication skills, highlighting the integration of economics and data science.

IQBAL DAY: INSPIRING INNOVATION AND SELF-RELIANCE AT ITU

On the 147th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, we celebrate his enduring legacy of visionary thought and creative excellence. At ITU, we draw from his teachings to foster a spirit of critical thinking and technological advancement, pushing us towards a more prosperous future.

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY

جہان تازہ کے افکار تازہ سے ہے نمود
کہ سنگ و خشت سے ہوتے نہیں جہاں پیدا
(اقبال)

IQBAL DAY
9 NOVEMBER

ITU FM 90.4 HOSTS LIVE SESSION ON SMOG CRISIS IN LAHORE

ITU FM 90.4 aired a special live session titled "The Alarming Situation of Smog in Lahore" with Dr. M. Younis Zahid, former Director of the Environment Protection Department Punjab, as the guest speaker.

The session, hosted by RJ Haroon Javed, explored the causes, impacts, and prevention measures of smog in Lahore. Dr. Zahid discussed various contributors, including industrial pollution, vehicular emissions, agricultural burning, and climate change.

He urged all citizens to take responsibility and work together to reduce the factors exacerbating this critical environmental issue.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH THINKING AT ITU FM 90.4 LIVE SESSION

TU FM 90.4 hosted a live session on "Power of Thinking in Leadership and Personality Development" with Prof. Dr. Ali Sajid, a Tamgha-e-Imtiaz recipient and Director of Lahore School of Management.

In this insightful session, Prof. Dr. Sajid emphasized how effective leadership is shaped by thinking skills, explaining that a leader's thoughts influence decisions, actions, and organizational success. He highlighted key aspects of thinking, including critical, creative, and strategic thinking, as essential tools for leaders to unlock their full potential and drive success.

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN BASH AT ITU

The students of Information Technology University (ITU) hosted a thrilling Halloween party at the Arfa Tower campus, filled with spooky decorations and creative costumes. From classic monsters to pop culture icons, the event highlighted the students' creativity. The haunted house, designed by ITU's very own creative minds, was a crowd favorite, delivering the perfect mix of chills and thrills.

This celebration brought the ITU community closer together, proving that even tech enthusiasts know how to celebrate with style!

ITU STUDENTS EXPRESS CREATIVITY THROUGH ART AND MUSIC

ITU students showcased their creativity at a vibrant art competition, featuring diverse artistic expressions ranging from acrylic painting to sketching. The event was graced by renowned sculptor Mr. Umar Rana, who encouraged young artists to express their thoughts and emotions through art.

The evening concluded on a high note with an energetic jamming session, making it a memorable celebration of creativity and self-expression.