A three-day annual National Solution Convention (NASCON) 2015 started at FAST-NU Islamabad campus on May 8 to provide the participants from across the country a platform to showcase their skills and talent in the field of science and technology. The event aimed to provide a platform for the young entrepreneurs to progress and grow in this era of scientific and technological advancement. The event included various competitions related to engineering and computer science to help solve problems many students face while pursuing a field of their interest. A theme is prepared each year for NASCON to indulge participants in healthy debates that could potentially provide solutions to issues that the country is facing. The theme for NASCON 2015 encompasses economic, environmental and social sustainability. It included computer science, engineering, social and sports categories. Over 1,500 students from Lahore University of Management Sciences, Islamic International University Islamabad, Iqra University, NUST, FAST-NU Lahore, Institute of Space Technology, Punjab University, and COMSATS participated in the event. Some of the categories include Robo Sprint, Robothon, Battle of Bots, Scavenger Hunt, Mobile App Development, Speed Programming, Ideathon, Quad Mania, Business Plan Competition, NASCON Model United Nation and Standup Comedy and Mushaira. About Rs. 1.5 million worth of prizes were distributed among the participants at the end of the event. Meanwhile, 14 students of Electrical Engineering, FAST-NU Lahore campus participated in four events of Electrical Engineering in NASCON 15 and won prizes in all four categories. FAST-NU Lahore also won the Overall Runner-up Team Trophy beating almost 30 universities.

**NASCON 15 organized to advance science & technology in Pakistan**

**Participation in The News Education Expo 15**

FAST-NU Islamabad and Chiniot-Faisalabad campuses actively participated in an education exhibition organized by The News International. Exhibition titled The News Education Expo 15 was held in Islamabad on May 27 and 28 while it was organized in Faisalabad on June 2. Hundreds of prospective students and their parents visited FAST-NU stalls both in Islamabad and Faisalabad and took keen interest in the university programs. Dignitaries and educationists also visited FAST-NU stalls and appreciated the university’s role in providing quality higher education to thousands of students across Pakistan. Giveaways and souvenirs were given to the visitors.

**FSM tops in CASE SPARK 2015**

Two teams from FAST School of Management (FSM) under the supervision of Mr. Sarfraz Kiyani won First prize worth Rs. 75,000 as well as 2nd prize of Rs. 50,000 at the All Pakistan Business Plan Competition held at CASE University Islamabad - CASE SPARK 2015. 45 teams competed in the contest from all over Pakistan including teams from NUST Business School, Bahria University, Quaid-e-Azam University, Lahore school of economics, and University of Peshawar. The names of FSM winning teams are ‘House In’ and ‘Candyholics’.
Job Fair 2015 at Islamabad Campus

FAST-NU Islamabad campus held a Job Fair 2015 to build liaison between the students and potential employers. With participation from 60 organizations representing various industries including IT, Electrical Engineering, Telecom, Banking, Financial Services, Real Estate, Development sector, and public sector FAST-NU Islamabad Job Fair 2015 was a major success.

Dr. Arshad Ali Shahid, Director Islamabad Campus, welcomed the Chief Guest Mr. Muhammad Latif Virk, Registrar FAST-NU. The Chief Guest and industry delegates were taken for a round of the campus and a tour of final year projects exhibition by the graduating students of all departments. The delegates were very impressed by the quality of students and the efforts they put in final year projects. The students briefly presented their project ideas to industry guests and engaged in a short Q&A session. Company delegates screened the graduating batch during this interaction and shortlisted them for individual interviews. The company delegates were facilitated by interview rooms at the campus. Students were also shortlisted for interviews from their resumes in the graduate directory. Some organizations offered students walk-in interviews for jobs as well as internships. 45 companies conducted interviews and shortlisted candidates for 2nd interviews to be conducted at their offices.

Workshop on Outcome Based Education

FAST-NU Quality Enhancement Cell arranged a one-day workshop on “Outcome Based Education and Assessment” for faculties of Computer and Electrical Engineering on May 04, 2015. Dr. Zahid Halim, Director QEC GIKI, facilitated the training session according to the requirements of Higher Education Commission. The presentation was highly informative and well received by all the participants.

With emerging global competition in higher education, Outcome-based education (OBE) philosophy is transforming the educational systems around determined goals. Further, OBE models are rigorously followed by accreditation bodies and quality assurance agencies in assessing quality systems of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at FAST-NU regularly organizes capacity building sessions to facilitate in sustainable faculty development, systems’ up-gradation, and capacity building of stakeholders for flourishing of Outcome Based Education (OBE) model in the University. This would advocate the cause of good policy making and efficient delivery of knowledge as per the requirements of HEC and accreditation councils like Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), and National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC).

Achievement

Dr. Sumnaira Sarfraz, Associate Professor, Head of English Language Program, FAST-NU, has been selected for the award of Charles Wallace Fellowship Scholarship 2015-16. It is one of the prestigious British scholarships for mid-career professionals with an objective of research and professional development. Her host institution in the UK is University of London which ranks among the top ten UK universities.

7th JUMP Start Business Competition

The 7th Jump Start Business Competition was recently held at FAST-NU Islamabad. The competition helped the students to practically learn the traits of starting their own business venture. Various entrepreneurs from the industry were invited to judge their real time demonstrations and presentations. Students of Entrepreneurship from Computer Science as well as Management Sciences participated in the contest. The winning idea of JUMP Start 2015 was “Cinefloat”, a concept of floating cinema in Rawal Lake Islamabad.

Talk on Rainbow Ramsey Theory

Dr. S. M. Husnine, Dean Sciences & Humanities, FAST-NU Lahore campus, participated in the 1st UNCPAM National Conference on Pure and Applied Mathematics organized on March 7 and 8, 2015 at University of Management and Technology Lahore. He participated in the conference as keynote speaker and gave his presentation on “Rainbow Ramsey Theory”.

"Achievement"
Students participate in World Universities Debating Championship

The students of Lahore campus successfully represented FAST-NU in the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WUDC is considered as the largest competition of debates in which around 400 renowned institutions including Oxford and Harvard participate. The team that represented FAST-NUCES from the platform of VOICE-FAST Lahore Debating Society included President VOICE Mr. Nouman Shafqat and Ms. Mir Rawtah, Secretary General of the Society. This is fourth consecutive participation of FAST-NU in WUDC. Mr. Nouman Shafqat ranked as the top speaker of Pakistan. Ms. Mir Rawtah competed with delegates of India, Canada, USA and China to be elected as the prestigious Female Officer of the next WUDC which will be held in Greece. She has earned the honor of being the 2nd Asian and 1st Pakistani to be a part of the WUDC Council. Both the speakers have worked hard to improve the global debate ranking of FAST-NU.

Ph.D thesis defended

Mr. Salabat Khan of FAST-NU Islamabad campus has successfully defended his Ph.D thesis titled “Novel Ant Colony Optimization Algorithms for Flat and Hierarchical Classification” at Islamabad campus. He has successfully published four impact factor journal papers and eight conference papers during his Ph.D.

Dr. Abdul Rauf Baig along with co-supervisor Dr. Waseem Shahzad supervised the thesis of Mr. Salabat. The foreign evaluators of the thesis were Professor Dr. Michael Affenzeller, Department of Software Engineering, Upper Austrian University of Applied Sciences, Austria, and Associate Professor Dr. Andreas Rauber, Department of Software Technology & Interactive Systems, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria. Mr. Salabat is the 21st Ph.D graduate and 20th of the Computer Science Department of Islamabad campus.

Faculty member conducts workshop in Indonesia

Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Assistant Professor, FAST School of Management, Islamabad campus, conducted a training workshop on “Publishing in ISI and Impact Factor Journals” in Bandung, Indonesia on April 22, 2015. The workshop was organized by Indonesia Computer University (UNICOM) and International Women University Bandung Indonesia. Participants were from the host universities as well as other higher education institutions of Indonesia. The purpose of this workshop was to provide guidance to the young researchers from developing countries on publishing in impact factor research outlets.

Research papers accepted

1. A conference paper titled, “Minds enslaved: Exploring international experience as a source of labour market discrimination”, by Ms. Ayesha Bano, Assistant Professor, FAST School of Management (FSM), Islamabad campus, and Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Associate Professor, FSM, Islamabad, has been accepted for presentation at the 29th British Academy of Management (BAM) conference. The BAM conference is highly reputed, arranged by the British Academy of Management, which publishes two leading high ranking international journals; BJM (Impact Factor: 2.044) and IJMR (Impact Factor: 3.333). Ms. Ayesha Bano will present the paper in the conference, which is going to be held at the University of Portsmouth, UK, from September 8 to 10, 2015.

2. A research paper titled “Modeling and analysis of unsteady axisymmetric squeezing fluid flow with slip and no-slip boundaries” written by Assistant Professor Mubashir Qayyum, Ph.D Mathematics scholar, Peshawar campus, as a principal author with co-authors Hamid Khan, Tariq Rahim, and Inayat Ullah from Peshawar campus, has been accepted for publication in the journal “PLOS ONE”. The journal has 3.534 Impact Factor and it falls under the Gold category as per FAST-NU quality criteria.

3. A research paper titled “Design, Implementation and Thermal Modeling of Embedded Reconfigurable Magnetorquer System for NanoSatellites” written by Assistant Professor Dr. Anwar Ali with Assistant Professor Dr. Muhammad Naveed Aman, FAST-NU Peshawar campus, has been accepted in IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems (TAES). The journal ranks in top 12 journals including all evaluation factors in the field of Aerospace Engineering. The journal has Gold category as per FAST-NU journal quality criteria.
Recreational trip to Bhurban

FAST Adventure Society of Peshawar campus arranged a one-day recreational trip to Bhurban for the female students on May 9, 2015. Students visited Changa Gali, Ayubia and Dunga Gali and Bhurban and spent an adventurous day to invigorate their energies for studies.

Industrial Trip to KSB Pumps plant

FAST Engineering Society at Peshawar Campus arranged an industrial trip for final year students of Batch-11 of Electrical Engineering to KSB Pumps Company Limited, Hassan Abdal on May 7, 2015. KSB is a multinational company which specializes in pumps, valves and systems for industrial, building services, energy and water and waste water applications.

The visiting group comprised 38 students along with three faculty members. The technical staff of the company introduced the students with different sections of the industry including sophisticated equipment, manufacturing process of the pumps and auto control system of the pumps. This visit provided an excellent breakthrough in the learning process of students.

2nd Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Summit held at Islamabad campus

2nd Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Summit - YES 2015 - was held at FAST-NU Islamabad on May 30, 2015. Supervised by Mr. Sarfraz Kiyani, the summit was organized by the students of Entrepreneurship class of FAST School of Management. Business students and faculty members from NUST Business School were invited to participate in the event.

Mr. Asad Umar was the chief guest of the summit. Successful entrepreneurs and notables including Mr. Wahaj Siraj, CEO Nayatel, Mr. Ispahanyar Bhandara, CEO Murree Brewery, Mr. Javed Chaudhary, Columnist and Anchorperson, Mr. Adnan Shaukat, CEO Oxygene TV, Ms. Jaweria Sethi, Founder Edopia, Ms. Amber Qazi, Founder Funky Bakes, and Mr. Mohsin Lodhi, Trainer & Consultant, addressed the summit and shared success stories to motivate the students. They discussed the risks and potential benefits in carrying out a business venture, their philosophy and leadership styles.

Lahore campus organizes Geek Week 2015

FAST-NU Lahore organized GEEK Week 2015 which was attended by more than 750 students. Plan9 - Tech Incubator (A project of PITB and ITU) was the event partner for Geek Week’15. Mr. Nabeel A. Qadeer from Punjab Information Technology Board was the chief guest at the opening ceremony.

In this Geek Week event, NUCES ACM, the students’ society of FAST-NU, arranged Cryptic Hunt event. Theme for Poster Designing was ‘Green & Eco Friendly Environment’. Crypto hacking segment is where security engineering meets mathematics. DevFest was evolved from the idea of consecutive lengthy hours of application development, which revolved around the theme of ‘Anti-Terrorism’. Moreover, Distributive Programming Competition was a 5-hour competition that involved teams solving the programming problems and designing them with respect to international standards. Another competition was Geek Innovator Ideas Competition’15, which was a tech based entrepreneurial ideas contest. Furthermore, Geek Wars was a time based competition aimed at improving IQ and analytical skills for upcoming engineers. The Gaming Arcade included games such as FIFA 15, COD 4 and CS 1.6.

Mr. Burhan Rasool, Director Software Engineering at PITB, and Mr. Sajjad Kirmani, CEO of Infogistics, graced the closing ceremony as chief guests. Prizes of worth PKR 3,00,000 along with shields were distributed among the participants. Geek Week team was also acknowledged for their hard work and efforts to organize an impactful event.