



IEEE organizes ICET 2009 at NU Islamabad Campus



Dr Samar Mubarakmand and Rector Dr Amir Muhammed in a group photo with participants of ICET 2009 at NU Islamabad Campus.

90 experts present research papers on emerging technologies

The two-day 5th IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET-2009) was held at the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Islamabad Campus, on October 19-20.

Renowned nuclear scientist Dr Samar Mubarakmand was the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the conference. More than 90 eminent local and foreign experts presented their research papers.

Speaking on the occasion, Rector NU, Dr Amir Muhammed welcomed the chief guest. He stressed that research should be carried out in the areas related to socio-economic growth of the country.

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3-day FAST universities debating competition held Over 50 teams attend contest

A three-day FAST Universities Debating Competition (FUDC 09) was held at Islamabad Campus of the National University last month. Around 50 teams from reputed universities and schools from different parts of the country participated in the competition.

On the pattern of World Universities Debating Competition (WUDC), the first FUDC was held in December 2008, which was initiated by FAST Debating Society.

Rector NU, Dr Amir Muhammed, was the guest of honor, while Dr Grace Clark, Executive Director US Educational Foundation in Pakistan, was the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Grace Clark told the contestants: "Some will win here, others will lose but at the end of the day you all are winners because you're privileged and educated."

Dr Amir Muhammed, Rector NU, hoped that the competition would be beginning of a chain of such other events on the campus and said that the debating society would highlight the crucial problems of the world and the younger generation would find a solution to it.

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Rector Dr Amir Muhammed presenting a souvenir to Dr. Grace Clark, Executive Director, US Educational Foundation in Pakistan.



Chief of Tehrik-e-Insaf Imran Khan addressing concluding session of the FAST Universities Debating Competition at Islamabad Campus.

3-day FAST universities debating competition held Imran links country development with social justice

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Dr Ayub Alvi, Dean NU, Dr. Aftab Maroof, Director NU Islamabad Campus and Samir Anwar Butt, Convener and President of FUDC '09, also addressed the first day of the competition.

Rector Dr Amir Muhammed presented a souvenir to Dr. Grace Clark at the conclusion of the opening ceremony.

On the concluding day of the competition, chief of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan was the guest speaker, while Dr Amir Muhammed was the chief guest. GIKI team B won the first prize of

Rs50,000 and Headstart team A won the best school award. M. Ali from Westminster team B was declared the best speaker. Rector Dr Amir Mohammed distributed prizes among the winners.

Imran Khan spoke on how the youth could contribute to the progress of Pakistan and said that the country's development was linked to social and economic justice in the society. He advised the students to be sensibly political and play their vibrant role in the development of the country.

Headstart team A won the best school award. M. Ali from Westminster team B was

declared the best speaker. Rector Dr Amir Muhammed distributed prizes among the winners.

The FUDC team also organized an amazing concert for the volunteers and participants of the event at PNCA. Mustafa Zahid, top vocalist of one of the famous bands of Pakistan, Roxen, performed at the concert.

The second social event was a comedy night, which was organized on the campus where the 'Party Quirks' team entertained the audience. Party Quirks is Islamabad's first comedy troupe.

Dr. S.M. Sajid serves as guest editor



Dr S.M. Sajid, Assistant Professor (EE), Lahore Campus, has served as guest editor at Journal of Communications to edit a special issue on "Optical Wireless Communications".

This special issue was published in September 2009, wherein the guest editorial was jointly written by Dr Sajid and Professor Ghassemlooy (UK).

Alumni's paper published in DDJ

Muhammad Sarmad Asghar, an MS graduate of NU Lahore Campus, has got published an article in Dr. Dobb's Journal (DDJ). His article titled "Practical Lock-Free Buffers" appeared in the journal of August 26, 2009.

Since 1976, Dr. Dobb's has been leading the computer press in covering practical technology. Unlike many magazines and websites that focus exclusively on a single platform and language, Dr. Dobb's has 30 years of experience covering all languages, platforms and tools.

Sohail Butt gets gold medal

Sohail Ashfaq Butt, system officer, NU Lahore Campus, was awarded gold medal at 117th convocation of the University of Punjab, which was held on October 10.

He has secured 1st position in M.Sc. Computer Science, Session 2002-2004. He has also secured 1st position in M.Phil. (TQM) from the same university, but the gold medal will be conferred on him by the university at the upcoming convocation.



NU students present papers at maths moot

Muhammad Kashif and Arfan Shahzad, students of MS (Mathematics), NU Lahore Campus, presented their research papers at 10th International Pure Mathematics Conference held on August 19-21. Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad Bhatti is their supervisor.

Conference was organized by Pakistan Mathematical Society in collaboration with Quaid-e-Azam University, Preston University and Pakistan Science Foundation. Mathematicians from abroad also presented their research papers during the conference.

Inaugural ceremony of annual magazine held

Media & Publication Society (MAPS) of the NU Karachi Campus held inaugural ceremony of its 22nd annual magazine, *Online 22*, on September 29. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge the creative talents and artistic voice of the *Online 22* team.

Dr. Zubair A. Shaikh, Director NU Karachi Campus, graced the occasion as guest of honour, who highlighted remarkable features of the *Online 22*, and appreciated the ingenious capacities of the students' artwork.

The occasion also happened to be a talent hunt, attracting quite a good crowd of students who were interested in being part of the MAPS. After the welcome address by faculty in charge Ms. Sumera Abbas, the head of *Online 22* team gave an orientation on their experiences and presented guidelines to newcomers. Later, appreciation letters were awarded to the *Online 22* team members.

Dr Qaiser presents paper at 25th SPELT moot



Dr Qaiser S. Durrani, Professor (CS), Lahore Campus, has presented his paper on "e-ELT: Challenges in Content Development" at the 25th SPELT International Conference 2009, held on October 16-18 at Karachi.

The conference was organized by Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) Karachi. The society is a professional body committed to training of English teachers and organizes international conferences to share ideas and contents.



Dr Zubair Shaikh, Director NU Karachi Campus, addressing annual ceremony of *Online 22* magazine.

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Dr Samar asked the research community in Pakistan to attempt challenging problems that were essential for the economic stability and defence of the country. He advised the young researchers to concentrate their research on solving the existing problems of the nation. He praised the quality of research being conducted at the FAST-NU.

Dr Mudassir Farooq spoke on quality of

research. He also highlighted the research being carried out at the university. Dr. Anwar Majid Mirza also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Ayub Alvi, Dean NU, was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the conference.

Dr Sarmad Hussain, head of PAN localization project for SAARC countries, spoke on the language factor in the IT education in Pakistan. Dr. Khalid Iqbal, NUST, was bestowed with best paper award.

Dr Sarmad nominated to ICANN committee

The internet Domain Name System (DNS) is currently going through a major expansion as Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is finalizing plans to introduce domain names in local languages (IDNs).

This will allow web addresses in other languages of the world, e.g.

www.nu.edu.pk, in addition to one which only allows letters a-z, digits 0-9 and hyphen (LDH), e.g. www.nu.edu.pk.

The ICANN has introduced Fast-Track process for developing IDNccTLDs to introduce new registries for this purpose. Dr Sarmad Hussain has been nominated by ICANN to the Fast-Track implementation committee, which has been assigned to come up with implementation related recommendations for seamless deployment of IDN ccTLDs, based on the revised IDNA



protocol and developed by Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

Gets Canadian research grant

International Development Research Center of Canada has given a research grant to Dr Sarmad Hussain for attending Internet Governance Forum 2009, which will be held in Egypt. He will speak at two

different workshops on "Content Access in Local Languages on the Internet, and on Development and Deployment of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)".

Interviewed by Canadian Radio

Mr Wojtek Gwiazda of Radio Canada International has interviewed Dr Sarmad Hussain for his show "MASALA CANADA WITH WOJTEK GWIAZDA" which was broadcast on October 10. The interview focused on Dareecha and PAN localization projects.

Seminar on wireless sensor network held

A seminar on wireless sensor network was held at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Peshawar Campus, on September 28.

The seminar was arranged by Dr S.Hassan Amin. Dr Kashif Kifayat, Research Associate at Liverpool John Moore's University, UK, was the speaker on the occasion. A large number of students and faculty members attended the seminar.

Diverse topics of practical and theoretical nature were discussed. In a post seminar meeting, various topics of mutual interest were discussed and Dr Kifayat was encouraged to come up with ideas for developing avenues for collaboration in research and academic activities.

Rector speaks at NDC



The Rector NU, Dr Amir Muhammed, delivered a lecture on "Perspective of Pakistan Agriculture and Strategy for Improvement" to the 2009/10 National Defence Course at the National Defence University Islamabad on October 9.

The course includes about 80 senior Pakistani and foreign civilian and military officers, equivalent to BS20/ Brigadier and above. Dr. Amir comprehensively covered the Pakistani agriculture sector, its achievements, shortcomings and the strategies for future development.

The lecture was followed by an intensive discussion for about one hour in which the Pakistani and foreign participants asked questions about various aspects of Pakistani agriculture, its role in national economic development and the future directions for development of agriculture sector in a globalizing world.

NextGen RC projects named winner, runner up

Two projects of the researchers from Next Generation Intelligent Networks Research Centre (NexGen RC), FAST-NU, have been named as the winner and runner up of the Research and Development category at prestigious PASHA ICT Awards.

The PASHA ICT Awards competition was held in Karachi last month, which was participated by a large number of researchers, who presented their projects for various categories.

"A keystroke-based User Identification System" project was named as the winner of the Research and Development category, while "Remote Patient Monitoring System" project was named as runner up of the same category. These projects were presented by two research engineers of the NextGen RC, Muhammad Shahzad and Muddassar Awan.

Be vigilant

Keeping in view the current law and order situation in the country and terror threats to educational institutions especially after suicide attack on International Islamic University Islamabad, the FAST-NU has devised a special security plan to provide fear-free environment to the students at all campuses.

The University management advised the faculty and students to keep vigilance on suspected activities inside their campus.

Rector Dr Amir Muhammed chaired a special video conference meeting of the four campuses on October 23 at FAST-NU headquarters, which decided various security steps and advised the faculty and students to remain vigilant.

The video conference was the follow up of a meeting of the sub-committee of the rectors/vice chancellors of the universities, which was chaired by Dr Amir Muhammed.

The sub-committee was formed during a meeting of the heads of educational institutions at Interior Ministry with Interior Minister Rehman Malik in the chair.



Dr Samar Mubarakmand, Rector Dr Amir Muhammed and Dean Dr Ayub Alvi present on stage during opening ceremony of ICET09.