

AIOU News & Views



Volume 03 Issue 01 - 2017

Plan to strengthen ODL System

Open University (OU) of United Kingdom has expressed its willingness to develop a ten-year strategic plan to further strengthen and promote open distance learning system in Pakistan through AIOU.

In this connection, they sent a proposed work-plan to the AIOU for its evaluation and further study. As per the plan, the OU will provide capacity-building support to AIOU for implementing the working plan. For this purpose, the two-sides will develop long-term collaborative partnership by holding workshops and bilateral visits. The proposed plan (findings and recommendations) were the follow-up of the visit, the two-member OU team paid to Pakistan earlier. It was discussed at a meeting of the AIOU's senior academicians, under the chairmanship of VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. The OU in its findings endorsed the visions and goals, earlier set by the Vice Chancellor for the University's further development. Contd. on page.....10

NA committee endorses AIOU's educational initiativ

National Assembly's standing committee on Education and Professional Development appreciated the ongoing and future initiatives of AIOU for facilitating its students in their educational pursuits. The committee at its meeting held at the University's main campus lauded the steps taken during the last two years for upgrading the educational facilities, particularly for those living in the country's far-flung regions.

The meeting, presided over by the committee's Chairman Col. Dr. Amirullah Marwat was also attended by the Minister of State for Education Muhammad Baligur Rehman and Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed. The comprehensive briefing on the University's performance, working and achievements was given by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

While ensuring their full support to AIOU in implementing its future development plan, particularly setting up educational TV channel and bringing Deeni Madaris students in the mainstream, the committee's members made various suggestions for the improvement of teaching, monitoring and examination system. They emphasized that there should be zero tolerance for preparation of fake assignments by students. It called for laying greater emphasis on quality education and strengthening of regional officials. They suggested holding of regular tutorial meetings and consolidating students-teachers links.

The committee's Chairman in its concluding remarks said, they are pleased and satisfied with the AIOU's performance and achievements in educational sector. He hoped it would keep up its efforts for further improving its overall educational system. Chairman of the committee said he himself had been the student of AIOU and now he observed that the University had made a lot of progress over the years in strengthening its overall network. Minister of Education noted that the AIOU was moving to right direction in enhancing its soft image and overcoming its certain weaknesses. The University's research-oriented and communitybased academic programs are highly commendable. He also underlined the importance of massive online open courses, and noted that the University has already taken initiatives to this effect. Contd. on page....05

In This Issue:

- Fourteen research journals in 3 year Universities' students from Balochistan visit AlOU
- Plan to upgrade AIOU's 44 regional offices

- Chinese delegation visits AlOU
 AlOU's delegation visits Rawalpindi jail
 Special facilities for overseas Pakistanis
- Seminar on time and stress management
- PM scheme: Laptops distributed among AIOU students
- Commonwealth AIOU hold workshop on capacity-building
- Disabled students get E-learning facility

Patron in Chief:

Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor

Managing Editor:

Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj Editor:

Dr. Shahid Hussain

Design:

Ijaz Ahmed Composing:

Muhammad Arshad

Photography: Faisal Azeem, Tazkeer Ahmed, Aftab Ali

Editorial Board:

Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Dr. Shahid Hussain,

Javed Akhtar Contact:

editoraiounews@gmail.com



AIOU adopts new courses to meet country's socio-economic needs

AIOU at its Academic Council meeting decided to introduce number of new academic courses of MPhil and PhD level to meet the county's socio-economic needs. Some courses of specific nature were also approved by the committee relating to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The courses deal with international trade, logistics, entrepreneurship, Insurance and E-commerce.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who presided over the meeting said the AIOU being the Mega University in public sector wanted to give positive respond to CPEC through its academic pursuits. About the other courses, he said it aimed at serving the national cause and to bring about qualitative improvement in their educational programs. Contd. on page.....02

Fourteen volumes of research journals in 3 year

The University will set a record in publishing scholarly written fourteen volumes of research journals in different disciplines within a period of nearly three years for providing academic support to the students at higher education level.

There are seven journals already issued and two more are in process, and it has planned to get published five more journals by the end of this year. Mostly are related to socio-economic problems of the society. This is in line with the criteria set by HEC, it was stated at a meeting of academic heads held here under the chairmanship of VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

Comprehensive briefing was given at the meeting on research output of the University. In his remarks, the VC said "We believe the Universities have an important role in constructing knowledge through research journals and academic conferences. A number of research-based conferences and seminars were arranged during the last about two years. Now, they are engaged in holding three more international conferences on the topics of social sciences and Islamic studies. Financial incentives were given to the academic staff in order to encourage them to write in-depth articles on their

ng Global Media Journal

RS Global Media Journal

Global Media Jou





relevant topics that could meet the international standard. The AIOU's journals are duly recognized by

HEC. A committee was formed at the meeting to have a review for their up-gradation. The published

journals have been displayed at the University's Central Library as well as placing the same at its official

website for the information and study of students and researchers home and abroad. Dr. Siddiqui further

said the research has been top priority of the University during the recent period. A well-planned strategy

is also being followed to disseminate the research-work and to motivate young researchers to do more in

their respective fields. He believed that the Universities should be known for their research work.











Political Journal of DISTANCE AND ON LINE LEARNING WAS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL OF T

From page.01 AIOU adopts new courses to meet country's

The committee attended by senior faculty members from AIOU and other higher educational institutions recommended schemes of studies and outline of courses that would be finally approved later by the University's Executive Council, keeping in view the policy and rules of HEC. The committee also gave approval for the revision of some existing courses. It approved the University's plan setting up three new departments relating to Psychology, Politics and International Relations and Translation of study material. It also approved the University's proposals regarding implementation of GPA, CGPA system. The new academic programs related to teachers' education, Arabic and Islamic studies, Gender and Women Studies, Library and Information Sciences, Commerce and Business and Administration, Chemistry and Biology and Mass Communication. Dr. Siddiqui stated that the University will soon launch special MPhil (Professional Track) degree program for the young practicing journalists. Senior media practitioners will be invited to share their knowledge and skill with their fellow colleagues. This will enable the onjob professionals to enhance their working capability. Besides, the University's Department of Mass Communication has developed short-term courses in various media disciplines that will also be introduced soon.



Universities' students from Balochistan visit AIOU

Nearly 200 students of seven different Universities from Balochistan visited AlOU, where they were received by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui and heads of various academic and services' departments. The students belonging to various regions of the province were accompanied by the VC University of Balochistan Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal. The students took round of various departments of the University including its Central library, accessibility center for visually impaired students, Institute of Educational Technology, Gymnasium and Print Production Unit and appreciated its rich academic strength and infrastructure network. They noted that the AlOU with 1.3 million students and 44 regional offices including seven in Balochistan were doing a commendable job in promoting literacy and higher education through its academic various programs.

Dr. Siddiqui while briefing the students about the University's achievements in educational sector since its establishment in 1974 said it embarked upon some new initiatives to spread quality educational in every nook and corner of the country. They, he added are specially focusing on less-developed and remote regions including those of Balochistan. He lauded the rich potential and talents of the students from Balochistan and said they needed to focus on their education, enabling themselves to play positive and constructive role in the country's socio-economic development. Youth, he added are the future of the country and they must come forward to promote healthy traditions including spirit of tolerance and accommodation for each other's point of view.

VC University of Balochistan Dr. Javed Iqbal spoke on the occasion about the important role of the youth in national development underlining the need of keeping them on board in the national affairs. The visit, he said was a revolutionary step towards development of national harmony and unity among various ethic and linguistic groups of the society.

The Balochistan University's traditional academic strength has been revived and now it was playing a leading role in the educational sector. He also praised the AIOU's educational contribution, particularly its vice Chancellor's new initiatives making it world's best University in distance education.

Dean Social Science Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Chairman Physics Department Dr. Zafar Ilyas and Head of International Exchange Office of AIOU Zahid Majeed also addressed the students, hoping that the visit will help to develop mutual cooperation and understanding in their social and academic engagements.



Delegates of PUAN visit AIOU

Delegates of Pakistan - US Alumni Network (PUAN) visited AIOU and lauded its learning system. The delegates including from regional countries showed keen interest in the University's Educational System and noted that it had major contribution in enhancing literacy and coping with the educational needs of drop-out students.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while welcoming the delegates said that the University was focusing on meaningful education and applied research that benefit the society and help to address the country's socio-economic problems. They, he said feel excited that major chunk of their enrolled students are females, mostly from far-flung areas including those from tribal regions who otherwise could not join formal education due to social and financial constraints. A number of female students from tribal regions who were present on the occasion acknowledged the University's leading role in meeting their educational needs at the door-steps.

Dr. Siddiqui briefed the delegates about the recent initiative taken by the University offering academic support to religious institutions. He also highlighted the financial support being extended to IDPs' students, physically handicapped and those affected by natural disaster.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the seminaries' students will be facilitated in the admission and examination process. They will fully support the initiative being carried out by the government for Madaris reforms so as to bring them into mainstream.

The Vice Chancellor further said that they had been in negotiation with HEC for the AlOU's role in arranging better educational facilities to the Madrass' students in order to bring their academic degrees at par with formal educational institutions. He hoped that thousands of students of Wafaq-ul-Madaris will take benefit of these arrangements.

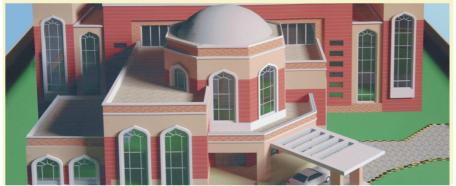
AIOU's 44 regional offices Plan to upgrade

A plan has been approved to further upgrade 44 regional offices of the University in term of infrastructure network and enhanced academic facilities for the students. It includes provision of Elearning facilities, renovation of existing buildings, and setting up well-equipped libraries as well as accessibility centers for visually impaired students. It was approved at the regional directors' meeting held in Karachi chaired by the VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. It was also decided to improve the regional offices' administrative and services' network for improving and expanding quality education throughout the country, in line with the University's overall policy and framework.

Dr. Siddiqui issued necessary directions to the regional directors for making their working more efficient through smart use of new technology. He assured that the regional offices will be given extra support by meeting their financial, technical and human-resource requirements, enabling them to meet their target of maximum students' enrollment and strengthening support system. He advised the regional offices to lay greater focus on quality education and consolidation of the university's role as a research-based organization.

They, he added should adopt a pro-active approach to provide best possible services to the students in term of admissions, conducting exams and providing tutorial support to the students. He hoped that the regions would fully facilitate the students. He also assured that the employees' strength will be increased at the regional level to handle the growing workload. In this connection, vacant vacancies have already been advertised. Besides, necessary fresh vacancies are also being created.

Dr. Siddiqui advised the regions that they should keep their libraries open throughout the week. It was decided that all the regional libraries in the country will be connected with national library at the main campus in Islamabad and with HEC's digital library as well. It was decided that the building infrastructure will be strengthened, along with necessary security arrangements including provision of boundary walls, CCTV cameras and installing of walk-through gates. The participants gave presentation on academic situation of their respective regions and departments, with their recommendations for availability of best possible educational services at the door-step of the people. Earlier, Director Regional Services Dr. Arif Saleemi Arif briefed the participants about the steps taken during the last one year to further strengthening



AIOU'S delegation visits Rawalpindi jail



Senior officials of AIOU visited the Central Jail Rawalpindi persuading prisoners towards education, so that they could live a respectable life after completing their imprisonment.

They met the superintendent Jail and handed over him a set of prospectus and admission forms for free distributions among the prisoners. The prospects and admission forms were also being provided to other jails in the country for free of cost.

As a part of the awareness campaign, the VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui has himself visited jails in Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Rawalpindi in order to bridge the gap between inmates and the varsity. He also wrote letters to Inspectors General of the four provinces seeking their support to implement the educational plan for prisoners. A viable procedure has been worked out to provide them free education from Matric to BA, following an easy admission process.

AIOU has a singular distinction of facilitating depressed section of the society like prisoners. Its dedicated services include free text books and other required material and academic support, besides tutorial workshop. It offers dedicated services for the betterment of the prisoners, who may avail facility for reduction of the jail imprisonment as well.

The proposed plan includes a detailed procedure of tutorial meetings, workshops and examination to be held in jails. It was also decided that the each jail will be declared as 'Prisoner Study Centre'. In order to make the scheme more effective, practical and problem-free, it was also decided that Jail Superintendent will act as Coordinator and he will be paid a reasonable remuneration for this purpose on semester-wise basis. Teacher to be nominated in jails will act as Assistant to Coordinator and he will also be paid remuneration. He will also perform duty of Centre Superintendent during the Examination, to be conducted within jail's premises. The University has already appointed its senior official Zahid Majeed as a focal person to remain contact with relevant jail authorities.



Chinese delegation visits AIOU

A six-member delegation of the Open University of China visited AIOU and discussed bilateral arrangements to set up a Chinese language and Culture Center and undertake a web-based teaching program. The two-sides decided to improve and expand their quality education through distance learning system by sharing each other academic experience and expertise, in line with the MoU they signed two years back.VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui briefed the delegation about their collaborative partnership programs, being carried out with international Universities particularly those from China. The AIOU he said will soon be setting up a Chinese Culture and Language Center at its main campus with the partnership of Confucius Institute of China. This, he said will be an education response to China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) developing human-manpower, well-versed with Chinese language and Culture. AIOU is also looking forward to seek Chinese academic and administrative support in strengthening its in-campus management and establishment a strong administrative and financial system. They could also collaborate in updating and modernizing their libraries, FM and Web-page TV network and provision of online education system. The leader of the delegation, the University Vice President Pro. Shaogang Zhang in his remarks expressed his resolve to make their partnership more effective in upgrading online and web-based education system. He spoke about the importance of Chinese language and greater cooperation between the two countries in education and culture sector in order to make their ongoing socio-economic collaborative partnership successful.

There are around 135 countries in the World which are working for the teaching of Chinese language. The two Universities started their journey of bilateral cooperation two years back and now they are trying to make it result-oriented and productive one for the benefit of their students. Improving their online teaching will be a milestone in their two-way cooperation, he added.

Welcoming the delegation, Registrar AlOU Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi said they are excited in consolidating their partnership, in view of the two-countries' most inspiring socio-economic engagement under the CPEC. Earlier, Incharge International Collaboration Exchange Office Zahid Majeed gave a presentation on the University's working charter and its recent academic initiatives and achievements. The Chinese delegation including Executive Deputy Director Chinese Language Center Yang Yongbo visited various departments of the University and appreciated its rich

AIOU provides academic support to Wafaq-ul-Madaris

The University will provide academic support to the students of Wafaq-ul-Madaris for accreditation of their BA and MA level degrees. The students will be able to enroll themselves with AIOU for the study of compulsory subjects at graduate level, this was decided at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Education Muhammad Balighur Rehman. The meeting was attended by representatives of Wafaq-ul-Madaris and Higher Education Commission. It was agreed that that every possible support including books and tutorial workshops will be provided by AIOU to the enrolled students VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui assured the seminaries' students that they will be facilitated in the admission and examination process. AIOU will fully support the initiative being carried out by the government for Madaris reforms so as to bring them into mainstream. The University will arrange the academic courses that help the students to qualify compulsory/elective subjects of Bachelor level. It will also adopt credible mechanism for conducting exams for the Madaris students. The fee structure for students of Madaris will be normal as per AIOU policy. The needy students will be provided financial assistance in shape of scholarships, as well. Text books and tutorial support will be provided by the University. Admissions will be offered twice a year. Dr. Siddigui further said that they had been in negotiation with HEC for the last six months for the AIOU's role in arranging better educational facilities to the Madaris students in order to bring their academic degrees at par with formal educational institutions. He hoped that thousands of students of Wafaq-ul-Madaris will take benefit of these arrangements.

World renowned academicians join AIOU

World renowned academicians joined the lectures' series launched by AIOU to provide education to its students through E-learning or online system.Initially, the process of E-Learning has been started for the students of higher education, M.Phil and PhD-level. It is the part of University's ongoing efforts for shifting traditional Open Distance Learning (ODL) system to E-learning through a gradual process. VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said on the occasion that they will push forward the government's policy of promoting online learning



At higher educational level. He hoped that the University's week-long lecture series, undertaken by the University's Faculty of Education will be a useful exercise to meet the educational needs of the students. This will also connect the students with foreign academicians, enabling them to update themselves with the latest knowledge of international standard, he added. According to the Workshop's coordinator Zahid Majeed, the foreign academicians engaged in the workshop through Skype include Prof Mark Adams, Prof. Bobbi Makani, Prof. Minna Holopainen, Prof. Mohammad Saleem from SJSU California, USA, Dr Ishan Abeywardena from Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, Prof. Rory McGreal from Athabasca University, Canada and Dr. Jun Xiao from Shanghai Open University, China. The University has planned to enhance share of online academic teaching. The objective is to facilitate thousands of students, particularly those living abroad in their



Varsity allocates Rs. 160 million for students' scholarshins

AIOU has allocated Rs.160 million in its annual budget for providing scholarships to the deserving students, particularly those living in less-developed regions, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing students of local schools and colleges at the 'Open Day' held at the University's main campus.

The budgetary allocation has recently been increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 160 to ensure that the financial constrains should not be a hurdle in the educational process. The AIOU, as a mega University in the public sector wishes to fulfill its responsibility of meeting the educational needs of the people across the board, and to reach the people at their door-step through distance learning system. Hundreds of local students visited the 'Open Day' and showed keen interest in the University's ongoing programs. They were facilitated to visit the University's facilities including Labs, Library and Institute of Education technology. Dr. Siddiqui hoped they would take benefit of new academic programs and the educational services, recently undertaken by the University. Director Admissions, Syed Zia-ul Hasnain and Director Students Affairs Rana Tariq Javed apprised the students of the educational programs of the University.

The scholarship package includes: Earn to learn scheme, Merit Scholarship Scheme, Outreach Scholarship Scheme, Final Year Project Gant Scheme, Scholarship for Communities, and Scholarship for Women, Fee Installment Scheme and Alumni/Sponsored Scholarship. Besides this, Fee installment facility is also available, the officials said. Merit scholarships scheme is an initiative to generate competition among students and encourage brilliant students. The scholarship is being offered to the fresh and continuing students of all levels scoring 75% and above marks in their latest results.



Special facilities for overseas Pakistanis

facilities to overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Sultanate of Oman and Bahrain.

The Programmes offered include Matric (General) Intermediate (General & Commerce) Bachelor Programs (General, Commerce, Library & Information Sciences and Mass Communication), Associated Degree of Education, Dars-e-Nizami (Matric, FA, BA), Certificate in Library and Information Sciences, short term professional courses (Management Sciences (22 courses, Social Sciences (13 courses) and Community

AIOU has been offering special educational Education (19 courses), Hotel Services (05 courses), Agricultural Sciences, Arbi Bol Chaal, Al Lisan-ul-Arabi).

> The university provides special e-Services to overseas students whose examinations are arranged abroad. The course material is also mailed at the students' addresses in their countries of residence.

> VC Dr. Shahid Siddigui assured that the overseas students will be facilitated in the admission and examination's process. The University attached high importance to their educational needs.

Scholars from Balochistan visit AlOU

A group of scholars, intellectuals and artists from Balochistan visited AIOU and showed keen interest for collaborative partnership in promoting regional languages.

Parliamentary Secretary for Education Muhammad Nazir Khan who was also present on the occasion eulogized the AIOU's endeavors in the educational field and its VC Dr. Shahid Siddigui's initiatives in promoting and expanding quality education in the country. He also spoke on the importance of quality education for reformation of the society, hoping that relevant institutions will fulfill their responsibility in meeting the educational needs of the people.

Dr. Siddiqui gave them an overview on the working of the AIOU and the steps being taken to promote society-related research culture in the country. He told the visitors that eight research journals were published during the last two years and a new journal on 'Pakistani language and Literature' will also be published this year. The University will also hold an international conference on regional languages, he added. The AIOU, he said has a singular distinction of establishing an accessibility center for visually impaired students at its main campus as well as regional offices. He offered support in arranging same in their academic institutions. They also intend to develop working arrangements with seven Universities of Balochistan for achieving common future academic targets, he added.

The visiting scholars, intellectuals and artists were from various academies of regional languages, Balochistan University and Balochistan Arts Council.

EWA to work for university's image building

The University's employees from grade 1 to 16 received unprecedented benefits in term of their timely promotion to next grades and increase in their emoluments, in a short span of time, less than two years. The employees received all the financial benefits and incentives announced by the federal government in annual budget, said President of Employees Welfare Association (EWA) Malik Saeed at an 'Eid-milan' party. Giving credit of these some outstanding welfare-oriented measures to the VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, he said it was the first time in the history of the University that the management and employees worked in a team spirit with same mind-set. The VC all the time kept his doors open for resolution of the genuine and legal demands of the employees and improving their working conditions.

It was noted that almost all the vacant posts have been fulfilled, giving promotions to the employees through Selection Boards and Departmental Promotion Committee. There had been consecutive meetings of Board and the DPC to ensure timely up-gradation of the employees' official position.

The employees received 25 percent increase in medical allowance in the recent year. Illiterate employees and their children were offered free education by the VC. Separate halls for male and female employees were being constructed in the University's residential colony for their social and family gathering. Besides this, steps have been also been taken for providing residential facilities to University's employees through the cooperation of Capital Development Authority.

Dr. Siddiqui who presided over the function, said it was his pride that the University's employees have received their genuine rights and now there were working in a comfortable environment. In return, he said he was expecting them to perform their official duties with full devotion that helps to enhance the University's status in the eyes of the general public. Each one of them, he asserted should act as the varsity's ambassador delivering best possible educational services to students. They should work selflessly in enhancing University's image and ensuring quality education, he added.

From page.01 NA committee endorses AIOU's educational initiatives

The NA Committee also lauded the Vice Chancellor's special initiatives regarding provision of free education to the prisoners, setting up accessibility center for the visually impaired students and launching of community-based services. It recommended that the available facilities for the special students should be expanded. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui briefed the committee about the dynamics and main components of distance learning system and said, it met the challenges of the time improving literacy rate and taking the education to the door-steps of the people.

SMIU enters into agreement with AIOU

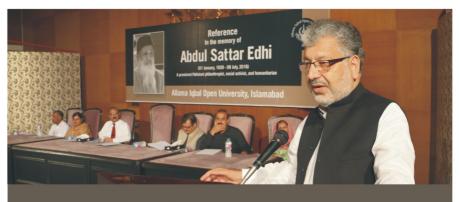
AIOU and Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) Karachi have signed a document of bilateral cooperation in field of research and information technology. They decided to assist each other in further strengthening teachings programs, improving quality of education at all levels. The document was signed by Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, VC SMIU and. Dr. Shahid Siddigui VC AIOU.

SMIU is one of the oldest institutions in South Asia having the special distinction that Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, studied here for about four and a half years from 1887-92. The agreement defined a working relationship to foster cooperation in education and research especially on the life and work of founder of Pakistan.

It provides the broad framework for cooperation between the two universities in enhancing mutual interest and understanding, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial. Both universities will encourage direct contact and cooperation between their faculty and administration.

They will also cooperate for exchange of material in education and research, publications, and academic information, including video conference guest lectures. The two sides will also develop joint teaching, the development of new degrees and undertaking training programs in the field of their common interest.





AIOU holds reference on Edhi's death

Speakers at a function held at AIOU paid rich tributes to Abdul Sattar Edhi for serving the humanity. The speakers included Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Dr. Saeed Elahi, Chairman Sweets Homes Zamurd Khan, Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar Dr. Razia Sultana, a leading local social worker Master Ayub Khan and journalist and columnist Jabbar Mirza.

social worker Master Ayub Khan and journalist and columnist Jabbar Mirza.

VC Dr. Shahid Slddiqui said, the University arranged the condolence reference in memory of Edhi in order to spread over his humanitarian spirit among the young generation through academic and extra-curricular activities. The AIOU will play its leading role in the projection of his life-style that is a perfect example and role-model in the field of social services.

Paying tributes to Edhi, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed hoped that the AIOU will keep up its work in character-building of the students in line with the life and work of Abdul Sattar Edhi. Trying to become a good human-being is the need of the hour in order to ensure a better life, he said adding "We need to strictly adhere to 'Haqooqul Abad' to enjoy the blessings of ALLAH". The Edhi's volunteer work is most inspiring one for everybody.

Dr. Saeed Elahi referred to his personal association with Abdul Sattar Edhi and said he found him a great human-being who made himself ever-lasting through his devoted work. He will be remembered forever because of his massive humanitarian services. Edhi has the honour to establish the largest ambulance service in the country.

Zamurd Khan said he had been great admirers of Edhi, since he sought inspiration from him to do volunteer work as the main task of life. He was inspired from him establishing 'Sweet homes' for children. People like Edhi, he said comes after centuries who set directions to live a pious and noble life, devoting themselves for others. He hoped that the entire nation particularly the youth will follow his foot-prints in a letter and spirit.

Dr. Razia Sultana underlined the need of involving students in volunteers services, seeking aspirations from Edhi. Each individual can earn good name, like him by doing something good for others. Edhi is the best model before the nation to develop itself as a welfare State, she added. Master Ayub said Edhi encouraged and inspired him to selflessly serve the society especially in the field of education. He said he feels pride for rendering best possible services in field Civil Defense, for which he was given a Presidential Award. Jabbar Mirza paid glowing tributes to Abdul Sattar Edhi through a heart-rendering poem.

Seminar on time and stress management

Speakers at a seminar held at AIOU called for practicing effective time and stress management skills for promoting quality of life and bringing efficiency in official discourse.

Various tolls and techniques were discussed to make the life comfortable. During the day-long seminar, the speakers and participants shared their practical ideas and skills that could be followed at workplace and during educational pursuits. Time and stress management is imperative for ensuring good-governance at all levels.

Inaugurating the inaugural session, VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui underlined the need of doing extensive and in-depth academic research on issues relating to human behavior and social problems. It is the main job of academia to see how the quality of life could be improved through their research-based practices. The AIOU, he said will continue to lay greater focus on community-and society-related research activities. A number of incentives have been made available for the academic staff to do this task, he added.

The seminar was arranged by the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). The key-note speakers included Dr. Muhammad Majid Mahmood Bagram, Ayesha Aslam, Imran Bashir Dar and Dr. Afshan Huma. They also underlined the need of increasing self-awareness to understand and follow well-recognized principles for time and stress management.

Registrar of the University Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi presided over the concluding session of the seminar and distributed certificates among the participants. Dean Sciences and Director ORIC gave an overview of University's activities in field of research and its linkage with the end users, including the policy-makers and industrialists.



Tribute to Ahmed Faraz



Speakers at a function held AIOU paid glowing tributes to famous poet Ahmed Faraz on his 8th death anniversary. While re-counting and re-calling his poetic contribution and revolutionary thoughts, they appreciated his qualities of head and heart. Speakers were of the view that Faraz is living poet for all times to come, and most inspiring one for the young generation to understand and practice true realities of life. He was king of 'Ghazal' and emerged most dominating among his contemporaries because of his resistance poetry. The speakers included Faraz's sons senator Shibli Faraz, Sadi Faraz, renowned poets and writers Prof. Fateh Muhamma Malik, Prof. Ehan Akbar and Muhammad Hameed Shahid. The function was arranged by the University's Urdu department In his opening remarks, VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said, it is the unique honour of the University to celebrate and remember the life of the great poets like Faraz who achieved a big name in life. He had the first introduction with Faraz when he was a student of Sir Syed College Rawalpind and got impressed by his thought-provoking and innovative poetry. He announced that AIOU will soon take steps for setting up 'Faraz Chair', conducting research and preparing special documentary on his life and work. To this effect, a special book of students' edition will also be published. University will regularly hold a seminar on Faraz's poetry on annual basis. Faraz, he said was a man of great character, who also personally participated in the struggle for improving socio-economic life of the people. Senator Shibli Faraz talked about the life-style of his father, which motivated him to take part in the politics and do something good for the society, as well as strengthening the institutions, which are involved in promoting art and literature in the country. Faraz, he said was a natural poet who addressed the ground realities of life and stood bravely against oppressive forces.

Islamic Research Index agency launched

First-ever Islamic Research Index (IRI) agency was launched to provide free online access to research articles, facilitating researchers and academicians. It was a joint venture of HEC and AIOU. Editors of research journals on Islamic studies from all over the country attended the launching ceremony at a two-day symposium that was addressed by the HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhar Ahmed and VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. A website was formally introduced on the occasion that deals with all the HEC's recognized Islamic studies research journals in the country which mainly consist of articles in Urdu and Arabic. In the symposium's opening session, Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi, Chairman AlOU's Department of Islamic Thoughts, History and culture gave a presentation, highlighting aims and targets of the IRI. He appreciated the initiative and support provided by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Dr. Shahid Siddiqui for providing indexing and abstracting services to the researchers and academicians. The IRI's website comprises full text of more than 10,000 research articles that meet the needs of research scholars on Islamic studies both at national and international level. Addressing the ceremony, Chairman HEC underlined the need of producing best possible journals that help to improve quality of life of the entire humanity. The beneficiaries of these journals must be a common man. The researchers should also be a helping hand to the government in addressing the socioeconomic problems of the country, he asserted. Dr. Siddiqui elaborated the initiatives, he has taken during the last two years to promote research culture in the country, and linking the same with the welfare of the society. The University will produce a journal on 'Seerat studies' and all together there will be fourteen journals, being brought out by the University within a period of three years. He thanked the HEC for its support for doing meaningful work in the field of research and promoting higher studies. A session on 'Khutbat-e-Islamabad' was held on the occasion, highlighting the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Speakers including Dr. Shabir Mansori and Dr. Safir Akhtar gave comprehensive talks on contemporary issues facing the Islamic world and the humanity as a whole.

Education for All

PM scheme: Laptops distributed among AIOU students

Laptops under the Prime Minister's scheme Phase-II were distributed among the students of the University at a ceremony held at main campus of the University. The ceremony was presided over by the Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, who elaborated on the occasion the government's youth welfare schemes, being implemented through the Commission. VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui thanked the government and HEC for including the AIOU's students in the PM'S scheme. It was a great encouragement to those, who are engaged in upgrading their academic profile through distance learning system. The total number of laptops given to the AIOU under the scheme phase-II is 940 that were being handed over to the M.Phil and PhD students at their respective regional offices. The excited male and female students received the latest laptop machines with specifications enabling them to be both as a computer and as well as a notepad. In addition, an internet device was also the part of the package. Addressing the faculty and students, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the AIOU for consistent efforts upgrading its academic output. He said, the PM's youth schemes mainly facilitate the people of low-developed regions and helped them to carry on their study at higher education level on government's expenses. The enrollment of students in M.Phil and PhD programs got hundred time increase with the introduction of fee-reimbursement and other such schemes. The HEC, he added has been doing its best for efficiently implementing the schemes, assigned to it by the government. Dr. Mukhtar said, in all 2 lakh laptops will be distributed among the students in phase-2. Elaborating its unique features, he said mostly laptops have been assembled within the country by the Pakistani IT's companies. HEC, he added, stands committed to facilitate the students of higher education learning so that they could able to take part in the country's socio-economic development.

Dr. Siddiqui in vote of thanks lauded the HEC's pro-Universities' role in providing necessary funding for carrying out research-oriented task. In this connection, the role of chairman HEC and his team is highly commendable, he added. While congratulating the winners of the laptops, he said this is recognition of their talents and hard work. He hoped they will link their research work with the society, that's help improve socio-economic life of common man. Pakistan, he said could come up at par with the developed countries, by overcoming knowledge-gap through smart use new technology in educational pursuits.





University encourages innovative projects

AIOU has decided to prepare short and long-term plans to develop innovative projects in field of science and technology for commercial purpose that benefit the society. The decision to this effect was taken by the University's office of research, innovation and commercialization (ORIC) at its Task-Group's meeting that was presided over by Dean Sciences Prof. Dr. Naghmana Rashid. The establishment of separate office (ORIC) is an initiative taken by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui that was aimed at maintaining liaison with industrial sector to share latest academic research and innovative ideas in relevant fields. The office works as a bridge between researchers and the end-users for the application of latest knowledge (new innovation). The Task Group also decided to hold a national conference of University's Alumni to share their experience and achievements in the field of science and technology. An online data bank will also be set up for dissemination of research-based study among the stake-holders. Necessary funding will also be arranged for the purpose



The Task group also decided to find out opportunities for promoting public-private sector partnership for introducing new technologies and innovations in the agriculture and industrial fields. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while inaugurating the ORIC had underlined the need of communicating to the end users the benefits of research findings, being carried out in the educational institutions.

Commonwealth - AlOU hold workshop on capacity-building

Commonwealth of Learning, Canada and AIOU held an ICT-skilled based workshop on capacity-building of students and for development of new courses, through smart use of latest technology. Sponsored by the Commonwealth of Learning, it was jointly organized by the University's Department of Computer Science and International Collaboration and Exchange office. Inaugurating the workshop, VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui underlined the need of updating the existing curriculum and educations practices, keeping in view the fastchanging circumstances and the needs of students. New challenges in education sector could be well faced through innovative ideas and efficient use of technology.AIOU, he announced will put online all its post-graduates courses, including PhD and MPhil within next couple of years, and the students will be able to receive study material through internet. The University, he added attached high importance to professional development and capacity-building of employees and the students for achieving the target of quality and service-oriented education. The AIOU has introduced a number of initiatives in the recent years to promote applied and meaningful research that meets the socio-economic needs of the society. Collaborative partnership with national, regional and international institutions is also being increased for introduction of skill-based academic programs and sharing new development in the education sector

Disabled students get E-learning facility

Accessibility Centers for visually impaired students got operational at regional offices of the University, this was stated by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui on the occasion of formal inauguration of a accessibility center in Lahore. All the 44 regional offices were being provided the E-learning facility after successfully running a pilot project at the University's main campus. The accessibility Centers are the part of libraries that were being established or upgraded at the regional offices. A Regional Libraries' Coordination office has also been set up in the main Campus for the coordination and monitoring of country-wide libraries and accessibility Centers' network. An accessibility center was inaugurated in Multan to meet the needs of handicapped students from South Punjab. This aimed at attending the needs of marginalized section of the society. "All the libraries will be linked with the Central library in Islamabad that will be equipped with more than 4,000 digital research-based resources". VC added.Dr. Siddiqui further said that students will be able to access digital resources, e-Books, research articles, journals, theses and course material of all academic programs free-of-cost. Special focus was being laid on developing libraries for research purposes and bringing the University's learning system at par with international standard.

Defense Day Celebration at AIOU

AIOU held a colorful event at its main campus, paying tributes to national heroes, who gave their lives in defense of the country.

The University's students participated in the Day's activities with fervor, enthusiasm and spirit of unity and solidarity with their motherhood. They delivered speeches, besides singing national songs to display their love and respect for armed forces of Pakistan and martyrs of 1965 war. The event was arranged by Islamabad Campus of the University. Best students in speeches and songs were awarded special prizes.

Addressing the occasion, VC Prof. Dr. Shahid SIddiqui announced that students' societies will be formed at AIOU's 44 regional offices across the country to celebrate national days and promote academic-curricular activities on regular basis. The living nations, he said must keep remembering their national heroes in a befitting manner. The co-curricular activities, he said will be institutionalized with the active participation of the students, keeping the national spirit high. The proposed committees will be responsible for arranging such activities, holding of competitions in various fields including literary, culture and sports at their local level. Later, an annual grand competition will be arranged at main campus with the participation of students who will be declared best ones in regional competitions. Director, Islamabad Campus Shah Farrakh also spoke on the occasion and thanked the Vice Chancellor for his personal interest in motivating the students towards healthy activities and developing the campus as center of literacy and social activates.





AIOU-OAKCD ink agreement

AIOU and Omar Asghar Khan Centre for Development (OAKCD) have decided to work together to promote inclusive, equitable and quality education through capacity-building, research and advocacy. Under an agreement the two sides will work out a joint strategy that aims to initiate, implement and coordinate educational interventions pertaining to capacity building and research promoting quality education. They also agreed to collaborate for the establishment of "Information & Research Center on Inclusive Education" at AIOU's main premises.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui inked the agreement on behalf of AlOU, while the OAKCD was represented by its chairperson Ms. Samia Raoof Ali. Dr. Siddiqui hoped that the agreement will help develop positive and constructive attitude both at the level of faculty and the students. This is a part of the University's concerted efforts to promote capacity-building of the staff and to achieve ultimate objective of quality education. The University, he added was enhancing its collaborative partnership with national and international institutions to facilitate the students in their educational pursuits. He underlined the importance of education for special students and said a speech-therapy centre will be set up for the needy children. The AlOU is already providing totally free education to the handicapped and visually impaired students.

Dr. Tanzila Nabeel, Chairperson department of special education, AIOU highlighted the main objectives of the document and thanked the OAKCD for its support in teachers' training and professional development for other programs.

AIOU re-elected as executive member of AAOU

AIOU got re-elected as member of Executive Board of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) at an annual conference held in Manila, for two-year term. The board acknowledged and appreciated the AIOU's role in promoting quality education through distance learning system.

The Board thanked the VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui for his visionary output and support making the Association more strong and vibrant in the Asian region. The conference during its three-day's meeting in Manila discussed academic leadership in open and distance learning (ODL), open educational practices, open educational resources (OER), promotion of online courses including MOOCs, digital and new media literacy and quality assurance.

Pakistan was represented at the conference by a University's academician Zahid Majeed. He briefed the conference about the academic initiatives taken by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui during the last two years, particularly in the fields of research and professional development.

Founded in 1987, the AAOU had been working for promoting higher learning education through distance learning system. It strives to widen the educational opportunities available to all people in Asia and to improve the quality of the institutions in terms of their educational management, teaching and research.

OWA's oath taking

Newly elected office-bearers of Officers' Welfare Association (OWA) took oath of their offices and pledged to work for enhancing the academic-ranking of the University, as well as providing best possible services to students. They were administered the oath by the VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui at a ceremony held at the University's main campus. Dr. Siddiqui assured the University's up-gradation, quality education and welfare of its employees will be his top priority. He asserted the officers and the employees must meet the expectations of the students in meeting their educational needs. He hoped they would fulfill official responsibilities with due commitment and devotion.



Spectacular function on Independence Day at AIOU

AIOU celebrated the independence-day with national zeal and fervor by holding a spectacularcolorful show, participated by the University's employees and their children. They presented national songs, delivered speeches, signifying the occasion, besides a tableau named "Pakistan Zindabad". At the outset of the celebrations, the University's Security-workers presented guard of honor to the VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddigui to show their vigor and enthusiasm for the country. It followed by hoisting of national flag, singing of national anthem. The participants paid rich tribute to Quaid-i-Azam, Allama Muhammad Igbal and other leaders of Pakistan movement. They also offered Special prayer for peace, stability and prosperity of the country.



Dr. Siddiqui said the youth are future of the country and they must utilize their talents in building the nation by focusing on their education. He highlighted various phases of the freedom movement and said the workers and leaders of Pakistan movement successfully defeated colonial rule and its hegemony.

AIOU, he pledged would continue to adopt those academic programs and practices which help to Serve the society and promote ongoing efforts of socio-economic development.

He appreciated the children's performance in making the program successful. The event was arranged by the University's Department of Pakistan Studies.

Dean Social Sciences Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj said on the occasion that the new generation should follow the footprints of their elders to make Pakistan a true Islamic and welfare state. He thanked the participants for their warm participation.





European Union's delegation visits AIOU

The varsity has started working with foreign educational institutions to promote open distance and online learning system in the country to upgrade educational standard from primary to PhD level VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui told the visiting delegation of European Union. He further told that the University is already in contact with other Open Universities of the World to strengthen open distance learning. The delegation was led by Michele Rizzi, Development Adviser that visited the AIOU as a part of their ongoing efforts to further develop socio-economic partnership with Pakistan at the level of educational institutions. The delegation, during its meeting with the Vice Chancellor assured that they would look into the possibility of developing linkages between AIOU and the European Union's Universities. The two sides could cooperate in offering scholarships to their students and academia as well as undertaking research-based projects.Dr. Shahid Siddiqui briefed the delegation about the University's academic activities, particularly the students' support system and main educational features of open distance learning that was being carried out successfully for the last four decades. He also appraised the delegation of the collaborative partnership that the University has developed in the recent years with Commonwealth of Learning, British Council and Netherlands Open University. The delegation was given detailed presentation on the University's overall working by Zahid Majeed, Incharge International collaboration exchange office. Michele Rizzi briefed the University's academic staff and students about the scholarship opportunities being offered by European Union to Pakistani side.



Agreement to promote female literacy

AIOU entered into collaborative partnership with Plan International and a private NGO Sanjh Preet to promote female literacy in the country's backward and less-developed regions through non-formal distance-learning system. In this connection, an agreement was signed in presence of VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who assured that the University will actively participate in the government's efforts providing special educational facilities to drop-out female students and to fight out illiteracy.

Under the agreement, First Track Learning Centers (FTLC's) will be set up in the country for middle-level education. In first-phase, a learning centre with 1200 girls will be set up in district Nankana Sahib by adopting AlOU's indigenous model of education. Similar model will be replicated in other parts of the country through a gradual process to target the marginalized rural families, said VC at the signing ceremony. Such project aimed at establishing connectivity between the educational institutions and the society. Dr. Siddiqui said it was their pride to cope up educational needs of deprived section of the society. They have already taken projects like providing free education to prisoners. The University has successfully implemented open-schooling model for middle class students in District Vehari, Chakwal and Thatta. It has facilitated thousands of out-of-school girls who were deprived of the basic facility of education due to financial and social reasons.

The agreement was signed by Registrar AIOU Dr. Muhammad Naeeem Qureshi, Director Program, Sanjh Preet Organization Pervaiz Akhtar and the country's representative Plan International Pakistan Imran Yousaf Shami. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel Director Bureau for University Extension and Special Programs, while highlighting the project said a good number of female students are being benefited through a comfortable leaning system. A pilot project to this effect has successfully been implemented in Tehsil Sajawal (Thatta District) where 656 girls received middle-level education and later they enrolled themselves for matriculation. The AIOU prepared the entire course for class sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth in the Sindhi language to facilitate the local students.

AlOU's focus on vocational and technical learning



AIOU has launched a campaign to promote vocational and technical courses, enabling the people to earn their livelihood and contribute to the country's socio-economic development. At a meeting of heads of services and academic departments, it was decided that through this campaign more and more people will be brought into educational net.VC Dr. Shahid Siddigui who presided over the meeting advised the regional directors to facilities the prospective students. The technical courses and vocational Education include production and sale of home-made goods, Electrical wiring, Auto Servicing, Care and maintenance of domestic electric equipment, Radio-and mobile servicing, Auto mechanics and care of domestic electric utensils, plumber and wielding job. There are nine short-term agrobased courses to promote skill and knowledge in the agriculture sector. These relate to Plant protection, oil seed crops production, farm machinery, dairy farming, poultry farming, 'jadeed zirat' improved methods of fruit production, Home and Farm operational management and farm income generating skills.

Dr. Siddiqui said the curriculum about these courses was being updated to equip their students with latest techniques and methods in the field of agriculture. "We are laying greater focus on the socio-economic needs of the society, he added.

From page.01 Plan to strengthen ODL System

The OU's support is aimed at developing the AIOU as a model educational institution of distance learning. The meeting appreciated the OU for its support and interest in reinforcing a credible and affordable education system in Pakistan. It was decided that the AIOU will arrange necessary financial support for preparation and implementation of the proposed ten-year strategic plan.

As per plan, a team of OU's senior academicians will visit Pakistan to give final shape to the proposed recommendations and findings. They will also suggest a criteria and professional standard for holding the workshops for University's capacity-building.

The UK OU was first in the world and AIOU first in Asia maintained close liaison for many years in popularizing open distance learning. Now it was decided that the two sides would revise and maintain their partnership to continue share their expertise and experience in promoting accessible and affordable quality education. Its two-member delegation in its recent visit had held 'Scoping study' to understand the working of AIOU and to suggest ways and means for its further improvement.



Agreement with SDC to promote skill-based education

The University and Skill Development Council signed an agreement to promote skill-based education, enabling the people to earn their livelihood and help the country in its socioeconomic development.

Under the agreement, the University will launch short-term technical courses for industrial workers and fresh graduates. It was aimed at bridging the skill-gap between technical institutions and industries, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing the signing ceremony that was also addressed by the Chairman SDC Khalid Rehman.

A well-equipped lab will be set up at the AlOU's main campus to equip the students with latest technology and advanced software being used in automobile and engineering industry.Initially, it will be a one year pilot project that will mainly facilitate the people of Rawalpindi-Islamabad and Lahore regions. The training program will be a kind of in-house job internship for the fresh graduates. Dr. Siddiqui said the University is engaged in promoting its collaborative partnership with national and international institutions for its capacity-building to meet contemporary needs of its students. The developing countries like

Posters exhibition at AIOU

The University held a posters' exhibition in its main campus to promote research-based educational activities in the country.

Organized by the Department of Chemistry, it was participated by the students of BS and MSc Chemistry, who showed their talents and professional skill to project the community-related issues and linking their research with the society's overall well-being. It was aimed at extending academic support in addressing the socio-economic problems of the country, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while inaugurating the exhibition. Reiterating his resolve to make AIOU as a model in the field of research, Dr. Siddiqui said that they have published eight research journals during the last one and half year, besides holding seven national and international conferences to disseminate research findings in different disciplines and to motivate young researchers to do more in their respective fields.

He underlined the need of strengthening linkage between research institutions and those who are responsible for implementation. Research is phenomena that do not occur in isolation, it must be linked with the society. He said, he believed that the Universities should be known for their research work.

The students must play pro-active role in constructing and creating knowledge, through research compatible to international standard. Inculcating critical thinking among students is imperative for bringing them in the mainstream of education. Research should give answer to the questions, faced by policy-makers and other stakeholders in the nation-building task, he added.



Pakistan, he said needed to overcome knowledge and skill gap in their educational system for bringing them at par with the developed countries. A literate and technically well-equipped manpower could be an effective source for socio-economic development. The agreement was inked by the University's Registrar Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi and Chairman SDC Khalid Rehman. Dean Sciences Dr. Naghmana Rashid gave a briefing on the proposed technical programs on the occasion.

AIOU evolves plan to promote 'Seerat-un-Nabi'

The University has evolved a plan to promote teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) through academic pursuits. This was announced by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing the concluding session of two-day International Seerat Conference that was arranged on the occasion of Eid-Mild-un-Nabi. Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed who was present on the occasion underlined the important role of educational institutions, teachers and Imams sensitizing and motivating the young generation to follow the righteous path, as enshrined in Quran and Sunnah. Under the plan, Dr. Siddiqui said students of MA, MPhil and PhD will be given an option to do specialized study on Seerat. International Seerat conference will be an annual feature. A special conference will also be arranged to focus on Hadith and their importance. Besides, an annual award will be given on best Seerat book and a special journal on Islamic Studies will be published soon. The University has already started series of lectures on 'Seerat-un-Nabi' with name of Khutbat-e-Islamabad. The conference was attended by number of scholars from home and abroad, who deliberated upon various aspects of Seerat-un-Nabi, through their research-based articles. They called for establishing a society based on Islamic concept of social justice.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed announced that 'Seerat Chair' will be established soon at the country's major Universities providing opportunity to the students to learn more about the life and sayings of the Holy prophet (Peace be Upon Him). Strictly adhering to 'Sunnat-e-Rasool' is the only way out to overcome present-day socio-economic problems, said Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Raja Zafarul Haq at the inaugural session. The Muslims should seek aspirations and guidance from the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) to have true happiness and successful life, he added. He appreciated initiative on the part of AIOU for arranging the event which he hoped would help to motivate the young generation to follow a right path, Minister of State for Education Engr. Balighur Rehman who was the chief guest at the inaugural session spoke highly about the significance of the 'Sunnat-e-Nabi' and said people are needed to find solution of their problems from teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him). The conference was also addressed by the Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies Dr. Ali Asghar Chishti and the coordinator of the conference Dr. Mohiyuddin Hashimi who highlighted the objectives of the conference and thanked the participants for taking keen interest in advancing the teachings of the Holy prophet (Peace be Upon Him).





Ph.D/M.Phil / M.Sc (Hons)/TEFL dissertations and theses AIOU students recently completed their dissertations / theses on the following topics:

Student's Name	Level	Thesis Topic
Mr.Inayat-Ur-Rehman	Ph.D	Relationship Between Managerial Practices of the Head of the Educational Institutions and the Organizational Citizenship Behavior of Teachers
Ms.Sidra Rizwan	Ph.D	Need Assessment for the Capacity Development of Teachers in Accordance With the Professional Standards in Pakistan
Khalid Iqbal	Ph.D	Saraiki Literary Histories Research and Analytical Studies
Muhammad Naeem	Ph.D	Bedil A Research Based Analytical Study of His Philosophy Self and Concept of Activism
Fouzia Batool	Ph.D	An Investigatory and Critical Analysis of Allusion in the Ghazal of Urdu Poets of Delhi
Muhammad Siddique Malik	Ph.D	A Critical Analysis: The Role of Saraiki Magazines and Newspapers in the Promotion of Saraiki Language and Literature
Shabana	Ph.D	Literary Contribtions of Siraj-ud-Din Zafar into the Renassisance of Classical Urdu Ghazal
Muhammad Yousaf Malik	Ph.D	A Critical Study of Aesthetic Aspects in Punjabi Poetic Literature
M.Imran Nazir	M.Phil	Impact of Music Teaching on Cognitive Abilities of Special Need Children
Ms. Asma Safdar	M.Phil	Exploration of Use of E-Learning in Teaching of Physics at Secondary Level
Noshaba Nargis	M.Phil	Exploring Framing in US and Pakistan Dailies on Dron Attacks
Muhammad Farooq	M.Phil	Role of Internet and Cale Channels in Creating Political Awareness in Rawalpindi/Islamabad
Manzoor Ahmad	M.Phil	Literary Contributions of Muhammad Hameed Shahid
Maria Mehmood	M.Phil	Karamat Bukhari: Life and Works
Muhammad Yousaf	M.Phil	Urdu Translation and Annotations of "Principles of Literary Criticism
Zulfiqar Ali	M.Phil	Bharistan (by Moulana Zafar Ali Kha n): Footnotes, AnnItations, Lexicography)
Hameed Ullah Khattak	M.Phil	Urdu aur Afghan :Textual Criticism and Annotations
Mehnaz Anjum	M.Phil	The Poetry of Ali Muhammad Farshi in the Perspective of 1980's Pakistani Urdu Poetry

