



'Mother tongue is the best medium for instructions' Dr. Tariq Rahman

Language plays an important role in power politics and it is closely connected with nationalism, viewed Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahman, Dean School of Education at the Beacon House National University, Lahore. He was delivering a key note address at AIOU in a seminar on "Promotion of mother tongue as a tool to safeguard national identity". He said, in a country like Pakistan mother language may be the best medium of instructions. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said, language has a vital role in promoting ideas, belief and thoughts. Various foreign powers promoted their hegemony by exploiting language tools, he added. Dr. Siddiqui praised Dr. Rahman's intellectual work on languages.

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Baligh Ur Rehman inaugurates AIOU regional centre at Bahawalpur

Minister of State for Education and Professional Training Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman appreciated AIOU's role in improving literacy rate in the country and accessing all demographic of the society by expanding its infrastructure all over the country. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the newly-constructed building of Bahawalpur Regional campus of the University.

While congratulating the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Shahid Siddiqui for achieving another milestone in the education sector, he said AIOU has made a big achievement in making the distance learning education system a success story in Pakistan. He praised the AIOU for establishing modern and well-equipped campus in Bahawalpur. He hoped, the AIOU would play a leading role in providing necessary support to other educational institutions in addressing the common challenge of improving literacy rate in the country..... Continued on page 8

Chief Minister Baluchistan lauds AIOU's academic role

Chief Minister Baluchistan, Dr Abdul Malik Baluch has praised the academic role of AIOU in promoting local languages by offering Master, M. Phil and PhD degrees in major regional languages. He was addressing an international conference on local languages held at the main campus of the University.

Besides local experts, eminent scholars of both Balochi and Brahui languages from USA, Spain, and Sweden also participated in the conference and presented their papers. Dr. Malik who was chief guest on the occasion further said that his government was also providing financial support for the introduction of local languages. The study of three languages Baluchi, Brahui and Pushto.....Continued on page 8



Maulana Sherani calls upon universities to promote awareness about 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba'

Maulana Muhammad Khan Sheerani, Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) called upon the educational institutions, particularly universities to promote awareness about 'Seerat-e-Tayyba' and Quranic teachings through their academic pursuits to develop a peaceful and harmonious society and get rid of the present day's problems being faced by the Muslims.

While delivering a key-note address on "Seerat-e-Tayyaba and the current era" at the "Distinguished Lecture Series" of Allama Iqbal Open University at the main campus, he said 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba' provides a complete code of action to overcome present day's conflicts and unrest. The Maulana said promoting Islamic teachings through academic programmes and activities could be an effective way-out to prepare youth to face the challenges by seeking Islamic guidance from Quran and Sunneh.



AIOU, NILOP ink MoU

AIOU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Lasers and Optronics (NILOP), to conduct joint research and technological projects.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui and NILOP Director-General Dr. Amjad Pervaiz signed the MoU in a ceremony held at the main campus of the University. As per the MoU, the two institutions will take benefit from each other's infrastructure and expertise. Faculty members and postgraduate students of AIOU would be able to use the high-tech equipment and other technical and testing facilities of NILOP for their research projects.

Registrar AIOU, Dr. Noshad Khan, Dean Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Naghmana Rashid and Chairman Department of Physics, Prof. Dr. Zafar Ilyas were also present on the occasion..



Pir Hasanat urges upon youth to follow Islamic teachings

Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Pir Muhammad Aminul Hasnat Shah urged the young generation to follow "Seerat-un-Nabi" and teachings of the Holy Quran for having a successful life here and hereafter. He was addressing audience here at the AIOU on the occasion of "Naat Competition".

The minister strongly condemned those who kill their brothers and sisters in the name of religion. A true Muslim, he added always upholds the glorious principles of Islam. He viewed the nation should support the government and armed forces for their action against the terrorists and criminals. He appreciated AIOU for holding such competitions and encouraging students to develop their love for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and to seek inspirations from his teachings.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor while addressing the gathering congratulated winners of the competition and said, speeches of students on Seerat-un-Nabi reflect their deep attachment with Islam and love for the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The AIOU, he said, was frequently arranging extra-curricular, cultural and literary activities to develop positive and healthy culture among youth. The function was also addressed by eminent columnists and scholars Jabbar Mirza and Khurshid Nadeem. They viewed that the teaching of the Holy prophet (pbuh) are the guiding principles for the muslim youth and hoped that youth would follow his teachings in letter and spirit. The function was arranged by the Directorate of Students' Affairs, in collaboration with the Rawalpindi and Islamabad centres of the university. Those who won the completion were: Tahteer Zahura, IMCG G-6/2 (first) Aleena Tariq, IMCG G-10/4 (second) and Shaheena, IMCG F-7/2(third) among females, and Muhammad Akram, AIOU Rawalpindi Region (first), Amir Rehman, IMCB H-8 (Second) and Hafiq Muhammad Waqas, IMCB H-9 (third) among the males. Special prizes went to Amna Arshad of IMCG and Iqra Noor of AIOU Rawalpindi region. Later, the Minister distributed certificates and cash prizes among the winners.

Faculty of SS & H meets

The Faculty Board meeting of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (SS&H) held in Council Hall of the University on 10 March. Dr. Rashid A. Naeem, Dean Faculty of SS&H was in the chair.

Majority of the faculty members attended the meeting. M. Phil programme of the Department of Pakistan Studies was the only agenda item of the meeting. Dr. Aman Ullah Memon, Chairman of the Department presented the agenda. The Board after thorough discussions approved outlines of the new M. Phil programme.

On this occasion, the House paid gratitude to Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui for holding meeting of Selection Board soon after assuming the charge of Vice Chancellor and providing an opportunity to faculty members for their promotion to next grades.

Mailing of books for semester spring 2015 started

Students of the AIOU, across the country, will receive their books and allied reading materials for semester spring 2015 by May 31. The AIOU has introduced books' tracking system and now students could check information about their books by visiting website: mailing.aiou.edu.pk, informed Director Mailing Department, Syed Qamar ud Din.

The Mailing Department of the University has been given deadline to complete the process, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while inaugurating the books' mailing process for semester spring 2015. The relevant staff has also been advised to ensure accuracy in the mailing system to avoid any inconvenience for the students. The students will get books at their given addresses through their respective post offices. According to Syed Qamar ud Din n case of delay in receipt of books, students can contact University's complaint numbers: 051-9250158 and 051-9057611Contd. On page 8



Regional Centre Vehari Organizes Qirrat and Naat competition

AIOU Regional Center, Vehari organized a Qirrat and Naat Competition on 19 March among the local students.

As per decision of the judges Muhammad Akram, Irfan Sharif and Hafiz Muhammad Ehtisham got first, second and third positions respectively in Qirrat competition while in Naat competition Sajid Bashir, Khuda Bakhsh and Muhammad Akram were declared first, second and third by the jury. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safdar, Prof. Abdul Rasool Qammar and Qari Abdullah Tayyab performed as judges of the competition. Beside students, a large number of tutors, citizens and educationists were present on the occasion.

Rao Zulfiqar Ali, Assistant Regional Director, congratulated the winners of the competition. Rana Muhammad Yaqoob, Principal Government Boys College, Vehari, Jaffar Saleem, Principal Government Commerce College Vehari and Prof. Muhammad Ali Zaidi also addressed on the occasion. They appreciated the efforts of the AIOU for conducting such positive competition. Later, certificates were distributed among the winners.

Regional Centre Gilgit celebrates Pakistan Day

Regional Center Gilgit of the AIOU celebrated Pakistan Day by arranging a two-day function on the topic "Milli Yakjehti Main Tulba Ka Kerdar" at F.G Boys High School No 1. On this occasion students of CT course workshop participated in speech and song competitions. The students sang Kallam-e-Iqbal which was highly appreciated by the participants. At the end, Deputy Regional Director, Farid Ullah distributed prizes among the winners.



Regional directors discuss strategy for promotion of quality education

Regional Directors of the AIOU designed a comprehensive strategy in a three-day conference held at the main campus for promotion of quality education, increasing number of admissions and making AIOU a research-based institution.

The conference was one of the initiatives of Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui for adopting proactive approach at all levels, to provide best possible services to students, issuances of certificates and degrees and timely mailing of books and allied material, and maintaining the leading role of AIOU in distance education. It was attended by 44-Regional Directors (RDs) from various parts of the country while Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui presided.

It was decided that regional campuses of the University would be strengthened for providing affordable quality education at the door-step of every individual belonging to different segments of the population through an effective students' support system and IT-based working network at administrative level. The Directors were advised to come out with at least ten percent increase in admissions. It was also decided that new academic programmes would be introduced soon to meet the contemporary needs and fulfilling the demands of students.

While addressing the conference Prof. Siddiqui announced that an action plan would be prepared to implement the conference's recommendations. He said that proper reward, both in cash and commendation certificate would be given to the regional director who achieves admissions' target. While referring to other competitors in the field of distance education, he said, "the AIOU enjoys rich capacity, both in terms of infrastructure and academic excellence to uphold its leading position". He hoped that the regional campuses would focus more on maximum utilization of the available technology for meeting the requirements of distance education.

The VC informed that Selection Board would meet soon to consider promotion cases of officers and staff. The employees' strength would be increased at the regional level to handle the growing workload, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Regional Directors in developing AIOU as one of the world's mega Universities, and imparting education to around 1.3 million students. He advised them to take great care in appointing tutors. He directed RDs to set-up complaint management center at their regions for addressing students' queries promptly.

Registrar AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nowshad Khan and Director Regional Services, Prof. Dr. Rashid A Naeem in their separate addresses also threw light on the role of regional centres in University's efforts for promotion of education in the country. They termed regional centres as the frontline of the university. They assured the RDs of full cooperation from the head office in their endeavors of spreading the message of AIOU to every nook and corner of the country and increasing admissions.

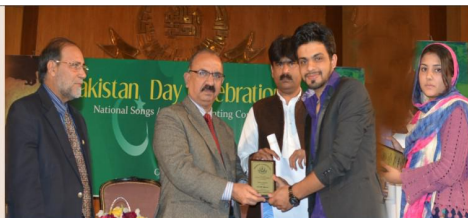
During the conference, a training course on "Management, Accounts and Information Technology" was also conducted for the capacity-building of the participants.



Participants of AIOU Regional Directors' Conference pose for a group photo with the Vice Chancellor.

Regional Centre Mardan starts working

The newly established Regional Centre, Mardan started working by holding course workshops of CT courses in different parts of the area. According to Assistant Regional Director Mardan Centre, following the philosophy of reaching the learners' door-step, workshops have been arranged at the nearest points, especially for female students. This move of the AIOU has been highly appreciated by the community.



Minister appreciates AIOU's role in female education

Pakistan Day function at AIOU

AIOU celebrated Pakistan's Day by holding students' competitions in national songs, speeches and paintings.

The competitions were participated by the students of University's Rawalpindi Region. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who was the chief guest on the occasion announced that the AIOU would focus more on promoting academic and co-curricular activities by arranging such competitions on regular bases.

He paid rich tributes to leaders and workers of Pakistan Movement for their unprecedented sacrifices. Stating that youth are hope of country's bright future, he emphasized that they should concentrate on improving their knowledge, skill and attitude for their better living and useful role in socio-economic development of the country.

Director Regional Services, Prof. Dr. Rashid A. Naeem and Regional Director Rawalpindi Dr. Tuqueer Ahmed Malik also addressed the function and highlighted the efforts being made by the University for promoting students' activities. They also spoke about the significance of Pakistan Day.

Those who were declared best in the competitions included: Muhammad Noman Adil (first) Sonia Raza (second) and Zoeema Malik and Shazia (third) in national songs, Sobour Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Khalid and Nameel Ahmed Kiyani first, second and third respectively in English speech contest.

While Muhammad Gulzar Khan, Shamila Gul and Adil Nawaz stood first, second and third in Urdu speech competition respectively. Ms. Rabia Dawood was declared best in painting competition. The Vice Chancellor distributed prizes and certificates.

Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Education, Fozia Saleem lauded the efforts of AIOU in promoting women's education in the country in general and Gilgit Baltistan in particular. She was chief guest at the concluding ceremony of CT workshop at AIOU's Regional Office Skardu.

It is very encouraging to see that the number of female students enrolled in different courses of the AIOU, especially those relating to teachers' training is more than male students, the minister said. Educating tomorrow's mother and teacher signifies the role of the university in nationbuilding, she added.

Assistant Regional Director Skardu, Muhammad Hassan Hasrat in his welcome address highlighted the role of AIOU in promotion of education in far flung areas and among those segments of the population who due to one or another reason could not continue their education in formal educational system. Deputy Commissioner, Abid Ali, Principal Skardu College, Prof. Ehsan Ullah and others also addressed the participants on the occasion.



Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Education, Fozia Saleem addressing workshop participants at Skardu Regional Campus.

Committee of Courses of Mass Communication Department amends admission criteria

Committee of Courses of the Department of Mass Communication at its meeting held on 19th January approved changes in criteria of admissions of M. Phil and PhD programmes of the Department. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Chairman of the department. Prof. Dr. Farish Ullah, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gujrat, Dr. Makhi Jani, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Paracha, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Islamia University Bahawalpur participated in the meeting as external members of the Committee of Courses. Dr. Saqib Riaz, Dr. Bakht Rawan, Ms. Sadia Anwar Pasha, Mr. Shahid Hussain, and Mr. Babar Hussain Shah faculty members of the Department were also present on the occasion.

After detailed discussion, the Committee agreed that the marks for experience which are being given to faculty members for admission in M.Phil and Ph.D may also be given to the media professionals of accredited media organizations. The Committee also recommended that courses on Media & Conflict Resolutions, Media & Disaster Management and Media Management may also be included in scheme of the masters' programme (M.Sc) of the department.

AIOU holds talk on Islam and scientific research

AIOU held an extensive talk on Islam and scientific research in order to motivate its students to explore truth and realities of religion on scientific basis. Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashimi presented his comprehensive research analysis on the Islamic knowledge and latest scientific development.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said on the occasion that religion and scientific research is closely linked with each other and there should be no confusion and misunderstanding in this connection. The Quran and 'Seerat-un-Nabi' of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) attached great importance to the process of having in-depth thinking on the matters, faced by the human-beings in their daily lives. He said that Islam lays greater emphasis on 'tafaqar' to ascertain facts and mould the life accordingly.

Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic, Prof. Dr. Ali Asghar Chishti also spoke on the occasion and emphasized that Islamic teachings must be brought into practice to get the desired results.

Research colloquium on anti-inflammatory drugs

The AIOU as a part of its "Research Colloquium Series" arranged a talk on Development of Anti-inflammatory & Anti-Pyretic Drugs: SmallAza-heterocyclic Scaffolds on 17th February. On this occasion Dr. Uzma Yunus, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, presented her research findings which aimed at developing Anti-inflammatory and anti-pyretic drugs. She discussed various stages of drug discovery process and role of medicinal chemist in this process.

She discussed the synthesis of new molecules and their anti-inflammatory and anti-pyretic studies in animal models to identify lead Molecules possessing anti-inflammatory molecules and anti-pyretic activities. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui congratulated the Department on conducting quality research work in the field of medicinal chemistry. He assured his full support for the uplift of standard of research in sciences.

Dean Faculty of Sciences and Chairperson, Department of Chemistry, Prof. Dr. Naghmana Rashid said, it is an era of multidisciplinary research where chemists and biologists are working in close collaboration to get purposeful research outcomes in the field of medicinal chemistry.



AIOU to launch BS programmes in science subjects

AIOU will launch four-year degree programmes (BS) with physics, mathematics or statistics as a major subject from next semester. This was announced by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a three-day workshop on 'Research methodology'. The workshop was organized by Department of Physics.

The AIOU's Faculty of Sciences is already offering BS degree in micro biology and chemistry besides M.Phil and PhD programmes in science subjects through holding face-to-face regular classes. The new programmes are part of the university's efforts to promote education of science and technology in the country.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui urged the participants of the workshop to work on creation of knowledge and be more innovative in both their theoretical and applied areas. The seminar was also addressed by Dean Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Nagama Rashid and Chairman Department of Physics, Dr. Zafar Ilyas.



AIOU, RIUJ to work for capacity building of journalists

A nine-member delegation of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists discussed proposals for developing bilateral cooperation with Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor AIOU for capacity building and professional training of journalists. The delegation was led by RIUJ's President Ali Raza Alvi.

On this occasion Dr. Siddiqui said the AIOU would consider proposal of introducing short-term refresher certificate-courses for the working journalists. He said that the Department of Mass Communication is already working for capacity building of working journalists of the country. The delegation thanked the Vice Chancellor for his personal initiative in fixing quota for journalists in M.Phil and PhD admissions of Mass Communication. The delegation commended the AIOU's role in providing quality education in the field of journalism. They noted that there are hundreds of working journalists who have graduated from AIOU and increased their education level while performing their duties in different media organizations.



AIOU holds 'Book-Fair'

Central Library of the AIOU organized a two-day "Book Fair" at main campus of the university on March 25 to 26 to strengthen library network and develop the culture of "Friendship with books". Renowned publishers participated in the fair. Besides students and teachers of AIOU, book-lovers from other universities took interest in the fair and purchased a good number of books on discount rates.

While inaugurating the book fair, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the university's Central Library was being developed as one of the most modern libraries of the country to provide strong support to learners and researchers. The university is also trying to provide best library facilities to the readers through online automatic digital system. Accessibility to the library's books is being ensured, so that the people sitting at their homes and offices could take benefit from it. Scanning and uploading of over 5000 thesis have been completed so that the people all over the world could get access to them through internet, he further said.

The inauguration ceremony was also addressed by columnists Khurshid Nadeem and Jabbar Mirza. Chief Librarian of AIOU Muhammad Umar Khan in his welcome address thanked the participants. He also spoke on the importance of books and the library in the academic pursuits



AIOU organizes seminar on "Gender perspectives on journalism"

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said media are an important pillar of State and they have the potentials of helping out the country in overcoming the present day's problems. While addressing a seminar here on 'Gender Perspectives on Journalism', Dr. Siddiqui asked the women, particularly female graduates of journalism and mass communication departments to come forward and play their due role for betterment of Pakistani women and development of the country. He said, AIOU has recently introduced special skill-based

Earn their livelihood in a respectable way. Out of the existing 1.3 million enrolments, 58% are the females, mostly living in far-flung areas of the country, he added.

Guest speaker on the occasion, Myra Imran highlighted gender perspectives in journalism and shared her personal experiences as a working journalist with the audience. She said that women can play more productive role in the field of journalism but they need encouragement, safe environment and empowerment. She underlined the need of training and capacity building of women journalists. She said that despite various obstacles, women journalists perform their duties with national enthusiasm.

The seminar was organized by Gender and Women Department of the University as a part of the ongoing 'Awareness and Advocacy Series' of the university. In her welcome address Dr. Riffat Haq, Chairperson Department of Women and Gender Studies highlighted the aims and objectives of the seminar.

AIOU to launch M.Phil (TEFL), Master's degree in English

The Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics, AIOU is going to launch Master's of Philosophy (M Phil) in Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Master's degree in English literature in the near future, this was stated by Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Shahid Siddiqui in his address to the opening session of a weeklong workshop of MA (TEFL) organized at the main campus.

The Vice-Chancellor further said that the university would also hold an international conference on the topic of English language and literature in October next in which eminent scholars of English language and literature from home and abroad will be invited.

Addressing the event Chairman Department of English, Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafeez said, besides Postgraduate diploma (TEFL) and a master's programme (TEFL), presently the department offers English language courses as compulsory subjects at SSC, HSSC and BA/BS levels. He informed that preparations for the two new degree programmes (M. Phil TEFL and Master's in English Literature) are underway.



AIOU to install new transmitters to expand its radio network

AIOU will soon install new transmitters at significant points to expand its FM Radio network to facilitate students across the country in their educational pursuits.

Currently, campus radio of the university, FM radio (91.6) is providing educational broadcast from 8.30 to 7 pm daily only to the Islamabad-Rawalpindi students. With fixing of new transmitters, the signals of FM radio would be received in the country's major cities. It is to mention here that besides books and other allied reading materials, the AIOU also facilitate its students through audio/video support to ensure better results in the examinations.



Speakers pay tributes to Qasim Yaqub for his literary work

Speakers at a seminar held at AIOU paid rich tributes to eminent writer and poet Qasim Yaqub for writing a good book on 'literary theory' and said it was a rare initiative on his part to promote contemporary Urdu language and literature.

The seminar was a part of 'Book and Author' Series. It was arranged by the Urdu Department of the University. Speakers on this occasion included Prof. Abdul Aziz Saheir, Dr. Arshad Mahmood Noshad, Farrakh Nadeem and Yaseen Afaqi highlighted the recent developments in 'Urdu Adab' both in theory and practices and appreciated the writer's work. The writer said, the book is a compilation of various articles on literary theory. Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while presiding over the seminar lauded the efforts of the writer in establishing relations between the text and context, both in critical and interpreting terms. He also appreciated the writer's skill and talents in introducing literary theory in Urdu literature.

AIOU starts M.Phil programme in Pakistan Studies

The Department of Pakistan Studies has got outlines of its M. Phil programmes approved from the Faculty Board meeting which was held on March 10, 2015. The main objective of the programme is to produce social scientists who can embark on the task of carrying out scientific research in the fields of Pakistan's culture, history, politics, economics, and society. The candidates having Master's degree (at least in 2nd division) in Pakistan Studies and other disciplines of Social Sciences will be eligible to apply for admission. The Department will annually enroll not more than 30 research scholars. Applicants will be required to qualify entry test that will be arranged by the Department. The minimum period for completion of the programme is two years while maximum period will be five years. The programme comprises 24 credit hours of course work and 6 credit hours of research project. Chairman Department of Pakistan Studies, Prof Dr. Aman Ullah Memon hoped that the programme would be offered in the coming spring semester

AIOU to offer M.Phil and Ph.D in biology

AIOU will offer M.Phil and PhD in biology from next year, this was announced by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a seminar at the main campus here. The University is already running four-year-BS and M.Sc programmes in micro biology.

Recent Research Articles by AIOU Faculty members

Zaman, T. Z., Choudhary, F.R., and Qamar, A. M., (2015). Advance Organizers Help to Enhance Learning and Retention. *International Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*. Vol. 2, Issue (3), pp.45-53.

Saeed, S., Ahmed, K. S., Rashid, N., Malik, M. A., Paul O'Brien, Akhtar, M., Hussain, R., and Wong, W., T. (2015). Symmetrical and unsymmetrical nickel(II) complexes of *N*-(dialkylcarbamothioyl)-nitro substituted benzamide as single-source precursors for deposition of nickel sulfide nanostructured thin films by AACVD. *Polyhedron*, Vol. 85, PP. 267-

Akhtar, J., Sher, M., Dilshad, M., Khalid, W., Revaprasadu, N., Malik, A. M. (2015). Investigation of PbS Nanocrystals Sensitized Extremely thin absorber (ETA) Solar Cell. *Materials Science in Semiconductor Processing*, vol-36 Pp. 20-26.

Fiction book on 'Child killing' launched

Launching ceremony of a fiction book titled "Child Killing" written by eminent writer Muhammad Hameed Shahid held at AIOU. The launching ceremony was arranged by the University's Urdu Department and presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

The book focuses on the recently committed cold-blooded killing of school children in Peshawar. The writer, while addressing the gathering strongly condemned the incident and said that it reflects brutal mind-set of a section of people. Critical and creative elements of fiction leaves great impact on human-thoughts and social life of the people, he added.

On this occasion Dr. Siddiqui spoke on the role of fiction in construction of thoughts in power and politics. He explained how the foreign intruders influenced the people to promote their hegemony through literature and language. Fiction, he said directly deals with society's social behavior and helps mould public mind-set as per need of the time.

He lauded the creative talents of Hameed Shahid in promoting modern and classical writing on issues of human interest. The function was also addressed by Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir and Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad of AIOU's Urdu Department.

Universities' treasures adopt measures for fund management

AIOU organized the first-ever conference of universities' treasures for better management of funds and staff capacity building at its main campus in the first week of February. The conference was attended by Islamabad-based public sector universities including National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), COMSAT, International Islamic University (IIU), Arid Agricultural University and Allama Iqbal Open University. Suleman Saleem, Treasurer AIOU presided over the conference.

The conference discussed matters relating to catering the fund managements, gap in inflows and out flows due to introduction of new compensations schemes by government and introduction of new SROs /revision of rates etc. It was decided that recommendations of the conference would be sent to HEC for necessary action. It was also decided that the conference would meet on regular basis to discuss new developments in financial matters, and other universities would also be invited in next meetings.

The conference was addressed by Tufail Khalil, Treasurer NUML, Khurshid Alam, Director Finance, IIU, Zia Akhtar, Treasurer QAU, Muhammad Azam, Additional Treasurer COMSAT, Syeda Irum Umer, and Treasurer, Arid Agricultural University, Rawalpindi.

Suelman Saleem expressed his profound gratitude to the participants for sharing their views and practices of their Universities. The conference was the result of the encouragement provided by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, he added. Coordinator of the conference informed that agenda of the next meeting may be sent to email addresses:

addl.treasurer.2@aiou.edu.pk,
tufaikhali@hotmail.com.



AIOU arranges seminar on reliable data collection

Researchers need to collect their data in a reliable, scientific and systematic way as unreliable and invalid data cannot serve the purpose of research, and AIOU is ready to help the government in collecting research-based data for better policy-making, said Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a seminar here at the main campus of the University on collection of reliable data for preparation of a workable comprehensive education policy. On this occasion a survey on the status of education in Pakistan was launched. The survey was conducted by a private Lahore-based NGO ASER-Pakistan.

While presenting the salient features of the survey, ASER's representative Dr. Huma Zia said it is based on correct data, collected from the gross-root level. Survey, she said provides a true picture having correct and valid figures to policy-makers for achieving desired results in the education sector.

Meeting of RPC of M.Phil Science Education

A meeting of Research Proposal Committee (RPC) of the Department of Science Education held for reviewing the synopses of M.Phil Science Education Students. Prof. Dr. Tanveer-Uz-Zaman, Dean Faculty of Education, Dr. Hassan Raza, Dr. Shaista Majid, Dr. Iqbal Shah, and Farkhunda Rasheed Choudhary attended the meeting while ten M.Phil students of Science Education presented their synopses in the meeting. The committee members critically analyzed the synopses and recommend valuable suggestions for their improvement. The students were informed that after incorporation of the suggested changes, the synopses along with approval of supervisors would be recommended for notification to Director Admission and will be send to BASR for endorsement. They were advised to incorporate the changes at the earliest.

Education beat reporters meet VC

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui called for academicians-media collaboration to fight illiteracy and promote quality education. While talking to a delegation of education beat reporters in his office, he said, a pro-active role of media can help to establish literate and knowledge-based society.

The delegation lauded the role of AIOU in promotion of education in the country and assured its cooperation in disseminating the AIOU's message "Education for All" to all parts of the country. The delegation appreciated the role of AIOU in providing quality education at the door-steps of the people across the country. The delegation was headed by Association's President, Zafar Ali Sipra.

48 junior level employees promoted

Forty-eight junior level employees (Naib Qasid) of AIOU got promoted as LDCs. After necessary scrutiny of documents and experience, test and interviews of the candidates were held in March. These employees were working in grade-1 for the last 10 to 20 years. The Employees Welfare Association (EWA) of the University has highly appreciated this step of the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

The university also arranged a special three-day training workshop for the newly promoted staff for their capacity building. Dr. Siddiqui while presiding over the concluding session of the workshop assured that he would always attach top priority to the welfare of the lower-grade staff. He hoped that the employees would devote their energies for image-building of the University. Later on, the Vice Chancellor distributed certificates among participants of the workshop.



Group photo of recently promoted employees with the Vice Chancellor.

From page 1(Baligh Ur Rehman inaugurates)

The Minister further said, the government is aggressively following a strict merit policy to bring capable people at the helm of affairs, and the appointment of Dr. Shahid Siddiqui is in line with the same policy of the government, he added.

The inauguration ceremony was also addressed by the Vice-Chancellor who reiterated his commitment to further strengthen their efforts to meet the educational needs of the people, by extending the infrastructure of the AIOU to each and every corner of the country, especially those areas which lack educational institutions of formal education. The inauguration ceremony was addressed among other by Dr. Rashid A Naeem, Director Regional Services and Khawaja Sabir Hussain, Regional Director Bahawalpur. The ceremony was largely attended including local notables.

From page 1(Chief Minister Baluchistan)

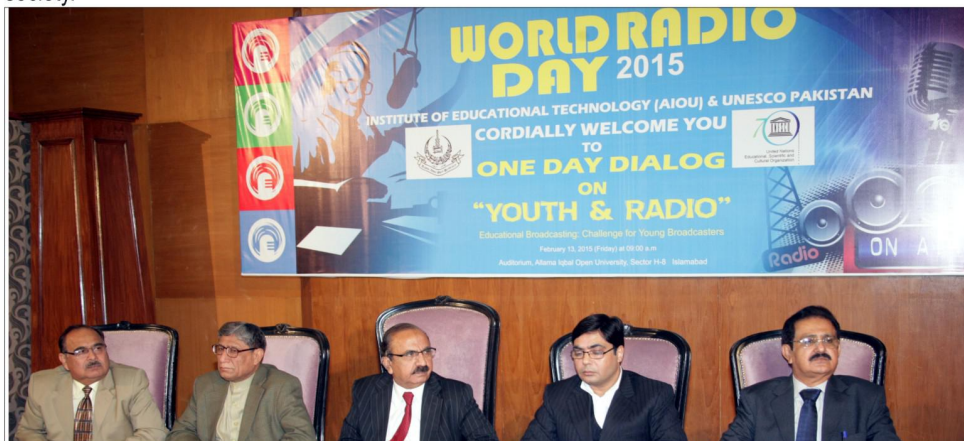
are being made compulsory from this year through a proper legislation, he added. Welcoming the participants, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said, AIOU gives greater importance to the development of local languages and holding of such international conferences on local languages will be an annual feature of the AIOU. He informed that AIOU has received the highest number of admissions in M.Phil and PhD programmes in local languages this year. He said, three PhD students and 120 M.Phil graduates have already received their degrees in local languages from the Department of Pakistani Languages. Local languages of the Department of Pakistani Languages of the AIOU include Balochi, Brahui, Pashto, Hinko, Punjabi, Saraiki and Kashmiri. Conference's proceedings were also viewed through video-conferencing in Germany.

From page 2(Mailing of Books)

They can also contact on e-mail address: mailing@aiou.edu.pk. The University will dispatch books to around 700,000 students in all parts of the country, which is a huge task, but he said they have completed all the arrangements to do the job within the target period given by the Vice Chancellor.

Panel discussion on 'Youth and Radio'

The AIOU in collaboration with UNESCO arranged a panel discussion on "Youth and Radio" on the occasion of World Radio Day. The function was organized at Institute of Educational Technology (IET) of the University. The panelists on this occasion discussed various aspects of radio broadcasting, the role of radio for society and the present day's challenges being faced by radio. The panelists also underlined the importance of radio broadcasting in educational pursuits and reformation of the society.



Seminar on "use of internet for academic research"

The AIOU held a seminar on the "Use of Internet in Academic Research" for both its students and teachers at the main campus. Dr. Muhammad Sajid Mirza was resource person at the occasion. He gave a detailed presentation and highlighted the role of Internet in academic research at higher levels.

Internet is the richest source for literature review and its proper use makes research easier, he viewed. Elaborating on online research strategy and methodology, he said the unethical uses of internet cause greater problems relating to plagiarism. The seminar was the part of "Distinguished Lecture Series" of the university.

AIOU professor attends training at Glasgow University

Higher Education Commission in collaboration with British Council organized a Leadership Training Programme from 9th to 13th Feb. 2015 in the University of Glasgow for a group of Deans and Registrars of Pakistani Universities from Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Naghmana Rashid, Dean F/O Sciences represented the AIOU in the workshop. Besides Leadership skills, the workshop gave opportunity to meet high management of Scotland universities and discuss issues of common interest. The workshop also provided an opportunity to all the participants to discuss issues related to our universities with other.

AIOU Takes part in Dawn Education Expo

The Directorate of Students' Advisory and Counseling represented the University in DAWN Education Expo organized on 7th-8th February at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. Ninety-six national and international universities participated in the event. According to the visitors' registration record, more than 11000 students and educationists visited the Expo. Representatives of the AIOU stall distributed information packets to over 1000 intending students and visitors. The visitors took keen interest in knowing the distance education system of the AIOU as well as its face-to-face courses.



“Media-Dialogue Series” launched at AIUO

The AIUO launched Media-Dialogue Series for bringing academicians and journalists together to educate the society on important issues. Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while explaining objectives of the new Series on this occasion said, the “Media-Dialogue Series” is aimed at establishing the communication link between media and the universities in constructing and promoting healthy environment for the overall socio-economic development of the country. It will be a regular series in which eminent journalists will be invited to talk about the media's role in social reformation.



Khawar Ghuman, a senior reporter of daily “Dawn” was invited as guest speaker at the inaugural session of the Media-Dialogue Series. His talk was focused on the role of media in democratic governance. He shared his experience with the participants on the role the present day's media is serving for the cause of general public. Chairman Department of Mass Communication, Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj also addressed the event and appreciated the contribution of national media in reforming the society, particularly its role as 'watch dog'. Media, he added, served as an important bridge between the government and the people in addressing issues of national importance.

Regional campus Hyderabad celebrates Pakistan day

Regional Campus Hyderabad of the University organized a function to celebrate “Pakistan Day” at the regional campus. A large number of students and notables of the area participated in the function while Regional Director Inam Shaikh presided.

Learned scholar S.M. Yousif delivered a key note lecture on the importance of 23rd March, 1940 in the history of Pakistan and the role of Muslim leaders in creation of the country. He urged upon the students to study the history of Pakistan and learn from the deeds of national heroes that how



Women's Day function at AIUO

The Department of Gender and Women Studies of the University organized “Women's Day Function” at the main campus to commemorate the International Women's Day”. Dr. Ambreen Salahuddin, Dr. Farial Amal Aslam, Dr. Aisha Anis, Dr. Fauzia Saeed and Dr. Riffat Haque presented their papers on the subject while Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Rashid A. Naeem was chief guest on the occasion.

The speakers underlined the need of women empowerment in the country and their greater role in the development of a prosperous and healthy society. They highlighted the role of women, especially Pakistani women in literary and cultural fields. While addressing the function, Dr. Rashid Naeem threw light on the role of AIUO in educating, training and career-building of Pakistani women.

history is created. In his welcome address Inam Shaikh also highlighted the importance of 23rd March in Pakistan's history. At the end Arsala Shaikh, DRD extended her vote of thanks to the esteemed guest.

Faculty Board of Education approves new courses and programmes

Faculty Board of the Faculty of Education of AIUO in its meeting held on February 6, 2015 in Council Hall of the University approved course outlines of B.Ed 4-year programme with specialization in School Education Planning and Management (SEPM). Prof. Dr. Tanveer-uz-Zaman chaired the meeting while Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui was chief guest on the occasion. The meeting also approved outlines of four new courses of the MA EPM programme. The new courses are: Quality Educational Management, Educational resource management, Educational Leadership and Educational Policy Planning. These new courses will replace the collateral courses which were studied as part of MA EPM scheme of studies. Prof. Dr. Haroona Jatooi, Ex-DG Ministry of Education, Prof. Dr. Shaida Sajid, Dean Faculty of Education Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Karachi, Prof. Dr. Irshad Farukh, NECTI, IER University of the Punjab, Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal, Director mass Education Sarhad University, and Prof. Dr. Khadim Ali Hashmi, Education Consultant Multan participated in the meeting as external members of the Faculty Board.



Seminar on “State of Pakistan's Economy”

The Department of Economics organized a seminar on 'The State of Pakistan Economy: Challenges and Perspectives' at the main campus. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chairman Department of Economics, University of the Punjab was the guest speaker on this occasion. Main objective of the one-day seminar was to highlight research-based ideas and proposals to address the socio-economic issues of the country.

He spoke on the present state of economy of Pakistan and the factors which shape and contribute to the economy of Pakistan. He was of the view that foreign aids and external debts are having very negative impact on the country's overall growth. The country, he emphasized should go for maximum investment and savings to achieve economic targets. Inflation should also be reduced at minimum level as high inflation environment damaging the economy and trade, he added. Pakistan is one of the least developed countries in Asia which relies on manufacturing, agriculture and remittances, whereas there is need to focus on increasing savings, reducing inflation and avoiding debts, Dr Aslam viewed. Dr. Shahid while addressing the seminar highlighted the role of AIUO in developing and producing skill-based programmes for the students. He said the AIUO is focusing more on technical and skill-based courses. Such programmes can play a greater role in creating more job opportunities, poverty eradication, and stabilization of the economy, and socio-economic development of the country, he added.



Controllers' exams mull strategy for transparent working

Controllers of examinations of higher educational institutions at a workshop held here discussed ways and means to ensure transparency and authenticity in attesting and equating credentials of Pakistani institutions.

It was for the first-time that 35 controllers of examinations of the higher educational institutions sat together and deliberated upon the matters relating to Universities' credentials. The workshop was arranged by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to address the challenges and issues faced in attesting and equating the educational credentials.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed who presided over the inaugural session of the day-long workshop urged the Universities to promote good governance in their working. He spoke on the efforts of the HEC in developing the Universities' overall system on modern-line, ensuring that they will receive full cooperation in achieving the desired results providing better services to the people. Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who was the chief guest at the concluding session distributed certificates to the participants. He appreciated the HEC for its initiative to develop professional skill of the Universities' officials. He also called for adopting new technologies in educational purists to cut down time and labour and to enhance efficiency. While appreciating the role HEC for development of the Universities, he said the HEC has emerged as pro-University organization and is keen to providing opportunities to the Universities developing their professional skill for better governance.

HEC and AIOU hold training workshop for chemistry teachers

The Department of Chemistry in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan held a two-day teachers' training workshop on "Special Topics in Physical Chemistry" to provide the latest knowledge on important areas of physical chemistry (both theoretical and practical) being taught at BS level to teachers of colleges offering BS programme. The workshop was organized on 10-11 March at the main campus. Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui inaugurated the workshop. Such workshops are beneficial not only in understanding difficult topics but also give a good opportunity of getting hands on training on different instruments being used in laboratories, he said. He hoped that the training would help the participating teachers in establishing laboratories at BS level in their respective colleges. He appreciated the efforts of Department of Chemistry and the HEC for organizing the workshop. Prof. Dr. Athar Yaseen Khan, Prof. Dr. Khurshid Ali, Prof. Dr. Rumana Qureshi and Dr. Nasima Arshad delivered lectures on "Chemical Thermodynamics", "Chemical Kinetics", "Quantum Chemistry" and "Electrochemistry" respectively during the workshop. Teachers from different parts of the country participated in the workshop. The VC distributed certificates among the participants.



SJSU, AIOU start COIL Activity

Collaborative Online Intercultural Learning (COIL) activities between students of San Jose State University (SJSU), America and Allama Iqbal Open University started on 31st March. In the first ever COIL activity students belonging to Counselor Education Programme of the San Jose University and interacted with students of M. Phil Teacher Education through Skype. Dr. Munazza Ambreen from AIOU and Prof. Jason Laker from SJSU were partner instructors on the occasion. The aim of COIL activities is to promote cross cultural collaboration in learning. This is a new teaching and learning paradigm for development of inter-cultural competence across shared multicultural learning environments. Students from one culture share a learning platform with the students of a different culture.

Participants from both the sides appreciated the activity, and viewed it as one of the best ways for cross-cultural interaction and leaning about each other's cultures.



AIOU adopts new technology

For better facilitation of students and making its activities more efficient, the AIOU is adopting new information and communication technologies. According to Director Admissions, Syed Zia Ul Hasnain Naqvi the Directorate of Admissions has informed about 3, 50,000 continuing students through SMSs regarding fee deposit for spring 2015 semester. Besides continuing students fresh students will also be informed through SMSs about dispatching of books for spring 2015 semester. The University is also planning to use the same technology for provision of information regarding tutors and results to students, he added. He has advised the students to write their operative mobile telephone numbers on admission form.



US Professor delivers lecture at AIOU

Prof. Dr John Tashner of Appalachian State University, United States of America delivered a lecture at the main campus of the AIOU on the use of instructional technologies for promoting online courses. He was invited as a guest speaker in the "Distinguished Lecture Series" of the University. Dr. Tashner underlined the need of developing online coaching and appreciated the on-going efforts of AIOU in facilitating students with the 'state-of-the-art' designing system.

He said, new instructional technologies have generated interest in the formation of various kinds of online learning communities for distance education. The use of instructional technologies in online teaching has been proven very successful in the USA, he added.

Vice Chancellor Dr Shahid Siddiqui in his welcome remarks said, the AIOU would further enhance collaboration with national and international institutions to cope with the present day's challenges posed by new educational technologies. He said the University's Centre for Instructional Design has been entrusted with the responsibility of designing and developing courses and developing various online teaching devices to help out the students. As a pilot project first M Phil-level online course in education will be introduced from the next semester, Dr. Siddiqui informed. Dr. Nowshad Khan, Registrar AIOU highlighted the ongoing collaboration with the international institutions in developing online courses.



Ph.D/M.Phil / M.Sc (Hons)/TEFL dissertations and theses

AIQU students recently completed their dissertations / theses on the following topics:

Student	Level	Thesis Topic
Abdul Hamid	P.hD	The Evolution of Siraki Short, Novel and Drama: A Critical Analysis
Zubaida Jabeen	P.hD	The Literary and Academic Contributions of Dr. Ibn-e-Farid: A Research Analysis
M. Ashar Tashfeen	P.hD	Philanthropic Behavior in time and Resource Allocation
Asad Shahzad	M.Phi	The Meaningfulness of the Characters in published Folk Prose Tales of Saraki
Ghazala Shafique	M.Phil	Nostalgia in Urdu Novel After the Creation of Pakistan
M. Ikram	M.Phil	Masochism and Sadism in Urdu Ghazal (Mirza Rafi Souda to Bhadur Shah Zafar)
Zaib un Nisa	M.Phil	The Scholarly and Artistic Study of Khalil Attish's Work
M. Tayyab	M.Phil	Political Satire Shows of Private TV Channels and Audience Needs gratification
Mushtaq Khan	M.Phil	Role of FM Radio in promoting religious extremism: A case study of Swat valley
Aemon Khalid	M.Phil	Impact of Internet on Social Capital: A Case Study of Lahore City
M.Bilal	M.Phil	Impact of Karbala on Urdu Ghazal Research and Critical Review (1947 till date)
Nadeem Abbas	M.Phil	The Metaphorical and Symbolic Scheme of Mohsin Naqvi's Poetry: A Research and Analytical Study
Sami Ullah Khan	M.Phil	Muhammad Feroz Shah's Scholarly and Literary Services
Musarat Sardar	M.Phil	Estimation of Variance Under Different Sampling Schemes
Shumaila Akram	M.Phil	Statistical Analysis of the Rao-Kupper Paired Comparisons Model via Bayesian Paradigm
Irfan Ullah	M.Phil	A Comparative Study of All Possible, Stepwise and Multiple Regression in Model Selection of
Salma	M.Phil	Some Efficient Estimators of Finite Population Mean in Survey Sampling
M. Fahim Khan	M.Phil	Statistical Analysis of Wheat Production in District Peshwar
Mehreen Shafqat	M.Phil	Evaluation of Nitrogen Defects in GaN By Ion Beam Technique
Rabia Bushra Kausar	M.Phil	Deposition and Characterization of AlN Thin Film
Nuzhat Shamim	M.Phil	Ion Implantation of GaN by Ion Beam Technique
Shahid Majeed	M.Phil	Ni Ions Irradiation Impact on Structural Properties of GaN
Ikram-ul-Haq	M.Phil	Study of Aluminium Nitride (AlN) Thin Film Modification By Copper (Cu) Ion Implantation
M. Ubaid Khan	M.Phil	Development and Investigation of Trivalent Substituted Cobalt Ferrite (CoFe ₂ -xMxO ₄) Nanoparticle
M. Shahzad Yasin	M.Phil	Modeling of Relaxation of Multi Ion Plasma
M. Munir Akhtar	M.Phil	A measure of ductility of aluminum-Copper alloy (Al-Cu) at high temperatures (up to 500K) by using the UT Machine
M. Zahid Hussain Aftab	M.Phil	Fabrication and Characterizations of ZnO:cd Nanoarchitectures
Hamza Zafar	M.Phil	A Study of Tensile Properties of Stainless Steel Bar at 300K
Hafiz Abdul Latif	M.Phil	Power Transmission without Wire Using Magnetic Resonant Coupling Method
Ali Raza Warraich	M.Phil	Improving the Efficiency of Photovoltaic Solar Panels Using Flexible Thin Film Solar Cells
Javaid Iqbal	M.Phil	Solar Water Heating System for post harvest Management Insect/Pests in Multan
Sibt-e-Hassan	M.Phil	Energy Modeling for Sustainable Industrial Sector Development in Islamabad
Quratul-Ain-Raza	M.Phil	To Study Solar Radiation in Islamabad
M. Abid	M.Phil	Use of Solar Energy at Project Directorate and Material Testing Laboratories Building AIQU Islamabad
Hareem Mufti	M.Phil	To Design an Energy Conservation System For Domestic Purpose
Shaheen Batool	M.Phil	Study of Different Digital Techniques for Neutron Gamma Pulse Shape Discrimination Using Scintillator Detectors
Benyameen Masih	M.Phil	To Analyze the fracture toughness of copper alloys (Tin Bronze and Brass) at Room Temperature
Aisha Ambreen	M.Phil	Charge Transport Properties of Metal/Metal Phthalocyanines/n-Si Devices
Safdar Ali	M.Phil	Fabrication and Characterizations of Manganese Phthalocyanine (MnPc) Thin Films Doped With Silver(Ag)
M. Shahid	M.Phil	Electrical Characterization of Deep Levels in Alpha Irradiated Os-Doped n-Type GaAs
Abdul Jalil	M.Phil	Empirical Models for the Estimation of Global Solar Radiations with Sunshine Hours On Horizontal Surface of RWP
Ahsan Elahi	M.Phil	Effect of Zn Substitution on the Structural and Dielectric Properties of Copper Ferrites
M. Salaman Khan	M.Phil	Density Functional Study of Structural and Dielectric Properties of Copper Ferrites
Ejaz Ahmed Khera	M.Phil	Optical Properties of Chicken stomach Tissue Measure ex vivo with optical diffuse reflectance
M. Abbas	M.Phil	Design and Implementation of Fuzzy logic Based Autonomous Solar Tracking System
Javaid Iqbal	M.Phil	First Principle of the Structural and Optoelectronic properties of ZnOxTe1-x(0<x<1)
M. Arshad	M.Phil	Fluctuation Induced Conductivity (FIC) of A12O3 Nano- Particles/CuTi-1223 Superconductor Composites
M. Qasim	M.Phil	To Study the Electrical and Thermal Properties of Ferrite Polypyrrole(PPY) Composites
Muddasar Hussain	M.Phil	Quantification of Sucrose Levels in rat blood: an ex vivo analysis with He-Ne Laser
Khawaja Masood Ahmed	M.Phil	Electromagnetic Scattering of Dielectric Half Space
Malik Mazhar Ali	M.Phil	Electromagnetic Scattering of Dipole Field from a Cylinder of Nihility Medium Coated with Chiral Medium
Fiza Batool	M.Phil	"Synthesis and Characterization of Metal-Organic Coordination Polymers Based on Calcium Carboxylates"





AIOU students receive laptops under PM Scheme

For the first time since the launch of Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, 56 students of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) received laptops in a graceful ceremony held at main campus of the University.

State Minister for Education, Eng. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman distributed laptops among the talented students for showing outstanding academic performance in Masters, M Phil and PhD programmes in their respective disciplines. The laptops were provided by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme.

It was for the first that the students of AIOU were included in the PM's scheme, recognising their worth and important role of distance learning system in educational pursuits.

Excitement was writ large on the faces of lucky students, of all age groups, who received their computers at the ceremony. "I and my husband are doing PhD and we were using the same laptop. I am happy that I have my own now. We are thankful to the government," said Saima Afzal while talking to 'The News'.

Gul Zaheed, a student of Arabic, termed it a responsibility of all those given the laptops under this scheme to use them for the benefit of the country. "The laptops distributed under this scheme were bought from the public money and it is our responsibility to use them in a way that it benefits the country," he said.

Waqar Ali, an MBA executive student, never had a desktop or laptop before he was given one at the AIOU. "After fulfilling basic need of food, bills and fees, we are not left with any money to buy a computer. This one is going to be really helpful for all my family," he said pointing towards his box of computer. He also mentioned a very special reason for his excitement. "There are going to be long loadshedding hours in coming months. My studies will not get interrupted with this laptop," he said. He also appreciated the free Evo stick and balance with the computers.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister appreciated the AIOU for making distance learning system successful, catering million of students every year. The university, he noted enhanced its educational rating over the years and now it has turned into 'power-engine' for upgrading the educational output through its strong infrastructure network throughout the country. He hoped that the University will even take lead in launching online courses on mass-scale. "If we succeeded to develop our youth through education and training, they could play their vital role in the socio-economic development of the country," he said.

HEC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said, they were successfully executing the laptop scheme, while maintaining its transparency and ensuring assembling of laptops indigenously. "About one hundred thousand laptops will be distributed among the talented students annually," he said adding that the HEC was also meeting the educational expenditure of millions of students, under the directives of the prime minister.

AIOU Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqi spoke about achievements of the university in producing skilled manpower and professionals of high standard in various disciplines. He said that the university was paying greater attention to impart higher education with quality and conducting research. He hoped that the laptops will help the youth to carry on their applied research work, meeting the socio-economic needs of the country. (Courtesy daily "The News")

Semester Autumn 2014 Examinations begin from April 28

Examinations of PTC, CT and B.Ed Programmes of the University for Semester Autumn 2014 will begin from 28 April in all parts of the country simultaneously. According to Controller of Examination Sohail Nazir Rana roll number slips have already been dispatched to the students. He is inform that PTC, CT and B.Ed examinations will be followed by Matric, FA, BA and postgraduate programmes of different disciplines.

Symposium on higher education curriculum held at AIOU

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) organized a two-day national symposium on 'Curriculum Development in Higher Education' at AIOU On February 3, 2015. Minister of State for Education and Professional Training Eng. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman was the chief guest in the opening ceremony. HEC Chairman Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, AIOU Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqi, HEC Executive Director Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt, former Vice Chancellor of AIOU vice chancellors of local universities were present on the occasion.

Experts discussed the ways and means of placing higher education in its local milieu from the international context, pointed out the gaps that currently exist in higher education curriculum planning, and pondered over measures to make the curriculum in line with the needs of industry and society.



Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that curriculum is one of the most important components of the education system and appreciated the Higher Education Commission for taking well-timed initiative to review the process of curriculum development. He said that timely revision of curriculum was imperative for assuring quality of education and setting high standards for the education sector. He emphasized on developing academia's linkage with the industry. Dr. Mukhtar, also spoke on the occasion.

AIOU'S UNIQUE FEATURES

- First Open University in Asia.
- One of the four mega Universities of the world With more than 1.4 million students.
- Quality multi-disciplinary education from basic to doctoral level at affordable fee structure.
- Largest network of regional services with 43 regional campuses and 1400 study centers countrywide.
- Unique University in Pakistan because of its philosophy, delivery system, approach functions and overall structure.
- Growing network of video conferencing.
- Collaboration with international institutions.
- Well equipped hostel facility.
- Multimedia Electronic Courseware Design Center.
- Exemplary institution for women.
- More than 900 Examination Centers.
- HEC approved and recognized degrees.