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Belarus Minister for Education visits AIOU

The Minister for Education from Belarus, Michael A. Zhuravov visited AIOU and showed keen interest in developing cooperative partnership between the two countries at higher education level.

He appreciated AIOU for successfully running the open distance learning system and said they could learn from each other's experience and expertise for providing quality education to their people.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui welcomed the Minister and briefed him about the on-going academic programs and new initiatives in the field of research, professional development and online learning.

Belarus Minister further said that the two sides could enter into bilateral cooperation for students and teachers' exchange as well as jointly holding workshops and symposiums. A delegation of senior academicians from his country will visit Pakistan to discuss mode of bilateral cooperation. He also visited the various departments of the University.

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National Conference on Social Sciences

A two-day national conference on social sciences held at the University's main campus, which was attended by social scientists and senior academicians. It was inaugurated by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, who assured his support in undertaking research-based study which helps to have a better life.

The conference provided a platform to researchers to work out recommendations for improving living-conditions of people, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui in his welcome address. He underlined the need of adopting holistic approach towards social problems through scientific way with solution through their relevant research findings. VC Bahuddin Zakriya University Dr. Tahir Amin in his keynote address analyzed various factors and lacunas which hindered development of social sciences. He hoped the academia will meet the present-day challenges through applied and meaningful research. He appreciated AIOU for holding the conference. Contd. on page....14

International Seminar on Open Distance Learning Policy

AIOU is going to hold an international conference to prepare a policy on Open Distance Learning (ODL) system on 13th and 14th May, 2016. The proposed policy will help to institutionalize the ODL and promote coordination and exchanges among relevant institutions to ensure quality education and provide better services to students. The conference's recommendations will be presented to the federal government for approval and implementation. It will also be in line with the government's policy to promote online learning, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

Speaker NA Ayaz Sadiq visits AIOU

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited AIOU and appreciated the University's achievements in educational sector. It was his honour to visit this mega national Institution, he remarked. Expressing his profound respect for teaching community, the Speaker hoped that they would continue to serve the society, enabling the youth to play their active role in socio-economic development of the country.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui gave him a presentation on University's profile and its achievements for improving literacy rate in the country and providing affordable education to all segments of society. He also briefed him about the University's collaborative partnership with national and international institutions.

The Speaker appreciated the recent initiatives of AIOU for the improvement of quality education in Pakistan. He also spoke about his personal conduct and work for enhancing status of the Parliament in the eyes of People. "I am trying hard to deliver my responsibilities in most humble way, giving highest respect to my parliamentary colleagues and staff of National Assembly", he said. According to him, courses of Parliament's Proceedings are being launched in various Universities, in its efforts to strengthen the elected House.





AIOU projects Dr. Iqbal's thoughts

AIOU will continue to project intellectual and revolutionary thoughts of great poet and philosopher Dr. Muhammad Iqbal. The plan includes holding of Iqbal International Conference annually, publication of a research journal, preparing a documentary on his work, establishment of Iqbal corner in University's Central Library, publication of book on 'Maqalyat Iqbal', compiling of book on his son Justice Javed Iqbal's speeches, recasting of a drama which was staged by Javed himself in his early age and publication of a calendar on Iqbal. The plan was announced by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing two-day international conference on Iqbal. Barrister Moneeb Iqbal Grandson of Dr. Iqbal presided over the inaugural session, which was also attended by scholars from Canada, Turkey and Iran. The speakers who presented their research papers included Dr. Taqi Abdi, Prof. Fateha Muhammad Malik, Prof. Dr. Anwar Ahmed, Dr. Khalid Masood and Dr. Shahid Iqbal Kamran, Chairman Department of Iqbal Studies.

Dr. Siddiqui said the proposed academic plan is aimed at motivating youth to follow footprints of Dr. Iqbal. Paying tributes to Dr. Iqbal, he said his contribution in field of literature and poetry is highly commendable.

Dr. Taqi Abdi said Iqbal was a universal poet and his message was for welfare of entire humanity. His revolutionary thoughts will remain valid for all times to come. His vision of 'Khudi' was most inspiring and a guiding force to build a better future, he added. Prof. Fateha Muhammad Malik said the Iqbal's thoughts are most relevant even in 21st century to address socio-economic challenges. Prof. Anwar Ahmed spoke on various aspects of Iqbal's intellectual work and underlined the need of understanding spirit of his message.

Barrister Muneeb Iqbal in his presidential address praised the role of AIOU in projecting Dr. Iqbal's thoughts among youth. AIOU, he said was only institution, with whom his father Javed Iqbal remained associated till his death. His father had been regularly attending the University's annual events. He assured he would work with AIOU to further promote its academic role on Dr. Iqbal.

Broadcasting network to be expanded to promote distance learning

AIOU will expand its broadcasting network throughout the country for promoting distance learning and facilitating its 1.3 million students to get educated through radio about their relevant academic courses. The University's FM transmitter boosters will be installed in the country's major cities and later in second phase, the network will be extended to remote regions, this was stated by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while speaking at a 'media dialogue' program. Renowned broadcaster and columnist Raza Ali Abidi was the guest speaker on the occasion, who shared with University's academicians and students his decades' old professional experience as a broadcaster, particularly his work with BBC Urdu Service London from 1972 to 2008. He appreciated the University's contribution in promoting distance learning. Dr. Siddiqui further said the University's FM's radio live-broadcast's timing has been enhanced and now it could be listened till late night. The students are also being facilitated through audio/video support to ensure better results. University is also in process of installing its own educational TV channel. Radio is a major source of knowledge and education, he said and hoped that the students will develop their association with this mode of learning in their educational pursuits.



He announced that the University will arrange a media conference in this year to seek the support of the Media industry for projection of research-based innovative and creative ideas. Dr Siddiqui lauded Raza Ali Abidi for his contribution in the field of broadcasting, who he added emerged as popular broadcaster world-wide through his BBC Urdu Service program 'Sehre been'. Earlier, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj highlighted the number of series recently started by the University to promote social, literacy and cultural activities.

Chinese Educationist Zhang Hui visits AIOU

A noted Chinese Educationist Zhang Hui visited AIOU. During his meeting with VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, he said he found Pakistan a favorable country for sharing common cultural heritage and traditional values. Zhang Hui also appreciated the AIOU's distance learning system and its role in promoting research-based education. Welcoming Zhang Hui, VC said the University is in process of establishing a Language and Culture Centre. He believed the language is a most effective tool for strengthening people-to-people ties and to understand each other. The proposed Center will be established in collaboration with Open University of China, Beijing. The Chinese University's delegation is expected to visit AIOU in March for this purpose.

AIOU adopts HEC's formula for academic grading

The University has decided to convert its academic results' marking system into grade point average (GPA) and cumulative grade point average (CGPA) in order to facilitate its students in pursuing their future career. The decision to this effect was taken at the University's Academic Council meeting held under the chairmanship of VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. It was agreed that GPA/CGPA formula of HEC will be applied for all MSc, MS/MPhil, Honors, and PhD programs where pass percentage is 50 percent. This will be in addition to the GPA/CGPA system already approved by the University's Executive Council for all four years bachelor programs. It will enable students to compete with students of other Universities at national and international level for the purpose of admission to higher classes and employment against various posts.

It was also decided that proposed system for all MS/MPhil, MSc Honours, and PhD programs where pass percentage is 50 percent will come into force with immediate effect. As regards to previous students, it was decided they will avail the same benefit provided they meet the criteria of HEC/Executive Council.

Dr. Siddiqui said the step is part of students' support system, taking care of their academic interest. The institutions of Academic Council and Board of Advanced Study and Research have been strengthened for rapid and efficient handling of the students' affairs, he added.

AIOU joins hands with NAB

AIOU has joined hands with National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in its awareness campaign, 'Say No to Corruption', by holding an awareness and prevention event, involving students and academicians.

The aim of the campaign is to motivate the people to help purging the society of menace of corruption. Deputy Chairman NAB Muhammad Imtiaz Tajwar was the chief guest, who hoped that the support from the country's biggest educational institution will be a source of strength promoting the concept of good governance, and developing a society, free of corruption. The event was marked by holding speeches and posters' competition among the students of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. It was organized by Students' Advisory and Counseling Services in collaboration with Rawalpindi and Islamabad regional offices.



Dr. Shahid Siddiqui announced that the AIOU will provide academic and institutional support to NAB in making the awareness and prevention campaign successful. AIOU and NAB will soon jointly arrange similar events at the University's regional campuses in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Sukkur and Multan. The University will also incorporate anti-corruption's contents in its curriculum. Imtiaz Tajwar further said NAB alone will not be able to fight out corruption. The support from all segments of the society, particularly the educational institutions is imperative to make it effective at mass-scale. The role of students and academicians are highly important for preparing people not to indulge themselves in corruption.

Dr. Siddiqui said AIOU has arranged a number of activities in the recent year to promote good-governance and transparency in the University's overall academic, administrative and financial system. Complaint Management Center has been upgraded for addressing students' complaints on fast-track basis. Transparency has been also introduced in admissions, examinations and delivery network through use of technology.

The function was also attended by the NAB's Directors General Aliya Rashid and Zahid Shah. Director University's Students' Advisory Cell Rana Tariq announced the winners of the competitions. Top positions were scored by Kanwal Kazmi (Urdu-speech), Feroza Butt (English-speech) and Zainab Saeed (posters competition). They were awarded trophies and cash prizes.

Online Library Culture

AIOU has taken new initiatives to promote online library culture to ensure students' accessibility of University's Central Library for doing their academic research work, this was stated by Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while speaking at a seminar held in connection with University's distinguished lecture series.

Eminent educationist and Ph.D scholar in Library Sciences Prof. Muhammad Raman was the key-note speaker. Topic of talk was 'Innovations in libraries through web-technology'. Dr. Siddiqui said the promotion of online library is imperative to promote research-based study. Timing of University's Library has been extended. Now it remains open from 8.30 am to 7 pm on all working days, including Saturday. Books' Data of library is being made operational through advanced software system. AIOU library is first one in country which has scanned around 4,000 theses of PhD, M.Phil, MS and Masters' level. The students across the country could benefit from these theses by visiting the University's website. The Library has been switched over to latest version of KOHA integrated library software.

MoU with ICMAP

AIOU and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP) inked a MoU for exchange of their research work and professional experiences. The MOU was signed by Registrar Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi and President ICMAP Kashif Mateen Ansari. The Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj and Chairman Department of Commerce Dr. Syed Muhammad Amir Shah were also present on this occasion.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui hoped that it will benefit students of both the educational institutions as well as promoting culture of community-based research.

Online tracking system to check degrees' status

An online tracking system for facilitation of students to check status of their degrees and certificates has been introduced as a part of the University's efforts to expedite the process of issuing provisional certificates and degrees to students. The status of the applications submitted by students for provisional result cards and degrees could now be checked through the newly installed website (dts.aiou.edu.pk).

The applications received from the students are immediately acknowledged through the text message and email given by the students. The new IT-based mechanism was developed in order to minimize the coordination and communication gap among the applicants and the Examination Department. In the past, the objections raised by the department on the students' applications were only communicated through post, but there was no online tracking of those objections. The new system is time and cost effective and is an attempt to expedite the whole process of issuing PCs and degrees to the students.



Early Childhood Education Department inks MOU with PARWAN

Committee of courses met here under the Chairmanship of Dr. Nasir Mahmood which was attended by Faculty members. Besides, Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani, Dr. Umer Ali Khan, and Professor Khadim Ali Hashmi attended the meeting as external members. The committee discussed and approved schemes of studies and course outlines for M.Phil, PhD, ADE (3 years), Post Graduate Diploma for Teachers in Higher Education and Non-Credited short courses to be launched in spring 2016.

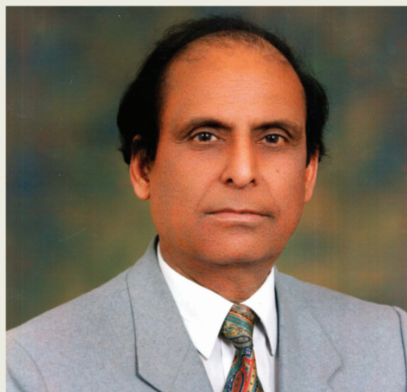
Department also signed an MoU with PARWAN (a reputed NGO) to start a Postgraduate Diploma in ECE. For this purpose the Department also organized a three day training workshop for unit writers.

National conference on Media

AIOU will soon hold a Media Conference. This was announced by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a get-to-gather of University's academic staff. Its theme will be 'Media in post modern time'. Dr. Siddiqui said media in recent years has emerged as most strong social institution that could help the educational institutions to disseminate their research findings among the relevant quarters for society's benefit. He hoped the forthcoming media event will help to achieve the desired objectives.

Speakers pay tributes to late journalist Anwar Feroz

Speakers at a function paid glowing tributes to late Anwar Feroz for his valuable and impressive role as a journalist and poet. They noted that Anwar Feroz while working with daily Tameer and Nawa-e-Waqt upheld glorious journalistic traditions and worked with missionary zeal to serve the country. He will be remembered long for his qualities of head and heart.



The function was arranged by the University in connection with its new series 'Mat samjo ham nay bohla daiya'. The speakers included VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, eminent poet and writer Prof. Ahsan Akbar, President Islamabad Press Club Shaheryar, eminent journalists Fozia Shahid and C.R. Shamsi, besides Anwar Feroz's children Duray Shahbaz Feroz, Nooreen Talat and Waqar Imran. Dr. Siddiqui said it was duty of educational institutions to acknowledge those who delivered the best in their respective field. He announced that AIOU's Department of Urdu will conduct M.Phil and Ph.D level research thesis on life of Anwar Feroz while the department of Mass Communication will conduct a PhD on Journalism of Resistance. Praising Anwar's work in field of journalism, Prof. Ahsan Akbar said he was a role-model for his fellow journalists. His personality had various dimensions that reflect his commitment with his profession.

Anwar Feroze family members Shehryar Khan his son and Noreena Talat his daughter shared their sentiments with the participants about their father's life and his literary work. They thanked the AIOU particularly the Vice Chancellor for arranging the reference.

Dean Social Sciences Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj also lauded the contribution of Anwar Feroz as a journalist and poet.

HEC - AIOU hold employees' professional training

AIOU in collaboration with HEC held a three-day employees' on-campus training workshop in order to enhance their professional skill enabling them to provide best possible services to the students and to help improving quality education.

Inaugurating the workshop, VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the University has attached high importance to professional training of employees to achieve stipulated targets in education sector. Training programs will be made viable and productive for strengthening students' support system, he added.



Group training workshop for development of synopses of M.Ed Science Education students

Department of Science Education organized group training workshop for development of synopses of M.Ed Science Education students of spring 2015 semester.

In the inaugural session, Chairman Science Education department Dr. Tanveer-uz-Zaman emphasized the significance of research and provided guidelines to students. The coordinator Ms. Farkhunda Rasheed invited Faculty members and other resource persons to deliver relevant lectures and refine synopses of students. Main objective of workshop was to develop meaningful and useful research synopses for improvement of current teaching learning practices of science education. The department also organized two Viva-Voces of M.Ed research students. The students successfully completed their research work. Moreover, the department also arranged comprehensive examination for students of PhD (Science Education).

'Say No to Corruption' seminars at regional offices

'Say No to Corruption' seminars will be held at AIOU's regional campuses. The University has already organized a such seminar at its main campus. In second phase, similar events are scheduled to be held at Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi, Sukkar and Multan. AIOU being the mega Public Sector University with largest number of students and country-wide infrastructure network, wish to involve its students and academicians to make the campaign successful, said VC Dr Shahid Siddiqui. The Varsity has arranged a number of activities in recent year to promote good governance and transparency in university's overall academic, administrative and financial system. Complaint Management Centre has been upgraded for addressing students' complaints on Fast-track basis. Transparency has also been introduced in admission, examination and delivery network through automation and use of technology.

A series of workshops and seminars were organized in last few months for professional development and capacity building of staff, enabling them to perform their duties in transparent and efficient manner.

Orientation Workshop of Mphil (History) Program

Department of History launched M.Phil (History) Program in Spring 2015. A sixteen days Orientation workshop of first semester was held in main campus. It engaged distinguished scholars like Prof. Dr. Rafique Afzal, Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Dr. Tanvir Anjum, Dr. Farah Gul Baqai and Dr. Tauqeer Malik from public and private educational institutions. Students were provided guidance on diverse set of topics related to Research Methodology, Historiography, Freedom Movement, and British Indian politics. Besides, Faculty members from the Department including Dr. Samina Awan, Dr. Kishwar Sultana and Dr. Kausar Parveen contributed on the above subjects.



Commonwealth of Learning appreciates AIOU

Commonwealth of Learning (COL) has shown willingness to work with AIOU for preparing national policy on open distance learning (ODL) and promoting online education. President COL Prof. Asha Kanwar assured her cooperation while talking with the University's delegation during 29th Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU), held in Kuala Lumpur.

She also appreciated the concerted efforts by University's VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui for upgrading AIOU's academic ranking, through quality education and research-based academic activities.

Mr. Zahid Majeed who represented the University at the conference also attended AAOU's Executive Board and General Body meetings and assured them support on behalf of Dr. Siddiqui for achieving their academic goals. AIOU is the founding member of this higher body that has more than 60 Open Universities of Asia in its net.

During the conference, Prof. Yochi Okabe, Vice Chancellor Open University of Japan and Prof. Lee Vice Chancellor Korea National Open University showed keen interest to work with AIOU in strengthening ODL system.

Regional offices to get strengthened

The varsity is actively engaged to strengthen and upgrade its regional offices to improve quality of education and provide the best possible services to its 1.3 million students.

A two-day conference of Regional Directors of KPK and Gilgit-Baltistan was held in Abbottabad. In this regard, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while inaugurating the conference advised the regional offices to lay greater focus on quality education and consolidating the university's role as a research-based organization.

He shared with the participants his priorities that include promotion of research culture, professional development, revision of text-books and strengthening students' support system. A comprehensive professional development plan is also being implemented for the capacity-building of the employees, enabling them to deliver the best.

He also asked the regional campuses to lay focus on utilization of available technology for meeting the requirements of distance education. They should also work hard for the development of knowledge, skills and attitude to bring about qualitative improvement in university's overall working.

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

Development of community-based projects

AIOU will soon hold a national exhibition providing an opportunity to young researchers to display their community-based projects comprising new invention in the field of science and technology. This aimed at encouraging the young scientists to come up with creative and innovative ideas in their respective disciplines in order to help society to overcome socio-economic problems said Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, while addressing a seminar arranged by Department of Physics.

Besides students of AIOU, those from other educational institutions will also be allowed to participate.

Seminar on Alternative Energy Resources

Department of Physics organized a seminar to suggest ways and means for developing viable energy resources to overcome electricity shortage. It was also aimed at providing academic support to policy-makers for developing short and long term plans to meet the energy crisis through alternative resources. Renowned energy expert, Dr. Shoaib Ahmed was the key-note speaker.

While inaugurating the seminar, VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui urged students to come up with creative and innovative ideas for addressing the challenge of power shortage. The University, he said will encourage them to develop mini projects in energy sector.

Dr. Siddiqui further said the University through its academic research-based programs, has laid special focus on various issues relating to socio-economic problems. In this connection, he asserted academia should be a helping hand. Dr. Shoaib Ahmed spoke at length on various scenarios and aspects on energy crisis and called for developing renewable resources, particularly solar, wind and coal.

Earlier, Chairman, Department of Physics, Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas highlighted the initiatives recently taken to promote research-based study on crucial issues like energy shortage.



Students to get course books in electronic version

Students of AIOU now onward will also get electronic version of course books and allied academic material in addition to hard copies of course material already being dispatched to students on regular basis for each semester.

Initially, the soft copies (electronic version) will be available at the Central Library, Main Campus and later at University's regional offices as well. It is part of University's multimedia course repository plan that aimed at facilitating the students to get electronic version of their respective course through computer network. This arrangement will be further expanded and the students will be able to access the electronic version by using allotted password from anywhere in the country. Overseas students will also be the beneficiary of this arrangement.



Outdoor physical activities for girls

Department of Home and Health Sciences conducted a research based survey of out-door open spaces in Rawalpindi and Islamabad for physical activities of adolescent schools' girls in collaboration with Pakistan Institute for Environment Development Action Research (PIEDAR) and Pakistan Strategy Support Program of the Planning Commission, funded by USAID. The research-findings were presented at a seminar that was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

The study suggested ways and means to improve facilities in specific parks and playgrounds of schools and colleges in the twin-cities. Chairperson of the Department Prof. Dr. Nomana Anjum in her presentation on the study said they consulted local town planners and health specialists for practical and cost-effective measures to improve the access of adolescent girls to outdoor physical activities.

Researchers also introduced gender-sensitivity training courses for boys and girls, which could be conducted in schools and colleges in collaboration with the civil society.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui assured he will encourage the academicians to focus on linking their research-study with overall development of the society. He also said we must find out the solution of the socio-economic problems particularly those of local nature through scientific research study.

Dr. Siddiqui emphasized that the educational institutions and the local governments should fulfill their responsibilities of providing reasonable open spaces in their surrounding areas for physical activities of girls and boys. "We must take care of gender equality in all sphere of life while doing future planning", he added. He announced that a Health Club will be set up at the University's main campus for physical exercise.

The seminar was also addressed by Dr. Sohail Malik, representative of Strategic Support Program. Syed Ayub Qutub Principal Investigator of the Research-Study was also present on the occasion.

Condolence reference for late Justice Javed Iqbal

A condolence reference in memory of late Justice Javed Iqbal was held at AIOU. Addressing the reference VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui announced to establish an 'Iqbal-Corner' in its Central Library as well as publishing a research Journal on the life and work of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal. Speakers at the reference paid homage to late Javed Iqbal and eulogized his qualities of head and heart. He was a true legacy of his father who translated his vision and thoughts in a true spirit. They also highlighted their personal affiliation and interaction with late Javed Iqbal as well as their experience and impression about his poetic and intellectual work. Speakers included eminent scholars and writers Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, Kishwar Naheed, Dr. Ayub Sabir, Khurshid Ahmed Shakoor, Syed Mansoor Aqil and Prof. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Kamran, Chairman Department of Iqbaliyat. Paying homage to Javed Iqbal, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui further said they will publish a special book consisting of speeches of Javed Iqbal, which he delivered during his visits to the University. AIOU will also recast the famous drama which was staged by Javed Iqbal himself on the life of his father. Dr. Siddiqui said that it was their pride that the AIOU is after the name of this great poet and philosopher. Javed Iqbal had been regularly visiting the University and he acknowledged AIOU's role in doing extensive research on the intellectual thoughts of his father. The AIOU has the distinction of publishing some exclusive and rare research papers on Dr. Muhammad Iqbal.



Short-Courses for working journalists

Department of Mass Communication plans to launch short-courses for working journalists, facilitating them to further strengthen their professional skills in relevant disciplines. Media personnel will be invited as a visiting faculty member to run these courses. "Such courses will meet the professional needs of working journalists", said by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while speaking at a 'Mulaqat Series'.

Dr. Siddiqui also highlighted the steps recently taken to bring about qualitative improvement in the University's overall working, particularly in areas relating to quality education and students' services.

Resident Editor of Daily Nawa i Waqt Javed Siddique was the key-note speaker. He spoke about his personal experience and eye-witness account about various events.

LLB degree program

AIOU intends to start LLB classes from 2016. The Statutory body of AIOU has already approved the program and we are now in process of finalizing matters relating to its Faculty and course material. It will be a face-to-face quality program that is being designed in manner so as to produce lawyers of high professional standard.

Space allocated for this purpose will have special symbolic 'Court-Room', enabling the law students to acquaint themselves with the actual Court's proceeding. A new lecture series 'Law and Society' has been started to hold discussion on LLB-related topics and to get necessary feedback.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the Central library will be equipped with necessary law books, courts' cases and other relevant material. Initially, this program will be started with a limited number of students from Rawalpindi and Islamabad region. The Country's renowned lawyers and jurists will be included in the Visiting Faculty.

AIOU students part of volunteer force

AIOU and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) will enhance their mutual collaboration to develop a strong volunteer force for taking part in humanitarian work. This was stated by Chairman PRCS Dr. Saeed Ellahi while inaugurating a day-long seminar on Management skills for professionals at AIOU. In this connection, two sides have already signed an MOU.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui presided over the seminar. It was arranged by Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) that was recently set up at University's main Campus to act as a bridge between academia and Industries for application of research-based knowledge.

Dr. Siddiqui spoke in detail about important role of Universities in constructing knowledge through research-based activities. AIOU through its separate office will maintain liaison with industrial sector. It will work as a bridge between researchers and end-users for application of latest knowledge in a particular field.



Condolence reference for APS Children

Academicians and students of AIOU joined the nation to mourn Peshawar carnage and paid homage to young martyrs. A special function was organized at University's Main Campus. VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said we fully share the grief of affected families. AIOU, through its academic and extra-curricular activities will always be on forefront to project Islamic teachings and human values for curbing extremist mindset, he added.



AIOU

2015 Profile

It is the strategic planning that constructs the vision, mission, and values of an academic organization and helps devise a plan to realize them. The vision of AIOU leadership is to improve the lives of people at individual and societal level. The mission of AIOU is to provide affordable educational opportunities to students to help them become productive and responsible human beings. Similarly, the values of the University include professionalism, integrity, social responsibility, teamwork, innovation, creativity, merit, transparency, and accountability. After taking over the charge as Vice Chancellor of AIOU in October, 2014, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui set the following targets to meet the prime objectives of professionalism, integrity and social responsibility:

Promotion of Research Culture

Professional Development

Revision of Curricula and Textbooks

Strengthening of Departments

Student Support System

Improved Delivery Systems

Social Responsibility

Promotion of Research Culture

It is important to realize that the prime objective of the University is to construct knowledge through meaningful, relevant, and internationally competitive researches in different fields. During the last one year, following steps have been taken to promote the research culture at AIOU:

Cash Awards for Research Publications

The employees of the University are now encouraged to publish their research work and the incentive of a cash award is being given on paper publication in HEC recognized journals.

Funding for Research Presentations

The university is providing travelling, lodging and registration grant to faculty members who wish to present research papers in national conferences.

Funding for Research Projects

Faculty members are also encouraged to propose and conduct research studies. Strong proposals in their relevant fields as well as cross-disciplinary research project are being funded by the university.

Dissemination of Research

Generation of research is important but it is of little use if it is not properly disseminated. There are two major means of dissemination of research, i.e., research journal and research conferences. The University is now paying great importance to both the means.

Research Journals

Research Journals play an important role in disseminating the research findings. With concerted efforts, the University has published 08 research journals during the last one year. Some of them were brand new journals.

Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities - Pakistan Journal of Education - Journal of Maarif-e-Islami - Global Media Journal
Pakistan Journal of Science & Technology (Vol-I, Issue-I) - Journal of Contemporary Management Sciences (Vol-I, Issue-I)
Ta'beer Research Journal of Urdu Language & Literature (Vol- I, Issue-I) - Pakistan Journal of Distance and Open Learning (Vol- I, Issue-I)

Research Conferences

Research conferences also act as a potent source of dissemination of research. In the last one year, following national and international research conferences have been organized at AIOU: International Conference on Brahui Language held in January 2015, Physics and Emerging Sciences Conference and Exhibition April 2015, International Conference on Chemistry October 2015, First Social Sciences Conference held in November 2015, International Iqbal Conference November 2015.

Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR)

Board of Advanced Studies and Research is an important body to approve the students' research proposals of MPhil and PhD level. This forum has been revived with a new spirit. Frequency of BASR Meetings has been enhanced and now there would be minimum six meetings in one year. Furthermore, previously research proposals of scholars were used to be presented by the Chairman of respective department. Now, it is mandatory that the scholars present and defend their research proposals and respond to the questions themselves. This initiative has made the BASR meetings more meaningful.

Establishment of ORIC

To facilitate university - industry linkages for larger goal of sustainable economic development, the AIOU has established Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). This office will strategically enable all departments of AIOU to conduct research projects.

Increasing Efficiency of Central Library

It was realized that Central Library of AIOU has an instrumental role in the process of enhancing and strengthening research culture. To optimize its efficacy, some major steps have been taken during the last one year, which are mentioned below:

Extension in Timing:

The new extended timings of Library are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Library now remains open on weekends as well.

Automation of Circulation Section:

Earlier the circulation of books was all done manually which now is going to be done through electronic check-in and check-out system. The library members can now view their loan record, reserve material, sent purchase suggestions and generate book lists of the interest.

Customization of OPAC:

The library has customized Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). Brief introduction of library, important information and rules, library timing and important links are provided.

Revival of Exchange Program:

The Central Library has revived exchange program, which was not active for the last many years, with other institutions. Under this program AIOU research journals are now being exchanged with the publications of other universities and institutions.

Book Fair:

To expose the students and faculty to a large range of newly published books, Book Fairs are now being arranged in the campus, in which book suppliers and publishers from all over the country participate.

Extension in Computer LAB:

Fourteen new computers are recently added in computer section of library which are specially installed for MPhil and PhD students.

AIOU Research Repository:

The thesis section of library contained a large number of research theses and dissertations in hard form. The Central Library has now established AIOU research repository. More than 4000 full text theses and dissertations of AIOU graduates are currently accessible.

Collection Development Policy for Electronic Resources:

The library had collection development policy for acquiring conventional material but there was dire need to compile a policy for electronic resources. Thus electronic resources policy has been developed.

Professional Development

Professional Development provides the drive to progress in life. In order to maximize the potential and competence, it is essential that you maintain high levels of professional abilities by continually improving knowledge and skills. The new leadership of the University has taken the following initiatives during the last one year for the professional development of academic and non academic staff members of the University:

Skill Based Training Series

Management trainings for newly inducted employees and upgraded administrative staff members have been conducted twice in the past year. The focus is on academic skills e.g. script writing, writing of research proposal, MOOCs, administrative skills, communication skills, IT skills, writing skills etc.

Distinguished Lecture Series

In this series, National and international eminent professors and scholars from various fields and subjects share their knowledge and experiences with University employees.

Research Colloquium Series

In this series, the faculty members of AIOU share their research experiences and results of their studies conducted by/under them. Mainly the scholars who recently completed their PhDs share the major findings of their studies.

Book and Author Series

In this series, renowned authors with reviewers are invited to discuss their books. Different faculties invite the authors of their field and share their literary contributions.

Awareness and Advocacy Series

The University is concerned about and is proactive for handling all social and cultural issues and challenges. In this series, administrative officers of legislative departments of Government of Pakistan are invited to discuss laws for general awareness. One of the major components of this series is "saying no to corruption" and "smoke free Islamabad".

Critical Reading Discourse Series

In this series, faculty members of a faculty share a Book, Article or Report at faculty level. It follows with a detailed discussion and analysis at faculty level.

Media Dialogue Series

In this series, Journalists, Columnists, TV anchors and other media personalities are invited on campus for discussing the role of media and education in societal and current affairs.



Mulqat Series

In this series, famous writers, poets, scholars and public figures are invited on campus to discuss various social and academic aspects.

Law and Society Series

This series focuses on the relationship of law and society and application of law to different social issues.

Business Talk Series

In this series, prominent figures of business world talk about contemporary business issues.

Number of Events Organized Under Series

More than one hundred events have been organized during the last one year under these series providing opportunities to the University employees to get themselves up to date with the contemporary knowledge and experience sharing with the prominent people from various fields.

Professional Development Opportunities within Country

So far 310 officers have been nominated for trainings and workshops arranged in Secretariat Training Institute, HEC, PPMI, NUML, NUST, IST, PIDE, PIEAS, ICMA, PARD, and IIUI.

Trainings Abroad

Faculty members are also encouraged to visit foreign universities for academic purposes and to equip themselves for e-learning module skills. In the past one year AIOU collaborated with Yunnan Open University China and San Jose State University USA in this regards.

Revision of Curricula & Textbooks

To keep pace with the fast changing world, there is dire need to revise the curricula and textbooks frequently so as to acquaint the students with the modern knowledge and skills. Keeping this in mind, the most significant part of quality enhancement was to ensure that all programs and courses which have not been revised within past five years must be reviewed and revised on urgent basis. Therefore, following measures have been taken by the present leadership in this regard:

Revision of Curricula at University Level Across all Faculties and Departments has been completed.

Plan of Textbook Revision, TV/Radio/Web Support has been completed and work has been charted out in the form of a Calendar.

Audio and Video Components of Courses are also being Reviewed and Revised.

Revision Work on Course Books where Minor Revision was required has been completed.

Revision Work on Course Books where Major Revision is required is going to be Completed Soon.



Strengthening of Departments

The academic targets can be achieved only when the people working in an organization enjoy a congenial and enabling environment. Such enabling environment not only involves appropriate compensation management but also timely induction of new human resource as well as regular promotions.

Selection Boards and DPCs Meetings

During the last one year, two Selection Boards were held and DPC meetings were also organized. As a result of Selection Boards and DPCs, a total of 167 employees were selected and promoted. This not only strengthened various departments but also motivated the employees with enhanced energy to work for assigned tasks.

Key Administration Positions

In line with the direction of Executive Council, regular appointments have been made in positions of Director Regional Services, Registrar, and Controller of Examinations.

Promotion of Naib Qasids

For the first time in the history of AIOU, 66 Naib Qasids have been promoted as LDCs. This was a huge step taken by leadership so that people working at all levels may feel confident to be promoted and given fair chance to move forward within the organization. These newly appointed LDCs have been given three in-house trainings to improve their efficiency.

Online Payments

Other than regular full time faculty, the University hires part time tutors around the country. They not only mark the course assignments but also remain available in study centers for tutorials throughout the semester. The delays in payments of tutors result in low quality performance. Hence the system of online transaction to bank accounts has been established to ensure in-time payment to tutors and examiners.

Strengthening of Institute of Educational Technology (IET)

Since, the AIOU is Distance Education University that caters to educational needs of over 1.3 million students to enable them to study at their own place, at their own pace and at their own convenience. The University goes to the doorsteps of students, irrespective of distance and location of students. To meet this objective, the role of the Institute of Educational Technology (IET) at AIOU is very important. The major function of IET is to produce TV/Radio and non-broadcast audio/video programs to support courses at various levels.

During the last one year, some visionary initiatives taken at IET are mentioned below:



Launching of Web TV

During the past year, under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor, IET with the cooperation of ICT and E-Learning Department launched the Web TV.

FM Transmission

Uninterrupted live transmission of FM radio has been started wherein professor and academicians respond to students' queries through live calls.

Videos on Demand

A tab for VOD (video on demand) is given on web TV portal of IET website. This provides an opportunity for listeners and viewers to watch videos which they need for any particular course. This is an Open Educational Resource and anyone can access these videos from anywhere using web.

Expansion of AIOU Radio Network

IET is conceiving to launch FM radio stations at 12 regional campuses. In this regard work for the establishment of stations at seven campuses Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Mirpur, Multan and DG Khan is in progress; while establishing stations at far flung areas is also being planned e.g. Skardu, Swat, Kalat, Umerkot/Mithi and Faisalabad. Networking with the other universities' campus radios throughout Pakistan has also been made possible.

Satellite TV Channel

Necessary documentation has been made ready for applying for issuance of license for setting up a satellite TV channel for live broadcast.

Student Support System

Students are the top priority of AIOU. Therefore some major steps have been taken in past one year to ensure continuous and satisfactory support mechanisms for students.

Call Center in DSA

A group of dedicated staff members is deputed in call center established in main gateway block. They receive queries and complaints, guide the students or direct them to relevant department. Through call recording and monitoring Directorate of Students Advisory ensures that each complaint and query is not only answered but the caller is satisfied.

Student Complaint Management System

Alongwith the telephone helpline, the online complaint management system is also activated. In this system the complaint registered online is also processed and forwarded to the relevant department and monitoring is done to ensure that each complaint is responded to and resolved in-time.

Financial Support

AIOU student support fund has been established to provide financial assistance to students through providing need based support, earn-to-learn, merit based scholarship, outreach scholarship, FYP grant, Scholarship for communities, scholarship for women, fee installment scheme and alumni sponsored scholarship.

Inclusive Environment

The main campus of AIOU as well as regional offices have been refurbished to accommodate students. Addition of students' lounge and washrooms in DSA, construction of ramps in all service related buildings like academic blocks, library and DSA is already completed.

Accessibility Center in Central Library

This has been an exemplary initiative of the AIOU leadership. Considering special needs of students, an accessibility center has been developed in the Central Library, where students with hearing impairment, visual impairment and other physical disabilities come and utilize the learning resources independently at their ease.

Co-Curricular Activities

During the last one year, various events were organized by Directorate of Student Advisory as well as regional offices. Following is the list of these

Iqbal Day Celebration 9th November-2014
Pakistan Day Celebration 23rd March-2015
Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony-2015
Defense Day Celebration 6th September-2015
Conduct of Open Day at Main Campus

Quaid's Day Celebration 25th December-2014
National Song Competition in August-2015
Admission Campaigns in February-2015 and August-2015
Celebration of World Teacher Day 5th October-2015
Speech Competition of Students of AIOU and other Educational Institutions and Regional Campuses

Improved Delivery Systems

Three major components of delivery system at AIOU include Admission, Mailing and Examination. Some important steps taken by the present management to improve the Delivery System are as under:

Admissions:

Strengthening Admissions Process:

Following steps have been taken by the present leadership to improve the admission process of the University:

Provision of Publicity Material:

The regions were provided adequate publicity material for distribution among the masses.

Advertisement:

For advertisement in print and electronic media special attention was given by Vice Chancellor. In preparation of advertisement for newspapers, unnecessary information was removed and the advertisement was published in leading newspapers at national level as well as local newspapers of different languages. Similarly advertisement of 30 seconds was given in prominent TV channels i.e. Geo News and PTV News at prime time to disseminate the information at mass level.

Holding of Open Days/Information Seminar:

Open Days were held at main campus as well as in regions at Tehsil level to provide information about Programs and services of the University. This practice was very successful and the public participated in Open Day/Seminars.

Enhancement in Number of Sale Points:

Regional Offices were advised to enhance the number of Prospectus Sale Point for easy access of applicants. Almost 600 Sale Points were established all over Pakistan. Moreover, the information about the Sale Points was given on the website.

Web Based Prospectus Sale Report:

The system was developed by Computer Centre and for Autumn-2015 semester it was monitored by the Vice Chancellor himself and regional offices were bound to provide prospectus sale on daily basis on the system. It helped to keep an eye on sales trend of prospectus of different programmes and also to manage printing of extra prospectus whenever required.

Provision of Prospectus/Admission form on Website:

For the first time in history of AIOU the prospectus and admission forms from Matric to PhD were placed on the University website. This was very successful as about 41000 admission forms were downloaded from website in Autumn-2015.

SMS Campaign for Admission Information:

With the start of admissions of Autumn-2015 Semester, the Admission Department initiated SMS campaign on directions of worthy Vice Chancellor. Cell numbers of 457,000 students were available in database and SMS was sent to all students about the last date of admission. The campaign was repeated for 5 times during admission period to inform about extension of admission date and also about closing of admissions.



Objection System:

This system was developed by Computer Centre and SMS service is also integrated in this system. All the students who sent incomplete admission forms are informed by SMS and letter through this system about the discrepancy in admission form. SMS service has helped in timely removal of objections and finalization of admissions. With the help of this system Admission Department was able to remove the maximum objections.

Confirmation of Admissions through SMS:

As soon as admission of student is confirmed and books are dispatched, SMS is sent to student to inform about admission and dispatch of books so that he/she may contact concerned Post Office if books are not received in time.

Amendment System:

All amendments for name, father name, address, course gender etc. are prepared on this web-based system. SMS is generated by system and sent to student immediately to inform that amendment has been issued, however printed letter is also sent. The amendment is sent to regions through email, which is also automatically generated at the moment the amendment is issued.

Fee Refund System:

This system has been recently developed and all applications for refund of fee are processed through this centralized web-based system. SMS is sent to applicant immediately when the refund is processed. The applicant can check status of refund on website through web link given in SMS. This system is being further developed to give access to Treasurer Office so that they can input data when cheque is issued and information is sent to applicant through SMS about dispatch of cheque.

Sub Call Centre in Admission Department:

The extension of Call Centre has been established in Admission Department. Initially four cabins are established where the agents are attending calls being received at helpline and forwarded to Admission Department through IVR. This facility has helped to minimize the complaints related to Admission Department.

Admissions go all-time high in Autumn-2015 semester:

Students' Admissions in AIOU went all-time high in almost all the academic programs during the Autumn-2015 semester. This was the result of above mentioned far-reaching academic and administrative steps taken during last one year under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. This reflected the trust and confidence, the University enjoyed among students of all ages. Some new academic programs were also introduced to meet the requirements of all segments of Society in their educational pursuits. To build the AIOU as a first-class global University under Distance learning system, academic interaction and cooperative partnership was built with national and intentional universities.

Mailing:

Books Tracking Systems:

A books tracking system has been developed through which the student using website can simply Enter his/her roll number and registration number to track the mailing package.

Automation of Mailing:

Timely mailing of course books to students has been a challenge especially with increasing enrolment every year. Thus on one hand a tracking system has been established and on the other hand automation of books mailing system is in process.

Examination:

SMS Alerts:

The University has been using the mailing services of Pakistan Post as well as TCS but still there were issues being reported for delayed information delivery. Now, the SMS intimation system is also being used for informing students regarding the workshops and examination alongside the traditional post.

Degree Tracking System:

A degree tracking system has been developed through which the student can now track the status of his/her degree.



Social Responsibility

Any educational organization and especially the universities play a vital role in improving social values and behaviors. Following are a few initiatives of the university that were taken to ensure that we play our part of social and civic responsibility.

Say no to Corruption Campaign

All regions and main campus started "Say No to Corruption" campaign by holding an awareness event, involving students and academicians. The event was arranged at the university's main campus for motivating people to help purging the society from menace of corruption. NAB Deputy Chairman was the chief guest on the occasion, who hoped the support from the educational institution will be a source of strength promoting the concept of good governance and developing a society free of corruption. Later a series of events have been organized in this regard.

Waiving Fee for Families of Martyrs

On the Defense Day celebrations Vice Chancellor announced waiver for children of all those who sacrificed their life during 'Zarb-e-Azb' operation against terrorists and extremists. This is in recognition of heroic sacrifices rendered by officers and jawans of armed forces for the national cause.

Centre for Chinese Language

To positively respond to China Economic Corridor project, the university has initiated a collaboration with YUMAN University, China. We believe in bringing the people of two countries closer to each other through language and culture support. We need to take benefit of towering Sino-Pak ties through maximum academic exchange programs. Thus a Chinese Language center has been inaugurated at AIOU.

Jail Education Program

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui during his meeting with Senior Superintendent Jail assured that the AIOU would launch a comprehensive educational plan for prisoners so that they could have a productive and respectable life after completing their imprisonment. The University will motivate the prisoners towards education through a massive awareness campaign at nation-wide level. The AIOU is only public-sector University in country which has been providing free education to prisoners for last many years. The current number of enrolled jailed students is over 300.

Campus Extension & Beautification

It needs no evidence that AIOU has a lovely and lively campus which is a combination of old and new architecture. Within past one year many new and ideal campus extension, beautification and security measures were taken:

Development of Welcome Home Lounge for Retired Faculty and Staff Members, **C**onstruction of Bachelor Staff Hostel At Main Campus **C**onstruction of Storage Hall For Examination Department at Main Campus, **C**onstruction of Storage Hall for Admission Department at Main Campus, **D**evelopment of Students Facilities at Gate Way Block, **R**aising of Boundary Wall at Regional Campuses, **I**nstallation of Barbed Wires and CCTV Cameras for Security Purposes, **S**ymmetrical Door Name Plates, **G**ymnasium

Dissemination of Information

For efficient dissemination of important information, following initiatives have been taken during the last one year:

Redesigning of Urdu Newsletter 'Jamia Nama'
Start of English Newsletter 'AIOU News & Views'
New Face Book Page 'Life at AIOU'
New Website of University

AIOU Collaboration with other Organizations

The University has established collaborations and undergone MOUs with national and international organizations of repute including:

OIC Arabic, HEC, PARWAN, San Jose State University USA, NIBAF, Brahui Academy Pakistan, Kongju National University, Korea, Sichuan University China, University of Salford UK, Dicle University Turkey, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University Riyadh KSA, Yunnan Open University of China, Pakistan Red Crescent Society Islamabad, NAB etc.



Admissions

Mailing

Examination

Live Media

Downloads

Alumni

Life at AIOU

Help Desk

Explore New Dimensions

MSc, MA, MEd
MCom
(2 years Programme offered through regular classes)
BS Programmes (04 years, Classes to be held at Islamabad only)
Commonwealth of Learning
MBA/MPA





Christmas Day Celebration in AIOU

Christian employees of AIOU celebrated Christmas Day by cutting cake and paying glowing tributes to Hazrat Esa (AS) for his message of love to humanity. Speakers at function including Registrar, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, Project Director Syd Attaullah Shah, Padri Safeer Akhtar and Shoukat Siddique of Living Branch Church called for spreading His message of forgiveness and affection VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui congratulated the Christian community on the Christmas Day, wishing them a happy life. He assured that the employees' welfare will remain his top priority. "We fully share their pleasures and happiness," he added.

From Page-1 National Conference

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui called for linking the research with the well-being of society. He called for qualitative paradigm of research in development of social sciences. The research, he emphasized said should be indigenous and local in nature. He also highlighted initiatives taken by AIOU for promoting research-based study.

At the concluding session, participants adopted a number of recommendations for social transformation through innovative and applied research. Concluding session was also addressed by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, VC Quaid-i-Azam University Dr. Javed Ashraf and VC Bhauddin Zakaria University, Multan Dr. Tahir Amin besides consultant of HEC Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Butt and Chairman of Council of Social Sciences Dr. Zareena Salamat.

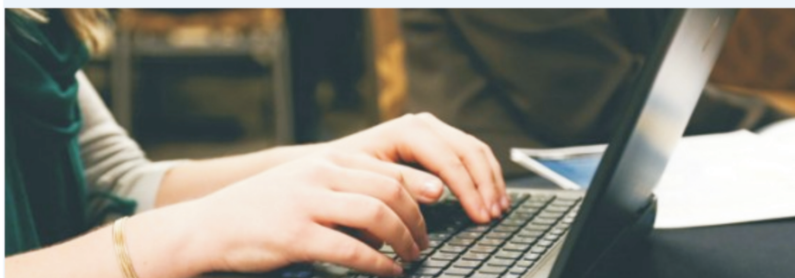
The recommendations presented by the conference's coordinator Dr. Amir Shah underlined the need of disseminating inter-regional, cultural, economic and social information among the learners to promote national integration.

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj said that more than 70 research papers were presented during the conference. Participants deliberated upon emerging trends in social sciences and called for developing institutional capacity to transfer the benefits of social sciences to society.

AIOU Plans online Academic Programmes

AIOU while maintaining its original character will gradually emerge as Electronic Open University, offering massive open online courses (MOOCs) and enhancing share of online academic programs. It aimed at facilitating thousands of its students, particularly those living abroad at their door-step on affordable fee structure.

Automated educational services and digital academic contents will be made available to students from basic Literacy to PhD level, said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while presiding over a briefing session on E-learning. The University has achieved another milestone by embarking upon on massive e-learning activities. AIOU will be the first one in the country adopting MOOCs system which has emerged as a popular mode of learning worldwide since 2012. The facility to be provided via web will have virtual class room, besides availability of online interactive study material. Entire learners' support system and continuous assessment will be web based and ICT mediated. Students will be able to submit their assignments through online as well. They will have regular interactive sessions with teachers by text chatting, video conferencing and desktop and white board sharing.



Initially online educational contents delivery facility is being offered to student of five academic programs. Main focus is on development of electronic contents, which is essential for online learning and it also required strong capacity building. A new overseas and e-learning website with its Urdu version is also being launched.

As important step forward, the University has started a process of capacity building training on e-content development and delivery to MPhil and PhD-level courses coordinators under the auspices of Directorate of Overseas Educational Programs and E-Learning (DOEP & EL). The Directorate of Overseas Educational Programs has already undertaken the task of expanding the services for overseas students.

New techniques for upgrading knowledge through E-learning

Some new techniques for upgrading scientific knowledge especially material modeling and simulation through E-learning were introduced at a seminar held at AIOU. It was organized by the University's department of Physics. While inaugurating the workshop, VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the University will arrange German-made most modern super computer within next couple of months to facilitate the researchers to equip themselves with latest scientific knowledge through newly developed software. The University is working on a plan to gradually move to E-learning and Online education to take advantage of latest technology. Universities should be known for constructing and creating knowledge and disseminating the same among the end users, Dr. Siddiqui added. Chairman Department of Physics Dr. Zafar Ilyas highlighted the objectives of the seminar.

Varsity develops E-Tutor training course material

AIOU has achieved a distinction of developing Self-Learning E-Tutor Training Course/material to promote online education. First training has been conducted at Regional Office Peshawar and tutors were briefed about E-Tutor Training Guide that is self learning explanatory document. With this, there will be no need of formal training instructor, venue and time limitation. The E-Tutor can access it through AIOU website with sign-in ID and password and would be able to complete this course on their own pace and time.



First-Ever Art & Photography Exhibition of AIOU Artists

First-ever three-day Art and Photographic exhibition held at University's main campus to showcase the best creative work by the University's artists.

It was inaugurated by the renowned literary figure and Chairman Pakistan Television Atta-ul-Haq Qasmi, who highly appreciated the artists' talents. Over 80 pieces of paintings and photographs were put on display. Principal National College of Arts Prof. Dr. Murtaza Jafari who was also present on the occasion praised the role of AIOU in cultural field and assured his support for launching Fine arts' programs.

VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the exhibition was aimed at identifying, recognizing and celebrating the caliber and talents of University's artists. It was also an attempt to promote and encourage new trends and developments in the field of art and culture. Such an event will be a regular future and the University will hold a larger exhibition next year. He hoped this will also be a source of encouragement for young artists. Besides the University's staff, students of fine-art from various institutions witnessed the artistic work which also included calligraphy inscribed with Quranic verses.

Dr. Siddiqui further said that they are in negotiation with NCA for its cooperation to start Fine Arts' classes. This will add diversity to their existing academic programs.

He lauded the creative work of the artists, hoping they will keep it up for achieving excellence in the relevant field. The artists whose work was put on display included Ijaz Ahmed, Faisal Azeem, Nasira Aqeel, Rabia Mukhtar, Khalid Javed Yousufi, Muhammad Shoaib, Mohsin Kazmi, Sadia Rahat Saeed and Shahnam Irshad Ahmed.

Director Institute of Education Technology Mukhtar Ahmed Talpur and Deputy Director Design Ijaz Ahmed gave an introduction of the exhibition.



Students from Sindh Madressatul Islam University visit AIOU

Students from Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) visited AIOU under national leadership program and acquainted themselves with working of the University. VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui briefed them about his vision and initiatives to develop the AIOU as a first-class global University. He told the delegation that AIOU registered highest number of students in its Autumn, 2015 Admissions, that reflected the trust and confidence, it enjoys among students of all ages. Around fifty students led by their VC Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh along with some Faculty members were taken around various departments including FM Radio, Central Library and Print Production Unit. The VC SMIU said they had started their ten-day leadership journey from AIOU and got highly impressed to see this institution rapidly growing under the leadership of Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. Dr. Siddiqui advised the students that they should adopt a clear and well-thought plan to make their journey of change successful.



New model of telecommuting internship

A new model of telecommuting internship for under-privileged students has been developed in collaboration with San Jose State University, USA.

It facilitates the students of far-flung regions to develop intentionally competitive academic projects through E-learning system. First-batch of successfully students was awarded certificates by VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui at a ceremony, which was also attended by visiting professors from San Jose State University. The students also gave presentation of their work on the occasion.

Dr. Siddiqui hoped that new model, developed by the University's Department of Computer Science will provide strong academic support to students of less-developed regions. The US State-Funded telecommuting internship was part of Pakistan Distance Education Enhancement' project that was undertaken by two Universities in cooperation of BEL Pakistan Ltd. Project Director Prof. Mark Adams appreciated students' keen interest in their research-based study.



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