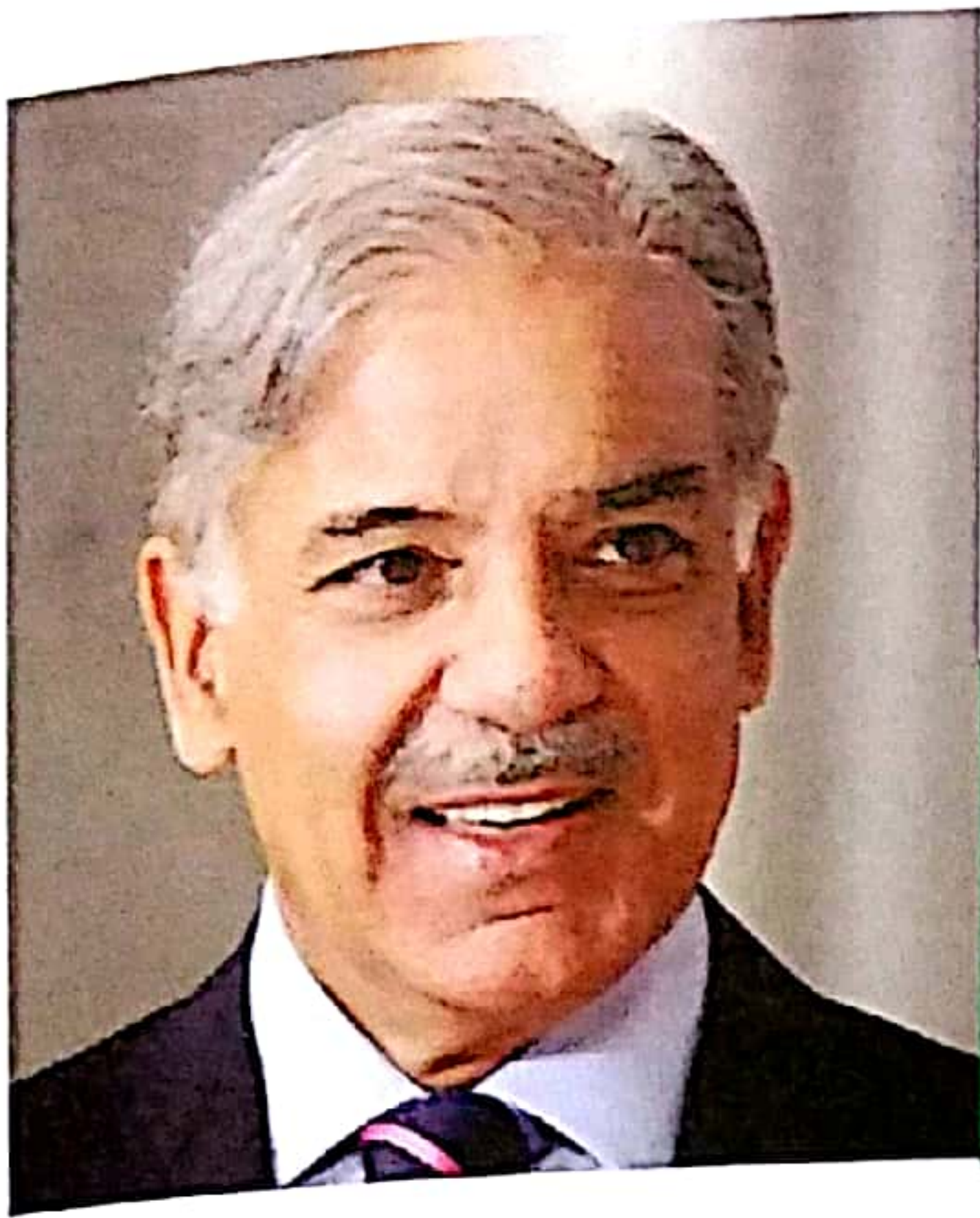


Punjab Higher Education Commission Progress Report, 2015



Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC)
10th Floor, Arfa Software Technology Park,
346-B, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, Pakistan



Message from Chief Minister, Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

The era we are living in is an era of knowledge. The role of knowledge has come to be identified as an engine of growth and a factor of production. Hence the buzzword of 'knowledge economies' has gained currency in the development literature. In today's world, knowledge provides the foundation-stone on which edifice of society has been erected. Therefore, for developing countries like Pakistan to be able to break straitjacket of poverty, and under-development, policy focus on higher education becomes the topmost national imperative and a priority.

I am proud that the Government of Punjab has risen to the challenge and fulfilled its promise of promoting higher education in the province through the establishment of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The formation of PHEC was included in the Medium-Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2014-17.

The newly formed PHEC is a supportive body for strengthening higher education in the province. As per the 26 prescribed functions, the Commission would undertake various programs aimed at promotion of higher education in the province. This calls for bringing about reforms in the higher education sector to address the challenge in entirety.

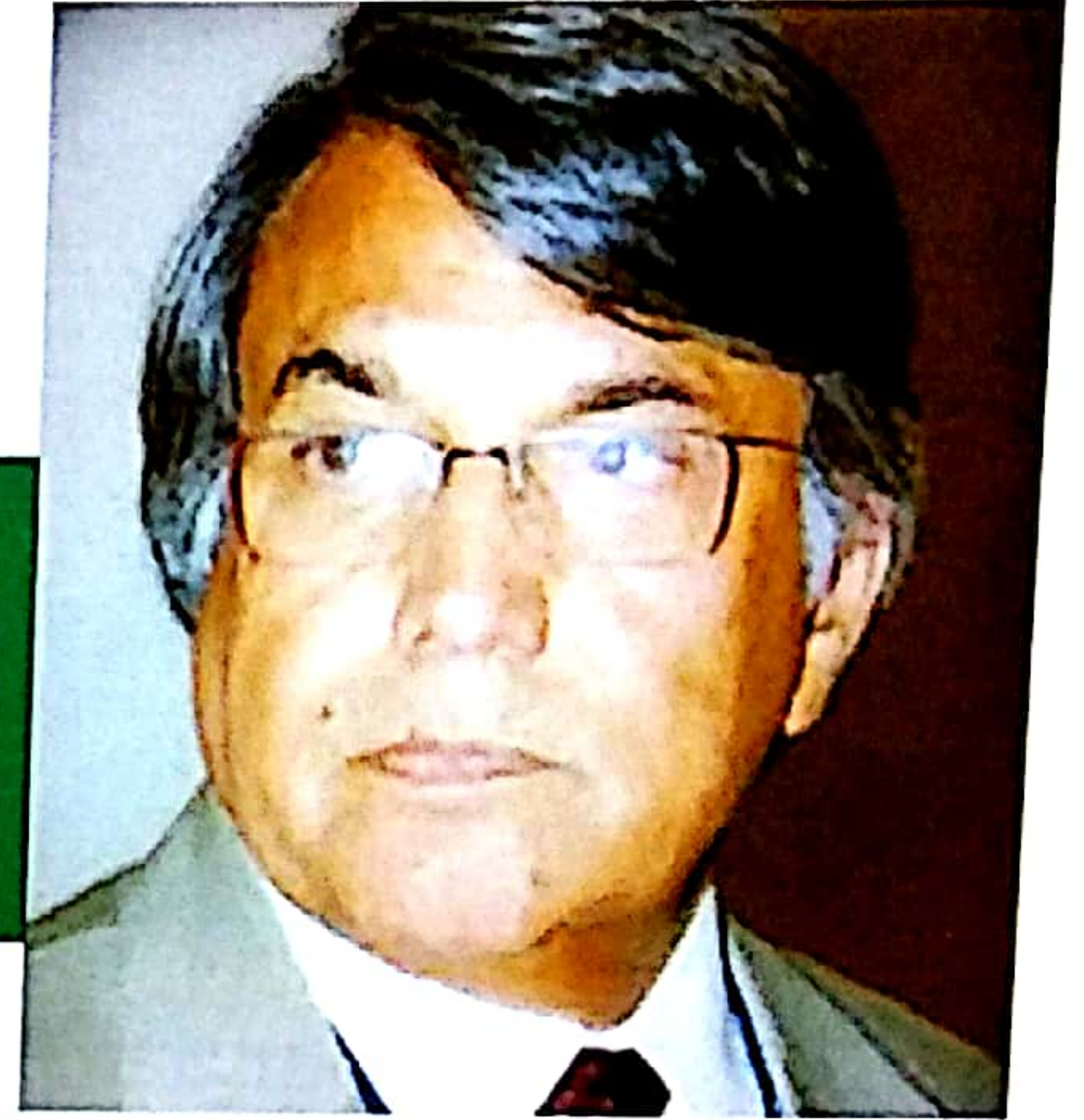
Our education system suffers from problems of quality and access coupled with absence of linkages between academia and industry. There is a pronounced focus on traditional and general education with little consideration for the requirements of our economy and industry. At the same time, the problem is further exacerbated by lack of educational institutions' focus on research and development (R&D), which are the most essential component of any reform program to succeed in the education sector.

I hope PHEC will enforce reforms in a more effective and proactive way to improve quality and standards of higher education and research in the province keeping in view local needs. Special attention will be paid towards increasing equitable access to higher education with special focus on remote/far-flung areas of the province. The linkages of industry and community with higher education institutions represent an area that needs to be strengthened.

I am pleased to learn that various UN agencies and international organizations are already collaborating with PHEC and other provincial governments are also contacting it for policy input. It is a matter of satisfaction that PHEC and the institutions of higher learning are collaborating for promotion of research and quality education.

My government will extend all-out support to PHEC to bring about radical shift in the higher education sector in Punjab by bringing provincial higher education institutions at par with international standards. My commitment to promotion of education, entrepreneurship and innovation remains unwavering.

**Message from Chairperson, PHEC
Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin (S.I)**



The recently established Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) is geared towards building a prosperous and skilled Punjab through providing quality higher education compatible with the imperatives of knowledge economy.

While the higher education system in Punjab has witnessed significant expansion and progress over the past decades, there are some fundamental issues that need to be addressed. Access to education in Pakistan stands at a dismal 9-11 %; lack of trained faculty, non-relevance of university research towards socio-economic needs of the province and low priority to college education are some of the other challenges that have seeped into the system. Transformational and innovative interventions across different levels of the higher education sector are the need of the hour.

With the passing of historic 18th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan and devolution of higher education to the provinces, PHEC is in a strong position to address these crucial matters. It is committed to strengthening existing assets and introducing new initiatives to bring higher education at par with modern needs. Increasing equitable access is a top priority of PHEC along with improving academic standards, focusing on research relevant to the socio-economic needs of the province and introducing mandatory faculty development programs to improve teaching standards. PHEC also aims to support the province's economic agenda by creating a job-ready and employable workforce through increased focus on imparting structural and technical skills by establishing community colleges and reviving the culture of reading.

I strongly believe that higher education is the single best investment we can make in our future and hence PHEC is committed to uplifting the higher education sector in Punjab.

Summary

- Establishment of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) by the Chief Minister Punjab and appointment of Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin (S.I) as the first Chairperson.
- Notification of a 17-member Commission by the Chief Minister/Controlling Authority of PHEC - Four meetings of the Commission held during the year for approval of important matters pertaining to PHEC including
 - Program Initiatives and Budget Requirements for FY 2015-16
 - Statutes for Recruitment and Service Conditions of Officers & Employees 2015
 - Working papers on various policy aspects of higher education being developed by PHEC staff
 - Recommendations of the Accreditation Committee
- Grant of Rs. 700 million approved for the FY 2015-16 by the Chief Minister
- Signed a Letter of Agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) – Pakistan through which UNDP agreed to assist in strengthening the recently established PHEC. Organized in collaboration with UNDP funding of Rs. 2 million and Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) the following events:
 - Media Courses on Decentralized Development Governance
 - Inter provincial Forum on Higher Education
 - Launching Ceremony of PHEC
- Contacted other key development partners such as DFID, British Council, USAID, UNFPA and UNICEF to explore possible funding and technical assistance for PHEC program initiatives for higher education
- Processed 21 development schemes worth Rs. 27 billion listed in the Punjab Annual Development Budget (ADP) 2015-16 and submitted to the Planning & Development (P&D) Department for further processing
- Organized the first Accreditation Committee constituted under the PHEC Act 2014 (1 of 15) and finalized process to review applications for university charters and addition of new faculties/disciplines received to date and those expected in future
- Processed the Chief Minister's Foreign Faculty Development Program in collaboration with the British Council for which the Chief Minister has allocated Rs. 200 million for FY 2015-16
- Held first ever meeting with the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of the 24 provincially chartered private sector universities regarding quality assurance and developing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Held periodic meetings with the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of 27 public sector universities regarding quality assurance, security concerns, public private partnership initiatives, academia/industry linkages, promotion of research culture etc.
- Developed detailed plans with the British Council for training of Vice Chancellors of universities and Principals of colleges and technical assistance for developing a Road Map for reforms in the higher education sector of Punjab
- Signed MoUs with
 - UNDP for assistance in strengthening the recently established PHEC (Rs. 2 million)
 - American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) regarding a Community College Development Program.
 - China/Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Chinese language and culture
 - BZU, COMSATS and University of Education for assistance in setting up Faculty Development Academies.
 - Institute of Career Development (Authorized Centre of Cambridge English) – University of Cambridge UK regarding teacher training.

Establishment of PHEC

Following the implementation of 18th Constitutional Amendment and abolition of Concurrent Legislative List, seventeen Ministries including Ministry of Education was devolved to the provinces, with the subject to be managed through the provinces own institutional arrangements. Consequently, the Chief Minister of Punjab announced the formation of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) in 2013 and it was included in the Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2014-17. In March 2014, the Chief Minister formed a VCs Committee to develop a "Future Road Map of Higher Education". Recommendations of the VCs Committee included the establishment of PHEC as an autonomous body to cater to growing needs of higher education sector of Punjab.

- The Governor of Punjab promulgated an Ordinance establishing PHEC in October 2014 and the Ordinance was converted into an Act in January 2015. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Gujrat, was appointed as the first Chairperson of PHEC in December 2014. A seventeen member Commission of educationists, lawmakers, members from civil society, Chamber of Commerce and Industry was approved by the Chief Minister, Punjab/Controlling Authority of PHEC on 13th April, 2015

PHEC Highlights of 2015

In the year since its inception, PHEC has been working steadily towards realizing its mission of building a prosperous Punjab by supporting higher education institutions in providing quality education. Some of the highlights of the year for PHEC are as follows:

Inauguration of PHEC by the Chief Minister Punjab

The Inauguration ceremony of the PHEC was held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on May 17, 2015. The Honorable Chief Minister Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif graced the occasion as Chief Guest and formally inaugurated the PHEC.

Education Minister Punjab Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan, Secretary Higher Education Department Punjab Irum Bukhari, Commission members of the Punjab HEC, Vice Chancellors/ Rectors and Deans of almost all public and private universities, Principals of several colleges, Ministers, MPAs, educationists, CPNE President Mujib-urRehman Shami, Secretary General CPNE Dr. Jabbar Khattak, senior journalists, editors, government officials and various other eminent personalities were also present on the occasion.



1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Meeting of the PHEC Commission

During the year 2015, PHEC held four meetings of the PHEC Commission in order to regularly update members regarding PHEC progress, gather their opinion on educational policy matters being formulated by PHEC and acquire their approval for important matters pertaining to PHEC including:

- PHEC Work Plan
- PHEC Budget
- Statutes for Recruitment of and Service Conditions of Officers and Employees 2015
- Recommendations of the Accreditation Committee
- Recruitment of first batch of PHEC Staff



PHEC Work Plan Initiatives

For its work plan, PHEC carried out a desk review based on available HEC, HED, Punjab Bureau of Statistics, World Bank reports and consultations with academicians, researchers on the status of higher education in Punjab. In order to address the challenges identified and in accordance with the functions enunciated in PHEC Act, a program of special initiatives, listed below was developed which was endorsed by the Commission members during the first meeting held on 3rd June, 2015

1. Faculty Development Program through foreign and indigenous scholarships (PhDs, Post Docs,) in colleges and universities

There is an acute shortage of PhD faculty in the province. To meet the current shortfall and in order to bring the student/faculty ratio to about 1:30 at least 5000+ PhD faculty members are required in Punjab. To address this need, PHEC will offer foreign and indigenous PhD scholarships as well as Post Doc scholarships to faculty members in colleges and universities. Upon their return, these scholars will supervise students enrolled in indigenous PhD programs and thus augment the PhD faculty number.

2. Research Grant program for Universities and Colleges

There is an absence of research culture in colleges. In universities too there is limited relevant research being conducted. There are hardly any meaningful linkages among academia, industry, society and government. Establishing and promoting a competitive research culture is the need of the hour in order for higher education in Punjab to meet national and international standards. For this purpose, PHEC will initiate robust, well-funded research programs to help address issues related to hi-priority areas of the province such as livestock, agriculture, energy, social sciences, arts and humanities. In order to promote research in HEIs, PHEC will make provisions for providing research grants and Policy Research Studies Grants - Investigative Studies.



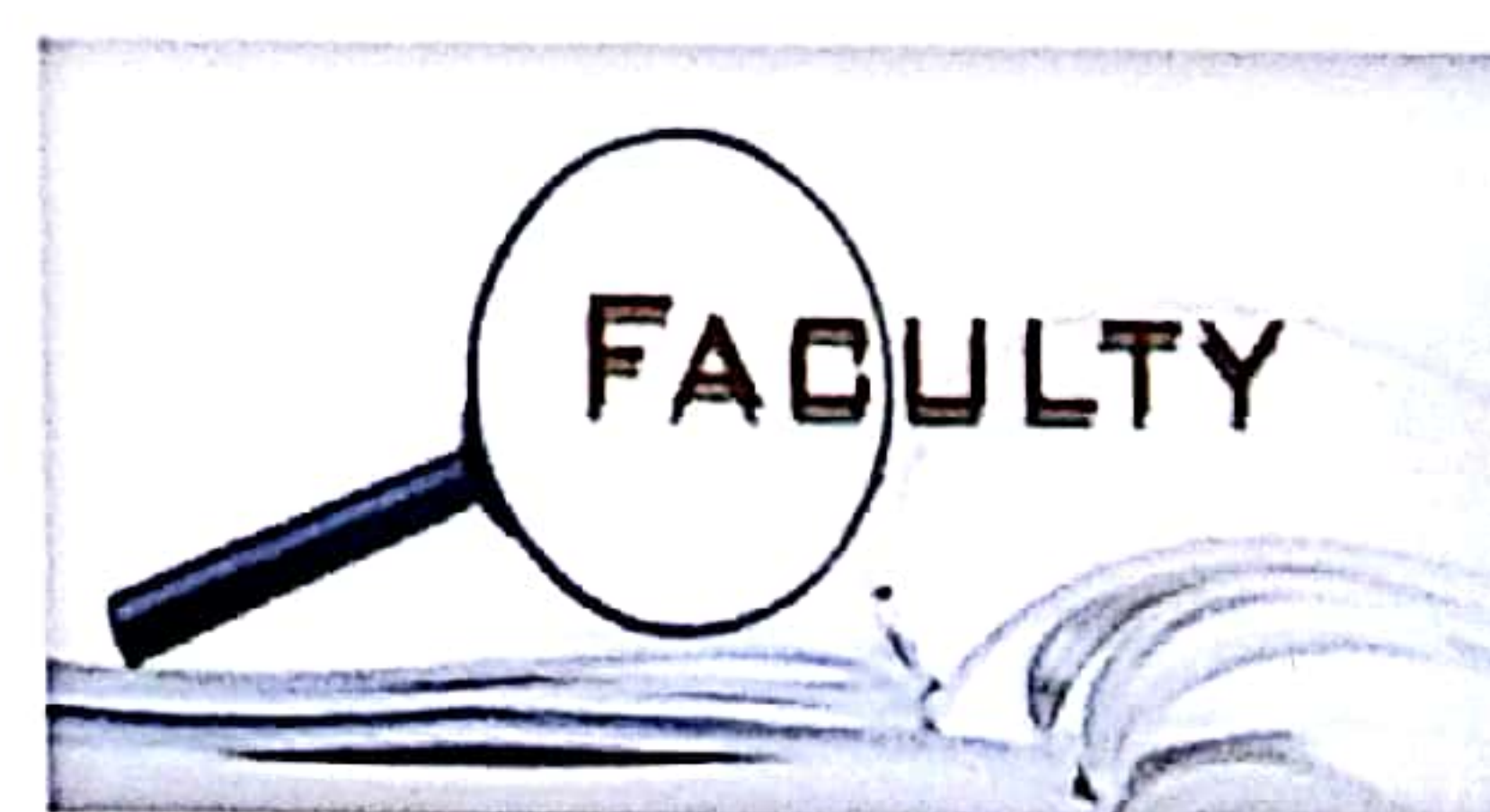
3. Travel & Training Grants for Workshops, Seminars, Conferences, Exhibitions

In order to improve the research and teaching skills of college and university faculty members and to equip them with required knowledge mandatory for degree awarding institutions engaged in research, PHEC will fund travel & training grants for workshops, seminars, conferences, exhibitions. These activities will help in:

- i. Providing international exposure to faculty in order to keep them updated on international trends
- ii. Having issues addressed on a specific topic by recognized experts who are up to date with the latest developments in the field
- iii. Disseminating research findings in order to promote research culture in the HEIs in Punjab
- iv. Allowing for exchanges of ideas and experiences

4. Establishment of Faculty Training Academies

Presently there is no specialized institution that provides formal training to incoming faculty in colleges and universities to prepare them for the rigors of their chosen vocation. Furthermore, existing teaching faculty in universities and colleges do not undergo regular refresher courses to keep them updated regarding evolving teaching tools.



PHEC has proposed to fill this gap through the Establishment of Faculty Development Academies in three centers of Punjab - Southern Punjab (Multan), Lahore and Rawalpindi. Ultimately, these will be purpose-built residential campuses that will:

- Conduct training at the pre-service level
- Hold refresher courses to update existing faculty members on new, evolving and effective pedagogical teaching techniques and developments in the disciplines

These training programs will be made mandatory for all pre-service faculty members and promotion of existing faculty will be conditional upon successful completion of training.

5. Punjab Digital Library: Revival of Culture of Reading

Students, teachers and the general public in Punjab require access to updated peer-reviewed information and digitized knowledge to function in a globalized economy. There is also a dire need to revive the culture of reading in the province.

The Punjab Digital Library project will provide access to a central repository for digital contents at PHEC including subscription of databases/e-books/digital material and IT equipment etc. to universities, colleges, schools, public libraries, public parks, mobile libraries for which equipment will be provided such as Hi-speed internet, Content Server & Wi-Fi Hotspot, Projector, IP Camera, Solar Charging and 5 tablets.



6. Placement of Graduates

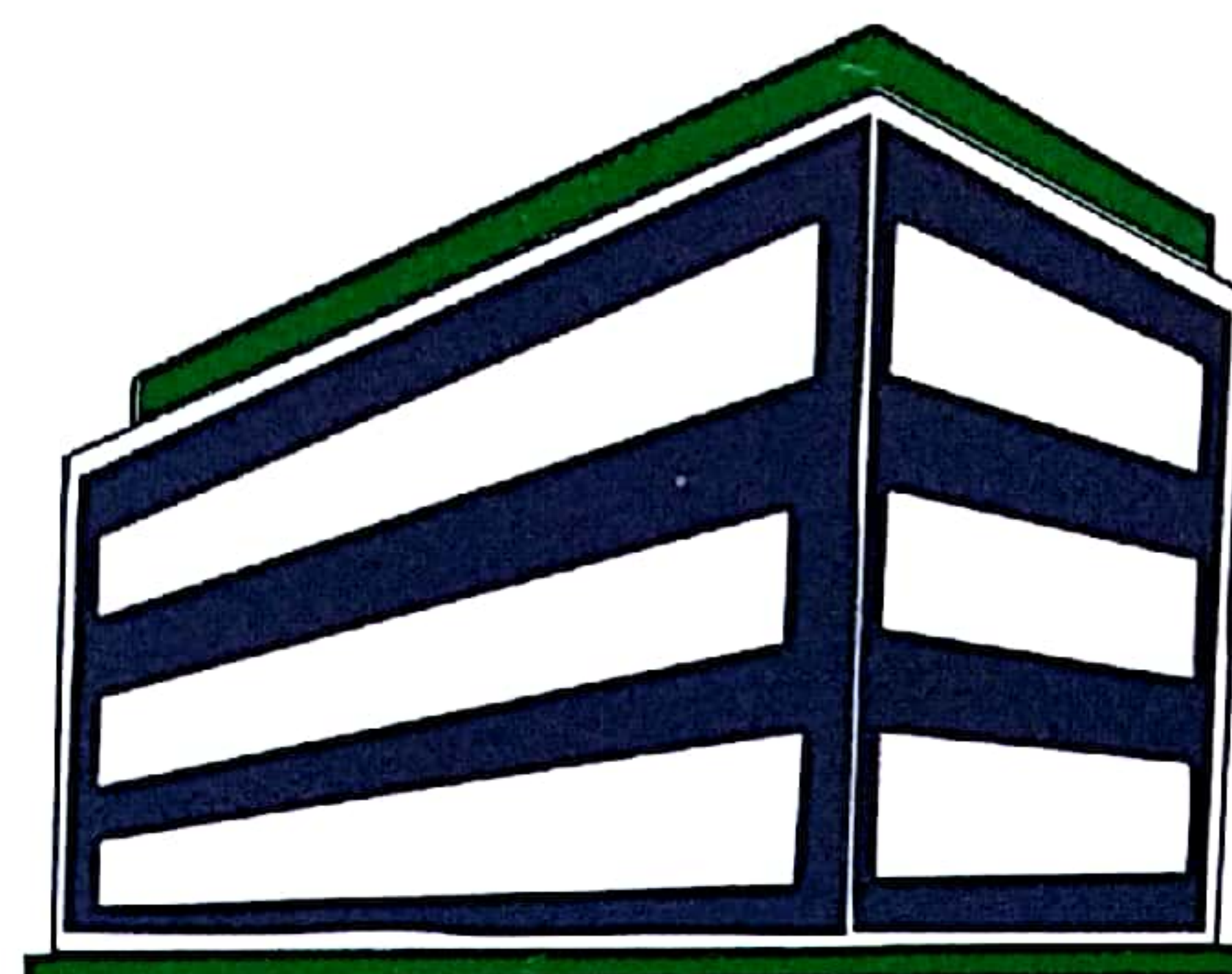
In order to strengthen academic training with practical experience of the market and industry, fresh graduates shall be offered paid internships for 9-12 months to enhance their possibility for employment. They will be facilitated and placed in jobs relevant to their areas of specializations to explore careers of their choice.



7. Community Colleges

The traditional 2-year bachelor's degree in colleges offer limited to no marketable skills due to outdated curricula which has not been revised to meet the needs of a growing knowledge economy, absence of qualified teachers and inadequate infrastructure (labs etc.)

Community Colleges will offer a variety of career-oriented 4 year Associate Degree program after secondary school education (Matriculation) such as IT Management, Finance and Accounting, Graphic/Web Designing, Media and Production, Fashion/Textile Designing, Food and Nutrition, Paralegal, Hotel Management etc. A successful model already in operation is that of the 4 year degree program offered at Home Economics Colleges, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar after secondary school education.



8. Establishment of University of Technology and Applied Sciences & University of Allied Health Sciences and Paramedics

Many talented students are deprived from admissions in, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, etc. in higher education institutions due to limited seats. Over 45,000 students appeared for the Engineering Admissions Test in 2014 for 4000 seats and over 36,000 for 3600 seats for the Medical Admissions Test. Students who are unable to secure admission in these fields have no option except to join HEIs for B.A. / B.Sc./BS degrees where they study conventional subjects.

With the establishment of these universities, this huge chunk of student population can be provided career opportunities in their chosen area of interest by learning advanced skills in professional and technical disciplines.



9. PHEC Education Policy & Research Cell

In order to direct educational policy and properly execute projects/initiatives, it is imperative to make rational projections based on reliable statistical data. To this end, PHEC will establish an Education Policy & Research Cell focused on surveying colleges/universities' functioning in Punjab and based on the data analysis will:

- Publish Annual Report on the State of Higher Education in Punjab
- Produce Working Papers on various aspects of higher education
- Recommend policy changes to bring about quality education, governance and management reforms in higher education



PHEC Program Budget (2015-16) of Rs. 700 million Approved



With the approval of the Commission regarding the PHEC program initiatives, the Chairperson accordingly held several meetings with the Secretaries of the Departments of Higher Education, Finance and Planning & Development regarding the budget of the PHEC. At their suggestions PHEC budget was reduced from an initial amount of Rs. 4.2 billion to Rs. 700 million for the year 2015-16. This supplementary grant was approved by the Chief Minister for PHEC to begin addressing critical needs of the education sector while preparing for a comprehensive program on budgetary requirements to be included in the ADP 2016-17 and beyond.

Recruitment of Professional PHEC Secretariat Staff

In order to implement the PHEC program initiatives, there was a dire need to hire professional staff equipped with the required knowledge and experience as since its inception PHEC had been working with a limited staff of 3-4 persons on deputation from the universities and government of Punjab. To this end, following the approval of its recruitment Statutes, PHEC hired its management team and administrative staff, including 6 Program Managers/Directors (3 on deputation), 1 Deputy Program Manager/Deputy Director and 5 Assistant Program Manager/Assistant Directors through an open and competitive process to handle different portfolios including Academics and Research, Administration, Human Resource Development, Monitoring & Evaluation, Quality Assurance and Planning and Development.

Letter of Agreement between UNDP and PHEC



PHEC signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at a ceremony held at the PHEC Headquarters at Arfa Software Technology Park on May 11, 2015. UNDP agreed to provide assistance in strengthening the recently established PHEC and provide support in drafting, reviewing, and incorporating international best practices in higher education in the province of Punjab. Through this agreement UNDP also provided funding to PHEC for organizing an inter provincial forum on higher education and organize a media course on decentralized development governance.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizammuddin, Chairperson Punjab HEC while Marc Andre Franche, Country Director UNDP was the guest of honor. The event was attended by the recently appointed Commission members of the PHEC, Vice Chancellors of public and private sector universities, leading academicians, educationists, senior journalists and government officials.



Chief Minister Balochistan, inaugurates the Inter provincial Forum on Higher Education held at PHEC

PHEC organized an Interprovincial Forum on Higher Education with the collaboration of UNDP on strengthening participatory federalism and decentralization on May 17, 2015 at Arfa Software Technology Park, Lahore. The chief guest, Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch lauded the efforts of Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin for elevating higher education standards in the Punjab and his support and cooperation to promote higher education in the country.

Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan (Education Minister Punjab), Sardar Raza Muhammad (Advisor for Education to CM Balochistan), Abul Saboor Kakar (Secretary Education Balochistan), Mr. Nasarullah Zere (MPA Baluchistan), Commission members of the PHEC, Vice Chancellors/Rectors of various Universities, Principals of several colleges, Deans, educationists, Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami (CPNE President), senior journalists, editors, government officials and various other eminent personalities also participated.



Senator Raza Rabbani Keynote Speaker at CPNE Media Training Workshop



PHEC in collaboration with the UNDP-Pakistan and the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) held a two day media training workshop on decentralization of powers to the federating units in the wake of 18th amendment. Raza Rabbani, Chairman Pakistan Senate, was the key-note speaker at the media conference

The workshop was focused on appraising people associated with the newspaper industry about devolution of power at the grassroots level.



Education Policy Working Papers Drafted

In order to address various critical issues relating to the higher education sector in Punjab, PHEC developed policy papers identifying gaps in the prevailing systems and offering solutions to bring about required changes. Some of the important policy papers developed include:

1. Summary for the Chief Secretary on the constitutional status of PHEC in light of the 18th Amendment for the CCI Meeting
2. Proposal for the Chief Minister to revise university governance and management structure by creating additional positions for pro-Vice Chancellors in public sector universities of Punjab – initially in the following 3 PVC positions:
 - Academics, Research & Development
 - Administration, Finance & Operations
 - Student Affairs, Admissions & Examinations
3. Development of KPIs for the assessment of the performance of public sector Vice Chancellors of Punjab.
4. Universities World Ranking: Situation Analysis for Pakistani Universities.
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Punjab Government ADP Schemes for public sector universities worth Rs. 27 billion processed

An important responsibility assigned to PHEC by the government of Punjab was the processing and management of approved/unapproved schemes listed in the Annual Development Program of Punjab (ADP). PHEC formulated a Technical Review Committee (TRC) for this purpose comprising technical and financial experts. The TRC held various meetings with the respective university representatives including several Vice Chancellors, to discuss every individual case and provided substantive and technical comments to be incorporated in the draft PC-1 documents or proposals. 21 development schemes (PC-1s), listed below, worth Rs. 27 billion have been processed to date for approval by the P&D Department, Punjab.



Sr.#	Title of Project	Estimated Cost (in Million)
01	Extension of Building of Bahadur Sub Campus of BZU at Layyah	352.613
02	Up graduation of newly converted college into Women University, Govt. College for Women Madina Town, Faisalabad	154.520
03	Establishment of University of Gujrat (Phase - I & II Revised)	3458.358
04	Establishment of Women University at Sialkot	146.504
05	Establishment of University of Sahiwal	1000.000
06	Establishment of Women University at Multan	105.797
07	Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) for Ghazi University at D.G Khan	44.459
08	Establishment of Women University at Bahawalpur	43.044
09	Establishment of Khawaja Farid University of Engineering and Information Technology (UEIT) R.Y. Khan	3847.782
10	Establishment of Punjab University Sub-Campus at Chakwal	900.000
11	Establishment of Sub-Campus of UET Taxila at PD Khan	345.270
12	Construction of Building of Engineering College of University of Sargodha	1,000.000

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12	Construction of Building of Engineering College of University of Sargodha	1,000.000

Sr.#	Title of Project	Estimated Cost (in Million)
13	Establishment of Govt. College University, Faisalabad Sub Campus at Jaranwala, District Faisalabad	1,000.000
14	Establishment of University of Jhang	1,000.000
15	Establishment of Sub-Campus of G.C University, Faisalabad at Toba Tek Singh	1,000.000
16	Construction of Building of Women University, Sialkot on Acquired piece of land at Sialkot	2,000.000
17	Construction of Building of Sub Campus of GC University at Kala Shah Kaku	2,000.000
18	Construction of Building of Sub Campus of Lahore College for Women University at Kala Shah Kaku	2,000.000
19	Establishment of University of Okara	2,000.000
20	Establishment of Sub Campus of BZU at Vehari	2,000.000
21	Construction of Building of Ghazi University at D.G Khan	2,000.000

First ever meeting with 24 private sector Universities organized

PHEC organized a meeting with the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of 24 provincially chartered private sector universities operating in Punjab pertaining to quality assurance. The meeting was chaired by the Education Minister, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan who appreciated the immense contribution of the private sector towards higher education in the past three decades.

During the discussion, four factors were identified as necessary for maintaining high standards of education; quality of admitted students, quality of faculty, a cutting-edge innovative curriculum and state-of-the-art physical/technological/learning infrastructure. Issues relating to private sector universities such as establishment of sub-campuses and addition of new faculties without obtaining explicit approval from the Patron/ Governor of Punjab were also discussed. It was agreed that in order to enhance coordination frequent meetings with the senior management of the private sector should be held to address issues/concerns at both ends.

Meetings with public sector universities

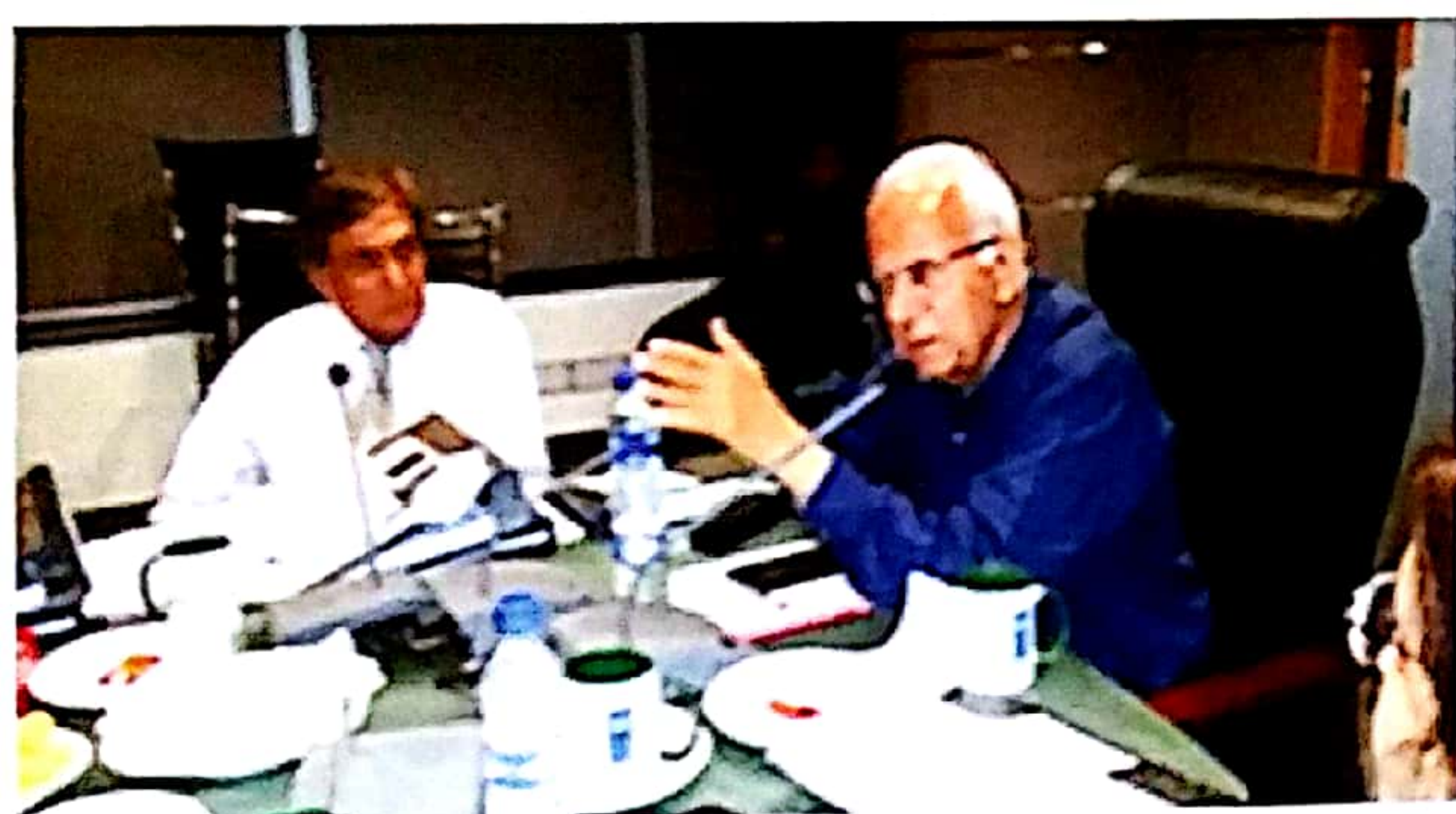
PHEC arranged periodic meetings with the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of the 27 provincially chartered public sector universities to discuss various matters related to the universities including quality assurance, security issues and public/private partnership for setting up sub-campuses.

Meeting of the Accreditation Committee



The first meeting of the Accreditation Committee, established under the Punjab Higher Education Commission Act 2014 (1 of 15), was held on August 21, 2015.

During the meeting, the Accreditation Committee finalized process to review applications for university charters and addition of new faculties/disciplines received to date and those expected in future. It was decided that the PHEC Secretariat will review all applications to examine if they have complete documentation fulfilling all the Punjab Government requirements. A sub-committee will be constituted, comprising one member from the Accreditation Committee and 2-3 subject experts in the relevant field to be assigned by the PHEC, to visit the institutions and submit reports to the Accreditation Committee with their recommendations. Based on the feedback provided, the Accreditation Committee will then make its recommendations to the PHEC for final approval.



Visits to UCP AND UMT by the sub-committees Constituted by the Accreditation Committee

Following requests received for addition of faculties by the University of Central Punjab (UCP) and University of Management and Technology (UMT) two sub-committee were constituted to visit the institutions and submit reports to the Accreditation Committee with their recommendations. Each sub-committee was headed by a member of the Accreditation Committee who was also a member of the PHEC Commission. Other members included senior academicians and subject experts in the relevant field. These sub-committee reports were presented to the Accreditation Committee and were approved for implementation.

Chief Minister's Foreign Faculty Development Program

The Higher Education Department transferred the Chief Minister's Foreign Faculty Program to Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Lahore for its execution. For this program Rs. 200.00 million have been allocated apart from Rs. 66.3 million already available with the British Council.

PHEC immediately started working in coordination with the Higher Education Department,

British Council and Directorate of Public Instruction (DPI) Colleges Punjab for initial scrutiny of applications. PHEC constituted a Committee for short listing and conducting interviews of the program applicants and a Steering Committee to oversee all matters related to the Foreign Faculty Development Program.

The Committee held several meetings to scrutinize and shortlist the candidates. 97 college faculty members applied for scholarships for September 2015, January 2016 and September 2016 sessions in top 300 QS world ranking universities. After scrutiny of the record the Committee interviewed various candidates and submitted its recommendation to the Steering Committee for its approval.

Selection of Vice Chancellors for public sector universities

Chairperson PHEC, Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin served as Member of the VC Search Committee that finalized 7 out of the 10 Vice Chancellor positions in the first round and 4 Vice Chancellors in the second round for public sector universities in Punjab.

During the second cycle, PHEC Secretariat in partnership with HED vetted the applications to ensure that all candidates meet the minimum eligibility criteria advertised in national newspapers.

Presentation to the Governor Punjab

The Chairperson, Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin met with the Governor of Punjab to apprise him regarding the PHEC initiatives for uplifting the higher education sector. He also made a presentation to the Governor relating to university rankings, the indicators used by different agencies for rankings, reasons why Pakistani universities are falling short and means by which they can rank higher.

Participation in events relating to Higher Education

The Chairperson, Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin participated in numerous events relating to academic activities in higher education. He participated in the Convocations of the following universities:

- Forman Christian College, Lahore
- Virtual University, Sialkot
- University of Central Punjab, Lahore
- University of Education, Lahore
- UET, Lahore
- UET, Taxila
- University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

He also attended as Chief Guest several conferences at University of the Punjab, University of Gujrat, LUMS, UMT, University of Health Sciences, GCU Lahore, Lahore College Women University, ITU-Punjab, media events and education expos etc. Additionally he served as active member of various committees set up by the Chief Minister including selection of senior staff of TEVTA (Board of Technical Education)

MoU with Pakistan Institute of American Studies



PHEC signed an agreement with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) for organizing workshops in the area of community colleges where AIPS will invite prominent US Community Colleges Administrators to lead workshops in Lahore where selected colleagues from Punjab would attend the sessions. A selected group of trainees would also be invited to US community colleges for professional meetings and exposure under a three year community college grant funding program.

AIPS will also encourage and facilitate partnerships between HEIs from Punjab and AIPS - member universities in USA including but not limited to faculty exchange, student exchange, split degree, collaborative research, video conferencing etc.

MoU between PHEC & the Culture and Education Department of Chinese Overseas Exchange Association



An agreement was signed between PHEC and the Culture and Education Department of Chinese Overseas Exchange Association for the period of three years to cooperate in the education as well as cultural sector. The agreement includes:

- Setting up a language and cultural communication center in PHEC.
- Providing Chinese language teachers training by the Culture and Education Department of Chinese Overseas Exchange Association to Punjab teachers.
- Involving Punjab youth in the Chinese Culture Summer Camp.

MoUs for establishment of Faculty Academies

PHEC signed MoUs with COMSATS (Rawalpindi), BZU (Multan) and University of Education (Lahore) to facilitate setting up faculty academies which is one of the planned initiatives of PHEC. All three universities have agreed to provide:

- Office space at their respective campuses
- Technical support to PHEC's Initiative for faculty/staff training

MoU with Institute of Career Development



PHEC and Institute of Career Development (Authorized Centre of Cambridge English) - University of Cambridge UK ICD signed an agreement of cooperation which will be carried out in three phases. In the first phase ICD provided complimentary teacher trainings to the teachers of colleges and universities of Punjab including resource persons, training material and other logistical support. In future phases ICD will setup Cambridge English Access Centers in the HEIs of Punjab to offer Cambridge qualifications, trainings and professional support.

Future PHEC Plans and Requirements

PHEC's plans for future include addressing the challenges of improving quality, enhancing access, creating relevance of education with provincial and national needs. In order to accomplish these goals initiatives, the PHEC will require support from the government of Punjab in the following:

- Allocation of an annual budget that will be required to execute initiatives in its true spirit to have the required impact.
- Transfer of all academic, research, training and policy functions of the higher education institutions to the Commission as per PHEC Act.
- Transfer of funds and functions of development projects of colleges and universities to the Commission as per PHEC Act.



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