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PUNJAB HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



Advancing Punjab's Higher Education Landscape: A Vision for Excellence and Innovation

As I undertake the esteemed position of Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), I am deeply honored and fully aware of the significant responsibility it entails. I am sincerely grateful for the trust bestowed upon me, and I eagerly look forward to foster collaboration and facilitate the needs of all higher education institutions, to build upon the substantial progress already achieved in the field of higher education. While acknowledging the notable advancements made by the Punjab higher education system thus far, my aspiration is to drive it towards even greater heights.

Education, as the bedrock of a progressive and prosperous society, holds immense significance, and I firmly believe that the PHEC plays a pivotal role in transforming the educational landscape of Punjab. As Chairperson, I bring forth a vision that is ambitious and forward-looking, seeking to effect positive change and chart new horizons within this domain.

Foremost among my priorities as Chairperson of the PHEC is ensuring equitable access to quality education for every student in Punjab. To realize this goal, we will place particular emphasis on promoting and encouraging applied research and innovation. This entails actively supporting and facilitating research initiatives that hold practical implications and can contribute to societal progress. By providing the necessary resources, funding, and fostering a supportive ecosystem, we aim to cultivate a vibrant culture of exploration and discovery within the academic community.

Furthermore, we will concentrate on promoting academic excellence by implementing measures that enhance the quality of education offered by universities and colleges. Through investments in faculty development programs and state-of-the-art infrastructure, we will foster an environment conducive to intellectual growth and the cultivation of a genuine passion for learning.

Recognizing the significance of equipping our graduates with the practical skills demanded by the global economy, we will collaborate closely with universities and colleges to design curriculum frameworks that integrate theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience. This may involve forging partnerships with industries, providing internships and cooperative programs, thereby granting students real-world exposure and opportunities to apply their learning in practical settings. By prioritizing the development of practical skills, our aim is to produce graduates who are well-prepared to excel in their chosen professions and make meaningful contributions to the workforce.

Thus our comprehensive strategy embraces a holistic approach that emphasizes collaboration, innovation, academic excellence, and the cultivation of practical skills. Through close engagement with universities, colleges, and other stakeholders, we aspire to create a robust higher education system that equips individuals for success in the global economy while propelling research and innovation to new frontiers.

While acknowledging the challenges that lie ahead, I am confident that together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes. I eagerly look forward to working closely with all of you, fostering positive change in higher education institutions, and ensuring that our students receive the best possible education and the necessary support to thrive in their personal and professional lives.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir
Chairperson,
Punjab Higher Education Commission

Charting a Bold Future for Higher Education in Punjab: Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's Vision and Leadership

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, a seasoned academician and scholar, recently assumed the role of Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The PHEC was established in 2014, to promote and regulate higher education in Punjab. Since its inception, the commission has made significant developments in improving the quality of higher education in the province. Dr. Shahid's vision for PHEC is ambitious and forward-looking. He aims to build on the progress made by the commission in the last few years and take it to new heights.

Dr. Shahid Munir, who holds a PhD in Energy and Environment Engineering from the University of Leeds, brings a wealth of experience in higher education to his new role at the Punjab Higher Education Commission. With an impressive academic background, he has made significant contributions as a professor and researcher at the University of Punjab. Throughout his career, he has held leadership positions in various academic institutions, further enriching his understanding of the higher education landscape. Prior to joining the PHEC, Dr. Shahid Munir served as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jhang, where he played a pivotal role in steering the institution towards excellence.

Dr. Shahid Munir's expertise and knowledge extend beyond his academic achievements. He is widely recognized as a respected author, having published numerous papers and articles on topics related to his field of study. His research contributions have not only expanded the existing body of knowledge but have also offered valuable insights and solutions to energy and environment-related challenges.

With his diverse background and experience, Dr. Shahid Munir is well-equipped to contribute to the PHEC's mission of enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education in Punjab. His deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the higher education sector, combined with his research expertise, make him an invaluable asset in shaping policies and initiatives that will benefit students, faculty, and educational institutions across the province. His vast experience and insights are expected to play a crucial role in advancing the commission's goals. His presence will help drive the commission's efforts in promoting academic excellence, fostering applied research and innovation, improving the employability of graduates and ensuring that higher education institutions in Punjab are well-prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing global landscape.

Dr. Shahid's commitment to modernizing PHEC is evident in his emphasis on technology. He recognizes that digitalization is not only essential for enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, but also for improving access to higher education, especially for underserved populations. To this end, he has directed PHEC to explore the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other emerging technologies in higher education, and to develop strategies to promote digital literacy among students and faculty.

Given that, Dr. Shahid's appointment as Chairperson of PHEC represents a significant opportunity to carry forward the progress of higher education in Punjab in a modern way. His vision, leadership, and expertise in higher education will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the commission and the universities it oversees.

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PHEC International Postdoctoral Scholarship Program

The Expert Review Committee convened on June 23, 2022, as part of the PHEC's International Postdoctoral Scholarships Program, to assess candidates and conduct interviews with a panel of experts. Subsequently, 5 postdoctoral scholarships were awarded to the following individuals, who will be receiving training at prestigious universities in the UK:

1. Dr. Hafiz Haider Ali is currently working at Govt. College University, Lahore and will be attending the University of Oxford, UK to specialize in the field of Agriculture & Forestry.
2. Dr. Amina Riaz is currently working at The Women University Multan, Multan and has plans to attend University College London, UK to focus on Pharmacy & Pharmacology.
3. Dr. Shahid ur Rehman is currently working at Govt. Associate College Chak No. 90, SB, Sargodha and will be attending the University of Oxford, UK to pursue studies in Theology, Divinity & Religious studies.
4. Dr. Laila Shahzad is currently working at Govt. College University, Lahore and has plans to attend University College London, UK to specialize in Environmental Studies.
5. Dr. Muhammad Danyal Khan is currently working at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan and will be attending University College London, UK to focus on Law & Legal Studies.



Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) 28th Commission Meeting

On July 28, 2022, the 28th Commission meeting of the Punjab Higher Education Commission was held at the PHEC Conference Room. Presided over by the Chairperson PHEC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, and attended by worthy members of the commission: Mr. Najaf Iqbal (Secretary, HED), Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob (VC IUB, Bahawalpur), Mr. Mian Imran Masood (VC University of South Asia, Lahore), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali (Chairperson, Accreditation Committee), Lt. Gen. (R) Muhammad Asghar (HEC Nominee), Prof. Dr. Arif Nazeer Butt (Professor, LUMS Lahore), Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman (Rector, Superior University, Lahore), Mr. Mian Muhammad Hanif (Chairman, Madina Foundation), Prof. Naazish Ata-Ullah (Former Principal NCA), Mr. Shahid Zaman Lak (Additional Secretary, HED Govt. of Punjab), Prof. Dr. Naima Khurshid (Principal, Govt. APWA Graduate College for Women, Lahore), representative of Secretary Finance, Govt. of Punjab, representative of Secretary Health Department, Govt. of Punjab, and Dr. Mansoor Ahmad Baluch, Chief Operating Officer/Secretary of the Commission.



PHEC International Research Support Fellowship Program

The International Research Support Fellowship Program announced the advertisement for Batch-3 on February 20, 2022. Subsequently, on June 21, 2022, the Expert Review Committee conducted a meeting and interviewed the shortlisted candidates in the presence of a panel of experts. 8 candidates were awarded scholarships through a competitive selection process based on merit. The following is a list of candidates selected for the PHEC International Research Support Fellowship Phase-III (IRSF Phase-III) categorized by their respective fields of study:



Science and Technology:

1. Muhammad Imran Qureshi, currently working at Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur, will be attending the University of Queensland, Australia.
2. Saima Mumtaz, currently working at PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, will be attending the University of Florida, USA.
3. Maryam Shakur, currently working at the University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA.
4. Azka Rehman, currently working at KFUEIT, Rahim Yar Khan will be attending Newcastle University, UK.

Social Sciences and Arts:

1. Anam Shahid, currently working at the University of Central Punjab, Lahore will be attending Universitat de Montral, Canada.
2. Nazish Shabir, currently working at Lahore College for Women University, Lahore will be attending Monash University, Australia.

Humanities and Management Sciences:

1. Sarah Zafar, currently working at Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur, will be attending Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia.
2. Faiza Bashir, currently working at the University of Punjab, Lahore will be attending the University of Toronto, Canada.

Planning Vice Chancellors Conference: Paradigm Shift in Higher Education and the Role of Universities in Planning for the Future

On September 2, the Honorable Chancellor/Governor of Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, to discuss the Vice Chancellors Conference on the Paradigm Shift in Higher Education and the Role of Universities in Planning for the Future. The meeting was attended by several Vice Chancellors, including Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha from the University of Education Lahore Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza from Lahore College for Women University Lahore, Prof. Dr. Habib Bokhari from Kohsar University, Murree, and Prof. Dr. Naseem Ahmad from the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore. The conference aimed to address the changing landscape of higher education and the role of universities in adapting to future challenges. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss strategies and initiatives that can help shape the future of higher education in the region.



PHEC Funding for Seminar & Conferences



The Expert Review Committee convened for the 25th meeting on September 25, 2022. As a result of their deliberations, the PHEC approved funding for a total of 13 conferences and seminar cases in 2022. Here is the list of approved cases:

1. **Women University Multan**, Department of Education, organized the "2nd International Conference of Smart Learning Chapter 4: Revival of Education in Era of Post Covid-19 Smart Education for Smart Nations" from October 5-7, 2022.
2. **University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore**, Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, conducted the conference on "Zero Hunger and Bio Conversion Strategies Targets – Challenges Solutions" from October 18-20, 2022.
3. **University of Agriculture Faisalabad**, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, held the "International Wheat Conference, 2022" on October 19-20, 2022.
4. **University of Management and Technology, Lahore**, School of Media and Communication Studies, organized the "1st International Media and Communication Conference – Two Centuries of Urdu Journalism: A journey of Opportunities and Challenges" from November 23-25, 2022.
5. **Government College University, Lahore**, Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, hosted the "17th National & 8th International Conference on Advances in Plant Science in the Era of Climate Change" from October 26-28, 2022.
6. **University of the Punjab, Lahore**, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, conducted the conference on "South Asia @75: Past, Present and Future" from October 26-28, 2022.
7. **Lahore Garrison University, Lahore** - Urdu Department, organized the "Two Days International Conference on Sir Syed" from October 27-28, 2022.
8. **Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan**, Department of Physics, held the "20th International and 32nd National Chemistry Conference: Chemical Sciences and Sustainable Development Goals" from November 02-04, 2022.
9. **Kohsar University, Murree**, organized the conference on "Paradigm Shift in Higher Education Planning for Future" from September 28 to October 1, 2022.
10. **Lahore College Women University, Lahore**, Department of Punjabi, conducted the "Punjabi zuban Adab fnn ty Saqafat" conference from November 10-12, 2022.
11. **University of Jhang**, Department of Management Sciences, organized the "International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR – 2022)" from November 01-03, 2022.
12. **Superior University, Lahore**, Department of Business and Management Sciences, conducted the "10th National Research Symposium: Sustainable Growth: A Knowledge Economy Perspective" on November 5, 2022.
13. **Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur**, Department of Applied Psychology, organized the "2nd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Approach in Social Sciences" on November 22-23, 2022.

Addressing Challenges in Private Sector Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Punjab

PHEC Chairperson Meets Governor Punjab and Secretary of Higher Education Department

The Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) held a significant meeting on August 18, with the Honorable Governor of Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, and the Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Mr. Najaf Iqbal. The purpose of the meeting was to address the challenges faced by private sector higher education institutions (HEIs) in the province of Punjab, Pakistan.

The primary focus of the meeting was on the limited access to quality faculty and the pressing need for modern infrastructure and facilities in private sector HEIs. These challenges often hinder the ability of private institutions to provide high-quality education and create a conducive learning environment for students.

During the meeting, the Honorable Governor of Punjab emphasized the importance of promoting and facilitating the growth of private sector HEIs. He recognized their crucial role in expanding access to higher education and driving economic development in the region. The Governor's stance demonstrated the government's commitment to supporting and uplifting private sector HEIs, acknowledging their potential to contribute significantly to the education sector and the overall progress of Punjab.

The meeting between the Chairperson PHEC, the Honorable Governor of Punjab, and the Secretary of Higher Education Department marked a positive step towards addressing the challenges faced by private sector HEIs in the province. By discussing these issues and focusing on the need for quality faculty and modern infrastructure, the meeting aimed to pave the way for collaborative efforts and solutions to improve the higher education landscape in Punjab.

The recognition and engagement of key stakeholders, such as the PHEC, the Governor, and the Secretary of the Higher Education Department, in addressing the challenges faced by private sector HEIs, indicate a proactive approach towards ensuring a conducive environment for quality education. It highlights the collective commitment to overcoming obstacles and creating opportunities for private sector institutions to thrive and contribute to the educational development of the province.



Supporting Research Excellence: PHEC Chairperson's Attendance at PhD Thesis Defense

On September 8, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), attended the public defense of his student's PhD thesis at University of the Punjab, Lahore. The PhD candidate, presented his/her research work and defended it in front of a panel of experts.

The public defense of a PhD thesis is a crucial milestone in the academic journey of a researcher. It is an opportunity for them to showcase their research work and defend their findings in front of a panel of experts. The presence of Dr. Munir at the defense would have provided valuable insights and feedback to the student, helping them further develop their research work.



Reviewing Progress of Rehnumai Markaz and Associate Degree Program: Minister's Visit to Punjab Higher Education Commission

Mr. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz, the Minister for Higher Education, visited the Punjab Higher Education Commission on August 25. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir warmly welcomed him, and they discussed the ongoing initiatives and progress in the higher education sector.

During the visit, a high-level meeting was chaired by the Minister for Higher Education to review the progress of two significant programs: the Rehnumai Markaz (Guidance Center) and the Associate Degree Program. These programs aim to provide guidance and support to students, as well as promote the Associate Degree program, evaluate their effectiveness, address any challenges, and explore strategies to enhance their impact.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Najaf Iqbal, the Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, the Vice Chancellor of Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), and Dr. Mansoor Baluch, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of PHEC. Other officials from PHEC and the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) were also present.

The Minister's visit to PHEC demonstrated the government's and relevant institutions' commitment to improving the higher education landscape. By reviewing the progress of these important initiatives, the meeting aimed to ensure that the programs align with the vision of providing quality education and guidance to students, while fostering collaboration among key stakeholders for the overall advancement of higher education in Punjab.



Reviewing Ethical Appeals and Quality of Education: EARB/GRC Meeting and PHEC-HEC Chairperson's Discussion

The 7th Meeting of the Ethical Appeal Review Board (EARB)/Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) was held on September 20, at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad. The meeting was aimed at reviewing and addressing ethical appeals and grievances related to higher education institutions across the country.

In addition to the EARB/GRC meeting, the Chairperson of the PHEC also met with the Chairperson of HEC to discuss the quality of education in universities and affiliated colleges. During the meeting, they discussed measures to improve the quality of education, enhance research and innovation capabilities, and promote academic excellence in universities and colleges.

The meeting between the Chairpersons of PHEC and HEC highlights the importance of collaboration and communication between different bodies involved in higher education in Pakistan, and working towards the goal of providing high-quality education to students across the country.



Celebrating Pakistan's 75th Independence Day

Cake-Cutting Ceremony at PHEC with Chief Guest Minister for Higher Education and Information Technology

On the occasion of Pakistan's 75th Independence Day, a cake-cutting ceremony was held at the Pakistan Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The event was organized under the supervision of the Chairperson PHEC, and it aimed to commemorate the country's significant milestone of independence.

As a mark of honor and to make the event more special, Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz, the Minister for Higher Education and Information Technology, was invited as the Chief Guest. His presence added prestige and importance to the ceremony, highlighting the government's recognition of the occasion and its commitment to the development of higher education and information technology in Pakistan.



The cake-cutting ceremony served as a symbolic gesture, representing the unity and progress of the nation since its inception 75 years ago. The cake, adorned with patriotic symbols and colors, was a visual representation of the joy and pride associated with Pakistan's Independence Day.

The event was attended by several officials and officers from the Pakistan Higher Education Commission, emphasizing the collective effort and commitment of the commission towards promoting and enhancing the quality of higher education in the country. The presence of these esteemed individuals further highlighted the significance of the occasion and the importance placed on education and information technology in Pakistan's progress.

Endorsing Research and Innovation

PHEC Supports Thesis Display at University of Jhang

The Thesis Display is an event where students showcase their research work and thesis projects to an audience of experts, faculty members, and guests. On July 21, a thesis Display 2022 was organized by the BFA Department of the University of Jhang. As the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir congratulated the students on their achievements and emphasized the importance of research and innovation in higher education.

By attending events like the Thesis Display, the PHEC is promoting the development of research and innovation in Punjab. Such events provide a platform for students to showcase their talents, learn from experts, and gain recognition for their work. They also help to foster a culture of research and innovation in universities, which can have a positive impact on the overall development of the province and the country.



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Pakistan Independence Day Flag-Hoisting Ceremony and Tribute to National Leaders

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Pakistan's Independence Day, a significant flag-hoisting ceremony took place at Arfa Software Technology Park on August 12. The ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), as well as senior officers and staff members from the PHEC.

The event commenced with the raising of the national flag to the tune of the national anthem, symbolizing patriotism and unity among the attendees. This act served as a reminder of the collective sacrifices and struggles that led to the creation of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the Sub-Continent.

During the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir took the opportunity to pay tribute to the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and other national leaders who played instrumental roles in the Pakistan movement. He highlighted their unwavering determination and tireless efforts in establishing a separate homeland for the Muslim community.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir emphasized the importance of recognizing and appreciating the sacrifices made by the previous generations. He called upon the attendees to work with the same spirit and dedication exhibited by the founding fathers of the nation. By acknowledging the struggles of our elders, he encouraged a sense of responsibility and commitment towards the development and progress of the country.



Advancing the PHEC Training Academy: Enhancing Professional Development for Higher Education Institutions in Punjab

The PHEC Training Academy is an initiative designed to foster a culture of continuous professional development among faculty members and administrative staff in higher education institutions. Its primary objective is to enhance the quality of education and research in the Punjab region of Pakistan. By providing opportunities for ongoing learning and skill development, the academy aims to empower educators and staff members to excel in their respective roles and contribute to the advancement of higher education.

In line with this mission, the Chairperson PHEC, along with their team, visited the University of Education (UoE,) on August 1st, to assess the current state of the PHEC Training Academy and explore potential avenues for its further growth and development. During this visit, the Chairperson held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Vice-Chancellor of the university.

The meeting between the Chairperson PHEC and Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha aimed to discuss various aspects of the PHEC Training Academy. These discussions may have included assessing the effectiveness of the academy's existing programs, identifying areas for improvement, and exploring strategies to expand its reach and impact.

The Chairperson and Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha likely exchanged ideas, insights, and feedback on the academy's current initiatives, such as training workshops, seminars, and other professional development activities. They may have explored ways to strengthen collaboration between PHEC and the University of Education to leverage resources, expertise, and infrastructure for the academy's advancement.

Additionally, the meeting could have focused on identifying potential areas where the PHEC Training Academy could offer specialized training programs or tailor existing programs to meet the specific needs of educators. The aim would have been to align the training initiatives with the university's priorities and ensure maximum impact in enhancing the quality of education and research at the institution.



License Granting Ceremony

Enhancing Access to Autodesk Software for Higher Education Institutions in Punjab



Autodesk is a leading software company that provides professional-grade design, engineering, and entertainment software. The license granting ceremony held at the University of Home Economics, Lahore to access this software, which can be used for a wide range of applications.

On July 19, as the Guest of Honour Chairperson PHEC Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted the PHEC's commitment to promoting access to cutting-edge technology and tools for higher education and research institutions in Punjab. He encouraged universities to take advantage of such opportunities to enhance their capabilities and competitiveness. By providing access to professional-grade software like Autodesk, universities can improve their teaching and research capabilities and better prepare their students for careers in the rapidly evolving tech industry. It ensures maximum impact in enhancing the quality of education and research at the institution.

Certificate Distribution Ceremony

Empowering PHEC Officers and Officials through Training Workshop



The Minister for Higher Education and Information Technology, Mr. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz, was honored with an invitation to serve as the Chief Guest at a certificate distribution ceremony held on August 12. The ceremony was organized to recognize the successful completion of a three-day training workshop attended by officers and officials from the PHEC.

The focus of the workshop was to provide professional development and upskilling opportunities for the PHEC officers and officials. The training aimed to enhance their work performance and efficiency by equipping them with new knowledge, skills, and tools relevant to their roles in the higher education sector.

During the certificate distribution ceremony, the Minister for Higher Education and Information Technology addressed the attendees and emphasized the significance of upskilling in the context of work performance. The Minister highlighted the importance of continuous learning and professional development to keep up with the evolving demands and challenges of the higher education and information technology sectors.

By underscoring the value of upskilling, the Minister aimed to motivate the PHEC officers and officials to actively engage in self-improvement and seek opportunities to enhance their expertise. The Minister's remarks were intended to inspire a culture of lifelong learning among the attendees and reinforce the government's commitment to supporting the professional growth of individuals in the higher education and information technology fields.

The certificate distribution ceremony served as a platform to celebrate the achievements of the participants who successfully completed the training workshop. It recognized their dedication and commitment to their professional development, while also acknowledging the efforts of the PHEC in providing valuable learning opportunities.

The presence and address of the Minister for Higher Education and Information Technology at the ceremony demonstrated the government's recognition of the importance of upskilling and professional development. It also reflected the government's commitment to supporting and encouraging individuals in the higher education and information technology sectors to continuously improve their skills and knowledge for the benefit of the overall industry.

Promotion Linked Training (PLT) Program for Female Assistant Professors: Empowering Women in Public Sector Colleges of Punjab



The Training Department of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) organized an online Promotion Linked Training (PLT) Program on August 25, specifically tailored for female Assistant Professors in public sector colleges across Punjab. This program serves as a valuable initiative aimed at empowering and supporting female Assistant Professors in their career growth within the field of higher education.

The PLT Program is designed to provide these dedicated educators with the necessary tools, resources, and training to enhance their skills and knowledge. By offering targeted professional development opportunities, the program equips female Assistant Professors with the means to make significant contributions to the field and advance their careers.

Through online platforms, the Training Department of PHEC ensures accessibility and flexibility in delivering the PLT Program. This format allows participants to engage in training activities, workshops, and seminars remotely, promoting convenience and inclusivity.

By focusing on female Assistant Professors in public sector colleges, the PLT Program recognizes the importance of empowering women in academia and narrowing gender gaps within the higher education sector. It provides a platform for these educators to access resources and training that can support their professional growth, thereby increasing their opportunities for career advancement.

The program's overall objective is to strengthen the capabilities and expertise of female Assistant Professors, enabling them to

contribute meaningfully to the field of higher education. As these educators enhance their skills, knowledge, and teaching methods, they can positively impact student learning outcomes, research endeavors, and the overall quality of education provided by public sector colleges in Punjab.

The online Promotion Linked Training (PLT) Program organized by the Training Department of PHEC for female Assistant Professors in public sector colleges of Punjab represents a significant initiative. It emphasizes the importance of supporting and empowering female educators in their professional development, ultimately contributing to the advancement and quality of higher education in the region.

Discussion on Higher Education Matters: Meeting between Vice Chancellor of Minhaj University Lahore and PHEC Chairperson

Prof. Dr. Sajid Mahmood Shahzad, Vice Chancellor of Minhaj University Lahore, had a meeting on July 20, with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), at his office to discuss matters related to higher education in Punjab. Dr. Shahzad discussed issues related to the academic programs, research, and development of the Minhaj University.



Addressing Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education Meeting between Minister for Higher Education and PHEC Chairperson

To address the challenges and seize the opportunities in the higher education sector of the region, on September 13, a meeting was conducted between the Honorable Minister for Higher Education, Mr. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz, and Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The meeting served as a platform for in-depth discussions on various crucial matters pertaining to the enhancement of higher education in Punjab.

Among the key topics discussed during the meeting was the improvement of education quality in higher education institutions. Recognizing the significance of providing a high standard of education, the participants explored strategies and initiatives to uplift the overall quality of teaching and learning in universities and colleges across the region. This included promoting innovative teaching methodologies, enhancing the curriculum, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Another vital aspect of the discussion was focused on boosting research and innovation capabilities in universities. Both the Minister and the Chairperson acknowledged the importance of research in advancing knowledge and driving socio-economic development. They deliberated on measures to encourage and support research activities, such as providing adequate funding, establishing research collaborations, and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and scholarly work.

The meeting also underscored the commitment to promoting academic excellence in the region. The participants explored ways to encourage and recognize outstanding achievements in academics, incentivizing faculty and students to strive for excellence in their respective fields. This emphasis on academic excellence aimed to raise the overall standard of education and position Punjab as a hub for quality higher education.

Moreover, the Minister and the Chairperson discussed strategies to increase enrollment and improve access to higher education, particularly for students from marginalized communities. They recognized the importance of inclusivity and ensuring equal opportunities for all aspiring students in Punjab. By addressing barriers and implementing affirmative measures, they aimed to broaden access and provide a supportive environment for students from diverse backgrounds.

The meeting between the Honorable Minister for Higher Education and the Chairperson PHEC demonstrated a shared vision and commitment to enhancing the higher education landscape in Punjab. By focusing on improving education quality, fostering research and innovation, promoting academic excellence, and expanding access, the participants aimed to drive positive changes and contribute to the overall development of the region's higher education sector.



Syndicate Meeting of the University of Home Economics, Lahore

August 11, in the 10th Syndicate meeting of the University of Home Economics Lahore, the Chairperson PHEC, was present along with other members of the Syndicate to discuss and make decisions regarding the university's academic and administrative matters.



VCs' Panel Discussion: Chemical Engineering Education and Research in Pakistan at Pakistan Chemical Expo 2022

On July 18, the Pakistan Chemical Expo 2022 was a collaborative effort between the Pakistan Chemical Manufacturing Association (PCMA) and the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICHE). This expo aimed to bring together professionals and stakeholders from the chemical industry to showcase advancements, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities within the sector.

As part of the expo, a VCs' (Vice-Chancellors) Panel Discussion was held, focusing on various aspects of chemical engineering education and research in Pakistan. The discussion aimed to address the current state of the field, identify challenges faced by academia and industry, and explore potential opportunities for growth and development.

As a panelist in the VCs' Panel Discussion, the Chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) provided valuable insights and perspectives based on his experience and expertise in the field. Drawing from his deep understanding of the challenges and requirements of chemical engineering education and research, he shared valuable recommendations and strategies for enhancing the quality of education and research in Pakistan.

One key aspect emphasized by the Chairperson was the importance of collaboration and cooperation between academia and industry. Recognizing that the chemical industry plays a vital role in driving economic growth and innovation, he highlighted the need for closer ties between educational institutions and industry players. By fostering strong partnerships, academia and industry can work together to address the industry's needs, align educational programs with market demands, and facilitate research and development initiatives.

Furthermore, the Chairperson emphasized the commitment of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and other relevant bodies to promote innovation, research, and development within the country. He showcased the initiatives and measures taken by the HEC to support and encourage research activities, provide funding opportunities, and enhance the quality of higher education in the chemical engineering field.

Given that, the VCs' Panel Discussion at the Pakistan Chemical Expo 2022 provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to discuss chemical engineering education, research, and industry-related challenges and opportunities in Pakistan. The Chairperson of the Higher Education Commission shared valuable insights and perspectives, underlining the importance of collaboration between academia and industry and highlighting the commitment of the HEC to promote innovation, research, and development in the country.



Supporting Professional Development: Visit to Quaid-e-Azam Academy for Educational Development by PHEC Chairperson

On August 3, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), visited the Quaid-e-Azam Academy for Educational Development (QAED) in Lahore, and provided a briefing on the Academy's various departments and operations. The QAED is a training institution that provides professional development opportunities to teachers and educational administrators in Punjab. As the Chairperson PHEC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's visit to the QAED is significant as it demonstrates his commitment to supporting and improving the quality of education in the province.

The QAED serves as a training institution dedicated to enhancing the professional development of teachers and educational administrators in Punjab. It plays a crucial role in equipping educators with the necessary skills, knowledge, and pedagogical techniques to improve the quality of education in the province.

The QAED offers a range of training programs, workshops, and resources aimed at upgrading the capabilities of educators. These initiatives focus on equipping them with the latest teaching methodologies, assessment techniques, and educational leadership skills. By enhancing the professional competence of teachers and administrators, the Academy contributes to the overall improvement of the education system in Punjab.

By collaborating with institutions like QAED, PHEC can further promote and support the professional development of teachers and administrators. This partnership enables the exchange of expertise, resources, and best practices, ultimately benefiting the education sector in Punjab.



Promoting Innovation in Higher Education: Invitation to Minister for Higher Education for Punjab Universities Vice Chancellors Conference

On September 14, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC, met with Mr. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz, Minister for Higher Education, to invite him as the Guest of Honor at the Punjab Universities Vice Chancellors Conference. The conference had the theme "PARADIGM SHIFT IN HIGHER EDUCATION-HACKATHON PLANNING FOR FUTURE" and was scheduled from September 29th to October 1st, 2022. Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Vice Chancellor, University of Education, Lahore and Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Vice Chancellor of Lahore College for Women University, Lahore were also present during the meeting. They discussed the significance of the conference in the context of the country's higher education landscape, and the potential impact it could have on promoting a paradigm shift towards innovative and future-focused approaches.



Encouraging Accessibility and Inclusivity: PHEC Chairperson Contributes to CMMS Program Meeting

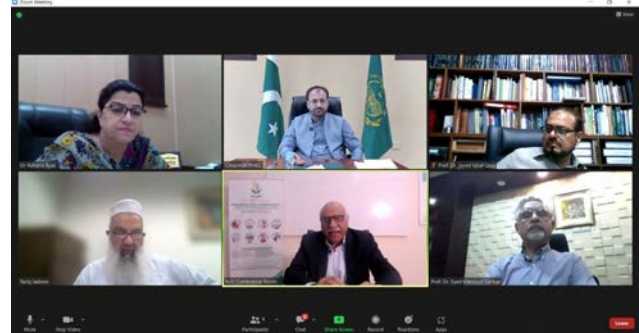
The Chief Minister Merit Scholarships (CMMS) Program, implemented by the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF), is a flagship initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to bright and deserving students from Punjab. The program supports their pursuit of higher education in prestigious national and international universities.

On August 3, as a participant in the online meeting of the CMMS Program, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) made valuable contributions by sharing insights and expertise on the matters discussed. The Chairperson emphasized the significance of promoting and supporting higher education through initiatives like the CMMS Program.

The CMMS Program plays a vital role in ensuring that talented students from Punjab, regardless of their financial background, have the opportunity to pursue higher education in renowned universities. By offering financial assistance, the program helps to alleviate the financial burden and barriers that students may face, thus enabling them to focus on their academic pursuits and unlock their potential.

The Chairperson's involvement in the online meeting of the CMMS Program highlights the commitment of PHEC to the development of higher education in Punjab. By actively participating and providing insights, the Chairperson contributes to the discussions surrounding the program's implementation, effectiveness, and potential areas for improvement.

The Chairperson also emphasized the importance of initiatives like the CMMS Program in promoting accessibility and inclusivity in higher education. By supporting talented students and providing them with the means to pursue their academic aspirations, such programs contribute to the overall development of the country by nurturing a skilled and educated workforce.



Discussion on Higher Education Matters: Meeting between Pro-Rector of University of Central Punjab and PHEC Chairperson

Dr. Nassar Ikram, the Pro-Rector at the University of Central Punjab, held a meeting on July 20, with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The primary objective of this meeting was to discuss matters related to higher education and specifically focus on the University of Central Punjab.

During the meeting, Dr. Ikram had the opportunity to share valuable information about the academic programs offered by the University of Central Punjab, ongoing research projects, and the institution's development plans. This exchange of information provided Prof. Dr. Munir with insights into the university's initiatives and potential areas of collaboration.



By discussing matters related to higher education and specifically highlighting the University of Central Punjab, the meeting served as a platform for sharing ideas, experiences, and best practices. Such exchanges between key stakeholders in the education sector have the potential to contribute to the overall development and advancement of higher education in Punjab.

Secretary of Higher Education Department Visits PHEC to Discuss Progress and Initiatives



On June 29, Mr. Najaf Iqbal, the Secretary of the Higher Education Department of the Government of Punjab, paid a visit to the PHEC Secretariat. During the visit, Chairman PHEC Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir delivered a concise presentation that provided an overview of the functions and advancements of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The purpose of the presentation was to update Mr. Najaf Iqbal on the ongoing work and achievements of the PHEC. Mr. Shahid Zaman Lak, Additional Secretary Universities HED, Dr. Mansoor Ahmad Baluch, Chief Operating Office PHEC also present in the meeting.

The presentation by Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir covered various aspects of the PHEC's activities. It have included information on the commission's role in promoting higher education in Punjab, its efforts to enhance the quality of education in universities, and its initiatives to strengthen research and development within the higher education sector. The presentation have also highlighted the commission's progress in formulating policies, establishing academic standards, and fostering collaborations between universities and other educational institutions.

Mr. Najaf Iqbal's visit and the subsequent presentation were part of a broader effort to ensure effective communication and coordination between the Higher Education Department and the PHEC. Such interactions help government officials stay informed about the functioning and progress of key educational bodies under their jurisdiction, allowing them to provide guidance, support, and necessary resources to further promote the development of higher education in Punjab.

Welcome Dinner Hosted by Former Chairperson to Introduce New PHEC Chairperson and Foster Collaboration in Higher Education



A dinner was organized by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, the former and founding Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), to welcome the newly appointed Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir. The event brought together Vice-Chancellors from both public and private sector universities, as well as senior academicians.

The dinner served as a platform for fostering collaboration and dialogue among key stakeholders in the higher education sector. The Vice-Chancellors of various universities, representing both public and private sectors, attended the event, indicating the importance placed on the occasion and the significance of the PHEC's role in shaping

higher education policies and initiatives in Punjab.

Senior academicians, renowned scholars, and respected individuals from the academic community were also present at the dinner. Their presence highlighted the support and recognition of Prof. Dr. M. Nizamuddin contributions as the former Chairperson of the PHEC.

Welcoming Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir as the new Chairperson of the PHEC showcased the commitment of the academic community to work together and support the commission's mission in advancing higher education in Punjab. The event set the stage for future collaborations, cooperation, and collective efforts in achieving the shared goals of academic excellence and educational development.

The Need for Higher Education Institutions to Engage with Industry and Explore New Opportunities for Research and Innovation

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's participation in the International Poultry Expo (IPEX) organized by the Pakistan Poultry Association on August 4, underscores the significance of higher education institutions engaging with industry and exploring new avenues for research and innovation. The presence of other heads of higher education institutions further emphasizes the importance of collaboration between academia and industry in driving innovation and economic growth in Pakistan.

By actively participating in events like IPEX, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlights the need for higher education institutions to establish closer ties with various sectors of the economy, including the poultry industry. This engagement allows universities and colleges to understand industry needs, identify research opportunities, and address challenges faced by the sector through academic expertise.

Collaboration between academia and industry is crucial in promoting socio-economic development in Pakistan. By working closely together, higher education institutions and industries can foster innovation, enhance productivity, and contribute to the overall growth of the economy. Through research and development initiatives, universities can help solve industry-specific problems, improve production processes, and develop new technologies that benefit the entire sector.

Furthermore, this collaboration enhances the quality of education by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Students can gain valuable industry exposure, access internships and job opportunities, and develop the skills required to excel in their chosen fields. This industry-academia collaboration ensures that graduates are equipped with relevant knowledge and skills that align with market needs, leading to better employment prospects and economic stability.

The participation of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir and other heads of higher education institutions in the International Poultry Expo demonstrates a shared commitment to fostering collaboration between academia and industry. By leveraging the expertise of academic institutions and the resources of industries, Pakistan can drive innovation, enhance competitiveness, and achieve sustainable economic growth.



Enhancing Academic Excellence: Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir as Co-Chair at Government College Women University Sialkot Syndicate Meeting

On September 14, during the 16th Syndicate Meeting of Government College Women University Sialkot, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC, served as a co-chair. The meeting was convened to discuss and address various academic matters and university affairs. In his role as Chairperson PHEC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir provided valuable guidance and input concerning the policies and strategies to be implemented at the university. His insights and expertise were essential in shaping the discussions and decisions made during the meeting. As a result, the meeting was able to achieve its objectives of promoting academic excellence and enhancing the overall quality of education at the Government College Women University Sialkot.



Environmental Protection and Social Responsibility

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), participating in the virtual conference titled "Environmental Protection and Social Responsibility" organized on August 10, by the Islamia University of Bahawalpur demonstrates PHEC's commitment to promoting research and innovation in various fields, including environmental protection and sustainability.

The conference aimed to gather scholars, researchers, and experts to discuss important aspects of environmental protection and social responsibility. Topics such as sustainable development, climate change, and pollution control measures were likely addressed during the conference. As a participant, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir would have shared his insights, expertise, and experiences related to these topics, contributing to the discussions and enriching the overall knowledge exchange.

By participating in conferences like this, PHEC's Chairperson demonstrates the commission's dedication to fostering collaboration and promoting research initiatives that address critical issues in society. Environmental protection and social responsibility are essential for sustainable development, and higher education institutions play a crucial role in driving awareness, research, and innovation in these areas.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's participation also signifies the commission's support for the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and its endeavors in organizing conferences that promote academic dialogue and knowledge sharing. Such collaborative efforts between institutions further enhance the research and academic environment, leading to advancements in various fields.

Conferences provide a platform for experts and researchers to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and propose solutions in areas of common interest. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's involvement in this virtual conference likely fostered meaningful discussions on environmental protection and social responsibility, with the aim of generating innovative approaches and practical strategies to address these pressing issues.



The Significance of History and Pakistan Studies Lies in their Role in Molding the National Identity of the Country and Safeguarding its Cultural Legacy

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC was invited to attend the Degree Awarding Ceremony of the Department of History & Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab on September 10. The ceremony was held to honor the graduating students who had completed their studies in the field of History & Pakistan Studies.

During the ceremony, the chairperson delivered an address to the students and guests in attendance. He congratulated the graduates on their achievements and encouraged them to utilize their knowledge and skills to serve their country and contribute to its development. He emphasized the importance of history and Pakistan studies in shaping the country's identity and preserving its cultural heritage. He stressed the need for the students to continue to pursue education and learning throughout their lives, as it is the key to personal and professional growth.



Progress Meeting: Enhancing Rehumai Markaz Portal Features with PHEC Chairperson and PITB Director General

A progress meeting took place on August 31, to deliberate on the Rehumai Markaz Portal and its features. The meeting was spearheaded by the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and included the project team responsible for the development and implementation of the portal. Mr. Waqar N. Qureshi, the Director General of the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), was also present at the meeting.



The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss strategies to enhance the capabilities of the Rehumai Markaz Portal. The portal is a digital platform designed to provide guidance and support to students in their academic and career endeavors. It aims to serve as a comprehensive resource hub, offering relevant information, counseling services, and career guidance to facilitate informed decision-making for students.

During the meeting, the participants engaged in discussions to explore ways to improve the functionalities and features of the portal. They likely analyzed the existing framework, identified areas for refinement, and proposed innovative solutions to enhance the user experience and effectiveness of the portal.

By convening the progress meeting, the Chairperson PHEC demonstrated the commitment to ensuring the successful implementation and continuous improvement of the Rehumai Markaz Portal. The presence of the project team and the Director General of PITB indicated a collaborative approach, leveraging expertise from multiple stakeholders to achieve the shared goal of enhancing the portal's capabilities.

Rehumai Markaz Portal: Standardizing Admission Procedures and Data Management in Universities of Punjab



The Chairperson of PHEC conducted multiple meetings on different dates to evaluate the progress of the Rehumai Markaz project and strategies for the future. The project aims to provide mentorship, counseling, and financial assistance to underprivileged students, enabling their access to higher education.

During these meetings, the participants extensively discussed the challenges encountered during the project implementation. Notably, they addressed the issue of delayed fund disbursement, which could potentially hinder the timely delivery of financial assistance to deserving students. To overcome this challenge, strategies were proposed, including streamlining the disbursement

process and ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders involved.

Another significant challenge discussed was the difficulty in reaching students residing in remote areas. The participants recognized the importance of innovative approaches, such as leveraging technology and establishing partnerships with local organizations, to ensure that students in remote regions receive the necessary support and guidance.

The meetings proved to be fruitful, as they facilitated a comprehensive assessment of the project's progress. The participants reviewed the accomplishments thus far, such as the number of students benefiting from mentorship and financial assistance. They also identified areas that required improvement, such as strengthening outreach efforts and optimizing resource utilization.

The Importance of Climate-Smart and Sustainable Agriculture Practices

On August 11, in his video message for the International Symposium on Climate Smart Sustainable Rice-Wheat Production System, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), emphasized the significance of climate-smart and sustainable agriculture practices, specifically within the context of rice-wheat production systems. The symposium was organized by SAWIE (Sustainable Agriculture and Water Innovation Environment), SACAN (Sustainable Agricultural and Climate Action Network), and UPSIGN (University Partnership for Sustainable Integrated Growth in Agriculture).

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted the role of higher education institutions in promoting research and innovation in the field of climate-smart agriculture. By engaging in rigorous scientific research, higher education institutions can contribute to the development of sustainable farming techniques and strategies that address the challenges posed by climate change and ensure food security.

The Chairperson emphasized the need for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among different stakeholders, including researchers, farmers, and policymakers. By working together, these stakeholders can exchange valuable insights, experiences, and best practices, ultimately leading to the adoption of climate-smart and sustainable agriculture practices on a larger scale.

Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir acknowledged the importance of addressing the specific challenges faced by rice-wheat production systems, which are common in many parts of Punjab. By focusing on this particular context, the symposium aimed to explore innovative approaches to enhance the productivity and resilience of these systems while minimizing their environmental impact.

Overall, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's video message for the International Symposium on Climate Smart Sustainable Rice-Wheat Production System highlights PHEC's commitment to promoting research and innovation in the field of agriculture. By emphasizing the importance of climate-smart and sustainable practices, advocating for collaboration among stakeholders, and recognizing the specific challenges of rice-wheat production systems, the Chairperson contributes to the advancement of agricultural practices that are essential for both food security and environmental sustainability.



Syndicate Meetings of Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) and Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology (KFUEIT)

The syndicate meetings of Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) on July 22, and Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology (KFUEIT) on July 29, were held in the Conference Room of the Punjab Higher Education Commission. The syndicate members gathered to discuss important matters related to the universities such as academic programs, research projects, and development plans.

The Punjab Higher Education Commission, as the regulatory body overseeing higher education in Punjab, Pakistan, provides support and guidance to the universities in the region. Hosting the syndicate meetings of Rawalpindi Women University and Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology (KFUEIT) at their conference room have been a sign of this support and cooperation.



The Importance of Promoting Academic Excellence and Supporting the Development of Young Scholars and Researchers in Pakistan



The 13th Post Graduate Students' Conference (PGSC 2022) took place on August 11, at the Institute of Education and Research, University of the Punjab Lahore. The primary objective of the conference was to create a platform for postgraduate students to showcase their research findings and participate in scholarly discussions. It served as an opportunity for young scholars to present their work, exchange ideas, and receive valuable feedback from their peers and experienced academics.

The chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) was invited to deliver a keynote address at the conference in the esteemed role of Chief Guest. His presence at the event carried significant importance and sent a strong message about the commitment to promoting academic excellence in Pakistan.

During his keynote address, the chairperson PHEC offered guidance and encouragement to the students. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication that goes into postgraduate research and emphasized the value of their contributions to the academic community. By recognizing and appreciating their efforts, he aimed to motivate the students to continue pursuing their research endeavors and excel in their respective fields.

The chairperson's participation in the conference highlighted the support and recognition provided by the PHEC to the development of young scholars and researchers in Pakistan. It demonstrated the commission's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for academic growth, encouraging research initiatives, and nurturing intellectual talent in the country.

By attending the conference and delivering a keynote address, the Chairperson PHEC not only showcased his support for the event but also emphasized the significance of research and academic pursuits in shaping the future of Pakistan. His presence acted as a source of inspiration for the participating students, instilling confidence in their abilities and reinforcing the importance of their scholarly contributions.

Syndicate Meetings at BISE Lahore University of Okara and Thal University Bhakkar



The Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission participated in two separate syndicate meetings at the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore held on August 22, and August 25. The first was a syndicate meeting for the University of Okara, and the other was the 2nd syndicate meeting for Thal University Bhakkar.

The Chairperson played a key role in these meetings, which had focused on important matters related to the respective universities. Syndicate meetings usually involve discussions on matters such as academic programs, research initiatives, funding, and other matters related to the universities' growth and development.

Holding the meetings at the BISE Lahore have allowed for a more neutral and convenient location for all syndicate members to attend.

1st Engineering Capstone Expo: Showcasing Innovation in Engineering Education

On September 19, the 1st Engineering Capstone Expo organized by the Pakistan Engineering Council provided an excellent platform for final year engineering students to showcase their innovative projects to industry professionals, potential employers, and the wider community. The presence of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), as the Guest of Honor added significance to the event.

During his speech, Prof. Munir highlighted the importance of promoting research and innovation in engineering education. He emphasized the need for students to apply their theoretical knowledge and practical skills to solve real-world problems. By encouraging students to develop innovative projects, Prof. Munir highlighted the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry.

The Engineering Capstone Expo brought together representatives from academia, industry, and government organizations, creating a valuable networking and collaboration opportunity. The event provided a platform for students to showcase their talents, gain exposure to industry professionals, and explore potential career opportunities.

The success of the expo demonstrates the commitment of the Pakistan Engineering Council, PHEC, and other stakeholders to promote research, innovation, and practical application of engineering knowledge. By nurturing a culture of innovation and providing opportunities for students to showcase their skills, such events contribute to the overall development of the engineering sector in Pakistan and help meet the demands of the industry.



Supporting Access to Quality Education: Collaboration between GIFT University and PHEC

On September 2, during the visit of Dr. Shahid Qureshi, Rector of GIFT University in Gujranwala, to Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, the two leaders had a productive meeting to discuss various aspects of higher education.

One of the key points of discussion during the meeting was the functions and programs offered by GIFT University. Dr. Shahid Qureshi shared information about the university's initiatives, academic programs, and research activities. This exchange of information allows PHEC to stay updated about the developments in different higher education institutions and better understand their needs and challenges.

Additionally, the meeting also focused on the importance of entrepreneurship education in higher education institutions. Both leaders recognized the significance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students and equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the dynamic business world. Entrepreneurship education can empower students to think critically, identify opportunities, and take initiatives that contribute to economic growth and job creation.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson PHEC, expressed his commitment to collaborating with all stakeholders to promote access to quality education in the province. This pledge reflects the commission's dedication to creating an enabling environment for educational institutions to excel and to ensure that students receive a high-quality education.



Visit of Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah to Chairperson PHEC: Fostering Growth and Collaboration



The visit of Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah to the Chairperson Punjab higher education commission carried substantial importance, given his dual roles as the Federal Tax Ombudsman and Minister of State. During the meeting, various topics of mutual interest were explored, with a primary emphasis on tax-related issues affecting the higher education sector in Punjab. This encompassed discussions on tax regulations, exemptions, incentives, and other pertinent financial matters. The aim was to identify potential areas for improvement, streamlining tax processes, and finding solutions that would contribute to the growth and development of the higher education institutions in the region.

The meeting between Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah and Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir exemplified their commitment to addressing the needs of the higher education sector and fostering a favorable environment for its advancement. By engaging in meaningful dialogue and collaborating on tax-related matters, they demonstrated their dedication to promoting the welfare and progress of higher education in Punjab. The insights and outcomes of their discussions held the potential to positively impact the sector, enabling educational institutions to thrive and fulfill their missions more effectively.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir Contributes to the Launch of Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme (Phase-III) during CDWP Meeting



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson, PHEC, participated in a virtual meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP). The meeting primarily focused on the inauguration of the third phase of the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme.

During the online meeting, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir actively took part in the discussions regarding the implementation and launch of the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme (Phase-III). This important initiative aims to provide laptops to deserving students, enabling them to access digital resources and enhance their educational experience. The meeting involved detailed deliberations on the program's objectives, eligibility criteria, allocation of resources, and the anticipated impact it would have on the educational landscape. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's participation in this meeting highlights his dedication to fostering educational opportunities and ensuring access to technology for students in Punjab.



Acknowledging Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's Contributions: PICHE's Tribute to the Chairperson PHEC



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), was honored by the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICHE) for his remarkable contributions to institutional building and education in Pakistan. In recognition of his outstanding work. On September 17, the PICHE organized a dinner in his honor at the Executive Club of the University of the Punjab Lahore, where he was presented with a shield as a tribute to his accomplishments.

The dinner event was attended by numerous distinguished guests, including academics, engineers, and professionals from various fields. The attendees gathered to celebrate and acknowledge Dr. Shahid's remarkable

achievements. During the event, speakers took the stage to praise Dr. Shahid and highlight his significant contributions to the development of education and research in Pakistan.

The speakers commended Dr. Shahid for his unwavering commitment to promoting higher education and ensuring quality standards in the country. His efforts in building institutions, improving educational infrastructure, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry were highly appreciated. The speakers acknowledged that Dr. Shahid's vision and leadership have had a profound impact on the education sector, benefiting countless students and scholars.

The recognition bestowed upon Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir by the PICHE serves as a testament to his exceptional achievements and dedication to education and research in Pakistan. His tireless work has not only strengthened the educational landscape but has also played a significant role in shaping the future of the youth in the country.

The 7th Syndicate Meeting of University of Chakwal, Signifying Collaboration for University's Progress

On September 13, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, attended the 7th Syndicate Meeting of the University of Chakwal, demonstrating the commission's commitment to collaborating with the university for its growth and development. The syndicate meeting discussed various topics related to the university's progress, and the Chairperson's attendance provided an opportunity for valuable guidance and input. This is a positive development that signifies a collaborative effort between the university and the regulatory body overseeing higher education in the region.



Encouraging Collaboration and Innovation: PHEC Chairperson Keynotes at SEE Pakistan 2022 Event



The SEE Pakistan 2022 event, organized by the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan on August 18, at Expo Centre Lahore, served as a significant platform for educationists, policymakers, and industry professionals to come together and discuss the latest trends and innovations in the field of education. The presence of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), as the Chief Guest at the event highlights his recognition of the importance of such gatherings and his commitment to the development of the education sector in Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir emphasized the crucial role of collaboration between academia and industry for the advancement of the

education sector. He highlighted the need for universities to focus on research and innovation, as well as the production of graduates who possess the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the global job market. By encouraging universities to prioritize research and innovation, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir recognizes their significance in driving economic growth and development.

Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir acknowledged the pivotal role played by private sector universities in bridging the gap between academia and industry. These universities are often more agile in responding to changing industry demands and are well-positioned to equip students with practical skills and knowledge through industry collaborations, internships, and hands-on experiences. The Chairperson commended the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan for organizing the SEE Pakistan 2022 event, as it provides a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships.

By participating in such events and delivering a keynote address, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir demonstrates his dedication to fostering collaboration and innovation in the education sector. His support for research, emphasis on industry-academia collaboration, and recognition of the role of private sector universities underscore PHEC's commitment to advancing the quality of education in Pakistan and aligning it with the needs of the job market.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's presence as the Chief Guest at the SEE Pakistan 2022 event signifies his recognition of the importance of collaboration between academia and industry in the education sector. His keynote address emphasized the significance of research, innovation, and equipping graduates with relevant skills. By acknowledging the role of private sector universities and commending the event organizers, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlights the importance of partnerships and initiatives that drive progress in the education landscape of Pakistan.



PHEC's Contributions to Improving Educational and Research Standards in Punjab



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), delivered a Special Lecture at the Institute of Communication Studies, on August 22, at University of the Punjab, Lahore, signifies his commitment to improving the educational and research standards in Punjab.

During the lecture, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir focused on highlighting the initiatives and programs undertaken by PHEC to enhance the quality of education and research in the province. He discussed the various measures implemented by PHEC to raise the standard of education and create a conducive environment for research and innovation.



By discussing these initiatives, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir showcased PHEC's dedication to promoting quality education and fostering a research culture in Punjab. These efforts aim to ensure that students receive a high-quality education that equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge for their future endeavors. Additionally, fostering a research culture encourages the generation of new knowledge, innovation, and solutions to societal challenges.

The Chairperson's emphasis on the commitment of PHEC to promoting quality education and research culture in Punjab underscores the importance of collaboration between the commission, educational institutions, and stakeholders. Such collaboration enables the implementation of effective policies and programs that uplift the education sector and contribute to the overall development and progress of the province and the country.



Given that Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's Special Lecture at the Institute of Communication Studies highlights PHEC's contributions to enhancing the educational and research standards in Punjab. His discussion of initiatives and programs demonstrates the commission's commitment to promoting quality education and research culture in the province.

Meeting between University of Malaysia Delegation and PHEC Chairperson



On August 30, a delegation from the University of Malaysia, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, led by Dr. Lina Tio, visited PHEC and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, to discuss areas of mutual interest in IT and Cyber Security, Robotics and Games Development, Faculty Exchange Programs, Scholarships, and Industry-academia linkages. The meeting was attended by other notable figures in the academic community including Prof. Dr. Sarfraz Khurshid, VC, ITU, Maj Gen Shahzad Sikander (r) VC, LGU, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, Rector, Virtual University, and Prof. Dr. Kamran Abid, Institute of Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Engineering, University of the Punjab, Lahore.oting quality education and research culture in the province.

Challenges Faced by Higher Education Institutions in Pakistan: Insights and Measures by PHEC

On August 31, a seminar organized by the Eilaf Club took place at a local hotel, focusing on the challenges faced by higher education institutions in Pakistan. The Chief Guest for the event was the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), who played a significant role in the seminar. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC, was invited to share his insights and expertise on the measures taken by the commission to promote academic excellence, research culture, and innovation within the higher education sector.

The seminar aimed to bring together various stakeholders, including academics, researchers, and policymakers, to engage in discussions regarding the challenges and opportunities prevalent in the higher education sector of Pakistan. It served as a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and exploring potential solutions to the issues faced by institutions in the country.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's presence and participation in the seminar were highly significant. As the Chairperson PHEC, he has been actively involved in shaping and implementing policies to enhance the quality of higher education in Punjab, Pakistan. His extensive knowledge and experience in the field made him a valuable resource for addressing the challenges faced by institutions and discussing potential strategies to overcome them.

During his address at the seminar, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted the initiatives undertaken by PHEC to promote academic excellence, research culture, and innovation. These measures likely included the establishment of research centers, funding schemes for research projects, collaborations with national and international universities, and the introduction of policies that encourage faculty development and student engagement.

The seminar served as an important platform for raising awareness about the issues faced by higher education institutions in Pakistan. It emphasized the need for collaboration among academics, researchers, and policymakers to address these challenges effectively. The presence of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, an esteemed educationist and the Chairperson PHEC, further validated the significance of the event and the importance of addressing the issues in the education sector.



Progress Report Presentation by Thezib ul Akhlaq Trust to PHEC Chairperson on Educational Initiatives for Underprivileged Students

On September 2, former Federal Minister G.A. Sabri, President of Thezib ul Akhlaq Trust, presented the trust's progress report to PHEC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, highlighting the establishment of new schools and scholarships for underprivileged students. Dr. Munir praised the trust's efforts and emphasized the importance of promoting education in underdeveloped areas to ensure equal access to education for all. This visit and progress report serve as a reminder of the need for continued collaboration between organizations to address educational challenges and promote an equitable and inclusive society.



Recognizing Academic Achievements: PHEC Chairperson's Address at the 65th Annual Convocation



To recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of the graduating students, the 65th Annual Convocation of the BS-4YDP Session 2014-18 held on September 1st, at the Government Islamia Graduate College for Women, Cooper Road, Lahore. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), presided over the event. He congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to continue their pursuit of knowledge and excellence. He highlighted the importance of education in promoting social and economic development. His emphasis on providing equal access to education and empowering women through education is commendable and reflects the PHEC's commitment to promoting quality education in the province. As he stressed that education is a fundamental right for all individuals, and access to education should not be limited by gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. He urged the authorities to focus on improving the quality of education and ensuring equal access to education for all.

Furthermore, Dr. Shahid highlighted the role of educated youth in building a progressive and healthier society. He urged the graduates to utilize their knowledge and skills for the betterment of society and contribute to the development of the country.

Honoring the Martyrs: PHEC Chairperson's Address at Pakistan Defence Day Ceremony



The Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), was invited as the Guest of Honor on September 6, to a ceremony held in honor of the martyrs of the Pakistani army on the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day. The ceremony was hosted by Dr. Essa Laboratory and Diagnostic Center, a renowned healthcare organization that has been providing medical services to the people of Pakistan for more than three decades.

The event was organized to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the defense and security of Pakistan. It was a solemn occasion that brought together members of the armed forces, medical professionals, and other guests to honor the sacrifices made by the martyrs. Dr. Shahid Munir, in his address, expressed his deep gratitude and respect for the martyrs who laid down their lives for the country. He acknowledged the critical role played by the Pakistani armed forces in safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the country and praised their dedication, bravery, and sacrifice. Dr. Shahid Munir also highlighted the importance of honoring the sacrifices of the martyrs and supporting their families. He emphasized the need to provide them with adequate financial and social support to recognize their contributions and alleviate their suffering. Dr. Shahid Munir's participation and his remarks reflected the profound appreciation and respect that the people of Pakistan have for their martyrs and their families.

Promoting Entrepreneurship and Industry Collaboration: **Keynote Address at Hailey College of Banking and Finance Convocation**



On September 3, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), was present at the 9th Convocation of Hailey College of Banking and Finance as the esteemed Chief Guest. During his speech at the convocation ceremony, he provided valuable advice to the graduating students, encouraging them to shift their focus towards entrepreneurial opportunities rather than solely relying on job-seeking endeavors.

Dr. Shahid emphasized the significance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among the graduates. He stressed that the changing dynamics of the job market and the evolving global economy call for a shift in perspective. Instead of solely relying on traditional employment, he encouraged the students to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path. This advice aimed to inspire the students to create their own ventures, contribute to economic growth, and become self-reliant.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Shahid highlighted the importance of fostering collaboration between universities and industries. He emphasized that educational institutions should actively engage with industries to ensure that the graduates they produce possess the necessary skills and knowledge required by the job market. By aligning the curriculum and educational programs with the needs of the industry,

universities can enhance the employability of their graduates and contribute to the overall development of the economy.

Celebrating Leadership and Artistic Talent: **PHEC Chairperson's Visit to University of Jhang Art Exhibition**



On September 9, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir the Chairperson PHEC, visited an art exhibition at the University of Jhang, accompanied by the Chief Guest, Honorable Governor of Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman. During the event, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir was recognized as a Guest of Honour, and the Governor of Punjab presented him with a shield and a painting as a token of appreciation for his outstanding contributions as the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Jhang. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir successfully led the university from its inception to becoming a fully functional educational institution within a period of 3.5 years.

The University of Jhang, which was established in 2015, has since become a renowned educational institution in Pakistan, offering quality education to thousands of students from the region and beyond. Dr. Munir's leadership and vision played a significant role in the university's growth and development. His contribution to the establishment of the university was highly appreciated, and his presence at the art exhibition was a testament to his continued support for the institution.

The visit by the Chairperson PHEC and the Governor of Punjab highlights the importance of supporting the arts and recognizing the contributions of leaders in the field of education. The event was also an opportunity for the University of Jhang to showcase the talent and creativity of its students in the field of art and to celebrate their achievements.

Pakistan Defence Day is an Important Commemoration that Symbolizes the Unwavering Dedication of the Pakistani People to Safeguard their Independence and National Sovereignty Regardless of the Challenges They May Face

On September 7, during the 7th Annual Speaker's Convention on Defence Day, organized by the Pakistan Youth Parliament, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), delivered a speech at the event held at Govt. Islamia Graduate College for Women in Cooper Road, Lahore.

In his speech, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted the significance of Pakistan Defence Day as a day that represents the unwavering commitment of the Pakistani nation to safeguard its freedom, independence, and sovereignty. He acknowledged the bravery and dedication of Pakistan's Armed Forces, emphasizing their preparedness to defend the homeland against any challenges or threats.

The Chairperson PHEC expressed his deep respect and gratitude towards the martyrs and Ghazis (war heroes) who have sacrificed their lives and made immense contributions to the defense of the country. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by these brave individuals and their families, recognizing their unwavering patriotism and commitment to the nation's welfare.

By participating in the convention, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir demonstrated his support and recognition for the sacrifices made by the armed forces and their families. The event provided a platform to honor and pay tribute to the brave individuals who have dedicated their lives to protecting the country's sovereignty.

The Chairperson's presence and speech at the convention underscored the commitment of PHEC and its leadership to supporting and acknowledging the efforts of the armed forces. It also served as a reminder of the importance of recognizing and honoring the sacrifices made by the heroes who have laid down their lives in service to the nation.



Discussion on Higher Education and College Development in the Province

Dr. Ashiq Hussain, who serves as the DPI Colleges of Punjab, met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission at his office for a meeting on August 12. The Directorate of Public Instruction (DPI) Colleges is responsible for overseeing and regulating colleges in the Punjab province. The meeting focused on matters related to higher education and the development of colleges in the province, and Dr. Hussain have sought guidance and input from the PHEC Chairperson on various issues related to higher education in the region.



Helping Collaboration in Research and Development



During a meeting on September 9, between Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), and the Pro-Rector of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), they explored potential areas of collaboration between NUST and universities in Punjab. The meeting took place, and discussions revolved around the establishment of multidisciplinary research groups, resource sharing, and capacity building to enhance research and development activities in the region.

The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between NUST, a renowned institution known for its expertise in science and technology, and universities in Punjab. By establishing multidisciplinary research groups, researchers from different fields can collaborate on projects that address complex challenges and promote innovation.

The sharing of resources between NUST and universities in Punjab can lead to greater access to state-of-the-art facilities, equipment, and expertise. This exchange of resources can enhance the research capabilities of universities in Punjab, enabling them to undertake high-quality research projects and contribute to scientific advancements.

Capacity building was also a crucial aspect of the discussion. By strengthening research and development activities in Punjab, the collaboration between NUST and universities can facilitate the professional growth of researchers and students. This can include training programs, workshops, and other initiatives aimed at enhancing research skills and fostering a culture of innovation.

Minister for Higher Education Punjab Chairs Syndicate Meeting of University of Jhang, Highlighting Importance of the Event



On September 13, the Minister for Higher Education Punjab's chaired the syndicate meeting of the University of Jhang. That was a significant event that highlights the high level of importance of the meeting. The syndicate meeting is a key decision-making body for the university, responsible for overseeing and guiding the institution's growth and development. The fact that the meeting was chaired by the Minister for Higher Education Punjab indicates the government's keen interest in the university's progress and the importance it places on higher education in the region.

Moreover, the presence of the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, at the meeting is also significant. During the syndicate meeting, various topics related to the University of Jhang's growth and development were discussed. This included matters such as academic programs, research initiatives, funding, and other important issues. Such topics are crucial for the university's progress and development, and the syndicate's discussion of these matters indicates its commitment to ensuring the university's success.

Strengthening Collaboration for Higher Education: Meeting Between PHEC and HEC Chairpersons



On September 9, during a visit to Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the newly appointed Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), congratulated him on his appointment and discussed their mutual dedication to improving higher education and the quality of educational institutions in the country. The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration between the HEC and PHEC and foster a shared vision for the betterment of higher education in Pakistan.

During their discussion, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir and Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed recognized the importance

of capacity building initiatives to enhance the quality of education in the country. They agreed that the HEC and PHEC would collaborate on such initiatives, sharing resources and expertise to develop the skills and capabilities of faculty members and staff in higher education institutions.

Additionally, both leaders emphasized the significance of representation on each other's committees. This collaboration ensures that the perspectives and insights of both commissions are taken into account in decision-making processes, leading to more comprehensive and inclusive initiatives for the improvement of higher education.

To promote regular communication and coordination, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed committed to holding monthly meetings with the Chairpersons of provincial HECs, including Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir. These meetings provide a platform for sharing updates, discussing challenges, and aligning strategies to address the needs of higher education institutions in different regions of the country.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir expressed his gratitude for Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed's support and emphasized the shared vision and strategy of both commissions for the betterment of higher education. The commitment to work as a team and provide synergy highlights the determination of the leaders to foster collaboration and drive positive change in the higher education sector.

By joining forces and leveraging their respective strengths, the HEC and PHEC can enhance the quality of education, research, and innovation in Pakistan.

E-Governance in Higher Education Institutions

In a meeting on September 23, Mr. Sajid Latif, Director General of the Punjab Information Technology Board, met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, to discuss matters related to e-governance in higher education institutions. The objective of the meeting was to investigate the potential of utilizing technology to enhance governance and administrative processes in universities and colleges throughout Punjab. The officials deliberated ways to simplify administrative procedures, increase transparency, and reduce paperwork by implementing e-governance initiatives. E-governance refers to the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to boost the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector governance. In the context of higher education, e-governance initiatives encompass online admission systems, e-learning platforms, digital libraries, and student information management systems.



Promoting Access to Higher Education: PHEC Chairperson's Contribution to Chief Minister Merit Scholarship Program

During the 13th Meeting of the Selection Committee of the Chief Minister Merit Scholarship Program of the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF), Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), actively participated in the process of selecting scholarship recipients on September 15. The Chief Minister Merit Scholarship Program aims to provide financial assistance to deserving students, enabling them to pursue higher education and fulfill their academic aspirations.

As a member of the selection committee, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir played a key role in reviewing the applications and assessing the candidates based on their academic merit and financial needs. His valuable input and expertise contributed to discussions about the selection criteria and procedures. He emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and fairness in the selection process, ensuring that deserving students have equal opportunities to benefit from the scholarship program.

Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir highlighted the significance of identifying and supporting students from marginalized communities. By considering the diverse backgrounds and challenges faced by students, the committee aimed to provide opportunities for those who may otherwise have limited access to higher education.

As a result of the committee's deliberations, a number of deserving students were selected to receive scholarships. The Chief Minister Merit Scholarship Program, with the support of PHEC and other stakeholders, continues to be a valuable initiative in promoting access to higher education for talented and deserving students across the province of Punjab.

The active involvement of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir in the selection process demonstrates the commitment of PHEC and its leadership to ensuring equal opportunities for students and supporting their educational pursuits. Through programs like the Chief Minister Merit Scholarship, talented students are empowered to pursue their academic goals, contributing to the overall development of the province and the nation as a whole.



Meeting of BARGAD Representatives with PHEC Chairperson at PHEC Office

Ms. Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director of an organization, and Ms. Saiqa Rani, who serves as the Program Director for BARGAD, visited the PHEC on September 2, and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, at his office.



Advancing Poultry Science:

PHEC Chairperson's Address at the Poultry Science Conference



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), attended the Poultry Science Conference as the Chief Guest on September 15. The conference, organized by the University of Veterinary and Animal Science Lahore, provided a platform for experts in the field of poultry science to come together, share their research findings, discuss emerging trends, and explore new opportunities for collaboration and partnership.



As the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir addressed the audience and shared his insights and perspectives on the importance of poultry science in the agriculture and food industry of Pakistan. He highlighted the significant role that poultry science plays in ensuring food security, improving livestock health, and enhancing the overall economic development of the country.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's presence as the Chief Guest at the conference emphasized the recognition and support given by PHEC to the field of poultry science and its contribution to the agricultural sector. By attending such events and sharing his expertise, the Chairperson PHEC demonstrates the commission's commitment to promoting research and innovation in various disciplines, including poultry science.



The conference served as a valuable platform for experts, researchers, and industry professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss advancements, and foster collaboration in the field of poultry science. Through such collaborative efforts, the conference contributes to the growth and development of the poultry industry in Pakistan and ultimately benefits the overall economy and well-being of the country.



Ms. Nuket Tanol, who serves as the Director of International Office at Bahcesehir University North Cyprus campus, and Dr. Ahmed Muneeb Mehta visited the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC, and had a meeting with him on August 11.

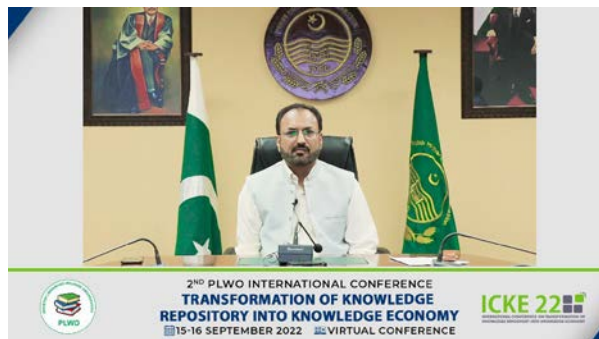


On July 15, The Chairman Lahore Leads University, Mr. Mian Zahoor Ahmed Wattoo, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nadeem Ahmad Bhatti, the Executive Director, Mr. Muhammad Hamza Wattoo, and the Registrar, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Wattoo, visited the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC.

Transforming Knowledge Repositories:

PHEC Chairperson's Address at the PLWO Virtual Conference

On September 15, during the 2nd PLWO virtual conference on "International Conference on Transformation of Knowledge Repository into Knowledge Economy," Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), was invited as the Chief Guest. In his address, Dr. Shahid highlighted the importance of collaboration and resource sharing between universities to develop state-of-the-art libraries and laboratories, recognizing that neither private nor public institutions can afford to build such facilities on their own in today's world.



Dr. Shahid emphasized the need for libraries to integrate modern technologies such as Library Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Institutional Repository, and Digital Library Services to enhance the current state of libraries in Pakistan. He suggested that libraries should also share their human resources for capacity building of other libraries, and students from any institution should have access to modern libraries and laboratories of any other institution in the town. This approach would enable the efficient utilization of resources and create an environment of collaboration and knowledge sharing among educational institutions.

The conference provided a platform for experts to discuss the transformation of knowledge repositories into knowledge economies, highlighting the significance of leveraging knowledge for economic development. By promoting the integration of modern technologies in libraries and advocating for resource sharing, Dr. Shahid Munir contributed to the dialogue on how Pakistan can compete in the global knowledge-based economy.

The conference's discussions and recommendations aim to foster a culture of innovation, research, and knowledge dissemination, ultimately driving the transformation of Pakistan's knowledge repositories into dynamic knowledge economies. Through the adoption of advanced technologies and collaborative approaches, the country can strengthen its academic infrastructure and position itself as a competitive player in the global knowledge-driven era.

Meeting between Motivational Speaker and PHEC Chairperson to Discuss Industry-Academia Linkages Seminar for Students

Mr. Qasim Ali Shah, a motivational speaker, and the Chairperson PHEC held a meeting on September 5, to discuss the possibility of organizing an industry-academia linkages seminar for students. Mr. Qasim Ali Shah's expertise in motivation and career development was deemed potentially beneficial for such a seminar. This type of event would have offered students valuable information and insights into various career paths and the job market. By bringing together industry professionals and academic experts, students would have been exposed to a range of perspectives and gained a deeper understanding of what it takes to excel in their chosen fields.



Fostering Innovation:

PHEC Chairperson's Visit to the Interactive Scientific Exhibition



On September 16, the Department of Chemistry at the University of Jhang organized an event called the "Innovative and Interactive Scientific Exhibition." This exhibition aimed to provide a platform for students to showcase their innovative ideas and engage in interactive scientific demonstrations. The event was made even more special by the presence of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Shahid Munir actively participated in the exhibition, demonstrating his commitment to fostering scientific curiosity and encouraging students to explore new ideas. Throughout the event, he engaged with the participating students, showing a keen interest in their projects and ideas. By interacting with the students, Dr. Shahid Munir aimed to motivate and inspire them to pursue their scientific passions further.

The Chairperson PHEC expressed his belief in the value of such exhibitions. He recognized them as excellent opportunities for students to showcase their innovative ideas and gain new knowledge. These events not only encourage students to think creatively and develop problem-solving skills but also provide a platform for them to share their work with a wider audience. Dr. Shahid Munir's support and encouragement during the exhibition highlighted the commitment of PHEC to promoting scientific education and fostering a culture of innovation in the region.

As the event drew to a close, prizes were distributed to the winners. This recognition served to motivate and appreciate the efforts of the participating students, acknowledging their hard work and exceptional ideas. The distribution of prizes not only celebrated the achievements of the winners but also encouraged all participants to continue exploring and pursuing scientific endeavors.

The Founding Director of the Institute for Peace & Secular Studies (IPSS), Ms. Diep Saeeda, visited PHEC and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission-PHEC on July 14.



2nd Vice-Chancellors Conference Addresses Academic Governance and Equity in Higher Education

The 2nd Vice-Chancellors conference on "The Challenges of Academic Governance, Achieving Excellence and Equity in Higher Education" was organized by the University of Home Economics (UHE), Lahore, in collaboration with a youth development organization.

The conference was attended by former Minister for School Education and Higher Education Punjab, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairperson of Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, VCs, representatives from 17 public sector universities, experts, and representatives from marginalized communities, including minorities.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan highlighted the government's special quotas that have facilitated the inclusion of minority youth in higher education. He emphasized the importance of ethical support for marginalized groups and mentioned initiatives like the PEEF scholarships program. He also announced the government's plans for various educational events and urged the VCs to enforce the HEC's Protection against Sexual Harassment Policy.

PHEC Chairperson Prof Dr. Shahid Munir emphasized the need for functional statutory bodies in universities to enhance academic governance. He announced the PHEC Expo to showcase research-based products from universities and monthly roundtable conferences with VCs to address governance and academic excellence issues. Prof. Kanwal Ameen, Vice-Chancellor of UHE, highlighted the importance of social and cultural acceptance of marginalized students and the need to raise awareness about available quotas and address equity concerns in academic policies.

Ms Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director of Bargad, stressed the significance of inclusive development in higher education. Several VCs, including Prof Dr Zakria Zakar, Prof. Dr Bushra Mirza, Prof. Dr Saima Hamid, Prof. Dr Rukhsana Kausar, Prof. Dr Robina Farooq, Prof. Dr Saiqa Imtiaz Asif, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Prof Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Prof. Dr. Abdul Sattar Shakir, and Pro-VC Prof Dr. Maroof Aziz Khan, along with university representatives, Dr Robeena Zakir and Dr Naveed Iqbal, also participated in the conference and engaged in a round table discussion.



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir Commends UVAS for Flood Relief Efforts

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), attended the Departure event of the "UVAS Flood Relief Teams" on September 19, as the esteemed Chief Guest. The event served as a ceremony to mark the departure of teams organized by the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) to assist flood-affected families and their animals in remote areas.

During the event, Dr. Shahid commended UVAS for taking the lead in providing relief to those affected by the floods. He praised the university for its proactive efforts in collecting a significant amount of donations and organizing effective flood relief campaigns. Dr. Shahid recognized the importance of such initiatives in the best interest of the nation and the country, highlighting the dire need to support those affected by natural disasters.

Furthermore, Dr. Shahid extended his congratulations to the Vice Chancellor of UVAS and his team for the successful completion of Phase-I of the flood relief campaign. This acknowledgment highlighted the dedication and commitment of the university in addressing the immediate needs of flood-affected communities.

Dr. Shahid also took the opportunity to wish the ongoing teams the best of luck for their activities in the flood-affected areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). His well-wishes demonstrated support for the ongoing relief efforts and encouraged the teams to carry out their work with compassion, efficiency, and professionalism.

By attending the Departure event of the "UVAS Flood Relief Teams" and serving as the Chief Guest, Dr. Shahid showcased his appreciation for UVAS's commitment to providing assistance to those affected by floods. His presence at the event highlighted the importance of collective efforts and emphasized the role of educational institutions in serving communities during challenging times.



Another visitor to the PHEC was Prof. Dr. Ismat Ullah Cheema, Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Lahore, who also met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir on August 22.

Dr. Shahzad Sarfraz, Director of FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus, and Mr. Faisal Ijaz, who is the Controller Examination of Information Technology University Lahore, met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, at his office.



Exploring the Future of Higher Education: A Discussion on the 2050 Academic Scenario

Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, Vice Chancellor of Emerson University Multan, hosted a discussion on September 19, and luncheon on the topic of the 2050 Academic Scenario. The event was attended by several notable individuals from various fields, including Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, former Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court Justice (r) Mr. Qasim Ali Khan, former Chairperson PHEC Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, Prof. Dr. Shafay Shamail from LUMS, SSP Motorway Police Mr. Ch. Atta, former Advisor to CM Ch Sher, and DG Superior University Mr. Sami Peerzada.

The purpose of the discussion was to address the challenges and strategies related to the higher education sector's academic scenario in the year 2050. The event provided a platform for the attendees to share their insights and opinions on the future of higher education in Pakistan. The discussion covered various topics, including technological advancements, changing student demographics, and evolving teaching methodologies.

Dr. Ramzan emphasized the need to embrace innovation and technology in higher education to keep up with the changing times. He highlighted the importance of preparing students for future jobs that may not even exist today. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir stressed the need for promoting research culture in universities to produce innovative solutions to future challenges. Justice (r) Mr. Qasim Ali Khan spoke about the importance of providing access to education to marginalized communities to promote inclusivity.

The discussion was insightful, and the attendees shared valuable opinions on the academic scenario in 2050. The event was an excellent opportunity for experts from different fields to come together and brainstorm strategies to address future challenges. The attendees expressed their appreciation for Dr. Ramzan's efforts in organizing such an informative discussion and hoped for more such events in the future.



Meeting of University of Punjab Professors with PHEC Chairperson to Discuss Departmental Growth and Development

Dr. Muhammad Arshad Javed, Professor and Chairperson Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, and Dr. Anjum Nasim Sabri, Professor and Director of the Institute of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Punjab Lahore, visited the office of the Chairperson PHEC on August 16. During their meeting, they discussed matters related to the growth and development of their respective departments and the university as a whole.



Meeting of Vice Chancellors with PHEC Chairperson to Discuss Higher Education Matters

On different occasions, during the visits of Prof. Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zakar, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wajid, and Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen to the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), the discussions were held on various matters concerning higher education in their respective institutions.

The Vice Chancellors discussed academic programs offered by their universities, including curriculum development, quality assurance, and accreditation processes. They have shared updates on research initiatives and collaborations with other universities, research institutions, and industry partners. The Vice Chancellors have also discussed the challenges they face in terms of funding, resource allocation, and infrastructure development.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson PHEC, have provided guidance and support to the Vice Chancellors. They have discussed strategies to improve the quality of education, enhance research output, and promote innovation in their respective institutions. The Chairperson PHEC have also shared information about funding opportunities, grants, and scholarships available through PHEC and other relevant channels.

Such meetings play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and cooperation among higher education institutions. By exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices, Vice Chancellors can learn from each other and work together to address common challenges and elevate the overall standard of higher education in Punjab.

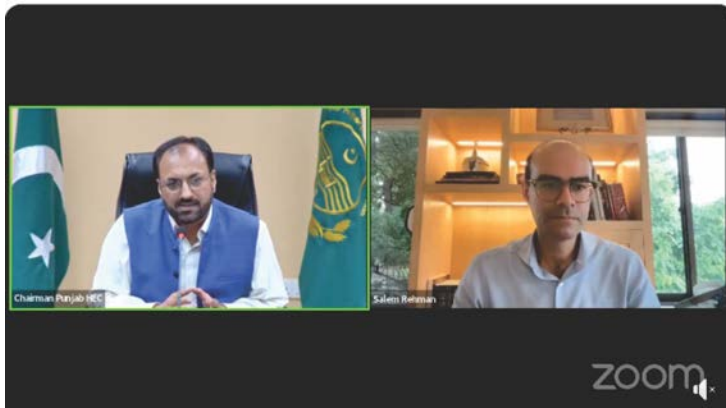


Mr. Haroon Raheem, Senior Development Advisor of USAID/Pakistan, met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, at his office on July 25.



Prof. Dr. Habib Ali Bokhari, Vice Chancellor, Kohsar University Murree, visited the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, and had a meeting with him on August 2, 2022.

Interactive Live Session: Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir Addresses Challenges and Reforms in Higher Education



On August 2022, an interactive live session took place, featuring Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission, as the guest speaker. Mr. Salem Rehman, the Vice-Chancellor of NUR International University Lahore, assumed the role of the moderator. The session, titled "Challenges and Reforms in Higher Education," aimed to comprehensively address the various obstacles hindering the advancement of higher education in the region. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's extensive expertise in the field provided a solid foundation for the discussions, offering valuable

insights into the challenges faced by educational institutions, educators, and students. Mr. Salem Rehman, drawing upon his experience as the Vice-Chancellor, adeptly guided the proceedings as the moderator.

Throughout the session, participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions, exploring the current state of higher education and brainstorming potential reforms that could bring about positive changes within the system. The topics covered a wide range of areas, including curriculum development, innovative teaching approaches, research opportunities, quality assurance measures, student support systems, and the effective integration of emerging technologies. By exploring these areas, the session fostered a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted challenges in higher education and aimed to identify viable pathways for reform.

The participation of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir as the guest speaker, alongside Mr. Salem Rehman's expertise as the moderator, exemplified their dedication to improving and advancing higher education. By shedding light on challenges and exploring potential reforms, they demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering an environment conducive to growth, innovation, and excellence in higher education.

Lahore Garrison University's Vice Chancellor and Registrar Hold Meeting with PHEC Chairperson to Discuss University Matters



On July 26, Maj Gen (Retd.) Shahzad Sikander, the Vice Chancellor Lahore Garrison University, and Brig (Retd.) Raheel Ashraf, the Registrar had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The purpose of the meeting was to address a wide range of topics concerning Lahore Garrison University. These topics included university policies, academic programs, administrative matters, and any other relevant issues that required discussion and decision-making.

During the meeting, the Vice Chancellor and Registrar sought guidance from Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of PHEC. They provided updates on various

aspects of the university's functioning and shared their strategies for improving the institution's performance. The goal was to leverage Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir's expertise and experience to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Lahore Garrison University.

USAID Delegation Meets with PHEC Chairperson

On August 16, the visit of the USAID delegation, led by Ms. Anne Flaker, Director of the Education Office Pakistan, and accompanied by Mr. Haroon Raheem, Senior Development Advisor, to the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), signifies the importance of international collaborations in improving education and promoting development in Pakistan.



During the meeting, discussions revolved around educational initiatives and projects that USAID is currently funding or planning to fund in Pakistan. The delegation has shared information about their ongoing programs and their objectives, focusing on areas such as curriculum development, teacher training, infrastructure improvement, and access to quality education.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson PHEC, have provided insights into the educational landscape of Punjab and discussed the priorities and initiatives taken by the commission to enhance the quality of education in the province. The meeting has served as an opportunity to

explore potential areas of collaboration between PHEC and USAID, such as joint projects, research partnerships, and capacity-building programs.

Partnerships with international organizations like USAID play a significant role in bringing in expertise, resources, and support to advance the educational sector in Pakistan. By engaging with such delegations, PHEC can contribute to the formulation and implementation of effective strategies for educational development and work towards achieving the goals of quality education and inclusive growth in the country.

Dr. Sania Muneer of SOAS University of London Meets with PHEC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir



Dr. Sania Muneer, a Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London, visited the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) on August 23, 2022. During her visit, she had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC discuss Research Collaborations, Academic Exchange, and Promoting Social and Economic Development in Pakistan

The School of Oriental and African Studies is a public research university located in London, United Kingdom. Dr. Sania Muneer, as a Research Fellow at SOAS, is involved in conducting research related to various social and economic issues in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan. During her meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Dr. Sania Muneer

discussed various topics related to higher education in Pakistan, such as research collaborations between universities in Pakistan and the UK, the role of research in promoting social and economic development in Pakistan, and opportunities for academic exchange programs between SOAS and universities in Pakistan.

Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council Delegation Meets with PHEC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir to Discuss Collaboration in Medical Education

On August 24, Mr. Awais Rauf, the Chairman of the University of Lahore, led a delegation from the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, on a visit to the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). The delegation comprised senior officials, including Prof. Joel Okullo Odom, Chairperson of the Council; Dr. Fred Cyprian Katumba Ssentongo, the Registrar; and Prof. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Equator University of Science and Technology and Vice Chancellor of Kampala International University.



The purpose of the visit was to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two organizations in the field of medical education. The delegation provided an overview of the medical education system in Uganda and highlighted the challenges faced by the country in this domain. They also stressed the need for collaboration with international universities to enhance the quality of medical education in Uganda.

During the meeting the discussions centered on fostering collaboration and exchange programs between universities in Pakistan and Uganda. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir welcomed the delegation and expressed his appreciation for their visit. He acknowledged the importance of collaboration and cooperation between universities and educational institutions across borders.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir expressed his support for initiatives aimed at improving medical education in Uganda. He assured the delegation of PHEC's commitment to fostering cooperation and shared expertise in the field of medical education. By collaborating and exchanging knowledge, both organizations can work together to address the challenges faced by the medical education sector in Uganda.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to explore avenues of collaboration, including faculty exchange programs, joint research projects, and sharing best practices in medical education. The delegation expressed their gratitude for the warm reception and support extended by PHEC and looked forward to future collaborations between the two institutions.

The visit of the delegation from the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council to the Punjab Higher Education Commission highlighted the importance of international collaborations in the field of medical education. The meeting between the delegation and Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir emphasized the commitment to mutual cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and expertise. Such partnerships have the potential to contribute significantly to the improvement of medical education in Uganda and foster global cooperation in the field.

Prof. Dr. Syeda Faleeha Zahra Kazmi, who heads the Department of Persian at Lahore College for Women University, Lahore visited the PHEC on August 19, with other faculty members to meet Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the PHEC. They presented their newly published book to him.



Punjab Information Technology Board's Citizen Contact Centre Delegation Explores Collaboration Opportunities with PHEC for Technological Innovation in Public Service Delivery



On August 23, the visit of the Punjab Information Technology Board's (PITB) Citizen Contact Centre delegation led by Mr. Ali Zeb, to meet Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), he highlights the importance of collaboration between government agencies and academic institutions to promote technological innovation and improve public service delivery.

During the meeting, the delegation presented their ongoing efforts and initiatives to enhance citizen engagement and improve government services through the use of technology. This include initiatives such as

developing mobile applications, implementing online platforms for service delivery, and establishing helplines for citizen support. They have also shared their goals of promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, as the Chairperson PHEC, have discussed the role of academic institutions in supporting and contributing to technological advancements and innovation. The meeting has provided an opportunity to explore potential areas of collaboration between PHEC and the Citizen Contact Centre, such as joint research projects, sharing of expertise and resources, and capacity-building programs.

The agreement to explore potential areas of cooperation signifies the commitment of both parties to leveraging technology to enhance public service delivery and promote citizen-centric governance. By collaborating with the Citizen Contact Centre, academic institutions can play a crucial role in providing research-based solutions, conducting evaluations, and developing innovative approaches to improve government services and benefit citizens across Punjab.

Meeting between Human Aid Organization Delegation and PHEC Chairperson to Discuss Collaboration for Promoting Higher Education and Enhancing Educational Opportunities



A delegation from the Human Aid Organization visited the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) on September 23, and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC. The Human Aid Organization is a non-profit organization that operates across Pakistan and has initiated a variety of welfare projects aimed at improving the lives of individuals and communities.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed various ways in which the two organizations could collaborate to promote higher education and enhance educational opportunities in the region. The Human Aid Organization shared details about their ongoing projects and programs related to education and emphasized their commitment to supporting the development of educational infrastructure and resources across Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir appreciated the efforts of the Human Aid Organization and acknowledged their valuable contribution to the betterment of society. He expressed his support for the organization's mission and vision and assured them of PHEC's continued cooperation and collaboration in the future.

Meeting between YES Network Pakistan CEO and PHEC Chairperson on Intra and Inter-Level Change-Making Competition in Universities

The visit of Mr. Ali Raza Khan, CEO of YES Network Pakistan on August 26, to the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and his meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, suggests a discussion focused on intra and inter-level change-making competitions in universities.

During the meeting, Mr. Ali Raza Khan shared insights and perspectives on the importance of promoting change-making initiatives within universities. Intra-level competitions refer to competitions or initiatives within a single university or institution, aimed at fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership, and social impact among students.

Inter-level competitions, on the other hand, involve competitions or events that bring together students from different universities or institutions to compete, collaborate, and learn from each other's experiences. Such competitions can promote cross-institutional collaboration, networking, and knowledge-sharing, while also encouraging healthy competition and raising the standard of innovation and social impact initiatives.

The presence of Dr. Mansoor Ahmad Baluch, the COO of PHEC, at the meeting indicates the significance of the discussion and PHEC's interest in supporting and facilitating such change-making competitions in universities across Punjab. PHEC may play a role in coordinating and providing resources, mentorship, and guidance to universities in organizing these competitions effectively.

Change-making competitions can serve as catalysts for fostering an entrepreneurial and innovative culture among students, promoting problem-solving skills, and nurturing leadership qualities. By supporting such initiatives, PHEC and YES Network Pakistan can contribute to the overall development and growth of students and universities in Punjab.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to explore collaboration opportunities between YES Network Pakistan and PHEC in organizing and supporting intra and inter-level change-making competitions in universities. This collaboration would aim to create a vibrant ecosystem that encourages and rewards student-driven initiatives for positive societal change.



The Acting Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) at UMT Lahore, Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Akhter, along with the faculty of SSH, visited PHEC and met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, at his office on August 2nd.



Dr. Aroona Shah Hashmi, a lecturer in the Department of Secondary Education at the Institute of Education & Research at Punjab University in Lahore, also visited the PHEC and met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir on August 22.

Meeting between Iranian Cultural Centre Director General and PHEC Chairperson to Discuss Creation of Multilateral Scientific Domains



During a visit to the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Mr. Jafar Ronas, Director General and Cultural Attaché of the Cultural Centre at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Lahore, met with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir on September 23, the Chairperson PHEC, to discuss the possibility of creating multilateral scientific domains in the region. The meeting was held to explore opportunities for collaboration and exchange between universities and research institutions in Pakistan and Iran. The two officials discussed potential areas of mutual interest. The creation of multilateral scientific domains would involve the

establishment of research networks and partnerships that promote the sharing of knowledge and resources across borders. Such collaborations can have significant benefits, including the advancement of scientific knowledge, the promotion of cultural understanding, and the strengthening of diplomatic relations. During the meeting, both parties expressed their willingness to work together to create such domains and pledged to continue their efforts in this regard.

Strengthening Collaboration for Quality Education: NUR International University Delegation Meets PHEC Chairperson



A delegation from NUR International University led by Prof. Dr. Najma Najam, Pro-VC, visited the Punjab Higher Education Commission and met with Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir at his office. The meeting provided an opportunity for the delegation from NUR International University to share their experiences and views with the Chairperson of the PHEC and discuss ways to further improve the quality of higher education in Pakistan. The meeting also highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnerships between Universities and the government to promote academic excellence and research in the country.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir appreciated the efforts of NUR International University in providing quality education and promoting research in various fields. He also discussed the various initiatives taken by the PHEC to support universities and colleges in the province.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Taqi Zahid Butt and Dr. Ayyaz Muhammad, both from the University of the Punjab, Lahore visited the PHEC on August 29 and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson PHEC.

Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid, Director Graduate Study at National Textile University in Faisalabad, visited the office of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC, and had a meeting with him August 12.



PHEC Chairperson's Participation in SDPI Meeting on Understanding Corruption and Its Prevention



Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission During the meeting on "Understanding Corruption and Its Prevention from Society" at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission, played an active role. The purpose of the meeting was to delve into the detrimental effects of corruption on society and explore strategies to prevent it. Distinguished individuals from various fields such as academia, civil society, and government officials participated in the event.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, drawing from his expertise, shed light on the crucial role of education in combating corruption. He emphasized the significance of instilling ethical values and

promoting awareness of anti-corruption measures among students, teachers, and other stakeholders in the education sector. Recognizing education as a powerful tool, he advocated for incorporating anti-corruption education as a core component of the curriculum. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills to identify and combat corruption, it becomes possible to create a more resilient society that actively opposes corrupt practices.

Other speakers at the meeting also underscored the importance of transparency and accountability in both government and private sector institutions. They stressed the need for strong measures to prevent corrupt practices and discussed ways to foster a culture of integrity. Enhancing legal and regulatory frameworks was identified as a critical step towards curbing corruption effectively.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson PHEC Attended the Meeting of the Expert/Technical Review Committee for Travel Grants of HEC



On September 22, 2022, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), participated in an online meeting held by the Expert/Technical Review Committee for Travel Grants and Seminar & Conferences of the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The purpose of this meeting was to review and assess travel grant applications submitted to the HEC. Travel grants are typically provided to scholars, researchers, and academicians to support their attendance at conferences,

seminars, workshops, and other academic events. These grants cover expenses such as travel, accommodation, and registration fees, allowing individuals to participate and present their research findings or exchange knowledge and ideas with fellow professionals in their respective fields.

The Expert/Technical Review Committee consists of subject matter experts and professionals with extensive experience in various academic disciplines. Their role is to evaluate the applications based on predefined criteria, such as the relevance of the proposed event to the applicant's research or academic pursuits, the potential impact of the applicant's participation on their field of study, and the overall quality of the application.

Congratulatory Visits and Collaborative Commitments

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), received congratulatory visits from esteemed individuals in the field of higher education. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, former Chairperson PHEC, Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran, former Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Dr. Shahid Soroya, Ex-Director General of PHEC, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University of Technology Rasul Prof. Dr. Rauf-e-Azam, Vice-Chancellor GCWU Sialkot Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Kausar, Vice-Chancellor LCWU, Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Vice-Chancellor University of Poonch, Prof. Dr. Zakria Zakar Mr. Awais Raoof, the Chairman of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the University of Lahore, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, the Rector of the University of Lahore and delegations from the Shaoor Foundation and Punjab University were among the first to visit and extend their congratulations to Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir. Additionally, a delegation from the University of Punjab, led by Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, former Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, and Vice Chairperson of the PEC (Presidents' Conference of Universities of Pakistan), also visited the PHEC to express their congratulations to Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir. This delegation further emphasized their commitment to collaborating with PHEC to enhance the quality of education in the province.

During these visits, matters pertinent to the higher education sector were discussed. The delegations expressed their confidence in the leadership of Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir and assured him of their unwavering support in his endeavors to improve the quality of higher education in the province. The collective commitment to working together signifies a collaborative approach towards addressing the challenges and enhancing the standards of higher education in Punjab.

These visits not only served as opportunities to congratulate Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir on his new role but also symbolized a shared vision among key figures in the higher education sector. The exchange of ideas and expressions of support fostered a sense of unity and determination to drive positive changes in the educational landscape of the province.



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