

Newsletter



NWFP UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY PESHAWAR

Patron: Engr. Syed Imtiaz Hussain Gilani
Vice Chancellor

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◀ INSIDE ▶

- ▶ World Heritage Day celebrated.
- ▶ Student Services launched under CMS Project.
- ▶ UET launches course in gemology for FATA.
- ▶ Ph.D defense examinations held.
- ▶ Video Conferencing lecture held.



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Bannu Campus



Abbottabad Campus

Vice Chancellor's Message

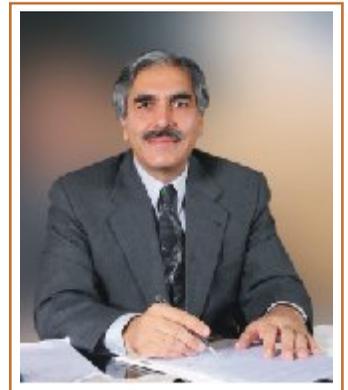
This issue of the Newsletter coincides with the start of the new academic year, i.e. Fall 2009. For those of you who have just joined us, a very warm welcome. Your hard work and industry has afforded you this rare opportunity of acquiring first-class education at a very reasonable cost. Please stay focused on your education, so that you complete your program in the scheduled eight semesters.

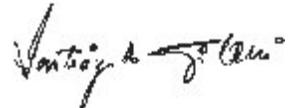
I am glad to state that our development projects are, by and large, on target. Our 'flagship' project, Jalozei Campus, is now fully funded, and picking up steam. God willing, we should see substantial change by year end.

Our scholars are starting to trickle back, fresh with their Ph.D degrees. Once a critical mass of Ph.D holders is achieved, it will usher in a paradigm shift in our academic environment. Research is the sine quo non of any university. It is heartening to see publications by our faculty in HEC recognized journal take a quantum jump in the last year.

Pakistan is going through a rough patch in its history. Mercifully, the worst seems to be over, and we can pray for better days ahead. I congratulate the entire fraternity of NWFPUET that recognized the challenge, braced itself, and ensured that the relative calm on campus is not disturbed by the surrounding turmoil.

For this I congratulate the students, the faculty, the administration and other supporting staff, which also includes the Campus Police. Well done, and good luck for the future.




Engr. Syed Imtiaz Hussain Gilani

OUR LIVING HERITAGE: OWNING AND PROTECTING IT: WORLD HERITAGE DAY

Department of Architecture, NWFP UET, Abbottabad Campus, celebrated the World Heritage Day (WHD) by holding a day-long seminar under the theme: "Our Living Heritage: Owning and Protecting It".

WHD is declared by UNESCO, upon an initiative taken by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and is observed in April every year, to raise awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage, and efforts required to protect and conserve it.

Through a joint petition, it was urged upon the government of NWFP to create legislation that protects cultural heritage, and start listing buildings of historical importance before they were demolished. The current NWFP Antiquities Act 1997, should be used to protect buildings.

The Vice Chancellor, in his electronic message, urged the need of preserving our cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. He said that culture defines the way we live. It embodies our religious beliefs; the way we dress, talk, eat and do business, is our culture. We in NWFP are proud custodians of many cultural vestiges that exist in the region since centuries.

Dr. Ayesha Pamela Rogers, Academic Coordinator, Center for Heritage Conservation & Management, NCA Lahore, in her presentation on "Conservation Initiatives in Pakistan: an Overview" emphasized the need to involve a wider society so that they make concerted efforts for the conservation of their heritage.

Prof. Dr. Salma Shaheen, Director of Pashto Academy, University of Peshawar, talked about the life sketch of a legendary Pashto Sufi Poet and a Social Reformer, Rahman Baba in her presentation "Rahman Baba, Aik Sufi Shaair aur Islah-e-Ma'aashra".

Participants of a panel discussion were the Assistant Coordinating Officer (ACO) Abbottabad, Mr. Mudassir Malik, Prof. Dr. Salma Shaheen from Peshawar University, Ar. Tahir Khatak, Hon. Gen Secretary of IAP (Institute of Architects Pakistan Peshawar Chapter), Ar. Fahmeed Shah form Hazara University, Dr. Ghousia Saeed, Ar. Marwat Khan, Ar. Muhammad Iqbal and Ar. Sameeta Ahmad.



Panelists during focus group discussion

UET LAUNCHES COURSE IN GEMOLOGY FOR FATA

NWFP UET has started a series of five month diploma programme in gemology with the support of FATA Development Project for Livelihood Program (FDP-LD), UET through its Gemstone Development Center. Twenty individuals, identified by FDP LD have been enrolled at GDC that commenced from September 1st.

The vice chancellor addressed the audience at launching ceremony of course, held at GDC. He said that development of FATA was indispensable for the prosperity of Pakistan. "Unless FATA is not developed and stabilized strategically, socio-economic conditions of the country will not improve," he remarked. It was therefore, imperative to take FATA along in the development of human resource and infrastructure, he added.

The vice chancellor said that education was the only key to bring positive change in the region as it has become a hotspot in the global arena. He lamented that there was not a single university for a population of 3 million in FATA that was why no visible change could be seen in the region.

Mr Iftikhar-ud-Din, Director Value Chain, FDP-LD in his address said that Value Chain sector works in North and South FATA with the aim to bring about improvement in the gemology sector and empower the youth through skill development in the long term. He urged the students to get maximum benefit from the foreign qualified staff of GDC and start small businesses after completing their training.

Earlier, Dr. Khan Gul Jadoon, Chairman, Mining Engineering Department and Project Director GDC, briefed the students about GDC and objectives of the training. He said the center, established in 2008, with the financial assistance of HEC was first-of-its-kind in Pakistan, offering recognized diploma since its inception. He said as the training was especially arranged for FATA students, they would get latest knowledge and hands-on practice in laboratory. He urged the students to attend the course, as the first two-month certificate course would lead to diploma, which would require them to complete their certificate course with full attendance and assessments.



Mr. Iftikhar, while speaking on the occasion

GOVERNOR NWFP INAUGURATED BOYS HOSTEL

Engr. Owais Ahmed Ghani, Governor NWFP and Chancellor NWFP UET paid a visit to university and inaugurated the newly constructed boys hostel with a capacity of accommodating 200 male students. The hostel was named after Late Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar.

Advisor Finance and Planning, M.Sarwar Khan presented a detailed report of HEC funded UET development projects of Rs. 9.65 billion, including establishment of Jalozai Campus, Institute of Mechatronics Engineering, Earthquake Engineering Center, Gemology Development Center and other development projects. Regarding Human Resource Development program, he said that UET has sent 130 scholars abroad to pursue Ph. D out of which ten have come back.

On Jalozai Campus, which is a flag ship project of UET, he informed that geo-technical investigation of site has been completed, and 57 scholars have been sent to USA to pursue Ph.D in different engineering fields under this project. The meeting was also informed, that UET signed MoU with FATA Development Project-Livelihood Program to conduct five month diploma in gemology for FATA people to be started on September 1st, 2009.

Engr. Owais Ahmad Ghani lauded the steps of UET during the last five years for uplifting its stature and making efforts for promoting research besides infrastructure development. He said the country was passing through a critical time. At this critical juncture, the technical sector will have to play a pivotal role to get

the country out of the prevailing situation. "We have to reform the system with the help of technical sector and universities will have to play their part in the development of country", he remarked.

Vice chancellor, in his welcome address said that despite hardships and challenging situation in the country, and NWFP in particular, UET has been able to make steady progress in providing engineering education to the people and showing progress in development projects. He expressed his thanks to the Governor and the provincial government in supporting the university towards the fulfillment of its goal. The vice chancellor, later on, presented the university crest to the chief guest.



Engr. Owais Ahmed Ghani, Governor NWFP, inaugurating newly constructed hostel

ARIF BELGAUMI CONDUCTS DESIGN STUDIO AT ABBOTTABAD CAMPUS

The Department of Architecture arranged a one-week "Design Studio" at Abbottabad Campus. Ar. Arif Belgaumi, Principal Architect, Ahd Associates, Karachi was invited to conduct the studio. The Design Studio was one of the Tri-Studio Series, the Department launched in June 2009 for 3rd, 4th and 5th year students. Two other studios were conducted by Ar. Tahir Khattak from Peshawar and Ar. Ashraf Shanjer from Karachi. The Design Studio was aimed to get benefit from practicing architects and exchange the studio teaching methods with them to acquire a highest level of Studio Training.

Ar. Belgaumi conducted the first studio to design and develop a 'Place' in detail at a hilly terrain near PIPS College behind the Abbottabad Campus. The students of 6th Semester also participated, while Ar. Shabir-U-Qureshi and Ar. Muhammad Ali Lascharie were the studio teachers. The objective of this exercise was to develop an understanding among students about the site context encompassing its topography, location, access, climate and infrastructure and to guide them on how to analyze and respond to those factors while proposing/ designing a structure on any particular site. The students collected required site data, measured their site, took photographs, developed site-sketches and prepared their study models, which were presented graphically along with study models before the jury. Their plans, sectional elevations and views were discussed in depth leading them to move forward for individual design solution for their particular site. They were to develop independent structures taking inspiration from the selected site.

The training also included discussions and presentations by Ar. Belgaumi. On June 13th, students' works were graded independently by Ar. Belgaumi and Ar. Shabir.

SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY - A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR SAARC

The vice chancellor, represented Pakistan as Convener in the meeting of the task force on infrastructure development under the SAARC joint initiative, "Establishment of South Asian University". The meeting, held from 2nd to 4th April in New Delhi, India, invited experts from SAARC member countries.

The South Asian University is aimed to promote good will amongst the member countries through higher education. The interaction will help build upon cordial relations amongst the South Asian countries through academic exchange programs and will bring them closer for making South Asia a peaceful and progressive region.

This is the first-ever initiative taken by the SAARC, the first campus of which will be built in New Delhi. Government of India has already chosen a site of 100-acre land while cost on completing the project has been estimated at \$ 200 million. The commencement of classes will take place in 2010 at a temporary setup, while its permanent campus will be completed in due course. The meeting reviewed architectural designs for the campus and allied facilities to accommodate 5,000 students and international faculty. Issues related to organizational structure, planning, and sponsoring mechanism were also discussed in detail.

UET LAUNCHED STUDENT SELF SERVICE UNDER THE CAMPUS MANAGEMENT SOLUTION PROJECT

UET launched Student Self Service under the Campus Management Solution (CMS) project to streamline and enhance efficiency of academic activities of the university. The project, funded by HEC offers state-of-the-art IT solutions to all issues relating to students.

The vice chancellor said that CMS would reduce the cost of administration and also make the admissions, examinations and results transparent. He said, UET was selected as a pilot university to test the system. Dr Sohail Naqvi, Executive Director, HEC, said vice chancellor, asked us to computerize our academic and administrative information. We accepted the challenge and are heading towards success. This project provides solutions from enrolment of students to completion of their degrees, he added. He asked the CMS team to embed alumni information into the software so that UET could build this record as well.

Prof. Dr. Azaam ul Asar, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, in his welcome remarks said that CMS was one of the most useful HEC funded projects in the history of UET and would enable to manage all university academic activities through computers.

Shehla Kiran, Project Manager, CMS made a detailed presentation on the progress of CMS. She said that students would get updated information about class schedules,

enrollment status, academic grades and progress towards degrees by accessing their logins which had already been provided to them. She informed students that they would get automated alerts on attendance shortage information and financial dues on their respective pages.

The Vice chancellor gave away awards to the team members as an acknowledgement of their hard work during the execution of the project.

Col (Retd) Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, Registrar, Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Advisor Finance and Planning, all heads of departments, and class representative students were present.



Ms. Shehla Kiran, Project Manager CMS giving presentation on CMS

CAREER PORTAL SERVICES WITH ROZEE.PK

A career portal service in collaboration with ROZEE.Pk has been launched officially at UET website. The portal is aimed at providing access to the students for seeking jobs in multinational companies. In his introductory address to students, Mr. Zaeem Yaqub, Director University Relations, ROZEE.Pk said 850,000 professionals had registered with Rozee Pak, while 19,125 employers were accessible for job recruitment. "In these times of economic crisis when lay-offs and job firings take place so frequently, ROZEE.Pk is proud to post 100 new jobs each day and this shows the success of the company", he added.

Mr. Zaeem informed that ROZEE.Pk had registered all reputed universities and institutions within Pakistan as well as abroad. This portal would not only serve as facilitator between the graduates and employers, but it would also provide faculty link so that pragmatic faculty research could be started. He said that UET graduates were as talented as those of GIKI, LUMS and

IBA, but they needed to proactively exploit this golden opportunity and post their CVs which would be processed through ROZEE.Pk with upgrading status alerts.

The vice chancellor, in his address, appreciated the efforts of the team headed by Ms. Farah Mehmood, Lecturer, Electrical Engineering Department in taking a proactive role and making it a success.

He gave practical advice to the students on how to write effective Cv's and project themselves during job interviews. He urged the students to pay particular attention to attitude and behaviour as positive attitude and good behaviour count a lot in the hiring decisions of employers.

NEW GIRLS HOSTEL SETUP AT MARDAN CAMPUS

The Vice chancellor inaugurated the newly constructed girls' hostel building of Mardan Campus, constructed with grant assistance of Higher Education Commission at the cost of Rs.11.2 million with the capacity of accommodating 50 female students.

The construction of hostels for girl students was a part of other P&D projects being sponsored by HEC. The need of a separate hostel had been long felt by the girls community as the old building was not enough to lodge more students. It was hoped that the hostel building would greatly contribute in giving more access to education for girls who come from far flung areas. The new hostel building not only stands as a testament of sheer hard work of concerned departments, but also as an example of UET's commitment in strengthening its cooperation in higher education.



Mr. Zaeem Yaqub, giving a brief presentation about ROZEE.Pk

PH.D DEFENSE EXAMINATIONS HELD

ENGR. SYED RIAZ-UL-HASSNAIN



Engr. Syed Riaz-ul-Hassnain, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronic Engineering, Abbottabad Campus defended his Ph.D thesis and was declared passed by the Research Evaluation Committee. The topic of his Ph.D thesis was "Application of Neutral Networks to Short-Term Load Forecasting".

The thesis was supervised by Prof. Dr. Azzam-ul-Asar, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, and funded by HEC endowment fund. The Research Evaluation Committee was comprised of Prof. Dr. Tariq Jadoon, Registrar LUMS, Lahore, Dr. Zia Ahmad, Chief Inspector of Electricity, Ministry of Water and Power, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Naeem Arbab, Department of Electrical Engineering, and Prof. Dr. Akhtar Naeem Khan, Chairman Department of Civil Engineering.

Engr. Syed Riaz-ul-Hassnain, said, in the modern complex and highly interconnected power systems, load forecasting was the first and most critical step in operational planning. This research is aimed to offer an accurate and robust solution of short-term load forecasting problem using an artificial intelligence based approach. This research significantly contributes towards improving the ability of utility companies such as WAPDA and KESC to predict load from one hour to twenty four hours ahead for efficiently scheduling and managing the operation of modern power systems in terms of addressing load management problems. Engr. Riaz-ul-Hassnain conducted his research on real-time load data of WAPDA and supported his results with a number of case studies proving the potentials of his approach towards finding the most accurate electric load forecast.

ENGR. SYED MOHAMMAD ALI



The Ph. D thesis defense of Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali, Asstt. Prof. Department of Civil Engineering was held on August 9 in which he successfully defended his research titled "Energy Dissipation Capacity of RC Bridge Columns under Seismic Demand". Dr. Ali has become the first indigenous PhD in Bridges in Pakistan. He has

proposed to develop modern indigenous bridge design code for Pakistan in which his research would directly contribute. In recognition of Ali's efforts, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) of USA have agreed to provide technical assistance in his efforts of establishing a modern bridge design code for Pakistan.

Engr. Ali presented a novel concept of Seismic Resilience of Bridges (SRB), used to quantify the functionality of bridges

following an earthquake. This is a modern concept which can be used by line departments (bridge owners) to quantify the performance of bridges after a major earthquake. Dr. Ali presented the findings of his experimental results and field survey of around 400 KM road network in northern part of NWFP and AJK. He tested four scaled bridge columns in the laboratory. According to his research, typical single column bridges having circular solid sections have low concrete strengths which are vulnerable in strong earthquakes. Dr. Ali proposed Response Modification Factors (R-factors) that account for natural period of structure. He has also provided fragility curves that can be used by line departments, planners and designers for prioritizing new bridges and strengthening of old bridges.

ENGR. AMJAD NASEER



Ph.D thesis defense examination of Engr. Amjad Naseer, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, was held successfully on research work titled "Seismic Performance Evaluation of Confined Brick Masonry Buildings" in public seminar and during viva voce examination.

Amjad Naseer's research work was focused on confined brick masonry buildings being built in the region in the backdrop of Oct 8th, 2005 earthquake. "Construction currently being practiced is non-engineered as no proper analysis and design has been carried out. The behavior of typical Pakistani confined brick masonry buildings to earthquake should be evaluated and design parameters (Response Modification factor and Ductility ration) should be determined for their onward incorporation in the Building Code of Pakistan," he remarked.

Pakistan is situated in one of the seismically active region of the world which was demonstrated on 8th Oct 2005, earthquake that resulted into huge human and infrastructural loss. The reason, Amjad stated was most buildings were non-engineered unreinforced masonry. Structural layout, low quality of materials, workmanship and lack of confinement of the masonry walls were responsible for the widespread building damage. The earthquake proved that un-reinforced masonry buildings were vulnerable in the moderate and high seismic zones.

Amjad Naseer tested a typical single and double storied reduced scale model building fabricated with model brick, mortar, micro-concrete and reinforcing bars using scale factor of 4 on Shake Table at Earthquake Engineering Center (EEC). Based on his experimentation and conclusions, he made certain recommendations.

The thesis was supervised by Professor Dr. Akhtar Naeem Khan (Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering), while members of examination committee included Professor Dr. Zahid Ahmad Siddiqui (JET Lahore), Dr. Tabassam Zahoor (Chief Engineer, Associated Consulting Engineers), Professor Dr. Irfan Ullah (Department of Mechanical Engineering) and Professor Dr. Qaisar Ali (Department of Civil Engineering).

FACULTY RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCE PAPERS

- ▶ Engr. Ahmad Junaid, M.A. Irfan, and HamidUllah, "Modeling and simulation of a propagating crack at a bi-material interface under impact loading using LS Dyan", Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Vol. 27, No.2, 2008.
- ▶ HamidUllah "Inclusive Design: a step toward social integration and dependency elimination", International Journal of Design Engineering, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2009.
- ▶ HamidUllah "A theoretical framework for concurrent integration of CAD with downstream applications", Advances in Production Engineering and Management, Vol.4, No. 4, 2009.
- ▶ Ahmad Junaid, M.A. Irfan, and HamidUllah, "LS Dyna as a valid tool for analyzing stress wave propagation under impact loading", Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Vol. 27, No. 1, 2008.
- ▶ Saba Mahmood, Prof. Dr. Azzam-ul-Asar, and Hafiz Farooq Ahmad, "Reputation model for open multi-agent systems using swarm intelligence approach, International Journal on artificial intelligence", ICAI 2009, part of WORLDCOMP'09, July 13-16, Las Vegas, USA.
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Azzam-ul-Asar, Application of Data Mining Techniques, Keynote address, Proceedings of 2nd IEEE International Conference on Advances in Space Technologies (ICAST 2008), 29-30 November, 2008.
- ▶ Dr. Mohammad Inayatullah Khan Babar, Shakeel Ahmad, "Business Trends Discovery in Databases using Self Organizing Maps", International Journal of Simulation Systems, Science and Technology, Vol. 9, Issue No. 4.
- ▶ Dr. Mohammad Inayatullah Khan Babar, Shakeel Ahmad, Sheeraz Ahmad, Iftikhar Ahmad Khan "Implementing Dimensional-View of 4x4 Logic Gate/Circuit for Quantum Computer Hardware using Xylinx", International Journal of Simulation Systems, Science and Technology, Vol. 9, Issue No. 4.
- ▶ Dr. Gul Muhammad Khan, Julian F. Miller, David M. Halliday, "Evolution of Cartesian Genetic Programs for Development of Learning Neural Architecture", Journal of Evolutionary Computation, in press, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Gul Muhammad Khan, Julian F. Miller, and David M. Halliday, "Developing Neural Structure of Two Agents that Play Checkers Using Cartesian Genetic Programming", Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference, 2008 2169-2174.
- ▶ Dr. Siraj-ul-Islam, Sirajul-Haq, Javid Ali, "Numerical Solution of Special Twelfth-order Boundary Value Problems using Differential Transform Method", Communications in Nonlinear Science and Numerical Simulation, Vol. 14, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Siraj-ul-Islam, Sirajul-Haq, Arshad Ali, "A Meshfree method for the numerical solution of RLW equations", Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics Vol. 223, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Siraj-ul-Islam, Sirajul-Haq, Marjanudin, "A Mesh-free interpolation method for the numerical solution of the coupled nonlinear partial differential equations", Engineering Analysis with Boundary Element, Vol. 33, 2009.
- ▶ Ahmad Jan Khattak, S.I.A. Tirmizi, Dr. Siraj-ul-Islam, "Application of radial basis functions scheme to system of nonlinear partial differential equations", Engineering Analysis with Boundary Elements, Vol.33, 2009.
- ▶ Sirajul Haq, Dr. Siraj-ul Islam, Arshad Ali, "A numerical meshfree technique for the solution of the MEW equation" CMES, Vol.1022, No.1, 2009.
- ▶ Prof. Sardar Ali, "Optimization of operating process parameters of copper floating by using statistical techniques", Journal of Chemical Society Vol. 31, No. 2, April 2009.
- ▶ Ghulam Shabbir and Amjad Ali, "Classification of Spatially homogeneous rotating space-times according to their conformal vector field", Applied Mathematical Sciences, Vol. 3, No. 18, 2009.
- ▶ Ghulam Shabbir, M. Ramzan and Amjad Ali, "Classification of non-static spherically symmetric space-times according to their proper conformal vector fields", University of Politechnica Bucharest Scientific Bulletin Series A, Applied Mathematics and Physics, Vol. 71, No. 1, 2009.
- ▶ Ghulam Shabbir and Amjad Ali, "A note on proper conformal symmetry in Bianchi types VIII and IX space-times", Advanced Studies in Theoretical Physics, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Noor Badshah and Ke Chen, "Two multigrid algorithms for modeling variational multiphase image segmentation". IEEE Transaction on Image Processing, 18 (5): 1097-1106, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Qaisar Ali, Prof. Dr. Akhtar Naeem, Amjad Naseer, and etl, "Observed Seismic Behaviour of Buildings in Northern Pakistan during Kashmir Earthquake", Earthquake Spectra, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Qaisar Ali, Prof. Dr. Akhtar Naeem, M. Riaz etl, "Pakistani Bentonite in Mortars and Concrete as low cost construction material", Applied Clay Sciences, 2009.
- ▶ A Tariq, I. Hussain, A Ghafoor, "A hybrid algorithm for Machine-Part Grouping", Computers and Industrial Engineering, Vol. 56, No. 1, PP-347-356, 2009.
- ▶ Naseer Ahmed Khan and Prof. Dr. Hishaam El-Dessouky, "Prospect of Biodiesel", International Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Vol. 13, Issue 6-7, 2009.
- ▶ Dr. Gul Muhammad Khan, Julian F. Miller, "Evolution of Cartesian Genetic Program Capable of Learning", Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO-2009), in press, 2009.
- ▶ Farah Mehmood, Saba Mahmood and Hafiz Farooq Ahmad, "Formal definition of trust in multi-agent systems using an integrated approach", IEEE International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies, ICICT 2009, 15-16 August 2009, Karachi, Pakistan.
- ▶ Farah Mehmood, Prof. Dr. Azzam-ul-Asar, Saba Mehmood, and Dr. Syed Riaz-ul-Hassnain, "A Swarm intelligence trust mechanism for wireless sensor networks, International Conference on wireless networks", ICWN 2009, WORLDCOMP'09, July 13-16, Las Vegas, USA.

VIDEO CONFERENCING LECTURE

A video conferencing lecture on Structural Dynamics was organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan and Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme (ERRP) Regional programme for South Asia, UNDP with the technical support of Earthquake Engineering Centre, and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The lecture was aimed to provide technical assistance services as per the requirement of ERRP Pakistan for designated government technical officials, ERRP project team engineers, academicians and graduating students.

Prof. Dr. Yuji Ishiyama, Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University, Japan deliberated his thoughts on Structural Assessment for earthquake safe construction through academic lecture. The programme participants gained experience on the planning and implementation of earthquake risk reduction strategies.

ERRP programme is aimed to implement country level projects to support the national disaster management framework of countries, and build up coordination for regional sharing and provide technical assistance for regional and country level projects. International technical assistance was also sought through the regional and international institutions, particularly from Japan in view of its extensive experience on earthquake and tsunami risk reduction.



Group Photo of participants

The Video Conferencing Lecture brought together over 100 participants representing the other five country ERRP Project i.e. five South Asian countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan) for knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas.

In his closing remarks, the vice chancellor thanked the keynote speaker for sharing his views and encouraged to hold such series across the region to promote knowledge sharing.

Shahid Aziz, Project Manager, ERRP, UNDP also spoke on the occasion while Amir Rahat, Field Coordinated/Structural Engineer, UNDP organized the session.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CS & IT), introduced a student club, Open Source University Meetup (OSUM). An introductory

presentation was held at the Department of Electrical Engineering. The club, sponsored by Sun Microsystems is aimed at developing a vibrant community of student developers around Open Source technologies. Speeches were made by the OSUM Leader, Mehwish Mohib Kakakhel, OSUM Advisor, Assistant Professor, Syed Adeel Ali Shah and Chairman, Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Babar, while a presentation was given by an OSUM member, Ali Raza.



Dr. Inayatullah Babar alongwith UET OSUM group members

- ▶ NWFP UET OSUM Group arranged two events in a row for the students. The first was a demo on an open source alternative to the famous application MatLab, known as SciLab. The presentation and demo was given by OSUM member and final-year student, Umair Ahmed of Department of CS & IT. He explained about SciLab and its importance as a better tool for high performance computing and engineering applications. The students, especially from engineering disciplines, took keen interest in this new tool.

The second event was a demo presentation of Netbeans, an open source Integrated Development Environment. It was presented by OSUM member, Aftab Ahmed Akhuzada of 6th semester of Department of CS & IT. He explained about Netbeans and its features, such as fully supporting almost any programming language and live checking of errors.

Both events marked the pace of OSUM and its passion for Free and Open Source Software. Students were given free CDs and wrist bands as souvenirs.

- ▶ UET Robotics Club grabbed 1st prize in the LEGO category of the National Engineering Robotics Context 2009, held on 8th to 11th July 2009 at EME College, NUST. Five teams comprising thirty students, led by the Student Chair Sohail, and supervised by Engr. Naveed Ullah represented the country in the elite contest.
- ▶ Muhammad Waqas Raza, student of 8th semester, Department of Electrical Engineering, Chair IEEE CREATE UET Peshawar Sub-Section visited Singapore to attend the IEEE Region 10, 125th Anniversary Student Congress 2009, held at the National University of Singapore from 16th to 19th July 2009. He was selected by IEEE Peshawar Subsection, IEEE Islamabad Section and Region 10 Student Activities Chair to represent NWFP UET, IEEE Peshawar Sub-Section in recognition of his outstanding contribution for student activities of IEEE.

IN FOCUS: DR. GHOUSIA SAEED

Dr. Ghousia Saeed completed her Ph. D in Architecture from the School of Architecture, University of Liverpool, UK in 2009 and joined the Department of Architecture, Abbottabad Campus as Assistant Professor. Her Ph.D thesis, titled "Pedestrian Real-Time Location and Routing Information Delivered to Mobile Digital Architectural



Guides" was focused on a project, 'The City in the Palm of your Hand'. It produced a Liverpool city Architectural information system accessible to pedestrian user on site via an interactive wireless portable device such as PDA, mobile phone or palmtop. A key component of this city guide that Ghousia investigated during her research was a method to deliver the user's real-time, real-world location and routing information to the handheld device on the fly. Moreover, it was required to provide the user with clearly defined routing information on the handheld device whilst visiting different Architectural attractions on the Liverpool Heritage and Campus tour. The research work presented different computing and wireless techniques and technological systems - GPS, WiFi, 2D barcode, RFID/NFC, Dijkstra algorithm - to help develop the components needed to enable a pedestrian user of this urban Architectural guide to connect what s/he sees in the real world with what is being displayed on handheld device.

Dr. Ghousia has been conferred the Young CAADRIA Award at the 2009 Award Ceremony held in Yunlin, Taiwan from 22-24 April, 2009. Founded in 1996, CAADRIA is an association that aims to foster Computer Aided Architectural Design and research in Asia (CAADRIA).

A number of research papers published in journals of international repute are to her credit, including Finding your way around Heritage Sites: the delivery of digital information to mobile devices published in International Journal of Architectural Computing. Moreover, conference papers, authored/co-authored by Ghousia include Location Awareness in a Mobile Digital Architectural Guide Source Between Man and Machine, Integration/ Intuition/Intelligence [Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Computer Aided Architectural Design Research in Asia], Remote Location in an Urban Digital Model Source: Predicting the Future [25th eCAADe Conference Proceedings], and City information delivered to Mobile Digital devices - Reflection on contemporary potentials and problems Source: Communicating Space(s) [24th eCAADe Conference Proceedings].

SEMINAR-SEISMIC DISASTER MITIGATION

A one-day seminar on "Seismic Disaster Mitigation Through Safe Structures" was jointly organized by Department of Civil Engineering and UET Computer Society.

Director Earthquake Engineering Center, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali was the guest speaker. He talked about the implication of disaster,

earthquake basics and earthquake resistant structures. "Disaster reduction is must for sustainable development as it can wipe out the whole GDP of a country. Disaster is a joint effect of hazard and vulnerability. The effect of disaster can be reduced if vulnerability is reduced", he said. He further added that earthquakes do not kill people, but badly built buildings do; about 90% of the people killed are due to building collapse. So in order to reduce the life loss, buildings should be made earthquake resistant. Dr. Qaiser categorically explained the characteristics of earthquake resistant buildings that should resist minor earthquake without any damage and moderate earthquake with repairable, but life safety damage.

He identified key research areas for students including development of strong motion recorders, accelerosensors, data processing software, demonstration shake table; active and passive control systems, and early warning systems.

The Registrar, Col (Retd) Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, highly appreciated the efforts of organizers, Tariq Usman, Saeed Marwat and Muhammad Rizwan to organize such a fruitful lecture. He said that conducting such seminars on various engineering related issues provides a platform for the basic technical understanding of related issues.

NEWS BRIEFS

- ▶ The Department of Agricultural Engineering has proposed an Agricultural Machinery Research Center (AMRS) to the Government of NWFP, which will be formed and run in collaboration with Agricultural Engineering, Tarnab, Government of NWFP.
- ▶ Dr. Zia-ul-Haq, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering has successfully completed his Ph.D in "Application of Genetic Algorithms for Irrigation Scheduling" from the School of Civil Engineering and the Environment, University of Southampton, UK.
- ▶ On June 02, 2009, Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC), a renowned organization, conducted job interviews of fresh graduates / 8th semester students of Department of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering.
- ▶ Engr. Naveed Ullah has been appointed as Sports-Incharge, Department of Mechanical Engineering, since February 2009.
- ▶ The Directorate of Sports organized a cricket tournament for Department of Civil Engineering in which four teams participated from various semesters. The final was played between Section B, 6th semester and 4th semester which was won by the team of 6th semester with 1 wicket and 3 balls against the target score of 127 of 4th semester team.
- ▶ In order to mark the IEEE's 125 years of success, UET and LUMS arranged a live video conference on June 04. Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Professor Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Texas, Arlington (UTA) made a live presentation titled "Power-Aware High-Performance Computing: The Dawn of the Green Computing Era." The conference provided an ample opportunity for exchanging ideas and sharing views in the respective field amongst the faculty members and students.