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Virtual University of Pakistan

NEWS

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Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Workshop at VU Islamabad Campus

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan supported Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Workshop was held from 18th to 21st September 2013 at Islamabad Campus of the University. The faculty members participated in mostly interactive sessions. The sessions of the CPD were conducted by eminent educationist of Pakistan including Professor Dr. Muhammad Nawaz presently working as Advisor, DQE, Dr. Nawar Khan, Engineering Management Department of NUST, Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi, Registrar Virtual University of Pakistan, and Dr. Naveed Malik, founding Rector Virtual University of Pakistan.

At the opening session of the workshop, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz shared knowledge about Muslim contributions to the scientific developments, research planning and management, key stages of research, research process, research methods, and research paper. Dr. Nawar Khan

talked about Total Quality Management (TQM). He discussed basic concept, philosophy, quality characteristics, limits, tolerances, of TQM, industrial standards and its organizations, TQM application in different types of industries, service quality requirements, manufacturing process model, sources of variability and its reduction, quality inspection and its types, data and its types, quality control charts and QC grid.

On the following day, Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi explained the concept of Grant Proposal. The module was based on



topics like grant proposal writing, executive summary, project justification, project description, program objectives, budget, key personnel, project partners, sustainability, and reporting. Dr. Naveed Malik was the speaker on the final day of the workshop. He spoke on on-line communication, mentoring and tutoring for improving on-line support for students at Virtual University of Pakistan, best practices: on-line student support elements, e-mail support and communications, moderated & graded discussion boards, assignment grading and annotation, followed by a discussion & practice session in which he

advised the academic staff to be more contemplative to improve the teaching-learning situation.



In this 4-days workshop, fifty faculty members from Islamabad Campus of VUP participated enthusiastically and learned a lot. They gave a very positive response to this workshop and showed desire for the arrangement of such workshops

on a frequent basis.

Mr. Tajdar Alam, Rector VU, was the chief guest of the ending session. He congratulated Dr. Arfeen AP-MGT and Ms. Munazah AR-VU Islamabad, on the successful arrangement of CPD. He also advised the faculty members to enhance their qualifications and excel with the modern academic concepts.



Virtual University Joins Hands with USAID Initiative for the Development of Teacher Education in Pakistan

A series of workshops was arranged by Virtual University of Pakistan with the collaboration of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at Virtual University of Pakistan from 14th-18th of September 2013 regarding "Online/technology Enabled Teacher Education". Virtual University of Pakistan collaborated with USAID initiative to equip local teacher educators with modern teaching techniques. For this purpose, USAID organized technology oriented series of online teacher education workshops. These workshops were sequenced with five sessions. Mr Vijay Kumar Executive officer for MIT's Council on Educational

Technology and Mr. Brandon Muramatsu conducted the workshop on Education Technology Overview, Infrastructure and Administration, Digital Learning Toolkit and Concept-based Approaches to Online Teacher Education. Dr. Violeta Ivanova Senior Educational Technology Consultant MIT led for Visualization in Science Education.

Representatives from Virtual University, Allama Iqbal Open University, University of Hazara, University of Sindh, Institute of Business Administration, Sukkar, University of Karachi, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU), The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahauddin Zakariya

University, University of Gujrat, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences, International Islamic University Islamabad, Fatima Jinnah Women University, University of Peshawar and University of the Punjab participated in these workshops. Being the leading on line education provider of the country, VU hosted the on line and face-to-face workshops in which teachers from different institutions from all over the country participated with great enthusiasm and interest.



British Council APTIS Teacher Assessment Exam at VU Islamabad Campus

A teacher assessment exam was held at Virtual University Islamabad Campus on Friday, September 13, 2013. The exam was conducted by British Council in which 22 teachers



appeared for an English assessment course. The main objective of this exam was to test the English proficiency of the academic staff members.

EDC/USAID Teacher Education Project & MIT ARTEMiS: “Workshop on Visualization in Science Education”



A four day workshop on “Visualization in Science Education” was organized at Lawrence Road Campus Lahore from 15th to 18th September 2013 by EDC/USAID Teacher Education Project & MIT ARTEMiS (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ART for Engineering, Mathematics, and Science). The workshop was conducted by Violeta Ivanova, Ph.D., the founder and Creative Director of MIT

ARTEMiS. The workshop was intended to train participants how to improve science teaching and learning skills using the principles of visual communication and tools of modern computer graphics to create interactive 2D & 3D visualizations. These visualizations accurately portray scientific and technological theories, while also meeting aesthetic and artistic standards as well.

Director ICT Mr. Ehsen Puri, Program Manager Virtual TV Mr. Baber Ali, Graphics Department and Non Linear Editing Department were attendees from Virtual University of Pakistan. Apart from mentioned VU staff the workshop was also attended by eight faculty members from other national universities.



The participants gave highly encouraging feedback and desired to have further such workshops for additional learning, development and promotion of visualization skills for teaching aid in the field of Science & Technology.



Trip to Neelum Valley



VU Lawrence Road Office organized a tour from 13th September 2013 to 17th September, 2013. The four-day trip was aimed to explore Neelum Valley in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In the leadership of Mr. Anjum Iqbal all staff members left from Lahore on a coaster towards the destination on Friday night. The tour itinerary was

from Lahore to Muzaffarabad via Islamabad and Murree, then from Muzaffarabad to Athmuqam to Sharda to Kel to Tao But to Keran and then back to Lahore.

The whole trip was a feast for eyes with exotic and picturesque scenery, mountains with a hint of greenery, glaciers, springs and the Neelum River under the shadow of Line of Control sectors of Chilian and Tithwal. This fun trip ended On Wednesday, at 4 am after a seventeen hours long journey from Neelum Village to Lahore. Indeed it was a memorable experience of the generosity and hospitality of nature and Kashmiri people.

Business Plan for Tertiary Education



An orientation session on “Business Plan for Tertiary Education” was arranged through video conference by Higher Education Commission (HEC) at the Head Office of Virtual University of Pakistan on September 13, 2013. Mr. Muhammed Nawaz (Advisor DQE), Mr. Farhan Sadiq (AP, Management Science), Mr. Muhammed Zaheer (AP, Management Science), Mr. Rizwan Saleem Sandhu and Mr. Aqeel Feroz (Lecturer, Management Science) attended the session.

VU Hyderabad Campus Celebrates International Literacy Day



Virtual University of Pakistan Hyderabad Campus organized a campaign on 'Literacies for the 21st century' on Thursday, September 12, 2013. Banners related to the literacy awareness campaign were displayed on important places and eight hundred brochures were distributed among general public.

The two teams comprising of campus staff and students were sent to neighboring areas to create awareness regarding 21st century literacies.

The Campus Manager attended different seminars at various colleges regarding literacy awareness and highlighted the role of VU in spreading education throughout Pakistan. Principals and staff members of different colleges at Hyderabad appreciated the efforts of Virtual University in promoting education across Pakistan.

Moreover, CM has launched a free Computer Proficiency Language (CPL) course for fifteen days. The CPL course was offered on International Literacy Day. A letter has been sent in this regard to District Government Officials to give them an opportunity of free of cost registration in the said course.



A Literacy-Awareness Walk

A walk was arranged by Virtual University Campuses of Ferozpur Road and Davis Road Lahore on September 11, 2013, International Literacy Day. The walk started from Edgerton road and ended at the Press Club. The University students and the members of civil society participated in this walk. This year has been dedicated to the 'Literacies for 21st Century'.

The main purpose of the walk was to promote education and provide equal opportunities of education to everyone. The Campus Managers Mr. Umer Ali and Mr. Tahir Malik emphasized the need to make our nation highly qualified and skilled in every walk of life.



International Literacy Day Celebration at Sahiwal Campus

VU Sahiwal Campus arranged a meeting on International Literacy Day at Government Elementary School. The meeting was organized for those children who are unable to attend the school. Quizzes and other fun learning activities were organized for children in which they not only participated actively but also encouraged their fellows to join and enjoy the fun learning



moments. The Principal of the school encouraged the children of the area to join the school and welcome them by giving small gifts

of stationary items. He said that this activity will prompt and motivate them to get admission in the school. A separate session was also arranged for females with the co-operation of ex-counselor of the area to inspire them to send their kids especially daughters to the school for better edification and training.

VU Islamabad Campus Organizes a Seminar on International Literacy Day



Virtual University's Islamabad Campus organized a seminar to celebrate the International Literacy Day on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. The topic of this seminar was 'Millennium Development Goals and the Role of Higher Education for Sustainable Economic Development'.

The key speakers emphasized the need of literacy and its

importance in economic development of the country. Dr. Irfanullah Arfeen (Assistant Professor, Management Science) highlighted the prime benefits of being literate. He said, 'Literacy is a fundamental human right, a tool of personal emancipation and way of social and human development'.

He presented a statistical description about achieved universal primary education indicators, completion of a full course of primary schooling till 2015, low public expenditure on education, government issues and HEC intervention strategy for the

improvement of education at the basic and advance levels.

Mr. Anwaar Saeed (Assistant Professor, Computer Science) highlighted the benefits of literacy. He elaborated how literacy can affect human, political, cultural, social, and economic aspects of a country. He stressed on the importance of literacy by citing historical quotes of Ibn-e-Khuldoon and Shah Wali Ullah. Mr. Shiraz Khan, Campus Manger, Islamabad concluded the session with appreciation for all the participants of seminar.

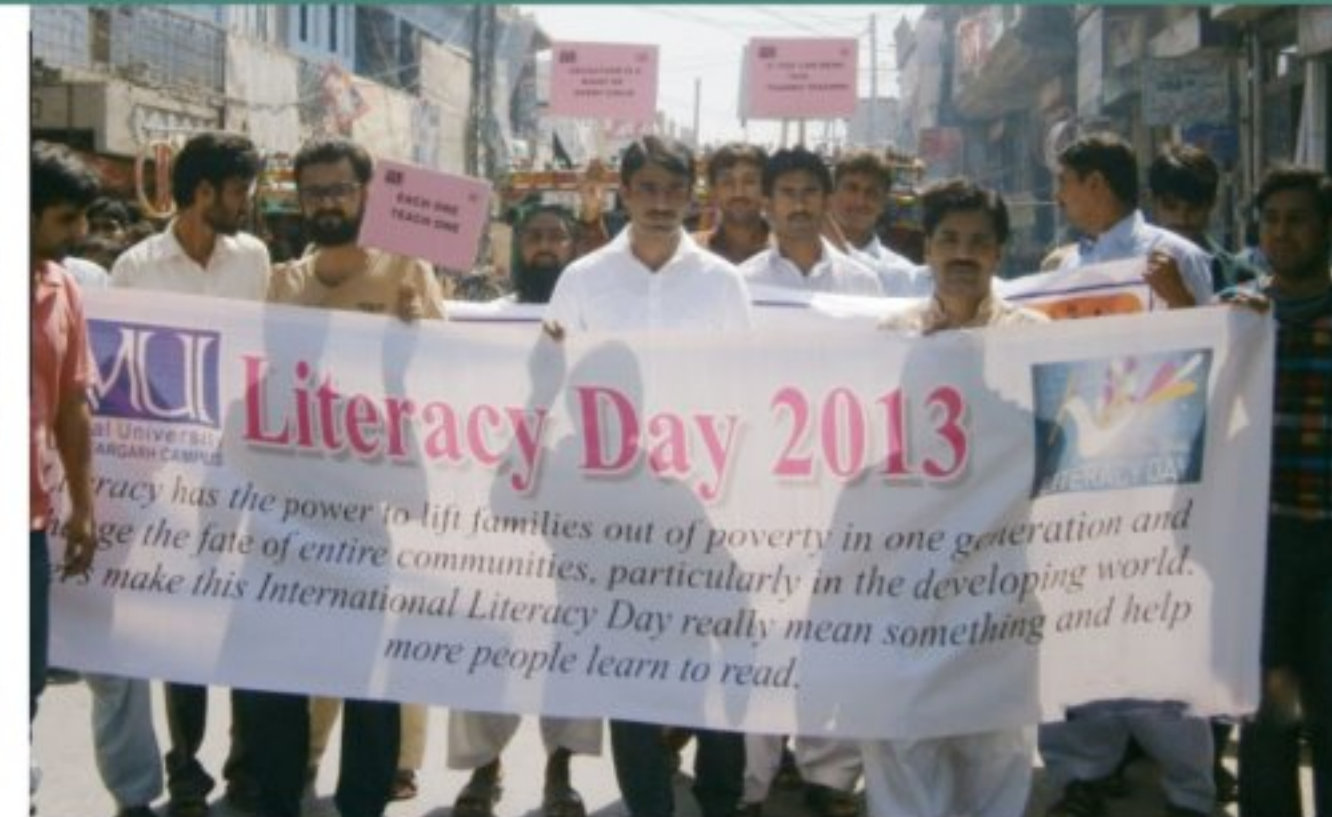
VU Muzaffargarh Campus Arranges Literacy Awareness Campaign on International Literacy Day

VU Muzaffargarh Campus arranged a literacy awareness campaign on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Campus staff, students and members of civil society



participated actively in the 'Literacy Awareness Walk' to raise awareness about the importance of education in the society. Participants were holding placards and banners to highlight the value of literacy.

The event was also covered by local media.



VU Gujranwala Campus Arranges a Seminar and Walk on International Literacy Day

VU Gujranwala Campus organized a seminar for International Literacy Day on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. The seminar started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. The guest speaker Dr Arshad (Deputy Director Colleges Gujranwala) focused on the importance of education. He

emphasized that individuals should actively play their roles in the improvement of society. He further said that government is trying to improve the literacy standards by introducing second shifts in the schools.

An Awareness Walk was also

arranged by the campus on the same day. Formal approval and security clearance from CPO office was taken to ensure the peaceful walk in the city. Dr. Abdul Haleem Khan (Resident Director of Gujranwala Arts Council), other literary personalities and school children joined the campus students in this walk.

Rawalpindi Campus Organizes Literacy-Awareness Walk



Virtual University's Rawalpindi Campus organized an awareness walk for International Literacy Day on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Campus staff and students actively participated in this Walk. Students were holding banners with different slogans to promote

education in our society. The objectives of this Walk were to give confidence to the students of VU to play their roles in the social activities and to create awareness among public regarding the importance of education.

International Literacy Day at VU Multan Campus

VU Multan Campus arranged a walk on International Literacy Day on Sunday, September 8, 2013. The walk started from Kalma Chowk and came to an end at Multan Press Club. The aim of this commotion



was to create awareness in society for literacy. A large number of students also participated and raised placards to enhance the importance of this day.

Multan Campus Pays Tribute to the Martyrs on Defense Day

VU Multan Campus celebrated the Defense Day of Pakistan on Friday, September 6, 2013 with zeal and recalled the martyrs who sacrificed their lives fighting in the 1965 war. The event started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by national anthem. The participants sang national songs.

The songs and videos related to the Defense Day grabbed the attention of the audience. At the end, campus manager, in his speech, highlighted the contributions of army and civil society in 1965 war. He stressed on the need for unity and asked the participants to remember their national heroes.



Mass Communication Department Organizes an Interactive Session on Syria Crisis

Mass Communication Department, Virtual University of Pakistan organized an interactive session regarding Syria crisis on Friday, September 6, 2013 at Lawrence Road Office, Lahore under the supervision of Ms. Aisha M. Din (Lecturer, Mass

Communication). In this regard, Ms. Amna Amin presented the background of Syria crisis with its geographical importance. The presentation was followed by a discussion session of all members of the Department.



Sahiwal Campus Pays Homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis

Virtual University Sahiwal Campus organized an event for Defence Day on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 with traditional fervor to pay homage to the martyrs and victors who rendered supreme sacrifices in defense of the

motherland. Mr. Hawaldar (R) Muhammad Farooq, Ghazi of 1965 war was the chief guest of this program. The program started with the national anthem by a local musical band and followed by naat. The competitions of quiz, speeches

and national songs were also held at this event. The program ended with the distribution of prizes among the winners and the guest speaker's speech which enhanced the patriotism in audience.

Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi and Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Chair an Interactive Session at Islamabad Campus

An interactive session was organized at VU Islamabad Campus on September 2, 2013 for academic staff with the Registrar, Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi and Director QEC, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz on Monday. The main focus of this session was to get suggestions and feedback from the academic staff regarding various areas of educational concerns.

Dr. Nawaz highlighted the

constructive plans that university aims to accomplish in future. 'There is a lot of scope in Virtual University of Pakistan to excel further in the educational sector', he added. He welcomed different questions and suggestions proposed by the participants. Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi, Registrar VU emphasized the need to be skillful in online tutorship and to improve the quality of contents provided by the university. 'A

lecture revision activity has been carried out to highlight the grey areas in order to improve the contents' quality', he further added. During the question answer session, Dr. Mehdi comprehensively answered the queries asked by academic staff and hoped that such sessions will be conducted in future to enhance the coordination among the staff members and the higher officials of the university.

Alumni Get-together in 4th Convocation at Rawalpindi



On the occasion of 4th convocation of Virtual university of Pakistan a get-together for the already graduated students was held. The alumni association which was formally launched in the 4th convocation was attended by many

graduates who during a get-together gave their valuable suggestion for the improvement of the standard of education at the university.



The Alumni association is headed by Dr. Muhammad Nawaz and in the North Region activity was organized by Assistant Professor

and Deputy Director Board of Advance Studies, Dr. Ifranullah Arfeen along with his team Ms. Zakia Rehmat Instructor Mathematics Dept and Mr. IhsanUllah Instructor Eng Dept. Dr. Arfeen said that the aim of the association is to unite the graduated students of the university on a platform where they can share their suggestions.



VU Islamabad Campus Celebrates Independence Day of Pakistan

Islamabad Campus of Virtual University of Pakistan organized an event to honor the Independence Day of Pakistan on August 29, 2013. To mark the occasion, celebrations were organized under the supervision of Mr. Muhammad Anwaar Saeed and Dr. Irfanullah Arfeen. A large number

of faculty members participated in this event to make it memorable for everyone. The program started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by National anthem.

The celebration embraced various national songs and poems. A

remarkable documentary named "Pakistan; from the Birth of Idea till Today" prepared by Mr Anwaar Saeed particularly grabbed the attention of audience. The celebration ended with the cake cutting ceremony and special Dua for the prosperity of Pakistan.

VU Islamabad Campus Celebrates Eid Carnival

All faculty members of VU Islamabad Campus celebrated Eid Milan festivity on Aug 29, 2013. The event started with the recitation of

Holy Quran followed by different competitions. A comprehensive lecture on 'Religious Concepts of EID' was also delivered by Mr. Abdul

Quddoos Durrani. In the end, all faculty members were invited for lunch.

Department of Mathematics & Statistics Organizes a Seminar on Diabetes, Controllability, Absorbability and Artificial Pancreas

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics held a seminar regarding 'Diabetes, Controllability, Absorbability and Artificial Pancreas' on August 28, 2013 at Lawrence Road Office. This activity was a sequel of weekly seminar conducted by faculty members of the Department of Mathematics.

The honorable Dr. Muhammad Umer Saleem (Assistant professor Mathematics, University of Education Lahore) was invited as the key speaker of this seminar. He highlighted the drastic effects of diabetes as it is the third largest death toll raising disease in the world. He further explained different types of diabetes and

efforts made to overcome this ailment through an artificial pancreas technology. He also described that how physiological system is mathematically modeled and treated with linear control to find the reason of not using a fully artificial pancreas even in this era of technology.

Virtual University Student Success Story

Salma Noreen, a student of Virtual University of Pakistan has been acknowledged by Yahoo and Freelancer.com for finding vulnerability issues in their websites. She is the only female holding white-hat badge and yahoo t-shirt logo on her profile for her tremendous work in software development technology. She is an inhabitant of a small city of Attock in Northern Punjab. Acquiring an MBA from Virtual University of



Pakistan was the turning point in her life that enabled her to earn a decent living in a small city. After learning about Bug Bounty Programs (BBPs) through social media, she started working on vulnerability issues in software technology; she is successfully working on web



security now. Moreover, her achievements in web technology are greatly acknowledged by The Express Tribune, a leading newspaper in the country, Microsoft, Word Press website and Facebook fans.