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NEWS

VU faculty members participate in MIT BLOSSOMS workshop

Thursday, August 29, 2013: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and USAID Teacher Education project organized a workshop on technology-enabled and online teacher education at Arfa Software Technology Park. BLOSSOMS is an educational project of MIT, aimed at science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is an initiative of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology with the mission to develop a large, free repository of video modules created by gifted volunteer teachers from around the world, seeded initially by MIT

faculty members and by partnering educators in Pakistan. The workshop was delivered over video-conference by Professor Richard Larson, Elizabeth Murray and MIT team.

Dr. Naveed A Malik represented Virtual University and shared his own professional expertise in the workshop. A large number of scholars from various universities of Pakistan and Mr. Khalil Ahmed from Physics department, Mr. Muhammad Ahsan and Mr. Naveed Aslam from Mathematics department of Virtual University attended the workshop.
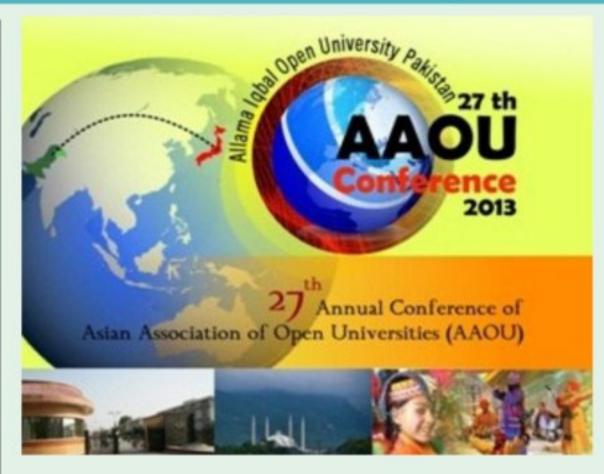
VU NEWS

VU faculty members to participate in Annual Conference of Asian Association of Open Universities

Virtual University will be participating in the upcoming 27th AAOU Annual Conference that will be organized in Islamabad from 1st to 3rd October, 2013. The twenty four faculty members of VU will present their research papers in this upcoming conference. Mr. Muhammad Zaheer and Mr. Rizwan Saleem --- Assistant Professors of VU Management Sciences Department are included in the panel of review committee. The focus of the conference is to work for strengthening Open Distance Learning to deal with their problems of education in the divergent Asia effectively.

The conference will provide a platform for ODL and other experts to share their views on the issues relating to the problems of illiteracy, making education accessible to all, use of technology, etc. to meet the current and future challenges in the field of education. The researches and experiences of experts and institutions in the ODL will be shared to enhance the collaboration between different institutions, and to work on new projects with an emphasis on the use of technology in the ODL.

Sub-themes of this conference are "Emerging Trends in Open and Distance Learning", "Building a Global Future through Research and Innovative Practices in ODL", "ODL and Human Capacity Building", "Technologies and Strategies for providing Education through ODL", and "Application of ODL in Various Disciplines".

Pakistan's Independence Day celebrated at D.G Khan Campus

Virtual University D.G Khan campus celebrated the Independence Day of Pakistan with full zeal and zest. The program started with the recitation of Holy Quran and followed by the traditional flag hoisting ceremony. The celebration embraces various competitions for students like Naat, national songs, speeches, and quiz competitions. The national songs and motivational speeches particularly grabbed the attention of audience. The winners of these competitions were awarded with prizes. The event ended up with the prayers for Pakistan's well-being.

Independence Day celebrations at VU Multan Campus

Multan campus of Virtual University organized an event with enthusiasm to commemorate the Independence Day of Pakistan. A large number of students and teachers of Virtual University participated in this event to make this event a remarkable one in a befitting manner. The program started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by the flag hoisting ceremony. Students and faculty members participated in the event by delivering enthusiastic and spirit-raising speeches, and patriotic songs. At the end, prizes were distributed among the winners and guests were entertained with refreshment.

Independence Day celebrated at Hyderabad Campus

Virtual University Hyderabad campus organized a function for Independence Day on 22nd August, 2013. The event was started with recitation of Holy Quran which was followed by the National anthem and prayers for the prosperity of Pakistan.

Tarique Saeed, was awarded with the first prize in speech competition on "Pakistan in 2013 – where it stands" and Kiran Qureshi held first prize in singing competition.

Students enthusiastically took part in different tableaus and skits. The event was ended up with a prize distribution ceremony and prayers for Pakistan's well-being.
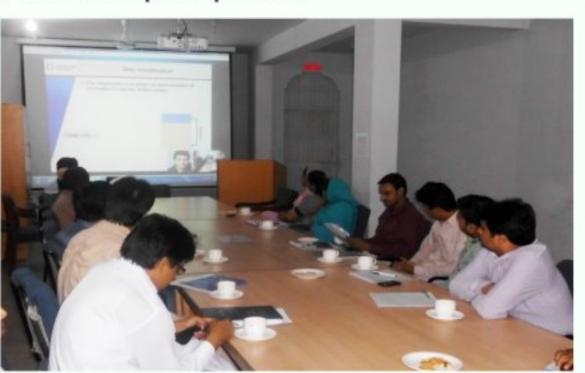
Seminar conducted by Computer Science Department

Lahore: Department of Computer Science organized a seminar on 23rd August, 2013 at Lawrence Road Office (LRO). The topic of this seminar was "Application of Visualization Power in Computer Science Education". The resource person of seminar was Dr. Shahrukh Humayoun (Post-doc Research Fellow in Computer Graphics and Human Computer Interaction Group at University of Kaiserslautern Germany). The primarily focus of the presenter Dr. Shahrukh Humayoun was understanding the Failure mechanism of Embedded systems using Fault tree model as well as designing and converting its dynamic visualization from static one with the help of case study.

Ms. Uzma Khan - Assistant Professor CS and other instructors Mr. Salman Bashir, Mr. Muhammad Imran, Mr. Abrar Kanwar, Mr. Haseeb Akmal, Mr. Rehan Ahmed, Mr. Munawer Iqbal, Mr. Shakeel Saeed, Mr. Abdul Qahhar Mohsin, Mr. Raees Khan, Mr. Zafarullah, Miss Saima Munawer, Miss Nida, Mr. Tanweer Arshad, and Mr. Adnan Ashraf attended the seminar with the aim of realizing both static and dynamic visualization techniques along with their future research prospects.

Upcoming Workshop in Islamabad Campus

HEC's Continuous Professional Development Workshop (CPD) has been proposed in Islamabad campus for the faculty members from September 18 to September 21, 2013. The main objectives of the workshop are to further develop the communication skills of the online tutors of VU, synchronous mentoring, total quality management and grant proposal writing. The resource persons will be Dr. Naveed Malik, Dr. Sadaqat Mehdi, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz and Dr. Nawar Khan. The VU faculty will get the chance to develop their professional competence from these valuable and highly experienced resource persons.

Ph.D. Scholar rejoins the university

Lahore: Dr. Nasir Naveed a Ph.D. Scholar has rejoined Virtual University of Pakistan as Assistant Professor in Computer Science Department. He has completed his Ph.D. from Germany and was awarded the title of Doctor after successful defensive of his thesis "Mining Social Media: Methods and Approaches for Content Analysis" on 3rd July, 2013. In 2006, he was an AP in Computer Science Department and then appeared in the GRE exam conducted by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan for "Overseas scholarship scheme for MS/M.Phil, Leading to PhD in selected fields. During Ph.D., he developed a static content quality measure in his thesis for retrieving and ranking int eresting and informative tweets. This work was presented in ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM 2011) and ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci 2011).

He worked on the Freud method for social content diversification using sentiments which was presented and published in The International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2013). He also proposed a novel probabilistic Author-Topic-Time model for capturing temporal dynamics of topics and evolving users' interests in the scientific literature and social media. This model was presented in the European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2011) and in the ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci 2011). The full list of his publications and citations to his articles is present at bit.ly/13V6Plb.

Sialkot campus of Virtual University organized a colorful event to commemorate the Independence Day celebrations
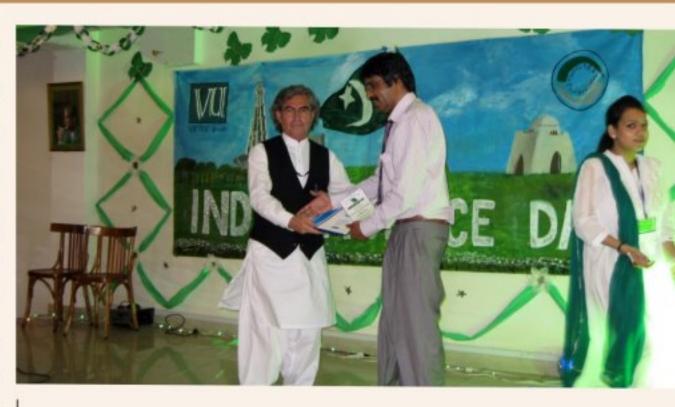
Sialkot campus of VU organized a colorful event on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at Computer Connection Institute to commemorate the Independence Day of Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by large number of VU students, personnel of Sialkot educational institutes, and CCI faculty.

The program started with recitation of Holy Quran. VU students participated in patriotic songs, skits, speeches and quizzes and enthralled the audience with their performances. The color was added to the event by painting "Google Faces" on the auditorium wall. Google Student Ambassador (GSA) Muhammad Adnan came up with some surprises for students and distributed Google Goodies among students who answered GSA's quiz.

Chief guest Sohail Khan --- CEO of Computer Connection Institute highlighted importance of this day and said that although it is a happy occasion that we are a free country but at the same time we must remember that more than one million people had sacrificed their lives and property for the attainment of this separate homeland. He added that the best way to honor their sacrifices is to work hard to make our country strong, developed, and powerful. The chief guest also distributed awards and certificates among winners and event organizers. The function ended with the singing of the National Anthem which aroused feelings of patriotism in all the participants.

Sahiwal Campus and Punjab Emergency Service organized a Training program for VU staff and students

Virtual University Sahiwal Campus and Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) organized a 3 days Rescue Emergency and Fire Fighting training program from 26 August 2013 to 28 August 2013.3 for staff and students. Training Officers imparted training on flood, earthquake, medical, fire and general emergency situations. The training was comprised of lectures, demonstrations and practical activities. A test was also conducted

by Rescue Staff and Rescue Emergency certificates were given to the participants by the PES (Rescue 1122).

The participants also showed their interest to become members of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of PES. A Community Emergency Response Team of VU Sahiwal Campus is also being formed so they can perform their roles in case of any regional or national emergency.

Muzaffargarh Campus vows high spirits on Independence Day

Virtual University Muzaffargarh Campus echoed with sounds of national anthem and patriotic songs on August 14, 2013 to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan. The celebrations started with flag hoisting ceremony and prayers for the prosperity of country followed by recitation of Holy Quran. Motivational

speeches and patriotic songs of the students marked their devotion and love for the homeland. A documentary on Pakistan movement also grabbed the attention of the participants at this event. Prizes were distributed amongst the quiz and fun games winners. The event ended up

with heartfelt prayers and a pleasant cake cutting ceremony.

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