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HEC grades VU Quality Directorate in "W" Category

The Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan was chartered by the Federal Government of Pakistan in 2002. VU was established as first university of distant learning based on modern Information and Communication Technologies. VU is using all modern IT platforms to deliver its courseware to the students. VU courseware has also got global recognition as the "Best Open Courseware". The VU is resolutely working to provide less expensive education of uniform quality through its 210 VU Campuses spread throughout Pakistan. With increasing enrollment the bigger challenge is the quality of its delivered educational contents. Distinct than most universities for quality metrics, Board of Governors (BoG) of VU, at the place of Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) approved establishment of Directorate of Quality Enhancement (DQE). Based on the latest assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of Higher Education Commission (HEC), VU has

been rated in the highest "W" category, obtaining total score of 91% for the period ending December, 2012. The 'W' category is the top-most slot in QEC rating criteria. This landmark achievement is the result of vigorous and persistent efforts of DQE and academic and other staff members of the university. Rector of the University lauded their efforts with the hope that similar achievements should become norm for future.



4th convocation of Virtual University



Secretary IT Lauds VU's Role in the Promotion of quality Education

Virtual University's contribution for promotion of quality education is commendable, said Secretary Information Technology Zafar Iqbal Qadir.

Addressing at the 4th convocation



The Fourth Convocation of Virtual University of Pakistan was held at PC Hotel, Rawalpindi on June 13, 2013 for the graduating students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Northern Punjab. Degrees were conferred upon 1200 graduates who successfully completed their Bachelors and Masters programs from the University. Laptop, Gold medal and merit certificates were also awarded to outstanding graduates.



In his welcome address, the Rector of the University, Mr. Tajdar Alam, highlighted the achievements of the Virtual University as leaders in education technology, its leading role in delivering quality education

to the remotest parts of the country through the use of Information Communication Technologies. He also emphasized on the need to work selflessly for the progress and betterment of the country and for making Pakistani nation, an educated nation. The chief guest, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Secretary Ministry of Information Technology/Chairman Board of Governors, appreciated the achievements of the Virtual University of Pakistan and also congratulated the successful graduates and high achievers. The convocation was attended by dignitaries, academicians and parents of the graduates.



ceremony of VU at Pearl Continental Rawalpindi, he said that Virtual University is a philosophy and trademark which leads us to quality education with distance learning.

Zafar Iqbal Qadir stated that "It is a matter of great pleasure and pride for us that VU is being recognized throughout the world and now other educational institutions are following the VU as role model and trend setter in the education sector".

He remarked that VU has expanded across the country through more than 200 campuses and around 100000 students are enrolled in the University which shows the successful recognition of Virtual University. He praised the diversity of courses, excellence of faculty and unique method of examination system in VU. He further lauded the dedication and full time commitment of faculty members. He was of the view that expertise and skills of faculty members led it to maintain the quality of education. He also lauded the teaching techniques and course plans of VU which is being replicated by other educational institutions in the country.

VU's English Department Organizes a Series of Capacity Building Workshops



> Virtual University Department of English has organized a series of workshops from May 23rd to September 26, 2013 for its faculty members. Dr Ghulam Qanbar Abbasi is the session chair. The purpose of these workshops is to provide faculty members with an opportunity to enhance their communication, leadership and managerial skills.



Virtual University holds a fun filled Gala Dinner 2013



prizes and surprises also awaited the participants. From skits to dinner every moment was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Addressing to a gathering at annual dinner Mr. Tajdar Alam, Rector Virtual University of Pakistan lauded the performance of all faculty members and administration of VU. He was of the view that landmark achievement of highest QEC rating is the result of dynamic and determined efforts of QEC and academic staff of the University.

He also confirmed the representation of university at the social networking website. All the principal officers and large number of faculty members graced this beautiful evening with their presence.

Virtual University's Management and Sports Committee organized Fun Gala and Annual Dinner on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at Pearl Continental catering, Lahore on Tuesday. The event turned out to be

a spectacular fun- evening packed with music, skits, surprises and lucky draws. The evening consisted of many interesting entertainment events organized such as skits and delicious dinner. Many valuable



VU Organizes a Workshop Series on Test Item Development



Virtual University of Pakistan has organized a workshop on “Test Item Development” spanning from May 16, 2013 to July 05, 2013. This workshop aims to offer students' “assessment & evaluation” for faculty members with the analysis for item writing. Objective of this workshop series is the capacity building of faculty members by

providing them rigorous training to acquire item writing skills. Virtual University will focus to continue collaboration with all faculty members in order to provide its students practical skills along with theoretical knowledge. On successful completion of training, certificates will also be awarded among participants.

HEC Reaffirms the Status of VU as On-line & Distance Education Institute

The mode of education & charter of Virtual University of Pakistan has once again been acknowledged by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. A corrigendum issued by HEC on May 28, 2013 has clarified the ambiguity created by some newspapers amongst VU students and general public. HEC

has, therefore, reconfirmed the status of the University as on-line & distance education institution of the country.

Furthermore, Higher Education Commission has recently awarded “W” category to Virtual University's Quality Enhancement Cell.



Annual dinner of VU's Islamabad campus

(Islamabad) The annual dinner was served to all faculty members and administration of VU north region at Islamabad Club on Thursday 20th June 2013. The dinner was attended by Regional Campus Manager Syed Suleman Khan, Assistant Professors, Lecturers and Instructors.

After the recitation of Holy Quran by Mohammad Jamil Instructor Department of Computer Sciences

the occasion was beautified with gossip and performances by the participants. The performances included poetry, skits and chit chat segments. Ms. Sidra Mehmoad (Eng Dept.) and Mr. Qazi Sajjad (MGMT Dept.) hosted the proceedings. The poetry segment was presented by Ms. Jawaria Sadiq (CS-Dept) in which the female participants took an active part, was highly praised.

Moreover, a skit was performed by Mr. Khalid, Mr Shiraz (MGMT Dept.) and Mr. Salman (MGMT Dept.) satirically targeted the tutors. On the occasion Mr. Zulfiqar and Mr. Khalid asked different questions from the participants which resulted in humorous answers.



Guests from Peshawar, Jhelum and Rawalpindi campuses also lightened the occasion with their presence.



“The Physics of Donkey Carts”: Dr Naveed A Malik's Lecture got International Recognition

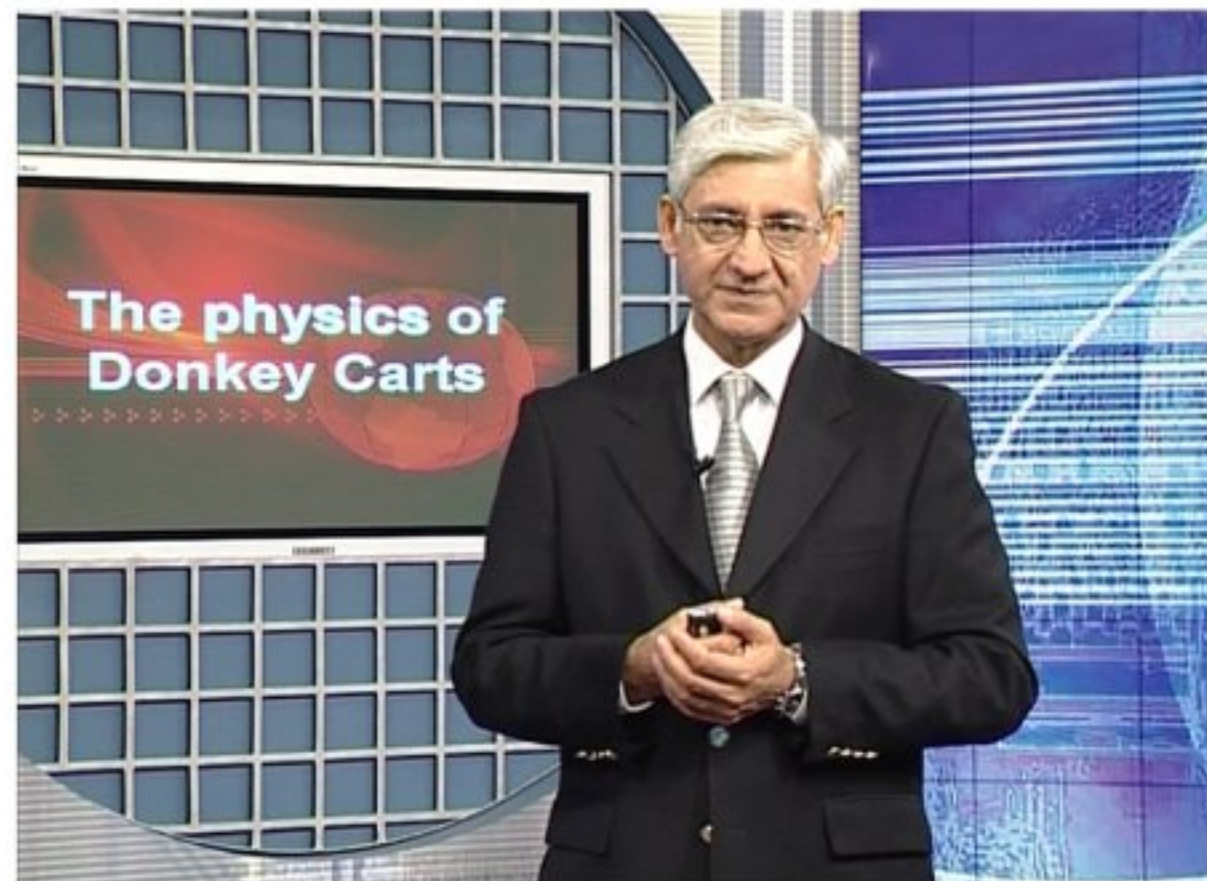
Leaders of online institutions gathered at Massachusetts Institute of Technology this week at annual meeting of the Learning International Networks Consortium.

Virtual universities in many countries have been using technology to teach thousands of students at a time. Even so, leaders of those online institutions, who gathered here this week at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said they were watching massive open online courses closely.



One key takeaway from the event, though, was that virtual universities in other countries have no plans to add lectures from famous professors at Massachusetts Institute of Technology or other American colleges to their own online institutions.

Bakary Diallo, Rector of African Virtual University stated “Transferring education from the United States to Africa wouldn't work because we have our own realities,” he added, “our own context and culture.” Naveed A. Malik, founding rector of the Virtual University of Pakistan, echoed that



sentiment. “This is something that we learned very early in our virtual-university experience,” he said. “We couldn't pick up a course from outside and then transplant it into a Pakistani landscape—the context was completely different.” Both universities have been teaching courses to students on a large scale for more than a decade. An introductory computer-science course at the Virtual University of Pakistan typically has about 12,000 students, Mr. Malik said. And both universities say they will continue to build their own course materials. One example is a video lecture, taught by Mr. Malik himself, called “The Physics of Donkey Carts.”

“Look, it is physics—it is Newton's laws—but let me show you something that you have seen in your own real-world experience,” said Mr. Malik, as he described the video.

The two leaders spoke on a panel this week as part of the annual meeting of the Learning International Networks Consortium, an MIT-managed project devoted to the spread of online learning.

VU Launches Official Facebook Page



(Lahore)-Virtual University of Pakistan has announced the launch and activation of its official Facebook page for students, giving them another avenue to sort out their questions, interaction among students and teachers, raise their grievances and offer suggestions.

The official Facebook page aims to actively engage with current students and those interested to join the worthy institution in future. The page will display VU related content and news items,, help enhance communication with current and prospective students, and strengthen ties with alumni. The Virtual University of Pakistan will also use this platform to provide students with timely updates regarding admissions, offers, events and other academic services. It will help to bridge the gap between students and faculty members created due to a non-conventional mode of learning. Facebook has proved to be a powerful tool and VU is pleased to have its presence in such an avenue for students and faculty to connect with each other and share their experiences. With the new social media channels, VU will be able to communicate information faster and share some of the great things going on at its part.

PC-1 Project Implementation Committee Meeting

First meeting of Project Implementation Committee of Virtual University of Pakistan was held on June 27, 2013 at VU head office. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Advisor Directorate of Quality Enhancement. Participants of the meeting included Dr. Sadaqat Mahdi Registrar, Mr. Naeem Tariq Director Finance, Mr. Aurangzeb DDF Planning, Mr. Muhammad Zaheer Assistant Professor, Mr. Arslan Ramzan Lecturer, Mr. Aqeel Feroze Lecturer

and Ms. Naheed Shaban Lecturer.

Committee envisioned the requirements of VU for the next 50 years. The construction of proposed campus and the required facilities were the main agenda of the meeting. After the possession of the land, construction of boundary wall would be the first priority to avoid any encroachment for which PC-1 will be prepared immediately. Topographic survey will be used for planning construction of the campus. Term of Reference for

hiring of a consultant for designing the master plan of the campus will be prepared and presented for the approval in the next meeting. Committee also agreed to follow HEC for guidelines for the establishment of the campus. A sub-committee was also formed to prepare preliminary part of PC-1 for the construction of faculty buildings and budget estimates will be provided by the Finance Department. Next meeting will be held by the end of July

Farewell Party at Sahiwal Campus

Virtual University's Campus Management and Students Events Arrangement Committee of V.U Sahiwal Campus arranged Welcome/Farewell party of students on June 13, 2013 in V.U Sahiwal Campus. Professor Mr. Asad Awan, Principal Govt. College of Commerce Sahiwal and Professor Mr. Nauman Ahmad (Director Royal Group of Colleges Sahiwal) attended function as guests of honour.

Students exposed their talent in dramas, tableaux, singing



competitions, games and speeches. Special games and prizes were distributed among audience. Good performers of the year were awarded shields and other prizes. A documentary on last two years performances of students in games,

functions, social movements (i.e. Dengue Campaign) and other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities were also played to remember past memories and encouragement of participants.



Youth Training on the Right of Information at Peshawar Campus

Virtual University's Campus Management organized a training workshop on June 24, 2013 at Peshawar Campus. Ms. Zil-e-Huma Durrani, Project Manager, Citizen's Voice Project (CVP) KPK, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) arranged this event. The main objective of this youth training

workshop was to create awareness among students regarding the Right to Information (RTI) and Principles of Freedom of Information (FOI). Moreover, this workshop was focused on RTI Legal framework in Pakistan (FOI ordinance 2002) and Writing of Information request.

