

QEC GAZETTE 2018

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AIR UNIVERSIT
FAZAIA MEDICAL COLLEGE

College of Medicine &
Dentistry

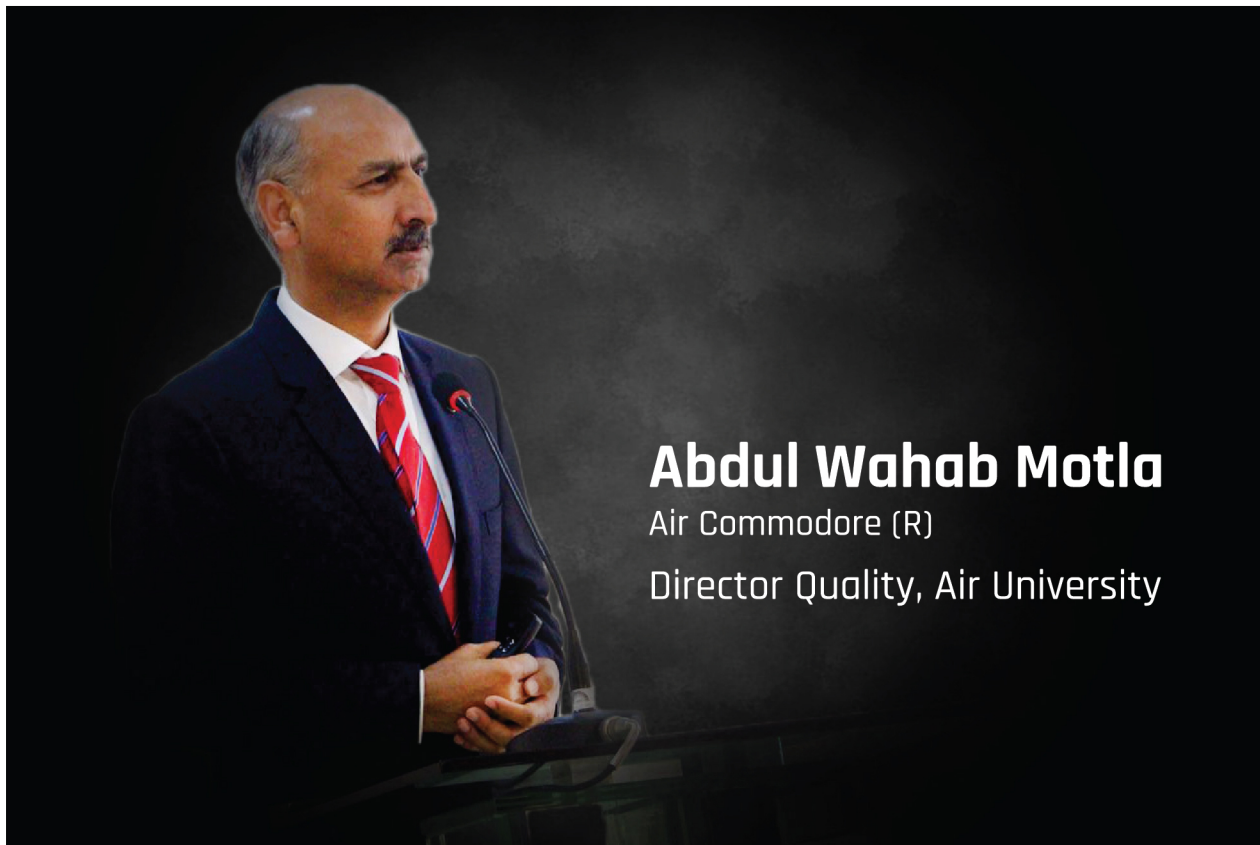
A portrait of Faaiz Amir, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, a light blue striped shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

Faaiz Amir

Air Vice Marshal (R)
Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), S Bt
Vice Chancellor, Air University

MESSAGE FROM VICE CHANCELLOR |

Air University in a short span of time, has emerged as a comprehensive, safe and smart campus with 47 programs in six faculties ranging from under graduation to PhD. University is making its contribution in meeting the human resource development needs of the country particularly in the fields of engineering, medicine, aviation management, cyber security, strategic studies and humanities. In this regard, the University has launched eleven new programs in the last one year alone. We at AU are making all out efforts to contribute positively towards society by imparting and creating knowledge through basic and applied research by undertaking projects for industry. Realizing the emerging requirement to promote the culture of cyber security, Air University has undertaken a bold initiative to introduce BS cyber security program as first HEI in the country. National Center of Cyber security (NCCS) has been established at Air University for research and producing experts in this vital field. Two state of the art laboratories; "devices and network security" and "national Cybercrime forensic" have been established to facilitate the researchers in their respective sub specialties. The focus of research at University has been shifted from impact factor to impact on society through applied research in coordination with industry. We plan and organize entrepreneurial activities for students and encourage them to launch their startups on the basis of their innovative ideas and Final Year Projects. Aviation is another field where AU has focused and launched new program in BS Aviation management and established new campus at Aviation City Karma to support designing of next generation fighter aircraft. Our all programs are approved by Higher Education Commission and respective accreditation councils. We have a well-established Quality Assurance System to monitor academic programs and administrative processes through internal and external Quality Assurance mechanisms at main and sub campuses. We are determined to make this institution as one of best HEI with the help of all stake holders so that it becomes university of choice for both; national as well as international students.



Abdul Wahab Motla

Air Commodore (R)

Director Quality, Air University

EMERGING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION |

In the last 71 years Pakistan has been facing challenges at economic, political and educational fronts along with health services, terrorism and corruption. Poor quality education is considered to be mother of all ills and root cause to all these issues. These can only be addressed by providing good quality education at all levels and particularly at Higher education. Higher Education Commission was established in 2002 and formulated its frame work structure in which access and quality were two main pillars. Although access to students have been increased manifold by establishing more than 198 public and private universities along with thousands of affiliated colleges and sub campuses but quality of education provided at HEIs remain a concern due to low employability of graduates and weak economic conditions of country . Quality of teaching and research at higher education has been a driving force to build the economies of developed countries while it has remained low priority at developing countries. Higher Education Commission realized the importance of quality of Higher education and established a system to assure, monitor and implement Quality Assurance through internal and external Quality Assurance mechanism along with accreditation councils. In the last two decades concept of Quality in education has taken paradigm shift and use of technologies is replacing traditional teaching, Internationalization of students has increased tremendously to get more exposure in cutting edge technologies with more focus on applied research and funding. Understanding the importance of Higher education in globalized world is very important and Pakistan has taken step forward by joining Washington Accord which will facilitate engineering students to work and study at countries which are signatories of this accord. The focus of our research is also changing from impact factor to impact on society and develop knowledge based economy by having academia industry linkages to solve local issues. Our universities have started to enhance collaborations with well reputed international universities by signing MoUs where faculty can do joint research and students can be exchanged. HEC is well aware of emerging trends and accordingly steering its HEIs and encouraging faculty to take applied research.



SIGNIFICANCE OF PAKISTAN QUALIFICATION REGISTER (PQR)

SHJIA GUL •
Assistant Director QEC

Pakistan Qualification Register commonly known as PQR, is a remarkable initiative taken by Higher Education Commission. PQR is an online database which contains information regarding accredited higher qualifications of public and private sector universities recognized by HEC. This database also carries the information of Universities approved main campuses, sub campuses, affiliated and constituent colleges. PQR is aimed to provide clearly defined levels of knowledge, skills and competencies to be acquired by every graduate.

HEC started developing Pakistan Qualification Framework (PQF) for higher education sector in 2009 and took necessary steps to develop tools for implementation of the framework covering all HEC chartered public and private higher education institutions in the country. PQF is a level-based and outcomes focused mechanism. It sets out the levels on which a qualification can be recognized in Pakistan. It encompasses a comprehensive list of all quality assured qualifications in Pakistan. Each accredited qualification has been assigned a level. It consists of Entry Level-1 to Level-8, describing the difficulty of qualifications at each level. PQF has been structured to help learners to make informed decisions about the qualification required, and will help employers to assess what qualification a candidate has achieved. It will help in establishing the national standards of qualifications as well as provide a basis for comparison of qualifications at national as well as international levels. Further, it will help in international recognition of academic qualifications, facilitate trans-national mobility of graduates and learners, in addition to be used as an instrument for qualitative reforms in education system.

In October 2016, HEC asked for nominations of Focal Persons for PQR and populating the data by universities. The response of universities on PQR has been encouraging and till date about 144 HEC recognized universities and degree awarding institutions have nominated their Focal Persons. It is worth mentioning that till date 15098 programs have been listed in the PQR portal. Air University has also fed all programs since establishment of University and students are facilitated by focal person for attestation of their degrees

The universities have been informed that PQR is going to be linked to HEC initiatives such as attestation system of degrees awarded by the universities, appointment of HEC approved supervisors, award of national research grants for universities, thematic research grants for social sciences, indigenous/overseas scholarships, etc. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has launched Pakistan Qualification Register (PQR) through e-portal system so that stakeholders of HEC can view online those programs of Pakistani Universities/Degree Awarding Institutions that have been approved by HEC.



SIGNIFICANCE OF RANKING SYSTEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

AYESHA NAYAB •

Data Analyst QEC

There is no denying of fact that ranking of higher education institutions have taken important place at national and international landscape and it plays significant role in shaping opinion of potential students, parents and other stakeholders about quality of education and selection of HEI for admission. Rankings provide reasonable information about academic strengths and performance in teaching, learning and research at institution. As the world has grown into a Global Village, graduates of universities would look for job opportunities not only in their own countries but all over the world, similarly internationalization of students has also increased in the last one decade and Global Rankings help them in finding the institutions which are best suitable for their disciplines

There are some International Ranking Bodies which are known as the trendsetter and qualified in their working. Shanghai Ranking is a brand Lead in this essence and established in 2003. QS Ranking came later in 2010 but caught a big audience focus in short time. Times Higher Education is also one of the most renowned and honored ranking body which achieved prominence with time and it was established in 2004. Knowing the need of general audience, later on many other Ranking bodies appeared in the list as Global ranking institutes which choose different set of indicators to rank the institutions. While rankings systems have positive impact, it also has some drawbacks due to non-standardization of ranking parameters, each body has defined their own parameters to rank the universities in different domains which is some time misleading to students and parents. It becomes difficult to compare well established large universities with smaller ones as the size and age is important parameter. Larger universities will have more number of programs with high number of faculty members resulting into more research publications while smaller universities will have disadvantage due to age and size, inspite of providing best education. Keeping in view the importance of ranking and interest of stake holders, these bodies are refining their parameters periodically to make these more realistic and compatible but still faces a great criticism on the choice of indicators, which are more subjective in nature.

Keeping in view the keenness of parents and potential students of HEIs, Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Pakistan also initiated ranking of public and private universities in Pakistan and launched its first ranking in 2010. The ranking system got lot of criticisms particularly from older and bigger universities due to unrealistic parameters of ranking but it had also received appreciation from parents and potential students to provide a platform for making choice of HEIs. Higher Education Commission took the criticism in healthy spirit and ranking parameters are being reviewed and further rankings are held till finalization of parameters.

QEC Activities in Year 2018 |

Professional Competency Enhancement Program for Teachers (PCEPT)

Air University' Leadership always believed in capacity building of faculty and staff. We regularly conduct training to improve upon their teaching, research and managerial skills. The Professional Competency Enhancement Program for Teachers (PCEPT) was conducted from 30 July to 13 August 2018. A total of 47 faculty members participated in this course from all departments of Main Campus, Bilquis Postgraduate College, Nur Khan Air Base, and Fazaia Medical College. Four resource persons with good reputation were invited from different specialties to cover important modules. The resource persons included Dr. Salma Nazar, Dr. Kashif Kifayat, Mr. Abbas Hussain and Mr. Kashif Sohail. Several important insights and action items were accomplished through this training session, such as:

- Techniques to improve learning process through effective communication.
- Creating Conducive environment for learning through class room management Techniques.
- Innovative Teaching Techniques
- Cooperative Learning
- Multiple Intelligence
- Usage of turnitin and plagiarism prevention techniques
- Testing, Assessment and Evaluation
- Designing of Papers, and Development of Testing Items
- Taxonomies of Assessment
- Outcome Based Education
- Relative Grading
- Google Class rooms

In addition to these modules; policies and processes to support the academic activities were also disseminated to the participants by respective directors and concerned professionals. They focused on Quality Assurance processes and Faculty Evaluation Mechanism, HR policies, Examination rules, Academic regu-



Concluding moments of Professional Competency Enhancement Program for Teachers (PCEPT) conducted by QEC from 30th July to 13th august 2018

lations, Industrial Linkages and importance of research. A total of 34 sessions were conducted during 11 working days. Participants also visited NUST to get acquainted with the best practices of Higher Education Institution in Pakistan.

During these Eleven days, professional resource persons had made all efforts to create more awareness on Teaching Skills and Ethics, and shared good practices with each other. Faculty members participated whole heartedly in interactive sessions and made best use of their time.



An interactive group Activity during PCEPT



Director Quality Presenting Souvenir to PCEPT Resource Person

Implementation of Internal and External Quality Assurance Mechanism at Air University

Air University, has focused on strengthening the processes and implementation of policies in true letter and spirit to bring transparency and develop culture of quality in academic and administrative activities. In this regard, Quality Enhancement Cell strived for excellence in teaching and research at University. Multiple academic audits of running programs, departmental reviews, Institutional Performance Evaluation, MS/PhD reviews and Quality assessments were conducted at main and sub campuses/affiliated colleges. We tried our best to bring all stake holder on one page of Quality Culture in Higher Education. By keeping this objective in view, we achieved milestones of year 2018.



Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) Visit at Air University

Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Director Quality NUST visited Air University on 28 June 2018, as an external evaluator on behalf of HEC for Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE). Detailed documents and AU processes were presented to the External Evaluator.

Dr. Riaz Ahmad also had meeting with faculty and students to know the satisfaction level of internal stakeholder and academic strengths. He appreciated efforts made by management to assure quality of academic programs



Dr. Riaz is meeting with AU faculty and Students in separate sittings on IPE

AU QEC Team visit to Affiliated College

QEC Team visited Fazaia College of Education for Women, Peshawar. During the visit Principal FCEW gave presentation about college programs and strengths which was followed by visit to all facilities of FCEW. QEC team met students and faculty shared good practices for improvement and efforts made to improve upon quality of education.



QEC Team visited Fazaia College of Education for Women, Peshawar

AU Faculty Visit to NUST



Air University faculty with Director of Student Affairs NUST

A delegation of 45 newly inducted faculty members, led by Director Quality Air University, Air Commodore Abdul Wahab Motla (Retd) visited NUST on 6th Aug 2018 . This visit was part of PCEPT program which has been initiated on directive of Vice Chancellor Air University. All newly hired faculty members are taken to well reputed HEIs where they can share best practices of teaching ,learning and research . At NUST the faculty was briefed about the academic, research and administrative processes of the university. The delegation visited the NUST School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECs) and NUST Business School (NBS), where they were shown the labs and facilities, and were briefed about the courses, faculty and students of the Schools.



Project S.P.E.A.K. (Stop Pervasive Endagerment against Kids) Activities

Team Behind Project S.P.E.A.K is Ms Shjia Gul, Haseeb, Rida, Husban, Amir and other members of Shaoor society. Project S.P.E.A.K. aims to serve the community by providing awareness to children, parents, guardians, and teachers about hostile situations. Project S.P.E.A.K. aims to teach children about the preventive measures they can take in any hostile circumstance in order to protect themselves. We are also aiming to develop an effective communication strategy that can facilitate children to comprehend a non-consensual sexual act and prevent from sexual abuse.

It was Kasur city near Lahore where a minor girl was molested and brutally murdered which shocked every citizen of Pakistan .This episode shook conscious of every citizen and everyone realized that child abuse is becoming a mince in the society. The Project S.P.E.A.K. – “Stop Pervasive Endangerment against Kids” – was given life by the joint alliance of Air University Sha’oor Society and AU Quality Enhancement Cell. The project envisioned to “create awareness on child well-being in Pakistan by using Rights-based approach, without violating socio-psychological and religious boundaries of society.” In a short span of less than a year, Highly motivated team of Project S.P.E.A.K. conducted eight awareness sessions: four in Air University and four in other schools and colleges.



5th Session of SPEAK, conducted at AU

QEC and Project Speak Activities 2018 |



QEC Activities 2018



QEC and Project Speak Activities |



QEC LINKAGES |

Membership of APQN
taken as “Institutional
Member”



QEC chat group
at Yahoo



Membership of
INQAAHEE



Membership of
AQAAIW



Membership of
Talloiries Network

