International scholars to deliver lectures to AIOU students

The AIOU started a new lecture series by international professors through e-Learning for academia and PhD scholars. The speakers who deliver lectures from abroad on Skype include Prof. Mark Adams, Prof. Bettina Brockmann, Prof. Bobbi Mekani, Ms. Minna Holopainen from SJSS California, USA, Dr. Ishan Abeywardena from Sri Lanka Open University and Prof. Dr. Rory McRee from Athabasca University, Canada.

This is a part of University’s efforts for shifting traditional Open Distance Learning (ODL) system to online e-Learning gradually, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while speaking on the importance of E-learning and the University’s future plan on online Education. He said the AIOU, being the public sector institution wish to push forward the government’s policy to promote online learning particularly at higher education level.

Govt. Supports AIOU Promoting Childhood Education

Minister of State for Education Engr. Mohammad Balighur Rehman has assured that the government would provide all possible support to AIOU for undertaking childhood education programme and introducing online learning at mass level. Addressing the MoU-signing ceremony between AIOU and PARWAAN at the main campus, he appreciated the initiatives recently taken by the AIOU for improving and expanding quality education, particularly for the disadvantaged section of the society.

The Minister further said that the government would closely work with the AIOU for promoting basic level of Education in the country. The AIOU, he added, had been making worth-while contribution to educational development of on-job people, particularly the females since its inception. Speaking about the importance of online programmes at the higher education level, he hoped the University after achieving excellence in distance learning system would also launch massive online courses for the benefit of the general public. The government, he said, would stand by the AIOU to achieve its future targets in the educational sector.

VC Dr. Siddiqui on this occasion said that the AIOU was laying greater focus on quality education. The University, he said, was working on an ‘Open-School’ programme for the benefit of the children, bringing them into educational network. He thanked the Minister for his encouragement and support. President PARWAAN and Dr. Nasir Mahmood Chairman Department of Early Education AIOU highlighted the significance of BILATERAL cooperation between the two institutions and the future prospects of their cooperation for providing skill-based training to the teachers, who are engaged in early childhood education and development.

AIOU to Provide free Education to inmates

VC visits Jails, finalizes plan for educating prisoners

Vice Chancellor, AIOU Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui visited jails in Rawalpindi Lahore, Karachi and Quetta and discussed with the jail authorities his plan for improving existing educational facilities in jails for prisoners. The jail authorities appreciated the AIOU’s initiative for expanding educational facilities in jails and assured their cooperation to achieve the desired results.

The plan will be implemented in collaboration with the jail authorities in the light of guideline provided by the Wapda Mahaz. The plan is a part of the jails’ reforms proposals being pursued under the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan......

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AIQU expands its academic network in Baluchistan

AIQU will expand its educational facilities to the farflung and deprived areas of Baluchistan to help people of the province in improving their education level and enhance literacy rate in Baluchistan. The University will strengthen network of its regional campuses and centers throughout the province. This was stated by VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui during his meeting with the Baluchistan Provincial Minister for Education, Sardar Raza Muhammad Barrech. He informed the minister that the university had adopted latest information technologies to reach its millions of students living across the country. The minister applauded the role of AIQU in imparting education in the country, especially in Baluchistan. He assured every possible cooperation to the AIQU implementing its educational plan. During his stay in Quetta, Dr. Siddiqui also had a meeting with the Vice Chancellors of all four universities in Baluchistan and exchanged possibilities for mutual collaboration for expanding basic and higher education in the province. These included Dr. Javed Ijaz, VC University of Baluchistan, Dr. Rukhsar Jabeen, VC Sardar Baladur Khan Women University Quetta, Dr. Farooq Bazaiz, VC BUITM and Dr. Abdullah Khan, VC University of Loralai. They assured due support to facilitate the AIQU in its efforts for promotion of education in Baluchistan. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui expressed his gratitude to the vice chancellors for their cooperation.

The VC also attended the ‘Open Day’ activities of the AIQU held at a local college in Quetta. During his meeting with the AIG, the VC and other authorities, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui informed the ATP authorities that the AIQU has recently launched its tree education programs for the prisoners to make them useful citizens of the country. The AIG, the VC, the AIQU’s initiatives and promised cooperation.

Earlier, Dr. Siddiqui held meetings with the AIQU’s Assistant Regional Directors of Zioab, Dera Murad Jamali, Gwadar, Quetta and Regional Director Quetta. He also held meeting with the University’s tutors of the University.

AIQU to launch programmes in foreign languages

Allama Iqbal Open University will soon launch special programmes in Chinese, German and Arabic languages. The University has already been running French Online programme successfully which had benefited thousands of students. An international Department will be set up at the University’s main campus for running the foreign language programmes. This was announced by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui at the concluding session of the two-week summer camp, which was arranged for junior and senior-level school children at the main campus. A separate Chinese-Language Centre will also be set up soon to promote the language through certificate-level courses. The language courses will be launched in collaboration with Open University of China. The summer camp was arranged by the French Department. It was held for the first time, enabling the students to understand and speak foreign language. About 18 students who participated in the workshop also gave performance in French language at the concluding session.

The Vice Chancellor also distributed certificates among the successful students. He appreciated the Head of French Online Department, Ms. Farah Naz Sheikh.

Fee exemption for Flood-hit regions

Allama Iqbal Open University has announced fee exemption for the students of flood-hit regions for Autumn 2015 semester. The exemption will be available to continuing students of SSC, HSSC and A levels. The students of affected areas who have already deposited fee for Autumn 2015 semester will be adjusted against the fees of next semester. The decision has been in line with government’s policy to facilitate the affected students in future study, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. He hoped that the people will take benefit of this concession in their educational pursuits.

MCB and AIQU ink MoU

AIQU inked an MoU with Muslim Commercial Bank to facilitate its tutors and resource persons across the country. The bank will issue them Life Cards for quick payment of their dues to receive remuneration instantly anywhere in the country. The MoU was signed by the Registrar Dr. Naeem Qureshi and the Business Head of the MCB, Farhan Baig.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said that the memorandum between the two organizations was a cornerstone in the history of the university that would strengthen the tutorial network. Existing practice of payment of remuneration through cheques has been causing delay in the payment. The bank said that the adoption of the latest banking system and the payment through ATM would facilitate more than a hundred thousand tutors and resource persons at their nearest places of residence. University will extend this kind of facility to its retired employees as well, he added. Life card for the AIQU tutors and resource persons will be internationally acceptable for any kind of payment and fund transfer.

Continuing students’ enrolment increased

Admissions of continuing students in Allama Iqbal Open University have risen to 4,60,000, which reflects their trust in this Mega University for completion of their education, through distance learning system. There have been a record number of admissions in the spring semester, 2015, particularly at the post-graduate level. Total retention rate of the students this time is 88 percent. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui termed this increase as a result of the steps recently taken for promotion of quality of education and strengthening students’ support system. The university in this semester initiated SMS service for communication with continuing students to keep students informed about the admission process. The AIOU is successfully competing with others distance learning universities through creditable and strong academic network, spread all over the country. The university, Dr. Siddiqui said, took a number of steps in recent months to improve its admission, examination and mailing system to facilitate the students to continue their future studies. Special attention was paid to the attending students’ queries and complaints through a well-managed Complaint Centre. A students’ friendly environment is being promoted at all regional campuses of the university.
AIOU, COMSATS and Sweet Homes sign MoU for educational facilities in jails

AIOU, COMSATS and Sweet Homes signed an Memorandum of Understanding for upgrading educational facilities in prisons all over the country. The MoU signing ceremony was held at Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat. Among others, Wafaqi Mohtasib M. Salim Faruqui, Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Rector COMSATS S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Chairman Sweet Homes Zamurd Khan and representatives of four provinces were also present on the occasion. As per the MoU, AIOU and the government and non-governmental institutions will provide free educational facilities to children, women and ordinary prisoners in the light of the directions by the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the miserable conditions of prisoners in different jails.

While signing the MoU, Vice Chancellor AIOU Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said, the University has already been providing free education to the prisoners and their existing enrollment is around 350. Now, the AIOU has added a comprehensive plan to upgrade the existing facilities and it was decided that it will support in setting up a library within premises of each jail.

Dr. Siddiqui said that he wrote letter to the Inspectors General Jails, offering academic support in improving the plight of the prisoners through education. The participants lauded the contribution of AIOU in providing free education to the prisoners. Wafaqi Mohtasib Salim Faruqui appreciated the dynamic role of the incumbent Vice Chancellor in transforming the University on modern lines. Following the signing of the MoU, the Wafaqi Mohtasib constituted a committee for bringing reforms in jails and monitors the rehabilitative task undertaken on the directions of the Supreme Court.

MoU signed between AIOU and Govt. Women University Sialkot

AIOU will soon set up ‘Entrepreneurship Centre’ for students’ guidance to undertake small business to motivate and support young researchers for development of industrial sector and to set up their own businesses, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Shahid Siddiqui while signing the MoU with Government Women University, Sialkot. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, VC AIOU and Dr. Farhat Saleemi, VC Government Women University, Sialkot.

The centre would work to fill the gap between researchers and industries and would ensure application of knowledge and academic output for the betterment of society, he said.

Under the MoU, the two universities will collaborate in multiple areas of research and help each other to strengthen their relevant faculties. They will also work together to find out indigenous solution to the problems relating to industrial development.

Students of the two universities will be allowed to use their respective laboratories and libraries. Chairperson Chemistry Department, Prof. Dr. Nagneh Rashid and Chairman Department of Physics Dr. Zafar Ilyas hoped that bilateral cooperation between the two universities would be a great source for consolidating research activities.

Speakers call for revival of Islamic identity

Eminent religious scholar Dr. Habibur Rehman Asim of International Islamic University spoke about the relationship between “Haqqooqul Allah” and “Haqqooqul Abad”. He was delivering his keynote address at a “Guest Speaker Series” Islamabad. Each individual is required to play his positive role for the collective cause and reformation of society, with an approach of self-accountability, he said. He stressed every individual must recite the Quran with its meaning to understand true message of Islam. We also need to follow the right path in line with Quranic teaching for seeking Allah’s blessings here and afterlife, he added. He underlined the need of transforming individual and collective lives according to tenets of Islam. “We can establish an exemplary Islamic State by practicing Quranic teachings,” he added.

Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while speaking on this occasion said revival of Islamic identity in a Muslim society is imperative to have respectable and peaceful life. In this connection, the role of educational institutions is highly important. He assured that AIOU will continue to motivate the youth towards Islamic way of life through its academic programs and religious-based activities.

Fee concession schemes for needy students

Allama Iqbal Open University has allocated special fund of more than Rs. 100 million in its annual budget for supporting the needy students in shape of remission and scholarships so that they could carry their education said Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. This is in line with the government’s policy to encourage the deserving and talented people to continue their future study, he further said while addressing a meeting held at the main campus. Special criteria have been laid down to ensure transparency and fairness in the implementation of these schemes, Dr. Siddiqui said. The University has recently launched nine schemes under which the financial support is extended on regular basis. These schemes are implemented through the University’s 44 regional offices, working at various parts of the country. There is a special scheme named ‘Earn to Learn’, which provides internship or part-time job to deserving students to help meet their educational expenditures themselves. The students can seek financial support up to three semesters. Scholarships are given to those students who secure at least 75 marks in their particular discipline. Such financial support is also offered to students, hailing from remote regions where literacy rate is below 50 per cent.

An amount of Rs. 7.75 million has been allocated in the annual budget for providing scholarships to females, especially those living in backward regions. AIOU also provides free education to prisoners. The needy students can avail the facility of scholarship and fee concession in the new admissions. For this purpose, they can contact their concerned regional offices. Rules for the financial support have already been notified.
AIU celebrates Independence Day

A magnificent colorful show was held at the Allama Iqbal Open University to mark Independence Day. It was participated by the university officers, employees, children and a large number of students presented national songs, delivered speeches, the students besides a tableau named “Pakistan Zindabad”. The day’s activities began with hoisting national flag at the main campus, by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Najmunnisa Rashid, and other senior staff members. Earlier an organized Guard of Honour was also presented by the security workers. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Dr. Najmunnisa Rashid pledged that the University would continue to play its leading role in promoting and spreading quality education that could help realize objectives of the Pakistan Movement. “We feel proud to be Pakistan. We are peaceful and loving people,” Pakistan is our recognition,“she said. She urged the students to concentrate on acquiring knowledge and promoting positive thinking in their daily life.

Registrar, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi paid rich tributes to the leaders and workers of Pakistan Movement, who made unprecedented sacrifices in establishing a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, on this accession said that the new generation should follow the footprints of their elders to make Pakistan a true Islamic and welfare state. The function was organized by Department of Pakistan Studies. At the end prizes were distributed among the students.

Access to academic information eased for students

The AIU takes measures to provide quick information to students about carrying out their proposed amendments in academic records, including names, addresses, and selected courses.

Acceptance of their request for the particular change will be communicated to them through web-site, email and text massage as soon as it is incorporated in the academic record. At same time, the old practice of communicating the information through post office will also be continued. Some information will also be passed on to the relevant regional offices. For this purpose, the students in the request form, available on the University’s website, will be required to give their cell and email numbers. A new link has been given at the University’s website, where information about the future and changed courses will also be available. The new web-based system has been adopted following some complaints received by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui during his recent visit to University’s regional office, Quetta.

The demonstration of the new web-based system was held at the University’s main campus. The VC and other senior officers were present on the occasion. The move is a part of the on-going efforts aimed at strengthening the students’ support system and bringing about qualitative improvement in the overall academic services as per need of the students.

Admission forms placed on website

AIU has placed admission forms of Matric to PhD level programmes on its website www.aiou.edu.pk to facilitate the students at their doorstep. Furthermore, the University also set up sale points of admission forms at University’s main campus, 44 Regional Campuses and around 100 Coordinating offices in various parts of the country including Azad Kashmir and Northern areas. Students were advised to visit University’s website to get an online admission form.

Moreover, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui has directed the Director Admissions and Regional Directors to provide maximum facilities to the applicants for seeking admission and ensure availability of admission forms. He also advised all Regional Directors to set up special camp at their offices for the guidance of the students.

Open Day at main campus

AIU will soon hold a national competition for young researchers and scientists to promote innovative ideas this was announced by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while inaugurating University’s Open Day arranged to introduce academic programmes of AIU in the current semester.

He said the young researchers will be invited to hold stalls for showing their research studies. The winner of the competition will be awarded cash prizes. He hoped that students of all national universities will participate in this activity. The University will set up special Department to develop linkage between academia and industries for promotion of entrepreneurship.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the new academic courses have been designed to meet the students’ needs, enabling them to take part in the socio-economic development of the country. University, he added has planned to launch some online and face-to-face academic programs in the field of science and technology. Meanwhile, hundreds of students attended the open day. About fifty stalls have been set up to show-case the old and new academic programs and the books published by the University. The open day provided opportunity to the prospective students to get information on the programs which the University offers. The students also met faculty and visited the Departments.
Dr. Siddiqui said the plan was aimed at bringing maximum number of prisoners in the educational net, enabling them to become useful citizens of the country after completing their sentences.

As per the plan, free education from primary to BA level will be made free for all prisoners. The proposed plan will include a detailed procedure of tutorial meetings, workshops and examination to be held in jails. For this purpose, necessary approval will be sought from relevant statutory bodies of the university. Each jail will be declared as ‘Prisoners’ Study Centre’. In order to make the scheme more effective, practical and problem-free, it has also been decided that jail superintendent will act as Coordinator and he will be paid a reasonable remuneration for this purpose on semester-wise basis. Teacher to be nominated in jails will act as Assistant to Coordinator and he will also be paid remuneration. He will also perform duty of Examination Centre Superintendent during the examination.

Currently about 300 inmates are enrolled in different courses of the University. During the visit Dr. Siddiqui to Karachi Central Jail about 50 more inmates expressed their desire to seek admission in AIOU.

**Lecture Series on Islamic Teaching**

Alama Iqbal Open University has started a lecture-series on Islamic teachings in order to motivate the youth to follow Quran and Sunnah in practical life. In this connection, a lecture of Dr. Anis Ahmed, a renowned religious scholar, was held here at the University’s main campus. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who presided over the function announced that the University will continue attaching high priority to the character-building of the students through Islamic teachings. The function was arranged by Abdul Wadood Centre for Quranic Science and Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies. Dr. Anis praised the role of AIOU in projecting the Islamic code of life. He hoped that other Universities will follow the same. He underlined the need of transforming the individual life according to tenets of Islam. This is the only way to get happy life, he added. The function was also addressed by Dean Faculty of Arabic, Prof. Dr. Ali Asghar Ali Chisti and Incharge Quranic Centre, Abdul Basit.

**Workshop on Recent Advances in Mathematics**

AIOU held a day-long workshop on “Recent Advances in Mathematics” in order to motivate its students to find out methods for solving Non-Homogeneous Linear Differential Equations. The workshop aimed to bring together practicing and computational mathematicians to promote research activity in Pakistan. A large number of M.S/M.Phil Mathematics students attended. Renowned mathematician Professor Dr. Abdul Majed Siddique Pennsylvania State University (U.S.A) and Chairperson, Department of Mathematics, CONSATS Islamabad Prof. Dr. Tanira Haroon presented their comprehensive analysis on the recent advances in mathematics. They presented well-known methods for solving Non-Homogeneous Linear Higher order Differential Equations that includes; reduction of order, method of undetermined coefficients and variation of parameters methods. They said mathematics plays a key role in the development of various branches of science as well as in the understanding of physical world problem. They further said that mathematics is used throughout the world as an essential tool in many fields including natural science, engineering, medicine, and the social sciences. They said it plays a major role in the progress of society.

The American Professor delivered lecture on the Reduction to first order method for solving the non-homogeneous linear second differential equations. He said the solution appears in the standard form as the sum of the solution of the equivalent homogeneous problem and the particular solution of the inhomogeneous problem at hand. The main advantage of the method exposed therein is that the particular solution is computable from two different integrals; this allows the problem solver to choose the simplest integral with which to work with in order to get the final solution. He solved different equation through RFO order and advised the participants’ teachers to follow the new method in their instructional ways in solving Non-Morhogeneous Linear Differential Equations. He said that AIOU had made a great headway towards the promotion of quality education through distance learning system.

**Models, posters competition at AIOU**

Prize distribution ceremony of research-based ‘posters/models’ competition held at the Science Block, Alama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). The competition was arranged by the Department of Chemistry for the students of BS/M.Sc/M.Phil and Ph.D students. Students presented unique ideas to eradicate environmental and health problems and showcased their research projects in the form of posters and 3D models to explain their research areas included environmental chemistry, photochemistry, electrochemistry, medicinal chemistry and material chemistry.

AIOU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui inspected the research projects and appreciated the students for their innovative ideas. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui assured that the AIOU would extend all possible support for carrying out meaningful research studies.

Prof. Dr. Uzair Rafeeq, Dean, Faculty of Science, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Dr. Khawaja Ansar Yasin, Chairman, Department of Chemistry, AJK University, Muzaffarabad and Dr. Hussain Nadeem, Associate Professor, Riphah International University were invited as the judges to evaluate the projects/poster competition. According to the results, Tahir Nawaz got first position, Muhammad Naeem grabbed 2nd position, while Ms. Anam Maheed, Ms. Reba Riaz and Shifa ul Haq secured third position. In Models competition, Ms. Sidra Amber, Ms. Javaria Begum and Ghalam Mustafa got first position, where Khurram Munir and Aliya Habib got 2nd position and Reba Irfan Aneeza Abrar Chaudhary stood third.

AIOU Vice-Chancellor in his address said that higher education institutions must play a pro-active role in constructing knowledge, through research compatible to international standard. Insisting critical thinking in the students is imperative in order to compete with the global standard. Research should be related to the current issues of the society. He added that Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui appreciated the academic efforts of the Department students for designing innovative projects. He congratulated the winners and distributed prizes and certificates to them.
**AIOU launches 'Pakistan Journal of Science and Technology'**

AIOU launched its first issue of its brand new research journal Pakistan Journal of Science and Technology. Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed graced the event as a Chief Guest while Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University, Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Gayyum and Vice-Chancellor, GC University, Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah were attendees. The launching ceremony was held at the HEC AIOU premises. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed praised the journal for its initiative and said it will play a vital role in achieving targets in the educational sector. The AIOU is now laying greater focus on the promotion of research-based innovative studies and ideas to help people meet new challenges in socio-economic fields.

Vice-Chancellor, AIOU Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said since he took over the charge as Vice Chancellor, research has been his number one priority. Dr. Siddiqui said three more brand new research journals are also in the planning stage. He also emphasized that the journal has been launched to provide a platform to facilitate the researchers, scholars, engineers, manufacturers, industrialists, world agencies, societies, resource persons and practitioners to contribute articles for Pakistan Journal of Science and Technology. The HEC chairman said it was an excellent initiative of the AIOU towards promotion of research culture across the country. HEC has determined to promote research culture and to support the higher education institutions in this regard.

**Pakistan Journal of Science & Technology**

Pakistan Journal of Science and Technology is a multi-disciplinary peer-reviewed journal that publishes quarterly. The aim of the journal is to facilitate the researchers, scholars, engineers, manufacturers, industrialists, world agencies, societies, resource persons and practitioners to come on a platform and to share their new research developments in theory and applications in the fields of science, technology and engineering, and provide opportunities to share their knowledge with the rest of the world. The journal publishes quality papers covering fundamental, applied research, reviews, short communications and case studies. The journal also encourages scientists to disclose knowledge that they might otherwise have kept secret and speak directly to one another. Reputed scholars and researchers from Pakistan and developed countries are on the list of its Advisory Board.

**Regional Directors Conference suggests steps for enhancing quality education**

The AIOU at a day-long Regional Directors’ Conference held at the main campus decided to take more steps to provide better educational facilities to people, particularly in far-flung and less-developed regions. It was decided that a proactive policy will be followed to provide best possible services to the students in term of admissions, exams, issuance of certificates and degrees and timely mailing of books and allied material. AIOU’s 44 regional centers at various parts of the country will be further strengthened by providing them all necessary facilities, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing the conference. Dr. Siddiqui emphasized that officials and staff should work with an innovative and proactive approach to maintain the university’s leading position in the distance learning system. He appreciated the regional directors for their dedicated efforts. He hoped that they will launch motivation campaigns at the regional level to bring maximum number of people in the educational network. An action plan will be prepared soon on the basis of suggestions, put forth by Directors during the daylong extensive deliberations. Regional Directors thanked the VC for appointment regular staff on important managerial positions.

**Introduction of Dak- Management System at AIOU**

Allama Iqbal Open University has introduced Office-Files Management System in its daily working for smooth and efficient handling of administrative matters. The new system called ‘AIOU Dak Management’ is operated through computer software to promote the concept of good governance, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. The software helps to check the movement of files’ status. The software has been developed by the University’s Directorate of Information and Communication Technology. It stores the basic information which is normally recorded in files’ movement Register manually. The system ensures that only relevant users can access it. The system provides necessary statistics for tracking a pending file and reporting work load. It also makes available aging report, showing the files retaining period by the department. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said the whole exercise was aimed at bringing about efficiency at the part of each department so that best possible services could be provided to around 1.3 million students of the University and to have a better care of the employees.
Accessibility Centre for visually impaired students

AIOU will set up an ‘Accessibility Centre’ for visually impaired students at its central library. It will be free of cost for all the deserving students. AIOU being the public sector university, considers its national responsibility taking care of physically handicapped people as a priority. The Centre will be equipped with computers, scanners, printers and different software through which blind persons could access e-content from the internet. The needed students will be able to access HEC’s digital resources, e-Books, research articles, journals, theses and course material. The university will also arrange orientation and introductory sessions for learning and academic up-gradation of blind students. Initially, the facility will be available at Central Library and later it will be extended to regional offices all over the country.

Cricket Tournament for Special Children

AIOU will host a Cricket Tournament for special children in order to encourage them to play their active role in social life like normal people. A week-long ‘Sports Gala’ will also be arranged in the University’s residential colony ground in which various games, cricket, hockey, football, table tennis competitions will take place, was stated by the VC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing the players of first-match of the AIOU Cricket Tournament 2015. The tournament was started on 27th July. Total 18 teams took part in the tournament. Out of 18, thirteen teams were the AIOU’s employees and the rest five include HEC, Federal Board, Ministry of Finance and International Islamic University (IIU). Final match was played between AIOU-Lions and IIU. IIU team won the final match against the AIOU-Lions. VC distributed trophies and medals among the winning team. He suggested that all the Universities in the federal capital should pool their resources to promote sports’ activities, which he said is imperative to promote healthy and positive trends among the youth.


AIOU has launched a brand new Research Journal ‘Taabeer’ as part of University’s concerted efforts to promote research culture. All possible efforts will be made to promote research culture by creating conducive environment for faculty and students engaged in research work. Said VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui in his address on the occasion. The universities should be made aware of their research work and should play a proactive role in constructing and creating knowledge, he said. A package of incentives has already been announced to encourage AIOU academicians in research-based activities beneficial for society.

Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), said on this occasion that it was an excellent initiative on the part of AIOU toward promotion of research culture across the country. The research journal in Urdu would be in line with the Government policy to promote Urdu language. Renowned columnist, Khurshid Nadeem and Dr. Tabasam Munir from International Islamic University also spoke on the occasion. They appreciated the efforts of Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahi, Chairman, Department of Urdu for launching ‘Taabeer’.

“Ma’arif-e-Islami” Journal

“Ma’arif-e-Islami” is a bi-annual Journal scholarly and research based journal of Faculty of Arabic & Islamic Studies which has been regularly published since January 2002. This is a peer-reviewed journal, and it is formally recognized by Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (HEC). Research based articles of different fields of Islamic Sciences i.e. Quran & Tafsir, Hadith Sciences, Seerat-e-Tayyiba, Islamic History, Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic culture and civilization and Arabic language & literature are published in it. Special publications of “Ma’arif-e-Islami” has not only enjoyed good reputation within the country but also abroad. A Special Edition of “Ma’arif e Islam” on well known international scholar Dr. Muhammad Hamidulah was published in 2003-2004 to highlight his contribution for research in Islamic Sciences. In addition, a special edition also came into print in 2012 about scholarly services of Dr. Mahmood Ahmed Ghazvi. A special edition also got published on Seerat-e-Tayyiba which contained scholarly articles on the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), written by National and International writers. This valued issue got popularity worldwide and also got recognition by the Govt. of Pakistan. The Ministry of Religious Affairs of Pakistan also awarded this issue the first prize on this special edition on Seerat-e-Tayyiba. These days, its edition of July to December 2015 is in process. In-sha Allah, a Special edition on “A Study of Methods of Quran-e-Hakeem in Twentieth Century” will be published in 2016. Efforts are being made to enlist this journal in different agencies of “Indexing and Abstracting” so that maximum community of researchers and scholars can get access to its research based articles.
Rawalpindi Region holds Tutors Briefing meeting

Regional Campus Rawalpindi held tutors’ briefing meeting for Spring 2018 Semester at Academic Complex as well as in all blocks of Rawalpindi Region. A large number of tutors participated in these meetings. Regional Director, Dr. Malik Tajuddin Ahmed Khan urged upon the tutors to work with devotion and dedication. He said that tutors were the backbone of University.

AIOU teacher selected as HEC Approved Supervisor

Dr. Tariq Ahmad, a lecturer Department of Agricultural Sciences AIOU has been selected as HEC Approved Supervisor under various HEC in-country Scholarship Programmes in the field of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Sciences.

AIOU to relax rules of minimum number of students in workshop

On the demand of students of Dadu, Director Regional Services AIOU, Dr. Malik Arif Saleem Arif during his visit to Dadu region Centre allowed the conduct of special workshops of postgraduate programmes locally for groups of 10 students instead of 20. The DRS visited Regional Centre. Dadu and participated in various academic activities and also met with teachers of local schools and colleges and briefed them about the AIOU and its various programmes from Metric to Ph.D level. He also visited B.Ed Workshop Centers in Sehwan Sharif. Dadu, K.N. Shah and Moro and addressed the students and tutors and informed them about University various Programmes especially financial schemes. Questions and problems of the students and tutors were responded on the spot. Students shared their problems regarding workshops, tutors, examinations, admissions and mailing of books, etc, with the DRS.

HEC-AIOU to formulate National policy on ODL

A national policy on Open Distance Learning (ODL) will be formulated soon to provide guidelines to relevant institutions for promoting literacy and higher education through a unified and effective mode of education.

Policy in this regard will be evolved at a national conference, that will be held in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The AIOU, being the oldest public sector institution in distance learning in the country desires to play a leading role in the formulation of national policy on ODL, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

The conference’s recommendations will be presented to the federal government for its approval and implementation. It will be participated by the heads of about 15 institutions, engaged in distance learning education. Representatives of member countries from Commonwealth of Learning have also been invited for taking benefit of their expertise in promotion of open distance learning. The national policy on ODL will help to expand educational network and improve quality of education through non-formal or online system as well as its accessibility in the society. It will also be in line with the government’s policy to promote onlinelearning, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui added.

During the three-day deliberations, the conference will address the issues like development of academic courses and other relevant material, besides ODL’s delivery system and mode of teaching.

Allama Iqbal Open University has achieved a singular distinction making distance-learning system highly successful, raising literacy rate and promoting higher education in the country. This was stated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a farewell party held in honour of retired officials. The distance learning system played vital role in achieving stipulated targets in the educational sector. The AIOU is now laying greater focus on introducing on-line education, using maximum use of digital-based technology. Dr. Siddiqui added a paid rich tribute to the retired employees, who he said rendered dedicated and untiring services for running the university on a strong footing. While consolidating the work already done, the AIOU is working on some new initiatives for bringing about qualitative improvement in academic and administrative network for sake of quality education and providing best possible services to their 1.4 million students across the country, he said. Long years efforts are also being made to improve the AIOU’s academic-ranking, by enhancing research-based activities, revision of textbooks, capacity-building of employees, strengthening students’ support and delivering system. The University is also taking steps for facilitating the retired employees including providing office space at the main campus.

AIOU achieves singular distinction making distance learning system successful

Dr. Siddiqui visits Attock region

Vice chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui visited Regional centre Attock and listened to problems of AIOU students belonging to Attock region. The Vice Chancellor also visited Diploma TEFL Workshop which was being held at the University of Education, Attock Campus and M.A Education workshop held at Government Postgraduate College, Attock and delivered lectures to students. He also informed the students about the latest measures taken by the AIOU for facilitating students in information regarding admission, examination, tutors and also about financial support for the needy and intelligent students. On this occasion students shared their problems concerning their studies. The Vice Chancellor told them that the recent steps taken for better facilitation of the students would help a long way in solution of their problems regarding intimation of admission, workshops, mailing of books, issuance of degree certificate, etc. Regional Director Attock, Ammar Ullah Malik briefed the Vice chancellor about activities of his centre for promotion of education in the area. Dr. Aziz Sahr, was also present on this occasion.

Dr. Naghmama gets Research Productivity Award

Professor Dr. Naghmama Rashid, Dean, Faculty of Sciences and Chairperson, Department of Chemistry has been awarded Research Productivity Award (2014-2015) by Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) for her research contribution. She had the highest score of 5.19 among all the faculty members of Faculty of Sciences.
Tauqir Mughal awarded PhD degree

Tauqir Ahmad Mughal, Lecturer, Department of Statistics has rejoined AIU after successfully completing his Ph.D from Beijing Normal University, China. His research focused on Statistical Pattern Recognition and Image Processing. His work has been published in the four reputed International Journals and presented in the two International Conferences.

Dr. Arshad joins AIU as Professor of Statistics

Dr. Ishrat Ahmad Arshad joined the Department of Statistics, AIU as Professor of Statistics. Before joining the AIU, he was working in International Islamic University, Islamabad as Associate Professor and Chairman Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He also performed the duties of Director, Quality Enhancement Cell at IIU.

Capacity-building workshop held at main campus

A three-day capacity-building workshop was held at the main campus as a part of the AIU's efforts to strengthen financial management system and to help its employees familiar with the new techniques for ensuring transparency in the monetary matters.

Making professional development and employees’ capacity-building a regular feature, the university’s employees were imparted training in financial and audit affairs through the workshop. It was a part of an indigenous on-campus training (IT) enabling the employees to deliver the best in performing their day-to-day official duties, particularly those relating to students. The workshop was arranged in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) under Modern University Governance Programme. Addressing the concluding session, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Sidiqui said the IT was a unique opportunity for refreshing of employees’ knowledge and capacity-building. He hoped it will help promoting employees’ efficiency in providing best possible services to the students and achieving the target of quality education.

He thanked the HEC for its technical and financial support in undertaking such high-profile training workshop. He appreciated Training Coordinator, Muhammad Hamid Teq for making the workshop a productive exercise. He reiterated the employees’ professional development will remain top priority in overall University’s development work. Other three priority areas are: promotion of research culture, revision of textbooks and strengthening of students’ support system. Later, the Vice-Chancellor distributed certificates among the participants and resource persons.

Historians’ Moot

‘Historians’ Moot’ was held on September 9, 2015 under Awareness and Advocacy series at Allama Iqbal Open University with the collaboration of National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-I-Azam University. Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Sidiqui presided over the seminar. Large number of scholars, intellectuals, teachers and students from various universities and colleges participated in the seminar with the objective to “promote disciplines of history to strengthen the ideological basis of country”. Professor Dr. Sami Akhtar, Chairperson Department of History, AIU, warmly welcomed the guests. Director NIHCR, Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali Shah while delivering his keynote address, stressed on the promotion of history at national and regional level through academic programs. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Sidiqui, cherished the efforts of AIU for disseminating the quality education at MPhil and PhD level programs. However, he said that history being an academic discipline has not been given the due importance and consequently became a neglected subject. There is a dire need to promote history as a discipline as it helps us to understand the contemporary world in the light of past, and guide us how to approach towards a better future. He further said that AIU would play a significant role in the promotion of the subject through its academic pursuits.

AIU introduces ‘online system of admission status’

AIU has introduced a new system of checking ‘admission status’ to facilitate the prospective applicants and continued students, enabling them to check the status of their admission while sitting anywhere in the country.

The new system called ‘Online system of admission status’ through this system students can check and confirm their admission status visiting the link:
http://www.aiu.edu.pk/admission.asp. The applicants will receive an SMS about the status of their admission as soon as their applications are processed by the relevant department. This was stated by the Director Admissions, Zia-ul-Hassan Naqvi. Results, tutors’ addresses and data-sheet would also be sent through email to all students. VC appreciated the efforts of the Admission Department.

Training on good governance

A three-day indigenous on-campus training (IT) workshop was held at AIU on good governance, relating to finance and audit for its staff, enabling them to deliver the best in performing their official duties. The workshop, arranged in collaboration with HEC under Modern University Governance Programme was part of Professional Development’s series being held regularly for employees’ capacity building. The workshop was comprised of three different sessions each day.

Vice Chancellor said the IT was a unique opportunity for refreshing of employees’ knowledge and capacity-building. He hoped it will help promoting employees’ efficiency in providing best possible services to the students and achieving the target of quality education. Later, he distributed certificates among the participants and resource persons.

AIU launches PhD in Statistics next semester

The Department of Statistics, AIU is going to offer Ph.D programme in Spring 2016 semester. The Department will also launch its BS programme in Autumn 2016 semester. In this connection meeting of Committee of Courses, Faculty Board and R&E/TAPD have already been. And these statutory bodies have approved the offering schemes of these programmes. The Department also revised the schemes of studies of its MPhil and MSc Programmes.
Facilitation Lounge for Retired employees

The AIOU has set up a facilitation lounge at the main campus in block 2 for retired employees for their occasional sitting and get-together. The facilitation center has been named as “Welcome Home Lounge.”

VC, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui inaugurated the lounge in the presence of a huge gathering of retired employees of the University, including some retired vice chancellors. In his inaugural address, he said that the establishment of the Welcome Home Lounge was a dream that has become a reality now. The newly established lounge is an icon of the recognition of services of retired employees who built and strengthened this University, said the Vice Chancellor. He added that it was a gesture of respect towards our retired employees for their contribution to the development of the University and promotion of education in the country. Dr. Siddiqui assured that a new system for the payment of pension would be launched soon to facilitate the retired employees of the University.

AIOU-NBF to promote book culture

Allama Iqbal Open University and National Book Foundation will work together for promoting books' publication and reading culture so as to provide academic input to the students in their educational pursuits, said Managing Director NBF, Dr. Inamul Haq Javed while speaking as a guest speaker at the main campus of the AIOU.

The AIOU and NBF could work as sister organizations for publication of academic books and allied material, said Managing Director NBF Dr. Inamul Haq Javed while speaking here Thursday at the University’s academic complex. The event was the first one in connection with new series ‘Mulaqat’ started by the University to interact with eminent personalities.

Dr. Inam said the AIOU’s academicians could act as their leading partner for publication of books of students’ interest and promoting research and innovative study. He said the University’s academicians would be welcomed to seek NBF’s membership and avail its research facility.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui appreciated the role of NBF and personal contribution of Dr. Inamul Haq Javed in promoting books’ reading culture and literary activities. He underlined the need of strengthening people’s links with the books in order to promote knowledge-based society and meeting the new challenges in the educational field. He said the books served as best source for creative and innovative learning.

Dr. Inam appreciated AIOU’s contribution in promoting Pakistani languages in the country by offering M.Phil and PhD programs in different regional languages of Pakistan. The event, arranged by the Department of Pakistani Languages. It was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Mohsina Naqvi, Dr. Abdul Rehman and Dr. Abdul Wajid Tabasam.

AIOU allocates special quota for working journalists in Mass Comm. programmes

The AIOU has allocated special quota for working journalists in M.Phil and Ph.D mass communication admissions. This was stated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing a Media-dialogue session held here Friday at the University’s main campus.

The working journalists will be given additional marks as per their working experience. AIOU is already accommodating working Journalists in admission at M.Sc Mass Comm programme.

DR. Shahid Siddiqui also announced launching of short courses on media-related specific subjects. This aimed at bridging the gap between theory and practice in order to make the media study more practical and worthwhile. He noted that media has emerged as more powerful social institution having effective role in building public opinion and guiding the nation on various issues.

Eminent journalist, Mohsin Raza was the guest-speaker at the media dialogue who spoke on ‘Media Landscape in Pakistan’ narrating his own personal experiences in the field. In the recent years, he said there has been fast development in the media profession, following the mushroom growth of print and electronic networks.

Giving his critical analysis on the media’s role, he said the media needs to work with a sense of responsibility, keeping high the national interest and moral values of the society. Journalists should take care of sanctity and credibility of their words while discharging their professional duties, he added. Earlier Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Dean social science and Chairman Department of Mass Communication highlighted the academic contribution of AIOU in the field of journalism. The Department since its inception in 1986 has produced a number of journalists who are now working in various media Houses with valuable contribution.
AIOU announces fee waiver for the children of Zarb-e-Azb Shuhada

Allama Iqbal Open University has announced fee waiver for the children of all those who sacrificed their lives during the Zarb-e-Azb operation against terrorists and extremists. The university has allocated eight million rupees for this purpose. This fee concession will also be available to the children of IDPs, for whom a separate financial allocation has been made. This is in recognition of the heroic sacrifices rendered by the officers and Jawans of armed forces for the national cause, said AIOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing national songs competition held here at the AIOU main campus in connection with Defence Day of Pakistan. While paying rich homage to Shuhada, especially those of Zarb-e-Azb operation, Dr. Siddiqui said they deserved high respect since they sacrificed their today for our tomorrow.

The song competition, arranged by the University’s Rawalpindi region and Directorate of Students’ Advisory Services was presided over by Muhammad Arif, brother of late Lance Naik Muhammad Manzoor, a recipient of Nishan-e-Haider.

Pakistan army’s officers Nazir Ahmad, Tariq and Tazneel Sharmin specially attended the function, who were given standing ovation by the participants as a mark of respect for the armed forces of Pakistan. Later, the Vice Chancellor awarded snacks and cash prizes to the winners of song competition. First position was earned by Waseem Bashir and Faeq Ahmed, students of AIOU’s Rawalpindi/Sialkot campus; second position was awarded to Najma Khan of Mirpur campus and third position went to Syed Ali Ansari of the G-101/4 Model Colleges Women.

Conference on “Recent Trends in Chemistry”

Academics from home and abroad at an international conference held at the AIOU called for meaningful and applied research to serve the society for improving living conditions of the people. The two-day conference on “Recent Trends in Chemistry” was organized by AIOU’s Department of Chemistry in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Vice Chancellor Shabed Zafar of Allama Iqbal Medical University Dr. Jawahar Akram was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr. Syed Zafar from South Korea and Dr. Echak M. Yamin from Malaysia were invited as special guests to the conference. Addressing the inauguration session, AIOU’s Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui announced that the University will set up office of Research Innovation and Commercialization by next month to bridge the gap between the university and industry for taking benefit of research work.

Development of linkage and cooperation among the relevant institutions and dissemination of research findings should be the priority area, he added. He informed that the University would hold four special conferences of international level by March next year to introduce and promote research activities. The AIOU being national institution wishes to play an active role for the socio-economic development of the country, through its research findings. They are willing to work with other national institutions for exploring indigenous solutions of their day-to-day problems. “We can pool our resources for new innovations to meet the needs of policy-makers and the end-users in the different fields,” Prof. Siddiqui added. Chief guest Dr. Jawahar Akram noted that there has been rapid development in the field of chemistry in recent years, which he said should be helpful for the overall benefit of the society. The SZABMU, he said would soon sign a MoU with AIOU for joint collaboration in this field. He appreciated Prof. Shahid Siddiqui for his efforts to develop the University as a research-based institution. The inaugural session was also addressed by the Dean Faculty of Sciences Dr. Naseem Rashid and foreign guests.

Mirpur Regional Campus celebrates Independence Day

Regional Campus Mirpur A.K celebrated Independence Day. Prominent educationists belonging from various educational institutions of the area along with local notables and students of the university participated in the event. Speech and Song competitions, and quiz sessions were held among the students on this occasion. Later on the Regional Director addressed the participants and informed them about the academic programmes of the university. He congratulated all the participants of the competitions and encouraged other students to take maximum part in such healthy activities. At the end the winners were rewarded with trophies and appreciations from the audience and management of the University Campus.

OPEN DAY

Open Day function at Lahore Regional Centre

Regional Centre, Lahore arranged Open Day function at the Regional campus Lahore on 28-08-2015. A seminar on “Allama Iqbal Open University Key Telema Programon Ki Afdiyat” was held on this occasion. Students and people of the area took interest in getting information of various programmes of the university. They were briefed by staff of the regional centre. Prof. Dr. Abdul Haque, was chief guest on this occasion.

Open day celebrations at Regional Campus Hyderabad

Regional Campus Hyderabad organized AIOU Open Day function at Government High School, Hyderabad and Center of city Hyderabad, simultaneously in abetting manner. A great number of aspiring students, teachers and citizens visited the event and enquired about the mode of distance learning system, admissions, examinations process and other related matters. They were briefed by the staff of the Regional Campus there. The visitors shown keen interest in the ongoing admission campaign and appreciated the efforts of the staff of Regional office in promoting the cause of education in the region. They also lauded the celebration of Open Day.

Regional Centre D.I. K launched publicity campaign

Regional Centre Dera Ismail Khan launched a comprehensive publicity campaign throughout the region during the month of August 2015. In this connection the Regional Centre arranged Open Days functions in districts Loke Marwat, Tank, Bannu and D.I.Khan. Personal contact, press releases, announcement on Radio Pakistan D.I.Khan and FM Radio D.I. K/Han/Bannu, displaying the banners/posters in different tehsils and districts and visits to various institutions were used as tools for awareness of the measures especially potential students regarding the various academic programmes and courses being offered from matric to PhD level by the Allama Iqbal Open University. People were also informed about the distinguished characteristics of the university. They were also briefed about different incentives which the university offers to its students.

Meanwhile the Regional Centre D. I. K gave financial assistance to more than 300 students.
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