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From the Editorial Desk

UMT welcomed 2019 with mixed feelings; the dawn of a new year always heralds hopes and opportunities coupled with bitter-sweet memories of the preceding year. In retrospect, 2018 was a tumultuous year as the University came to grips with the loss of Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad and many wondered if it would indeed be possible to carry on without his towering presence. Yet 2019 is here and UMT is going strong; it's now included in top 500 in QS Asia University Rankings 2019. No doubt, this remarkable achievement is the outcome of the decades of hard work and dedication of the UMT community, the powerful mentoring and inspiring leadership of Dr Hasan. It also speaks volumes for the tenacity of the UMT community who is carrying forward this tradition of excellence.

The 16th UMT Convocation marked the graduation of more than 1300 graduates and was graced by the presence of Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar. This indeed, is another generation of our graduates, empowered and equipped to make a difference in the future. Moreover, top business leaders, academicians, speakers, public officials, trade bodies' representatives and industry professionals converged once again during the 3rd International Business Conference and Exhibition (IBCE) 2018.

This issue of the newsletter carries the interview of Dr Atiya Syed, a prolific writer, intellectual, respected teacher and educationist who represents a rare breed of intellectuals endowed with critical thinking, powerful reasoning, and a genuine desire to share their wisdom with the younger generation. Her insight into the deeper meaning of life and the role of philosophy in the quest for deeper answers presents a unique perspective on life.

**Our greatest glory
is not in never
falling, but in rising
every time we fall...**



Governor Punjab Inaugurates 3rd SME Conference Organized by UMT and SMEDA



Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar addresses the opening session of the 3rd SME Conference

The inaugural session of the 3rd SME Conference organized by UMT and SMEDA was held on November 27-28, 2018. **Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar**, Governor Punjab, was the chief guest. **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Dr Naveda Kitchlew**, faculty members and students of the School of Business and Economics (SBE) at UMT attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stated that development of SME sector is the top priority of the government for creating employment and curbing poverty in the country. He acknowledged significance of SMEs and vowed to make Pakistan a 'business friendly country' by devising conducive policies based on solid research. He said that the Government had embarked on an ambitious plan to boost the economy by making interventions in key areas of the economy with special focus on development of the SMEs.

Sher Ayub, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA, presented the welcome address. The inaugural session was also addressed by **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Charles Schneider**, Senior Private Sector Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IMF), World Bank

Group, and **Dr Sean K S Shin**, Dean, Global Education Institute, Namseoul University, South Korea.

A large number of SMEs, economic experts and research students attended the conference, prominent amongst whom were **Rehmatullah Javaid**, **Siddiq ur Rehman Rana**, **Azmat Javaid**, **Dr Fuad Hashim Rabbani**, **Javaid Khattak**, **Ashfaq Ahmad**, **Ahmad Mansoor**, **Nadia Jahangir Seth** and **Hassanien Javaid**. The Conference concluded with presentation of 12 research papers on various aspects of five thematic areas. These areas included

SME Policy Framework, Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Industry Innovation & Infrastructure, and Opportunities for SMEs in CPEC and Regional Integration under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Conference attracted international participants from China, Japan, South Korea, Ireland, Bulgaria and speakers from across 30 public and private sector organizations.

It is worth mentioning that SME conferences are being organized jointly by UMT and SMEDA since 2016. The 3rd SME Conference is an attempt to develop the required recommendations for policy makers, researchers and development practitioners to cope with the challenges of entrepreneurship development, sustainability and regional integration.

Research papers, case studies, and successful development initiatives falling within the realm of entrepreneurship, regional integration, specifically opportunities emerging through CPEC, were presented in the conference.



Researchers, academicians and SME representatives attend the proceedings

**Build
Strong and
Innovate
Pakistan**



3rd International Business Conference and Exhibition 2018

The 3rd International Business Conference and Exhibition (IBCE) held on October 24-25, 2018 at the Expo Center, Lahore, was thronged by 15,000 visitors while about 500 participants attended the conference sessions. The focus areas for this year were 'Building and Construction, Renewable Energy, and Home Appliances.' The

exhibition segment comprised of nearly 106 stalls by 40 exhibitors. A B2B meeting segment was organized where the Chinese and other foreign businessmen held substantive meetings with their Pakistani counterparts. Major sponsors of the event included MIA, REAP, Model Steels and Profine. Speakers from United Kingdom,

Portugal, India, USA and Iran attended the conference. **Mehmood ur Rasheed**, Provincial Minister for Housing and Public Health, inaugurated the 3rd IBCE 2018. The opening session was attended by a large number of dignitaries, government officials, architects, town planners, faculty members and students.



Addressing the opening session, **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT and Chief Organizer IBCE, said that Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, who originally conceived the idea, believed that it is the manufacturing sector rather than the consumer sector which attracts foreign investment. That is why technology transfer is essential for the knowledge economy. He also added that one rarely finds educational institutions organizing business conferences and exhibitions. In this respect, UMT scored a first in 2016. This gave a perfect shape to the concept of triple helix (government, industry and academia).



Ibrahim Hasan Murad, President, ILM Trust, shared that the IBCE has ignited the memory of his late father Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad who envisioned the creation of nexus between academia, industry and government. He hoped that this nexus would work in unison, and take the nation one step forward. He informed everyone that Dr Hasan was worried about the state of the Pakistani economy; he had signed an agreement with a Swiss Institute just a few weeks before his death. According to this agreement, UMT and the Swiss Institute will prepare a report on the competitiveness of Pakistani products and services, along with solutions and recommendations. This indeed would be a world-class report

involving the top business schools.

Ibrahim stated that we should always look forward to never ending opportunities such as business to business expansion, catering for international business communities, attracting foreign investors, joint ventures and other innovative business practices. He hoped that IBCE would one day be recognized as a Word Expo for Pakistan.



Mian Mehmood ur Rashid, Provincial Minister of Punjab for Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering, thanked UMT for inviting him to become a part of such an innovative conference and exhibition. He stated that 'Building and Construction, Home Appliances, and Renewable Energy' are the most important focus areas for the masses of Pakistan. However, housing and construction is one of the biggest issues in our country.

The Minister mentioned that Pakistan has large piece of state lands which can be utilized for housing schemes for the masses. The government is planning to establish New Pakistan Housing Authority in major cities of every province. He said that we are trying our best to speed up this project by implementing one window operation.

He added that loan for houses will be allotted in three categories; first 'poorest of the poor' who cannot afford homes; secondly, those who own small tracts of agricultural lands but don't have enough financial support to build their houses; and third are lower to middle income category people.



Dr Yusuf Awan, Dean, School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), paid rich tributes to Dr Hasan who had laid the foundation of IBCE in 2016. He said that the conference will hold 2 parallel sessions (architecture and town planning) for 2 days while 9 international delegates are also participating. Dr Awan said that today's world is defined by commercialization and entrepreneurship. Globalization has led to unrestrained flow of ideas and technology. There are enormous benefits of globalization but it also calls for increased competitiveness. Interdependence is the key to prosperity in the modern world.



Rehmatullah Javed, Ex-President FPCCI and Advisor, UMT, represented the LCCI at the event. He commended UMT for taking the initiative to organize IBCE and said that no other university has such strong linkages with trade and industry. He was of the view that the government program for building 5 million housing units is a great initiative and can help the small and medium enterprises. He said that for the first time in 31 years, the government has allocated Rs 100 million for the development of the SME sector. This is a step in the right direction – Punjab alone has 87% of SME's in Pakistan.



Ghulam Sarwar Sindhu, President, Institute of Planners Pakistan (IPP), said that the role of planners is essential to the construction and town planning industry if we bear in mind that the comfort and convenience of the residents is supreme. He said that site planning, town planning, land use and refill, housing and architecture and civil engineering are the major factors which determine the viability of a project. That is why it is important to involve the experts while working on such projects.



Dr Tariq Mustafa, MD NESPAK, said that he was pleased to note that the mission of Dr Hasan is flourishing because his team is working tirelessly towards it. He added that this is the right time to host the IBCE 2018 as the government has announced a massive housing sector program. Such projects are needed to kickstart the economy. He hoped that the initiative would go a long way to benefit the masses and generate employment opportunities.



Lt. Colonel Irfan Ijaz, who represented REAP, gave a backgrounder to the organization which was set up in 2009. He suggested that the 5 million housing units announced by the government should have built-in solar systems as the country was facing a shortfall of 5000 megawatts. Such foresight would save us from future problems and increase the use of renewable energy.



Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, thanked everyone for their participation and cooperation. He said that we are indebted to our distinguished guests. The IBCE 2018 presents an ideal opportunity to share the latest business models to achieve prosperity and pave the way for technology transfer and innovation. This is the only way to have a world free from hunger, disease and poverty.

The inaugural session was followed by the visits of the dignitaries to the exhibition area while the parallel conference sessions also took place.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the 3rd IBCE 2018 was attended by leading professionals, architects and industrialists who exchanged their experiences and research to enlighten the general public as well as professionals representing private and government bodies. The IBCE 2018 provided a premier interdisciplinary platform to present and discuss the

most recent trends, innovations, and burning issues concerning practical challenges related to building and construction, home appliances, and renewable energy. **Dr Sheikh Abdo Bin Muhammad Ibrahim Ateen**, Director General, Muslim World League, Makkah, graced the closing ceremony as a chief guest. The occasion was also graced by the

presence of **Ibrahim Hasan Murad**, President, ILM Trust, **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT and Chief Organizer IBCE, **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Dr M Yusuf Awan**, Dean SAP, **Muhammad Aslam Mughal**, Senior Town Planner, and **Syed Irshad Ali Burney**, Dean, Art and Design, Superior University.

Highlights of IBCE 2018





Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar Awards Degrees to 1300+ Graduates



Dr Muhammad Nawaz, Dr Muhammad Aslam, Dr Ahmad Omar Murad, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, Farooq Salman Murad, Abid H K Shirwani and Arslan Khakwani

Over 1300 graduates were awarded degrees in an auspicious ceremony of the 16th UMT Convocation held on December 18, 2018 while Patron's Medals and Rector's Medals were also awarded. Rector's Academic Excellence Awards and Certificates of Excellence were presented to 4 students each. Rector's Awards for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Faculty Research Awards were also presented to the winners. A total of 6 PhD degrees were awarded in the Convocation.

Aneesa Rahat, Registrar UMT, conducted the proceedings of the 16th UMT Convocation. Giving the keynote address, Governor Punjab and Patron UMT **Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar** said that over the past two decades, we have witnessed the growth of UMT under the dynamic leadership of the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad. The Governor said that over the course of his long association with Dr Hasan, he found him to be a man of compassion and commitment who was dedicated to improve the quality of life of others.

The Governor said that in a country where 22 million children are out of school, the graduates gathered here today must count themselves fortunate to have the benefit of education from such a prestigious university. He advised the graduates to respect their parents and teachers because this is the only way to be

successful in their endeavors. On an important note, the Honorable Governor said that Pakistan faces many challenges in terms of sustainable development. The biggest challenge is to ensure equitable and quality education for all.

There are few institutions of higher learning that impart a well thought out education. No development is possible without an educated workforce. The economy is the foundation of progress whereas education provides the bricks and mortar for this progress. According to the latest reports, 64% of Pakistan's population is below the age of 30 whereas 24% fall between the 15-29 age group. Pakistan has enormous potential for economic and human resource development. Pakistan's IT related services have crossed the 1\$ billion mark. There is tremendous potential for growth in industrial sectors. Academia should promote research, development and commercialization of knowledge and technology to achieve development goals. The Governor concluded by saying that all those assembled here today are empowered. As Nelson Mandela said, education is the most powerful weapon to change the world.

Addressing the 16th UMT Convocation, **Dr Ahmad Omer Murad**, Chairman, ILM Trust, said that it is an extraordinary honor for

him to stand here and witness the beautiful faces of the graduates who are assembled here today.

Dr Ahmad Murad said that there are two kinds of people in the world; those who lead ordinary lives and pass into oblivion as their lives come to an end, remembered only by their family and friends.

Then there are those who lead extraordinary lives and leave their mark on the world. Dr Hasan belonged to the latter group; always striving for excellence, he succeeded because of his persistence and

Academia should promote research, development and commercialization of knowledge and technology

perseverance. He proved that to become extraordinary is not limited to those few who are born with some traits but anyone who treats life the right way can achieve greatness. Reflecting on the transitory nature of life, Dr Murad said that life is nothing but a process which comes to an end. The passing nature of life has prompted men to ask what is the meaning of life. All of us are curious about the future. All our endeavors whether they are related to science,

mathematics, etc., are designed to secure a better future. The message of the Quran is aligned with the future of man, and on a world beyond this world.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad, President, UMT, shared that he wished to follow the footsteps of his father, the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Founder UMT and ILM Trust. He said that evolution, achievements and future course in the wider world of academia of UMT owe so much to the vision and exemplary leadership of Dr Hasan. No one can ever replace this irreversible loss. He showed his sincere gratitude towards Dr Ahmad Omer Murad for taking the chair as Chairman of ILM Trust. He also quoted that within 15 years of receiving the charter, UMT has grown into a formidable force on the academic scene of Pakistan. It is a proud moment for UMT to be ranked among top 500 in QS Asia University Rankings 2019 and also top 250 in Academic and Employer Reputation; indeed this phenomenal progress has been made in a short span of time and the credit goes to the Late Dr Hasan. At the same time, it is the combined

effort of our faculty members and administrative staff who strived to

UMT aspires to be global university and aims to have 100+ nationalities as part of our campus

excel in their respective domains. If we can do this in just 15 years, just imagine what UMT can achieve in the next 15 years. UMT aspires to be a global university and aims to have 100+ nationalities as part of our campus. We are emerging rapidly and soon the sphere of influence will extend on the global scale. We recognized the prime importance of social relevance of knowledge and that is why we planned to extend the involvement of academia, industry and government to unprecedented heights. He advised graduates to have faith in themselves, in their country and in their institution; they will never fail if they do that and UMT will always support them.

Addressing on the occasion, Rector UMT **Dr Muhammad Aslam** said that this is a special day for parents, teachers, and the graduates. This day marks the completion of a successful era in the lives of the graduates.

He said that UMT has a highly qualified faculty and has an excellent infrastructure to support learning and research. It is raising the bar of quality by providing international exposure to its students and faculty. The Rector informed the audience that UMT organized many international conferences in 2018 with participation from the USA, UK, France, Germany, Korea, Sri Lanka and other countries. He concluded the address by advising the graduates to earn success on the basis of commitment, hard work and tolerance towards their fellow workers. As you surge ahead, he added, you must become a source of pride for your predecessors and for UMT.

The Rector's address was followed by the presentation of degrees. The 16th UMT Convocation culminated on exclusive photograph sessions to mark this memorable day.







IWNAAP 2018 Attracts Mathematicians and Scholars across the Globe

The Center for Mathematics and its Applications (CMAP) at UMT organized the 4th International Workshop on Nonlinear Analysis and Applications (IWNAAP 2018) at UMT, on November 16-18, 2018. The objectives of this workshop was to bring forth the basics, importance and latest research trends in the theory of nonlinear analysis with its applications in mathematics and various related disciplines. To achieve these objectives, well known mathematicians were invited to attend the event as invited speakers.

It is worth mentioning that international speakers included **Dr Liliana Guran** from Romania, Prof **Dr Abdon Atangana** from South Africa, Prof **Dr Fahd Jarad** and Prof **Dr Cemil Tunc** from Turkey, Prof **Dr Thabet Shuqair** from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **Dr Muhammad Ali Khan** from Portugal, and **Dr Azizeh Nozad** from Iran. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics at GCU, Lahore. There was a conference at GCU in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics at UMT, Lahore, from November 13-15, 2018.



Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, addresses the inaugural session of the 4th IWNAAP 2018

Some international invited speakers delivered lectures at both events. International speakers delivered talks on various topics of nonlinear analysis ranging from the basics to the latest research trends. Moreover, they were very happy to see great interest of students and researchers in Pakistan in the area of nonlinear analysis. They also invited the faculty members, and students of Pakistani universities to collaborate on joint research projects.

Other than the foreign speakers, 20 well known mathematicians of Pakistan working in diverse areas of

nonlinear analysis attended the event as invited speakers. The workshop attracted 250 general registered participants from different parts of the country. Most of the general audience were students and the workshop provided them the future directions for research along with recent developments in nonlinear analysis.

The 4th IWNAAP was funded by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and UMT. The conference closing ceremony was attended by Prof **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Abid H K Shirwani**, Director General, foreign and national invited speakers, and general audience. The Rector appreciated the efforts made by the organizing committee for organizing such a successful event.

The chief guest of the event Prof Dr Abdon Atangana thanked the organizers for having him as invited speaker and chief guest. He also appreciated the interest of participants in such research activities. He further emphasized upon the need of joint ventures in connection with mathematical research between Pakistan and South Africa. The three-day workshop concluded with the souvenir distribution ceremony.



Faculty members, researchers and students attend the proceedings of the workshop

Dr Ahmad Murad Shares His Views on the Way Forward for UMT



Dr Ahmed Omar Murad, Chairman, ILM Trust and UMT, chaired a meeting attended by Heads of Management Offices, Deans, and Chairpersons of the various departments of UMT on December 31, 2018. **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT, and **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the select gathering, Dr Ahmed Murad said that UMT was established as a non-profit organization in keeping with the philosophy of the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad. Education, for us, is truly a noble cause and we are

committed to spreading the seeds of learning to all, irrespective of their social status. Dr Murad added that

'intellectual learning is essential for the growth of society.' It is this capacity for learning that makes humans unique as compared to other life forms.

He advised all to try and find the deeper meaning of everything that happens around them. If you try to find the 'why' of events, you will find yourself closer to finding the meaning of life.

He was of the view that those who succeed in finding the meaning of life are able to align their work and personal development towards a holistic ideal.



Abid H K Shirwani Visits Top German Universities to Explore Collaboration Opportunities



Abid H K Shirwani, DG UMT, visited universities in Germany to explore collaboration opportunities. He visited Zittau University of Applied Science. He met with senior faculty members and discussed opportunities for academic collaborations and joint ventures. He also met Director International and Dean of Engineering. The notable outcome of the meeting was the signing of an agreement for faculty and student exchange program. It will

facilitate UMT students to reap the benefits of education in a top German university. The DG also visited Leipzig University of Applied Sciences where he met the Dean of Engineering and his team. Both sides discussed mutual academic opportunities. Another meeting was held with the Dean of Anhalt University at Bremen. Future collaboration between business schools and IT programs offered by the two universities were discussed.

Abid H K Shirwani Meets Dr Karamba Diaby, Member of German Parliament

Abid H K Shirwani, DG UMT, visited Germany to promote academic collaboration between UMT and top German universities. He met **Dr Karamba Diaby**, member of the German Parliament responsible for managing overseas affairs. Academic and economic issues were discussed during the

meeting. Dr Diaby assured his full support to strengthen relationships between Pakistan and Germany. He also appreciated the efforts of UMT towards strengthening such ties and promoting academic collaboration. It is worth mentioning that Dr Diaby has been a member of the Bundestag since 2013.



UMT Ranked Among Top 500 Universities in QS Asia University Rankings 2019



UMT has been ranked among the top 500 universities in regional QS Asia University Rankings for 2019. UMT performed among the top 90% in the QS Asia University Rankings. According to the 2019 edition, UMT ranks in 250 + Asian institutions in terms of academic reputation, employer reputation and inbound exchange students. This great achievement is the result of the

visionary and scholarly leadership of Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad whose dream was to lead UMT and bring it at par with top international universities. This great milestone is attributable to the dynamic leadership of President UMT **Ibrahim Hasan Murad**, **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT, **Dr A Rashid Kausar**, and all colleagues and staff members of QEC and UMT.

The dedicated and committed team efforts of Quality Enhancement Cell of UMT, academic departments/schools /institutes and University Management Offices (UMOs) went a long way towards achieving this distinction. It is worth mentioning that UMT QEC has gained the top W category for the last six years consistently which bears testimony to the passion and commitment of the team.

PCATP Grants 2-Year Accreditation to BS City and Regional Planning Program



The Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) has granted 2-year accreditation to BS City and Regional Planning (BS-CRP) program which is being offered by the School of Architecture and Planning at UMT. The 4-year undergraduate professional degree program was launched in Fall Semester 2014. Its zero visit by the PCATP was successfully conducted and NOC was timely granted. The

interim visit was timely conducted and finally the accreditation visit was also successfully took place and all requirements were appropriately met. The dream of the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, who always emphasized accreditation by the relevant bodies, has been realized. The SAP team is indebted to the encouragement and guidance provided by him while efforts were underway for the same. His visionary leadership

will always serve as the guiding beacon for all future endeavors at UMT. The SAP team also acknowledges the support provided by **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, **Ibrahim Hasan Murad**, President, ILM Trust, and **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT. The hard work and commitment of **Dr Fariha Tariq**, Chairperson, Department of City and Regional Planning, faculty and students also deserves commendation.

UMT Inks MoU with CECOS University



Abid H K Shirwani, Director General, UMT, and **Dr Riaz Ahmed**

Khattak, Vice Chancellor, CECOS University, signed an MoU at the 4th

Invention to Innovation Summit, KP on November 22, 2018.

This MoU will promote joint educational collaboration and partnership in the belief that research and education processes at both universities will be enhanced and mutual understanding between their respective staff, scholars and students will be increased by the establishment of such exchange programs. In the follow up of the MoU, ORICs of both parties have agreed to enter into specific agreement to plan and execute specific projects.

UMT SPA Gets Certificate of Alignment of Curriculum from SHRM, USA



The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), a professional human resource membership association headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, has acknowledged that Master of Human Resource Management (MHRM) program offered by the School of Professional Advancement (SPA) is fully aligned with SHRM's HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates. It also gives the MHRM program students an opportunity to be SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). In Pakistan, MHRM of UMT-SPA is

the first school to achieve this milestone. It is part of SHRM's academic initiative to define HR education standards taught in university business schools and help universities develop degree programs that follow these standards. The students enrolled in an HR degree program at an educational institution aligned to SHRM's core curriculum guidelines (SHRM HR Curriculum Guidelines) will be able to apply for the SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) exam. It is worth noting that SHRM is the world's largest HR

professional society, representing 300,000 members in more than 165 countries. For nearly seven decades, the Society has been the leading provider of resources serving the needs of HR professionals and advancing the practice of human resource management. Throughout the world, almost 329 programs in 248 educational institutions have been acknowledged by SHRM such as Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, USA, Lindenwood University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario Canada.

UMT Launches HEC Approved PhD International Relations Program

The Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSS&H) at UMT has achieved a unique distinction; it is the first department in the private sector which has been given an NOC by the Higher Education Commission for launching PhD International

Relations program. It will be offered to students from Spring 2019. **Dr Muhammad Shoaib Pervez**, PhD Leiden University, Post Doc, Columbia University, New York, Chairperson, Department of Political Science, and his team worked hard on this project to achieve this distinction.

It is worth mentioning that the full range of HEC recognized programs in International Relations, from BS to MPhil and PhD, are now being offered at UMT. This indeed reflects well on the hard work and highest academic standards maintained at UMT.

Dr Muhammad Aslam Inaugurates Freshman Orientation 2018

The Office of Participant Affairs (OPA) organized a grand Freshman Orientation for the new entrants of Fall 2018 at the UMT Campus on November 9, 2018. It proved to be a memorable day for the new entrants. The grand opening was attended by senior members of the UMT management.

Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, inaugurated the event and delivered the welcome speech. He warmly welcomed the new students to UMT and added that the

challenges of university life indeed test the perseverance and intellect of all new students. He also appreciated OPA team for organizing the grand event. The Rector paid tribute to the late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Founder of UMT, and said that his presence is being missed today.

The inauguration was followed by the national anthem, Pakistan Scout Association flag hoisting and parade by UMT Scouts Club. Students from all the clubs and societies participated in the event with zest

and zeal. Oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of UMT Clubs and Societies also took place.

Khalid Naqi, Director OCS and Head OPA, administered the oath to the new office bearers. Various other activities were conducted to boost the event which included selection of Mr and Miss UMT, performance by Symphony Club, standup comedy by **Asif Iqbal**, Iqbal's poetry recitation, and performance by the Dramatics Club and Pakistan Forum.



UMT Career Fair Draws 100+ National and Multinational Companies

The UMT Office of Career Services (OCS) organized a Career Fair (CF 2018) at UMT Campus on December 5, 2018. Based on the theme of 'Your Career Our Passion,' the career fair was attended by 100+ leading national and multinational organizations. Apart from the employment opportunities, the event featured exotic food court and educational advancement advisory services along with opportunities to avail multiple scholarships.

Zeshan Afzal, Global CEO, Shahid Afridi Foundation, inaugurated the career fair. He was warmly welcomed by **Khalid Naqi**, Director Career Service and other UMT Officials. He thanked UMT leadership for the warm hospitality and stated that such initiative encourages students to explore options as job seekers and job creators. He commended UMT for hosting such a mega event, which is

helping students find their dream jobs. **Khalid Naqi** also highlighted the importance of UMT Career Fair and its role in helping students find the right career path. The guests took tour of the stalls and were pleased to see the excitement of the students, who had come from different corners of the country. The members of UMT Diversity Club (OPA) participated in national anthem.

The CF'18 included series of introductory sessions, which included UMT Brand Walk and logo launching ceremony of Innovation Capital Development Forum (ICDF) - A Think Tank, for the promotion of career services by UMT-OCS in Pakistan. This session was marked by a cake cutting ceremony and a panel discussion with the guests and students on developing partnership among talented students in collaboration with the future world

of work. One of the important highlights of the event was a skit, which was presented by UMT students who exhibited great creative and dramatic skills on the occasion.

The closing ceremony was attended by numerous guests of honor including **Amjad Farooq Alvi**, Chairman and Founder, Brain Telecommunication Ltd., **Munawar Abadullah**, CEO and CTO, ImpTrax-USA, and **Shayan Zaeem**, Co-Founder and CEO, Fizz Inc-USA. All of them commended UMT for arranging CF'18, which is continuing its trend of providing lifetime opportunities to students. It is also promoting entrepreneurial culture on all fronts. The program concluded on vote of thanks by **Zareen Khan**, Project Lead CoreOps, followed by souvenir distribution ceremony and group photographs.



UMT Organizes Invention to Innovation Summits in KP and Sindh

4th Invention to Innovation Summit (KP)

The Innovation Summit is an annual event to exhibit industry driven ideas, products and technologies in Pakistan. The Summit provides a great opportunity to network with innovation gurus, find commercial partners, promote technology and link your idea with stakeholders. The Innovation Summit includes presentation of viable technologies through technical sessions. A total of 2000 participants from universities and organizations participated in the Summit. The Innovation Summit included exhibition of academic and industrial innovative products/models, exhibition of innovative products/technology/ideas by university students, and display of innovative ideas by students. SATHA Innovation Awards for Innovative Minds, Annual Innovation Awards,

and Workshops on Research Commercialization, and Business Plan Competition were also included.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Invention to Innovation Summit was organized and hosted by CECOS University in collaboration with University of Management and Technology, Lahore, on November 21- 22, 2018. Many institutions and organization from academia, industry and Government participated. These included the Institute of Research Promotions (IRP), Lahore, South Asian Triple Helix Association (SATHA), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), AFAQ, Lahore, Shafi-Reso Chemicals (SRC), Lahore, Akhuwat Foundation, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), CECOS - University of Information Technology and Emerging Sciences, City University, Peshawar, Islamia College, Peshawar, University of Haripur, Haripur, and Pakistan

Scientific and Technological Information Center (PASTIC).

3rd Invention to Innovation Summit (Sindh)

The University of Karachi in collaboration with the Institute of Research Promotion (IRP), Lahore, and University of Management Technology, Lahore, organized and hosted the 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit, Sindh 2018 on December 19-20, 2018 at University of Karachi. Public and private sector universities, R&D institutions joined as co-organizer of technical sessions and showcased innovated technologies in the exhibition. The Summit was attended by about 3000 participants from a diverse range of organizations and universities. The objectives of the summit are to promote, distribute, expand, and advance the viable research technologies.



SSC Organizes Workshop on Forensic Science in Collaboration with HEC

The Department of Life Sciences at School of Science (SSC), UMT, in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) organized a 'Workshop on Forensic Science: From Crime Scene to the Court of Law' on December 4, 2018. The workshop dealt with key themes such as digital criminal evidence, criminal justice, general criminology, DNA, forensic general science, forensic psychiatry, forgery and fake evidence provided in courts.

A large number of participants including personnel from law enforcing agencies, researchers and scholars from various universities and lawyers showed up at the workshop and contemplated over the ways and means of combating all kinds of crimes by benefitting from forensic sciences. More than 20 national and 70 local participants took part in the discussion and presentations.

Addressing the workshop, **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, said that forensic science is rapidly



emerging field and by establishing maximum number of forensic labs, Pakistan could reduce crimes and law violations.

He said that the purpose of the workshop was to provide an overview of latest developments in forensic sciences and theoretically assist the government and law enforcing agencies in combating crimes. **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT, highlighted the importance of the workshop and its objectives, saying that the students and the faculty could learn a lot within the

framework of the university's efforts to improve all life sciences including forensic science. He appreciated the efforts of HEC in funding such useful workshops.

Other speakers urged on setting up more forensic labs all over the country in order to ensure effective coordination and share authentic information among the courts, police, intelligence and law enforcing agencies. They said that the quality of existing forensic labs should be brought at par with international standards.

UMT-SST Faculty and Students Visit Wilshire Labs (Pvt.) Ltd.

Dr Sammia Shahid, Dean Research, along with Department of Chemistry faculty and students arranged an industrial tour of Wilshire Labs (Pvt.) Ltd., Lahore on December 21, 2018. All team members from Wilshire Labs (Pvt.) Ltd. gave special attention to UMT students and faculty who explained industrial processes in detail. Students expressed their gratitude to the management of Wilshire Labs (Pvt.) Ltd. for providing the opportunity to have closer look at industrial working and for their hospitality. The gap between industry and academia is increasing day by day,



which is a great hindrance in the development of new technologies in our country. Graduates from universities have the experimental knowledge at lab scale only. Industrial tours help to give them broader perspectives on pilot plant scale, large

scale working and synthesizing of chemicals. For many industry related problems, Pakistan seeks the assistance of foreign experts for their solutions. The need of the hour is to train our own graduates for the development of new technologies.

An Evening with Eminent ILM Alumni

'An Evening with Eminent ILM Alumni' was staged in the honor of distinguished alumni of 1995-2004 era on December 29, 2018 by the Ilmians Network Body and Office of Alumni, OER. The evening was graced by **Abid H K Shirwani**, DG UMT, and **Rana Iftikhar Ahmad**, Director External Relations. **Dawood Ilyas Butt** and **Nizam ud Din**, respected faculty members, honored the event with their presence.



Tasneem Alam, President Ilminas Network Body, highlighted the objectives of this gathering. A tribute and *fatiha* was offered for the visionary leader, founder of ILM/UMT, and the great legend Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad (late). **Dr Nabeel Amin**, Senior Vice President, Ilmians, focused on the importance of alumni networking. **Saima Ashraf**, Executive Member, Ilmians Body, shared nostalgic words and all were impressed by her excellent recitation. **Mudassar Tabassum**, Vice President, Ilmians Network Body, engaged the guests through questions related to ILM/UMT. **Rubina Shurjeel**, Senior Executive, Alumni

Relations, briefed that UMT Alumni Office has Pakistan's biggest online alumni directory for professional networking. A new initiative of 'Alumni Business Opportunity Network' has been recently launched.

In his address, Rana Iftikhar Ahmad shared the journey of ILM/UMT. He said that Ilmians are our greatest ambassadors and we are proud of them. Abid H K Shirwani warmly welcomed the Ilmians and shared the long journey of success from ILM to UMT from a brick to a strong pillar of academia in Pakistan. **Sajid ur Rehman**, Senior Manager, Alumni Affairs, and **Muhammad Asad**

Najeeb, Deputy Manager External Relations, facilitated and monitored the whole evening.

Earlier, the evening started with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Quran by Vice President of Ilmians Network Body, **Hafiz Abdul Ghaffar**. This was followed by the national anthem, and a soulful recitation to praise Allah Almighty performed by talented ILM/UMT alumnus **Shahzad Ali** who is currently recording for Nescafe Basement Season 5. Violinist **Javed Iqbal**, an integral part of Coke Studio, played instrumental beats throughout event.

ICCS Organizes Seminar on the Soul of Literature



The Institute of Communication and Cultural Studies (ICCS) organized a seminar on 'The Soul of Literature' on

October 15, 2018. **Dr Taimur Kayani**, Assistant Prof, Gift University, and **Marriam Naqvi**,

writer and speaker, were the guest speakers. They both shared their valuable thoughts on the topic, discussed things within the contemporary scenario and answered the queries of all the participants.

The speakers highlighted the relevance of reading literature in order to gain an insight into the minds of the great literary giants of our times. They were of the view that literary criticism and analysis is an essential component of understanding the essence of literature.

UMT LRC Organizes Annual Book Fair

A UMT Book Fair was organized by the Learning Resource Center (LRC) from December 11-13, 2018 in order to promote love for books and cultivate reading culture in society, **Rafiq Awan**, Director Knowledge and Research Support Services, and **Sohail Aslam**, Chief Library Officer, along with the library team, welcomed **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, in inauguration ceremony.

Sharing his views on the occasion, Dr Muhammad Aslam spoke on the importance of books in our lives. He encouraged students to get books related to their subjects as well as for general reading to broaden their perspectives. More than 40 publishers and booksellers arranged their stalls in



the event and offered discounted prices for book lovers.

A large number of students, faculty members and families attended the book fair with great interest. Food stalls were also set up on the occasion. The closing ceremony was

graced by the presence of **Rana Iftikhar Ahmad**, Director, External Relations.

The worthy guest appreciated library management for conducting such a productive event and distributed shields among the publishers.

ORIC UMT Organizes Awareness Session on Intellectual Property Rights



An awareness session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Intellectual Property (IP) Application Filing Process was scheduled by ORIC-UMT in collaboration with Intellectual Property Organization (IPO), Lahore, on October 30, 2018 at UMT. **Shakra Khurshid**, Assistant Controller of Patents, IPO Regional Office, Lahore, was the guest speaker for the session. She delivered a session on IP systems and IP types in Pakistan. She also provided information to faculty and students on how to prepare their IP application and what is the filing process in Pakistan. A total number of 60 participants from ORIC-UMT and IPO participated in the session.

LRC Pays Homage to Poet Philosopher of the East, Dr Muhammad Iqbal

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) celebrated Iqbal Day to pay tribute to Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Documentaries were played on Iqbal's life in order to remember his contribution for the Muslims of the Subcontinent. A book exhibition was also arranged at LRC from November 5-15, 2018. The purpose was to spread the message of the great poet among the young generation. Students showed much interest in variety of books displayed at the exhibition and wished to have more programs that create awareness among students about their national heroes.



Lecture on Scandinavian Women Writers: Breaking Barriers of Gender Identity



The Department of Gender Studies, School of Social Sciences and

Humanities (SSS&H), organized a guest lecture on 'Scandinavian

Women Writers: Breaking Barriers of Gender Identity' on December 17, 2018. The lecture was delivered by **Sadaf Mirza**, Author and Poet from Denmark. **Dr Ambreen Salahuddin**, Assistant Professor, DGS, welcomed all the guests and briefly introduced the degree programs and other academic activities of the Department. **Dr Abdullah**, President, Ali Garh Alumni Association, and **Saud Usmani**, Author and Poet, also shared their thought provoking views on feminism and solutions towards gender identity.

Seminar on Punjab Police Reforms: Constitution of Gender Cells



The Department of Gender Studies (DGS), School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSS&H), organized a seminar on 'Punjab Police Reforms: Constitution of Gender Cells' on December 10, 2018 in at UMT Campus. This seminar was organized

in connection with '16 Days of Activism.' A welcome note was given by **Irum Rasheed**, Lecturer, DGS. Senior officials from Punjab Police Department were invited as guest speakers. **Dr Sumair Noor**, ASP/SDPO Civil Line, **Misbah Riaz**,

In-charge, Gender Cell Civil Line Division, **Bilal Asif**, SSA Senior Station Assistant, and **Usman Ghani**, SSA Senior Station Assistant, highlighted the policy reforms and initiatives taken by Punjab Police for the betterment of all unique individuals. **Dr Barry Healy**, Assistant Professor, Management Sciences, UMT, highlighted the policing issues and solutions. The vote of thanks to all members was given by **Dr Ambreen Salahuddin**, Assistant Professor, DGS. She also appreciated the efforts of **Irum Rasheed**, **Rozeen Shaukat**, Research Associate, DGS, and students of MPhil, Batch 2, for organizing the seminar.

UMT Library Club Celebrates Quaid Day

UMT Library Club celebrated Quaid Day to pay homage to the great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah. A rich collection of books on Quaid-e-Azam, exhibited in the library hall, caught the attention of visitors. Documentaries were also played to highlight the personality of Jinnah as a great leader and his role in the Pakistan Movement. Moreover, selected quotes from Quaid's speeches were also displayed to disseminate his message among the young generation.



UMT Futurizm Incubatee Rehan Bin Mustafa Wins National Entrepreneurial Competition

Rehan Bin Mustafa, incubatee at Futurizm which is the Business Incubation Center, Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), UMT, won the National Entrepreneurial Competition hosted by CECOS University, Peshawar, on November 22-23, 2018, during the 4th Invention to Innovation Summit, KP. His innovative idea regarding 'Augmented Virtuality' was declared the best.

The competition drew students from all over Pakistan who submitted their business proposals. However, only 13 teams qualified for the final phase of the competition. The UMT community congratulates Rehan Bin Mustafa on this tremendous achievement



and wishes him good luck for future undertakings. It is worth noting that the 'Innovation Summits' are hosted annually in all the provinces of Pakistan to strengthen National R&D network for promotion of S&T based economic development in Pakistan. Each event includes academic and industrial stalls, poster

display and technical presentation sessions. Cash awards, appreciation awards and different technology competitions are part of the summits. The event attracts participation of ministers, secretaries, industry CEOs, scientists, funding agencies, students and social activists.

SST Students Win Several Competitions at BRAINIAC 2018



The School of Systems and Technology (SST), UMT, earned a great success in the 1st Blockchain Hackathon and BRAINIAC 2018 held at University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. SST students' team led by **Dr Shahid Mahmood Awan** and **Dr Adnan Abid** was able to secure 2nd and 3rd positions in the 1st Blockchain Hackathon. The prize money was Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively.

Earlier this year, the team of Dr Shahid secured 1st position in a Data Hackathon held at ITU and won prize money of Rs 100,000. SST students participated in several competitions at BRAINIAC 2018, UET. They secured 1st and 2nd prizes in two different gaming competitions. The prize money was Rs 5,000 for each.

Syed Mohsin Ali and **Zeeshan Khan** led these teams respectively. SST students supervised by Syed Mohsin Ali also participated in engineering project competition and gained 2nd position. The prize money was Rs 8,000.

Overall, UMT stood 2nd in terms of the number of titles and prize money. BRAINIAC is an annual 2-day event which comprises of different technology competitions. This allows students, young engineers and entrepreneurs to compete with each other through their technical projects and revolutionize their technology perspective. This event takes place with international conference ICCOST'2018. Participants from all over the Punjab participated in these



competitions. The organizing team is from IEEE UET, IET, SMS, and IEEE Lahore Section.

DGS Organizes Seminar on Violence against Women



The Department of Gender Studies (DGS) at School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSS&H) organized a seminar titled 'Violence against Women and Protection Mechanisms in Punjab' on November 12, 2018 at

UMT Campus. The purpose of organizing this seminar was to understand the policy reforms, roles and initiatives taken by Aurat Foundation for the empowerment of women. Guest speaker was **Mumtaz**

Mughal, Resident Director, Punjab Aurat Foundation. She briefly explained the reforms established to empower the women in Punjab. A delegation from Aurat Foundation also participated in the seminar and briefly explained the Laws and Acts for Women Protection Mechanism. It was followed by an interactive question and answer session. Professor **Dr Rukhsana Kausar**, Dean, SSS&H, **Dr Ambreen Salahuddin**, Assistant Prof, DGS, **Iram Rasheed**, Lecturer, DGS, **Rozeen Shaukat**, Research Associate, DGS, and participants of MPhil and BS Gender Studies attended the seminar. Souvenirs were presented to the guest speaker as a token of appreciation.

CTL Invites Dr Ron Thomson, President of TESL Canada, to Visit UMT

Dr Ron Thomson visited UMT on the invitation of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) on November 12, 2018. During the visit, Dr Thomson talked to the students and teachers about the various issues of English language teaching and learning and English pronunciation. Dr Thomson also enjoyed the hospitality of Rector UMT **Dr Muhammad Aslam** and met various deans and directors of UMT.

Professor Thomson conducted a seminar on the emerging trend of TESL globally. He emphasized mostly on various issues of English language teaching and learning and English pronunciation. During the thought provoking discussion session, he emphasized on the role of cultural impact of L1 on L2. The key feature was interactive session, where he answered the questions from teachers and students. This seminar was very interesting for the students



as they could relate their language learning problem to the lecture. Students' involvement made this seminar very informative and lively. It is worth mentioning that Professor Thomson is a former Elected Director (2005-2017) and President (2014-2015) of the TESL Canada Board, and served as an appointed

advisor to the TESL Canada Executive Committee until 2017. He is also an editorial board member for the Journal of Second Language Pronunciation, Canadian Modern Language Review, and the TESL Canada Journal, and reviews for many other relevant journals in the field.



Alumni Success Story

Rabia Tahir

MBA Professional (2007)
Batch 35

I am currently working as Assistant Director at NADRA. I completed my MBA from UMT during the 2007 session. I would like to thank UMT team for giving me this opportunity to share my success story. I am honored to be a part of the UMT Alumni. UMT is one of the leading higher educational institutes of Pakistan. Educational institutes always play a pivotal role in the career development as well as personality grooming of their students. Education has always been a powerful agency in any society and it is considered as an indispensable instrument for bringing positive change in the social, political, economic and cultural life of the nation.

My Time at UMT

UMT is an outstanding university that not only helps in grooming the personality of its students but also prepares them to compete effectively in the job market. I thank UMT and my teachers for providing me a platform to learn and groom my personality. UMT has played a key role in paving the path of my professional career and defining me as a person today. My aim is to optimally utilize my educational skills and professional expertise to serve Pakistan and its people.

Professional Life

I started my professional career 11 years back and selected the service sector, keeping in mind my educational background. After completing my post-graduation, I joined Warid Telecom, where I served for a couple of months and later joined NADRA in 2009. I have been serving here till date. I have been able to accomplish some major assignments such as issuance of cards to people in the flood-affected regions. Watan Cards were launched in 2010 to help flood victims in Pakistan. NADRA played a vital role in supporting the Government of Pakistan and provided financial assistance to people of these areas within a short notice of 72 hours. I was an active member of this project.

Mobile Registration Vans have been inducted in NADRA to facilitate all those people who live in far flung areas and assist them in the issuance of National Identity Cards. A reliable and secure system for the issuance of Computerized Arms License cards was introduced in order to replace the old booklets with highly secure PVC card, as it is a much convenient way to carry them in the wallet. NADRA has also supported the Election Commission of Pakistan in verifying the unique voters via the National Citizen Database. All unverified voters have been removed and almost 36 million voters have been verified from 81 million voters. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in collaboration with NADRA provides SMS facility to the public in order to facilitate eligible voters in checking their registration status.

I am thankful to Almighty Allah that He provided me the opportunity to help others and serve my country. I strongly believe that 'Each day is a different day' and hence I rejoice each day as a brand new day to reinvent my capabilities. Being a female and a working mother, I face challenges on a daily basis. The most difficult thing is to maintain a balance between work life and personal life. I understand that each individual is different and hence I try my level best to resolve their problems and help them in improvising their standards of living. I have 9+ years of experience of working in NADRA and consider myself extremely lucky. Recently, I was awarded the Female Alumni Award 2018 by UMT and I am thankful to them for recognizing my experience in the field.

Advice for Students

Start today with a grateful heart. Every beautiful morning is a great blessing so try to invest your thoughts, time and education in fruitful work. Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy.

Microsoft Dynamics Students Certification Program 2018

UMT School of Business and Economics (SBE) students successfully completed Microsoft Dynamics Students Certification Program 2018. Certificates were awarded to students by Microsoft. These students have effectively achieved an edge over their peers and achieved a major milestone in becoming future leaders.

The Information Systems Department has been in Academic Alliance with Microsoft Dynamics since 2013 making UMT the first and only University to become a Premium Member of the Academic Alliance. By connecting three pinnacles of success - industry, education, and application - the Information Systems Department prepares its students by



teaching them the essential skills, strategies, and the technological tools used by the industry. As a Microsoft Dynamics Academic Alliance (DynAA) premium member, MSUM receives free solution licenses from Microsoft to teach Microsoft Dynamics CRM in their curriculum.

The University is empowering the students to adapt to the changing world by preparing them for the workplace through technology, giving them an edge over other university graduates, and thus, paving the way for them to become leaders of the future.

World Tour by UMT Aviation Students

It is a moment of great pride for the students of Institute of Aviation Studies (IAS) at UMT that a world tour on Mooney Bravo aircraft titled 'Around the World Expedition' on flight simulator in UMT by the students of 13th batch (The Wind Twisters) was planned. The flight took off from Karachi International Airport (OPKC) on November 12, 2018 and safely landed back at Karachi Airport on December 12, 2018. Each individual of Batch 13 performed up to the standards set for the global flight plan. The trip was completed in 29 days.

During the world tour, a total of 76 students participated. Students were paired for one leg of flight as Pilot-in-Command and First Officer, turn by turn. There were 34 flights around the world. The flights were flown all over the medians. Nature of emergencies



faced during flights included fuel, weather conditions, mechanical faults, poor visibility, etc. More than 26148NM was covered during the entire flights. Aircraft used was Mooney Bravo-M20M (Single Engine) with the registration AP-VFA. Participants of this program developed

their airmanship, polished their piloting skills and also grasped the procedures of instruments in flight simulation. However, it was not a smooth ride all the way and the crew learnt to handle various emergencies. Each flight crew made memories which they will cherish for the years to come.

Office of Dean Research (ODR)

The Office of Dean Research (ODR) augments the research and development activities at UMT by working in close liaison among all the schools, institutes and departments of UMT. The vision of this office is to make UMT a premier research-intensive university in Pakistan and to be seen as a key partner in the development and advancement of national and international research and technology initiatives. The mission is to be the voice of the research community at UMT and, in all ways, ensure the optimal and effective use of intellectual, financial and physical resources to foster an environment of research excellence throughout the university.

ODR also deals with all matters related to PhD degree programs at UMT. It is developing and implementing ways to guarantee quality in all the activities of PhD research programs. This Office is looking after overall progress of the PhD candidates and proposing formulation of new policies and revision of existing policies in order to achieve outstanding results and timely completion of PhD degrees.

The Office of Dean Research was constituted in April 2018. Since then, it has conducted various research related workshops for PhD scholars including workshops on SPSS, academic writing skills and on 'Career Counseling and Higher Education' to give guidance to the students regarding their future careers. ODR has also conducted a workshop for PhD faculty on PhD supervision. Recently, the ORD organized a very informative session on 'Publish don't perish.' These workshops and seminars expose UMT faculty and students to emerging areas of research and development.



Life@UMT



Dr Ahmed Omer Murad chairs 24th meeting of the Board of Trustees



People from all walks of life pray for the peace and salvation of the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad in a special condolence session



Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, signs MoU with Ahmad Shafiq, CEO, College of Tourism and Hotel Management



Abid H K Shirwani, DG UMT, and Dr Habib ur Rehman from University of Education snapped after signing an MoU



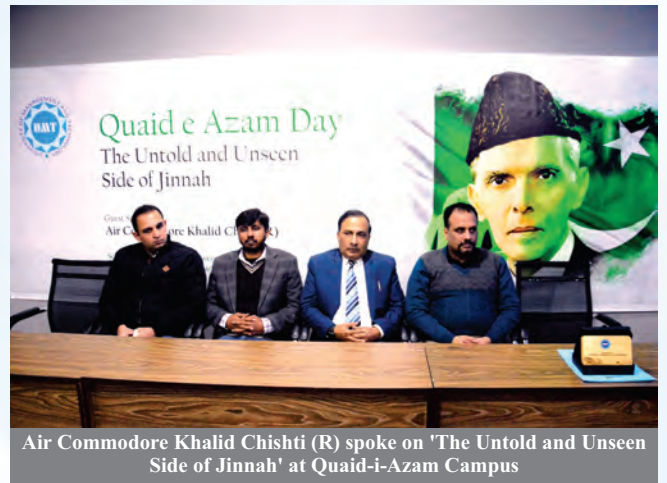
Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, joins the Christian employees in the Christmas celebrations



Dr Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT, visits the 'Fresh and Dry Flowers Show'



Punjab Government College Principals snapped during a visit to the UMT Campus



Air Commodore Khalid Chishti (R) spoke on 'The Untold and Unseen Side of Jinnah' at Quaid-i-Azam Campus



Dr Atif Hassan, Director, School of Professional Advancement (SPA) with Merit Award winners and faculty members



Dr Munawar A Anees delivers lecture on 'Research: A Paradigmatic Inquiry' organized by the Department of Education, SSS&H



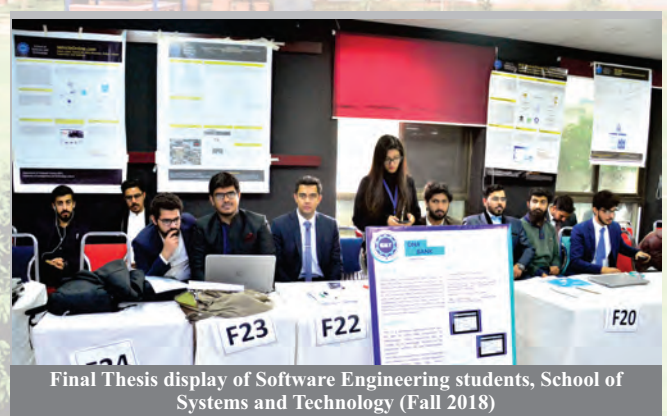
Makhdoom A Sheikh, COD, Makhdoom Corporation, delivers lecture on 'Apathy to Sympathy'



Participants of the seminar on 'Constitutionalized Guarantees for Marginalized and its Implementation in South Asia'



School of Architecture and Planning students during the 'Workshop on Bamboo Architecture'



Final Thesis display of Software Engineering students, School of Systems and Technology (Fall 2018)

Basic Rules to Design a Great Entrepreneurial Strategy



Entrepreneurs face many strategic dilemmas and challenges when they want to turn their idea into a business. For instance, should entrepreneurs storm the castle and just take action or should they first sit down and consciously plan their first strategic moves? Richard Branson – a well-known entrepreneur – is a true believer of taking action: “If you're looking to become an entrepreneur then don't waste your time. Just get on and do it.” Other experienced entrepreneurs are believers in a more planned approach.

However, MIT researchers have argued that both approaches fail for many reasons. Briefly stated: an action-oriented approach only makes sense when there is one clear optimization path, while a planning approach only makes sense when a cost-benefit analysis can be conducted prior to making a decision. Starting from 3 basic strategic rules, we dive deep to understand how entrepreneurs can develop successful strategies.

Choice Matters

Even when you are following a very lean approach and experiment a lot, it will require at least some level of commitment. Many entrepreneurs are often not aware of the choices they can make. Furthermore, they do not always think about the strategic implications of some of their actions in the beginning of their venture. As an entrepreneur you need to question everything and be aware of the choices that you can make proactively early on in your venture's lifetime. So choice matters!

These Choices Matter

But what are those key choices that entrepreneurs should proactively take during the start-up phase? The following choices make or break your venture in the start-up phase:

- **Choosing your Market:** How to develop an agile market strategy? How do you account for customer sequencing?
- **Choosing your Technology:** Should you adopt or innovate a technology?
- **Choosing your Identity:** How do you shape your venture's entrepreneurial identity (aligning and accounting for founder's purpose, external positioning, ecosystem and corporate culture)?
- **Choosing your Competitors:** What is our competitive environment? Should you collaborate or compete with existing players on the market?
- **Choosing your Team:** How are you going to build your entrepreneurial team?
- **Choosing your Investor:** What kind of external finance are we going to use and how does this affect our future investment possibilities?

These Choices Matter Together

Finally, entrepreneurs should ask themselves how these choices matter together. In the final analysis, we develop our entrepreneurial strategy (1) by providing coherence among the different strategic choices, (2) by clearly disentangling goals from strategies, (3) by building a story on how these choices lead to value creation and value capture and (4) by solving the paradox of entrepreneurship.

An entrepreneur can tackle the paradox of entrepreneurship by iteratively eliminating different possible entrepreneurial strategies using commitment-free analyses until they reach the point where they are faced with at least two equally viable and attractive alternatives that cannot be ranked without making some level of commitment to one. Next, the entrepreneur should carefully develop two fleshed-out strategies before choosing one of these to commit to (test two, choose one principle).

Adapted from: <http://tinyurl.com/y4n5nv4n>

Knowledge @UMT



Factors Affecting Trade Deficit in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh

Muhammad Shahid Hassan, Ayesha Wajid, Rukhsana Kalim

Abstract

This study explores factors that affect trade deficit in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. After applying ARDL bounds testing approach on sample period from 1972 to 2013, this study finds evidence of long run relationship between trade deficit and its factors in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The findings confirm that depreciation of real effective exchange rate significantly decreases trade deficit in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Moreover, the results further disclose that as economic growth expands, trade deficit shrinks significantly in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The findings also show that money supply significantly enhances trade deficit in Pakistan and India. These findings are robust to various diagnostic tests which are used in the present study. Finally based on these results, it is concluded that trade deficit could be improved by targeting real effective exchange rate, per capita income and money supply in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

Introduction

It is generally discussed that trade deficit is an important macroeconomic indicator through which economic performance of any country is judged. Countries facing high trade deficit experience poor economic health and Pakistan, India and Bangladesh are not exception to this. A variety of reasons of trade deficit has been identified in economic literature. From the policy side, inappropriate monetary and fiscal policies can lead to trade deficit. In addition, the external shocks like slowdown in major trading partners, a hike in oil prices particularly if the oil dependency of the economy is high or the import of oil assumes the big share in the import bill. In the case of slowdown in major trading partners the demand for exports declines leading to decrease in the supply of foreign exchange which depreciates domestic currency. In case of high oil prices, again domestic currency may depreciate.

From the fiscal policy view, the low tax to aggregate production in the domestic economy ratio is translated into fiscal deficit which leads to trade deficit—the so-called twin deficit phenomenon. If to finance expenditures, government borrows from the central bank, the money supply increases and this leads to depreciation of domestic currency. Here comes the concept of Elasticity Approach to trade deficit and if Marshall–Lerner condition is not met, the balance of trade will deteriorate.

The countries like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan—are developing ones and for high economic growth, their demand for imported capital is high and leads to trade deficit. For instance, the major contributors in trade deficit in Pakistan were the imports of minerals, chemicals and machinery in FY 2013 (State Bank of Pakistan FY: 2012–2013). The trend of trade deficit shows that Pakistan has experienced trade deficit throughout the period from 1972 to 2013. From 1972 until 1989, the average trade deficit as percentage of gross domestic product remained in double digit in Pakistan but afterwards until 2013 it remained in single digit. The average trade deficit as percentage of gross domestic product in India remained in single digit from 1972 to 2013 except the years from 1975 to 1979, when she experienced trade surplus.

Note: This article was published in *Economia Politica, Journal of Analytical and Institutional Economics*, ISSN: 1120-2890 (Print) 1973-820X (Online). It is available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/y5qoselr>

Drama Club - Where Expression Meets Creativity

The vision of UMT Drama Club (DCUMT) is to cultivate better understanding and practice of art and the performing arts. This invariably increases the knowledge relating towards issues that revolve keenly around our day to day life in a medium that expresses all emotions and spectrums. The Drama Club encourages the students to be outspoken, think within the situations and become confident individuals whilst working on their character grooming. The mission of DCUMT is to create a thinking curve which the students can relate to and provide linkage to art and all other factors of theatre that come into play. The ability to stand in front of a crowd, be assertive, creative and impactful is one of the prime takeaways of belonging to the DCUMT. The on-campus events include Drama Eve which is an annual showcase of dramatic performances, intra-university drama competition in which all departments of the university participate, and an inter-university competition for universities from all over Pakistan. DCUMT has won several awards from LUMS, FCC, UOL, UCP, COMSATS and more.





UMT TV

Deliver Matter with a Purpose



Talk with Suleman Arshad, Founder and President, Pakistan Para Climbing Club



Talk with Ahsan Malik, Executive Member, Federation of Realtors (FOR) and General Secretary (RECA), DHA Islamabad



Talk with Ahsan Munir, Product Manager, Next Pharmaceutical



Talk with Asmat Zahra, CEO, Global Montessori Coaching Institute



Talk with Asad Abbas Butt, Advocate High Court



Talk with Shazia Iftikhar, CEO, Yummy Treats



Talk with Usman Peerzada, Senior Actor



Talk with Sarfaraz Niazi and Jahazaib Shafiq, CEO, JBN Jaws



Talk with Adeel Chaudhary, Actor



Talk with Iftikhar Thakur, Standup Comedian



Talk with Kamiar Rokni, renowned designer



Talk with Irum Javed, All-rounder Pakistan Women's Cricket Team



Talk with Imran Ashraf, Renowned Actor



Talk with Raza Rumi, Renowned Writer



Talk with Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, Renowned Filmmaker



Talk with Sohail Marghoob, Editor Magazine and Book Reviewer

A Tribute to Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad

A special gathering for female faculty, staff and students was organized on October 12, 2018 at the UMT Campus in memory of the Late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, who passed away recently. The occasion was graced by the presence of his mother and sisters. **Mariam Murad**, the daughter of Dr Hasan, was also present on the occasion. The program was hosted by **Shaheen Firdous**, UMT Female Counselor and Happiness Coach. **Dr Naveda Kitchlew**, **Dr Rukhsana Kalim**, **Dr Sammia Shahid**, **Dr Saima Gulzar**, many other staff members and students shared their experiences, and recalled how he had guided them whenever they sought his support.

Earlier, the program started with recitation of some verses from the Holy Quran. Dr Hasan's sisters also shared their memories of their late



brother. **Mariam Murad** shared her golden memories, and spoke of the valuable advices and love he had bestowed upon her as a father. She also conveyed the message of her mother **Dr Naushaba Hasan**, to the UMT family. She thanked UMT

administration for organizing the program to pay tribute to her father. Dr Hasan's mother also shared her knowledgeable and valuable thoughts. **Shaheen Firdous** offered *dua* for the departed soul, the stability of the *Ummah* and UMT's prosperity.

2nd Young Journalist Summit 2018 Highlights Role of Media in Image Building of Pakistan

The Department of Media and Communication, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSS&H) at UMT, organized the '2nd Young Journalist Summit 2018' on November 22, 2018 at the UMT Campus. The Summit was focused on the 'Role of Media in Portraying Image of Pakistan at International Level.' **Saima Waheed**, Lecturer, was the organizer of the event.

Imran Khan, Anchorperson Express News, **Salman Abid**, Director IDEA, Senior Analyst and Columnist, **Haider Hayat**, Anchorperson of Star Asia News, **Najam Wali Khan**, Ex DGPR Railways and Anchorperson of Lahore Rung, and **Qayum Nizami**, Former Minister, Columnist and Writer, graced the Summit with their presence. They discussed the



role of the media in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan in the international arena. All the speakers were of the view that public opinion is largely shaped by the media. Cultural and communication levels now define how a nation's image is

projected at international level. It is important to devise an ethical and effective way of communicating across cultures in order to move towards a global community in which Pakistan can proudly claim its place.

Office of Human Resources (OHR) Engages UMT Employees

Throughout 2018, the Office of Human Resources (OHR) played an integral role in improving satisfaction and overall happiness of the UMT employees. It strived to create an organizational culture where the employees feel motivated, engaged and proud to be part of a workplace which takes care of them. To enable such human-oriented culture, a calendar of events and celebrations held last year has been put together. These celebrations were aimed at recognizing the contributions of our employees and giving back to the community.



OHR team presents the national flag to Ibrahim Hasan Murad in connection with Pakistan's 71st Independence Celebrations



Head OHR Farhan Khawaja presents a gift to the winner during the 'Bring your Kids at Work' event



A view of audience participation at the event to welcome children at the workplace of their parents



Cartoon puppets entertain the children during the 'Bring your Kids at Work' event



Participants and organizers get together for a photograph in connection with the Mother's Day Celebrations



Christian employees celebrate Christmas with the OHR representatives

Punjab Food Authority and UMT Nutrient Club Organize Seminar on Strong Bones, Healthy Nation

Punjab Food Authority with the collaboration of UMT Nutrient Club, Office of Participant Affairs (OPA), and School of Health Sciences (SHS), organized a seminar on Strong Bones, Healthy Nation, to observe World Osteoporosis Day on November 11, 2018 at the UMT Campus. Chief Guest of the event was **Capt (R) Muhammad Usman**, DG, Punjab Food Authority, followed by **Fakhar Zamman**, Cricketer. **Dr Muhammad Aslam**, Rector UMT, welcomed the guests and had an interactive session with them. A preliminary survey was conducted in which students' bone mineral density was checked. The



event was also honored by the presence of **Amina Chughtai**, Nutritionist, Orthopedic Surgeons **Dr Yawar Rafiq** and **Dr Usman**. Students from various other universities displayed their projects

and informative stalls to spread awareness among people about Osteoporosis. **Dr Naveed Afzal**, Director SHS, presented the souvenir to the chief guest which was followed by a group photo session.

UMT Drama Club Participates in LUMS Drama Fest '18

UMT Drama Club under the Office of Participant Affairs (OPA), participated in LUMS Drama Fest'18 held on November 9-11, 2018 in which they performed their first English Play, 'Death of Douglas' directed and written by **M Fahad Asad**, **M Murtaza Abbas** and **M Ahmed Naseer**. DCUMT was nominated for three categories, i.e., best runner-up play, best concept and best productions. UMT Drama Club won the Best Productions Award. It is worth mentioning that only 13 teams were selected to perform in this event from a total of 35.



UMT Nutrient Club Wins 4th Position in DICE Health Innovation Exhibition, Karachi

Participants of UMT Nutrient Club under the Office of Participant Affairs (OPA), participated in 4th All Pakistan DUHS, Dice Health Innovation Exhibition held at Expo Center, Karachi, and secured a significant position ranking 4th in a special prize category out of 170 exhibitors, and received a cash prize of Rs 10,000. Students presented their project Eat Well (Nutrition based restaurant) where the idea was

to prepare the meals based on properly counted carbohydrates, proteins and fats along with some other nutrients. As a result, the customers will get perfectly counted nutrient dense meals with required calories. The restaurant will provide not only a dine-in but also a separate delivery kitchen. Joint gyms will be available and customers who want their services apart from the food can join those too.



Principals' Meeting at Head Office, Lahore



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**THE KNOWLEDGE
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A Project of ILM Trust

INSPIRE TO RISE



TKS Signs MoUs with Network Associates in Punjab

The Knowledge School Network has successfully signed a number of MoUs for establishing TKS franchise in different cities of Pakistan. All the ceremonies were presided by **Brig (R) Shahid Akram Kardar**, Country Director, and **Jawad Siddiqi**, Operations Head, in the presence of senior TKS Head Office officials including **Imran Ellahi**, Manager Accounts, **Muhammad Nasir**, Manager Publication and Quality Assurance, and **Tauseef Anwar**, Sales and Marketing Associate. TKS would also like to congratulate all the new Network Associates on signing MoUs and becoming a part of TKS network of 150+ schools.



MoU signed with Safer Akhtar, Fatima Campus, Bhakkar



MoU signed with Muneeb Ahsan and Muhammad Adil Abrar, Wali Campus



MoU signed with Madni and Shazia Nargis, Almadina Campus



MoU signed with Hafiz Babar Khan, Mahmood Ahmed and Nasir Hameed, Uzair Campus, Pun



MoU signed with Muhammad Afzal Rao, Nabila Noureen, Irum Mehmood and Sadia Latif, Sutluj Campus



MoU signed with Malahat Jahan, Iqbal Campus, Lahore

TKS Academic Fest'2018

The Knowledge School Network clubbed together four major events and exhibited a dazzling Annual Academics Fest' 2018, comprising of Lingualetics, Matholetics, Tech-Savvy competitions and Arts and Science Exhibition on October 27, 2018. TKS students stunned the audience by exhibiting their commendable skills and articulated performances in Lingualetics. In Matholetics, the participants quenched their thirst to be a mathematician at school level. TKS also organized Tech Savvy, a

pragmatic and technical section for the younger learners in which they exposed their expertise in the field of Computer Science. Students were overjoyed to display their models and exhibits in Arts & Science exhibition. A large number of TKS campuses participated enthusiastically. The event was colorful in the galaxy of network associates, principals, faculty members, parents and students. A panel of judges from the various UMT faculties imparted their decisions in an impartial manner.

Mariam Murad, Director TKS, **Brigadier (R) Shahid Akram Kardar**, Country Director, **Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui**, Operations Head, and **Anjum Mumtaz**, Academic Head, presented prizes to the winners in the prize distribution ceremony. They also commended the efforts of the teachers and students. The highlight of the Academic Fest was the presentation of 'The Champion of Champions' trophy which was awarded to the winner school on the basis of best performance.



UMT Sialkot Campus



Dr Ahmed Omar Murad Visits UMT Sialkot



Dr Ahmed Omar Murad, Chairman, ILM Trust, visited UMT Sialkot for an important faculty and staff interaction session. He was warmly welcomed to the campus by **Syed Belal**, Director

Campus, and senior faculty and staff members. He was also taken on a tour of the campus where he visited the classrooms and laboratories as well. He was briefed about the history of

UMT Sialkot Campus, programs offered, accreditation and approval statuses. The visit gave an ideal opportunity for interaction with the Sialkot faculty and staff.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr Murad said that the vision of his late brother and Founder UMT, Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad would continue to guide his successors and the talented team he had left behind. He also shared his views regarding the importance of education in the development of nations.

PEC Approves Status of Mechanical Engineering Program

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) cleared the Interim Visit of Department of Mechanical Engineering and permitted the department to continue the program. PEC has officially approved the status of the visit through issuing a notification in the 89th meeting of PEC Engineering Accreditation and Qualification Equivalence Committee (EA&QEC/EAB).

The decision focuses that BSME program of UMT Sialkot consists



of an intensive set of courses and other skill-based modules. It also orchestrates that once the department addresses the concerns and observations put forth by PEC

observatory team, it should develop the capacities among the students to apply pertinent knowledge and handful of skills to the future practice of engineering knowledge.

Research and Publications

Dr Mohsin Javed Wins HEC Research Grant Under SRGP Scheme

Dr Mohsin Javed, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, School of Science, UMT, has won HEC Research grant worth Rs 495,000 under SRGP scheme for his research project 'Photocatalytic Application and Spectral characterization of Synthesized Cu doped ZnO nanostructure composites with S-doped g-C₃N₄.' Dr Mohsin Javed completed his PhD in 2016 from CAS

Key Laboratory of Soft Matter Chemistry, Department of Polymer Science and Engineering, University of Science and Technology, China, and joined UMT. The Start-Up Research Grant Program (SRGP) is designed to assist fresh PhD degree holders to establish research facilities upon joining higher education institutions. The program enables the newly appointed PhD faculty to set up



basic research infrastructure to start research activities.

Naveed ul Haq from ORIC Participates in 2nd International Triple Helix Summit Dubai 2018

The UMT Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), SATHA Office, emerged as the largest research contributor in 2nd International Triple Helix Summit hosted by British University in Dubai. A total of four presentations were made from UMT (SATHA Chapter) including academic paper, case study, progress report and book launch on triplhelixizing innovation

system by **Naveed ul Haq**, Research Associate, UMT-ORIC, and Prof **Emanuela Todeva**, Vice President of Triple Helix Association. Delegates from over 20 countries appreciated President South Asia Triple Helix Association (SATHA) **Abid H K Shirwani** for efforts to make SATHA a leading chapter with a number of model initiatives and research.



Dr Sammia Shahid Presents Research at ICFMCE 2018, UAE

Dr Sammia Shahid, Dean Research and Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, School of Science (SSC), was honored to present a research paper in the 2nd International Conference on Functional Materials and Chemical Engineering (ICFMCE 2018) held on November 20-22, 2018 at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE. The conference was sponsored by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The paper was titled 'Antidiabetic Activity of Extracts of Pistachiakhinjuk on Alloxan Monohydrate induced Diabetic Mice, co-authored by **Saima Taj**.



Exclusive Interview

Dr Atiya Syed

Shares her Vision on Promoting Language and Literature in Pakistan



Known for her individual prose style, command of language, unique topics and a flair for storytelling, Dr Atiya Syed is one of the most respected literary and intellectual figures of Pakistan. She is the former Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy, and Dean of Arts, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. A well-known fiction writer, she has written on philosophical, social, political, and psychological issues as well.

In 1995 her first collection of short stories Sheher-e-Haul was published; it was declared 'The favorite Fiction of the Year' by The Herald, Karachi. By now she has authored 12 books and contributed a lot more in philosophical thinking, literary criticism, fiction, semi political and global issues as well as social issues within Pakistan. At present, Atiya Syed has become an established intellectual figure, participating in seminars, conferences at home and abroad, expressing her views on wide range of topics ranging from literature to economics, fine arts, politics, education, globalization, philosophy, social and gender issues, etc. In 2016, she was awarded the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan for her literary achievements. Earlier in 2015, she also received Life Long Achievement Award from Istanbul University in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Urdu language and literature.

UMT Moments and Momentum team talked to her about the power of the literati to shape Pakistani society, the future of the social sciences and her own evolution as a writer.

Q: When you look at the Pakistani contemporary literary writing, do you think that they are connected to Pakistani society and they have the power and imagination to offer new thoughts to the people?

A: Yes, I agree to certain extent that our writers are connected to Pakistani society but it depends on their literary backgrounds. However, there are some who are connected to the problems which are arising each day in our society. So I won't agree and disagree with you in this regard as I believe that truth is diplomatic and diplomacy is about being truthful.

Q: Don't you agree that we need

more writers who can influence people in new ways than in the past?

People have everything but still they don't have inner contentment

A: Your question consists of two parts. The first one is do we need more writers, the answer is we already have enough as everyone is writing stories, poems and columns.

We do need writers who are of high intellectual caliber as we had in the past and this doesn't refer to formal education but the intellect. Saadat Hasan Manto didn't have formal education but he was a man of vision.

To answer the second part of your question, the influence of literature is declining because now we have to compete with electronic media. We did compete with print media but now we are not in a position to compete with electronic media. It has greater outreach. There is a competition in our society, where reading books is on decline and reading has become a rare hobby.

Q 2: At a global scale, literature is on the decline because of media and technology. Is there a way to counter this effect?

A: This reminds me of Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft Corporation and role model of today's generation. He encourages his children to read books and prohibited all the electronic

My background helped me to make language terminologies understandable for a common man

devices in his household. However, in our country we don't have any Bill Gates or that kind of influence. I feel that our writers can use social media channels to make the nation connected with reading.

I remember visiting the house of Muhammad Mansha Yaad, the Urdu Fiction Writer, in Islamabad who took me to his study and showed me an online magazine which he was editing. If we have such devices at our disposal, then we should take advantage of that and at the same time we should try to have better literary societies in our universities, colleges and schools.

I remember when I was in school and college, we used to have *bazm-e-adab* and philosophical societies where we used to write and compete with writers of our own age. My own publisher has always told me to write in Urdu and not in English because nobody reads it.

Q: English is not a difficult language; why is it considered difficult?

A: No, it is not so much a question of being a difficult language; rather a fact that indigenous culture is always more important. Even if we try to copy alien cultures, sooner or later we come back to our own culture. Moreover, it is also an ideological question. From the beginning, Pakistani ideology was different,

Urdu was one of the pillars of Pakistani ideology.

Q: Philosophy is not everybody's calling – what sparked your curiosity to explore this subject?

A: I really don't know because I was a Fine Arts student and didn't join classes as they took place in the evenings which I didn't like. So I left it and took Philosophy as an elective subject.

While preparing for my matriculation exams, I used to write philosophical questions about life on every notebook. At that time, the subject was perceived negatively but things changed. Still many believed that philosophy came naturally to me, being the daughter of Dr Syed Abdullah, prominent Urdu writer, who even in his criticism of Urdu Literature was philosophical.

Q: Tell us something about your own philosophical development?

A: I think philosophy has developed me subconsciously and helped me to live life. Our circle of life is very mechanical. You get up in the morning, you eat and go to work, then you come back, talk to your family and go to sleep. This is an animal level approach to life.

There are people who are highly sensitive, have highly developed consciousness and are very creative. They are aware of things which an average person is not aware of. Such people are unique. Your internal self has to be satisfied. Many of my passages reflect such reality which shows that people have everything but still they don't have inner contentment. There are so many things within myself that I wanted to understand. Philosophy is a way of life for me. It is wisdom.

Q: Are you still searching for the meaning of life?

A: No, I think I have found myself. I have discovered what I am. And naturally I am creative, I am busy in creating things and creativity itself is an answer to my question which I

had in mind long ago. The first part of my life was an ordinary one. I was just a person my parents wanted me to be but by traveling to different places, I was able to discover myself and that is why my stories are with foreign locals.

Q: You taught philosophy for years; do you think that students are aware of the relevance of philosophical thinking to modern life?

A: No, they are not the thinking type students. Their parents tell them to study medicine or engineering, which they follow as a fashion trend. I have hardly come across any student who really feels that I should take this subject because this subject is my life. This is so rare, may be one or two but majority of the students are not the thinking type.

Q: University students have low reasoning ability, little motivation for critical thinking and zero general knowledge. How can we change all this?

A: It depends on parents and teachers, especially teachers who should be well informed about world happenings and human history to stimulate minds of the students. Our students are frivolous, more into movies and social media influences and follow those who claim to be 'liberals' and consider us 'conservatives' without knowing

Philosophy has developed me subconsciously and has helped me to live life

what being liberal means. During our time, we also studied literature in academia and there were real intellectuals who had more realistic approach to life.

I grew up watching quality English movies and later joined National Film Development Corporation

(NAFDEC) as well which worked for the promotion of Pakistani cinema. So it was necessary for us to be well informed. Our parents were sensitive to the environment; they made us read international magazines, and encouraged us to listen to the radio as well, etc.

By traveling to different places, I was able to discover myself and that is why my stories are with foreign locals

Q: What is your stance about the perennial language divide that has plagued the nation's education system for more than 71 years?

A: After independence, people were more enthusiastic about the cause of Urdu, yet my father struggled for years to promote Urdu as a national language.

The governments of Pakistan were never serious and sincere to promote the language. Had this happened, it

would have been a great social transformation of switching from English to Urdu, which means from British education system to a system of our own. I am not saying that people do not want to read English. I am just stating that our decision makers were never serious about solving the language issue.

Q: You have translated some philosophical terminologies into Urdu for the benefit of the Urdu reader. How did that come about?

A: The work was done in many languages. My father wanted me to translate terminologies into Persian, which I did to certain extent.

Then my brother who read Arabic immensely encouraged me to work for the benefit of the Urdu reader.

I feel that English departments and societies have an intellectual sensitivity to appreciate my works in Urdu

Later, when I got permission to appear for an exam of Social Sciences in Urdu and English, and delivered double lectures in both languages, the translation of languages became easier. Then, I wrote research papers. My background helped me to make language terminologies understandable for the common man.

We had media role models like Z A Bukhari and Aslam Azhar, who did programs in a single format, Urdu or English. I feel that educated people of high intellect should make such valuable contributions.

Q: Pakistani society has a deep rooted patriarchal structure. Is there any way to evolve towards a more egalitarian structure?

A: We are going through a process of transitional stage. There were people in society who were kind to their daughters but they were patriarchs as well. I am also an example of that kind of environment.


The political changes have hardened the role models of patriarch in this country. Sufism had a great role to play in softening this paradigm. Our women are not interested in the feminism of the West, if they want to have rights, they are different from the Western society.

Q: Why did you label New York as 'Sheher-e-Haul,' as your first book was based on your experiences while living in New York?

A: When I was in New York, I told a New Yorker that it is a dreadful city and he agreed but at the same time he said that it will make you creative, which is true and I started writing short stories.

There I moved independently and met different members of the sections and societies. I learnt a lot and it stimulated me. I write books in Urdu but reviews come in English. I feel that English departments and societies have an intellectual sensitivity to appreciate my works in Urdu.





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powerful thing. When
you fill it
with positive thoughts,
your life will start
to change...**

— **EDITORIAL**

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