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PSF NEWS

Pakistan Science Foundation

PSF Celebrates Independence Day - Stresses on Science Education

PSF organized a Students Convention and Science Exhibition on August 12, 2006 in connection with the celebration of "Pakistan Independence Day". It was attended by eminent educationists, scientists, scholars and large number of students. Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, S.I., T.I., Vice Chancellor, Quaid-e-Azam University was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He highlighted some historical facts and reminded our duty to safeguard the honour and hard earned freedom. Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman PSF discussed the fascinating scientific concepts in physics and the importance of Nano Science and Technology. Mr. Zia Ullah Khan, Business Development Manager and Mrs. Almas Khanum, Academic Coordinator of "The



Dr. N M Butt, Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Mr. Zia Ullah and Dr. Azhar Hasan during the "Students Convention"



Students participating in "Independence Day" celebration

Educators School System" delivered their speeches on the role of science and technology in the development of a country. The young generation was represented by the students, Mr. Ahmad Nawaz, of Class 8th and Ms. Palwasha Faizan, of Class 9th who delivered their speeches on "Importance of Science Education" and "Female Education in Pakistan", respectively. At the end, Dr. S. Azhar Hasan, Member Science, PSF presented vote of thanks.

Coinciding with the event, Science Caravan's Federal Unit made special arrangements for "Science Exhibition" within PSF premises, for the motivation and awareness of visiting students. Commemorative shields were also presented to the speakers of this event.



Students visiting "Science Exhibition" arranged at PSF. The Chairman, Dr. N.M. Butt explaining a model

Seminar on "Earthquake Resistant Materials"

PSF in collaboration with Pakistan Materials Research Society (PMRS) and University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) organized an international seminar on "Earthquake-Resistant Materials" at Hotel Margala, Islamabad from Sep. 11 to 12, 2006. A number of national and international experts/ speakers gave talks on geology of earthquakes, safety and security from devastation of earthquakes, design of earthquake resistant structures and the types of materials that are safe for construction in earthquake areas. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. It was concluded with the warning of likely threat of another earthquake on the basis of geological study of the area. It was also mentioned that the underground activities have been recorded, as the fault line is active in Balakot, Bagh and many other parts of NWFP and northern Punjab. The recommendations were prepared for onward submission to relevant public sector departments for implementation.

Collaboration with French Institutions

A meeting was held at PSF on Sep. 9, 2006 to explore the possibilities of collaboration between research institutions of Pakistan and France with particular reference to the development and promotion of Dairy Science in Pakistan. Dr. Sonia Darracq, Higher Education & Scientific Attache, Embassy of France, Dr. Frederic Gaucheron and Pr Jean-Francois, Professors of Dairy Science from Agrocampus, Rennes, France attended the meeting. Dr. N. M. Butt, Chairman, Dr. S. Azhar Hasan, Member Science, Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, Chief Scientific Officer, PSF and Prof. M. Faqir Anjum Chaudhry, Director, Institute of Food Science & Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad participated from PSF.

After detailed discussions, two activities were planned to be jointly organized in Pakistan: 1) Holding of Workshops on "Dairy Products" and "Nutrition" in Nov. 2006 and July, 2007; and 2) Popularization of Dairy Science & Nutrition, through PSF Science Caravans working in all provinces. Further, Dr. Sonia was briefed about other activities of the Foundation, in her follow-up visit to PSF on Sep. 13, 2006.

US-Pak Natural Science Linkage Programme

A meeting of PSF Technical Committee on Agricultural Sciences was held on August 19, 2006, wherein the research areas were prioritized, as summarized below:

Collection, Characterization and Evaluation of Genetic Material; Crop Protection; Post-Harvest Handling; Natural Resource Management; Plant and Animal Improvement; Farm Mechanization; and Bio-Informatics.

Research Support Programme

Meeting of the Technical Committee in Engineering Sciences was held, wherein one new project and 21 progress reports were approved. Hence, Rs.4.39m were released on account of due instalments.

Financial Support for Holding Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops: Rs.375,000 were released to eight organizations for holding science conferences, seminars & workshops.

Awards/ Fellowships to Ph.D/ M.Phil Students:

Rs.72,000 were released to Gomal University, D.I. Khan on account of Fellowship grant to two Ph.D Students.

Development Activities

The processing of the proposals/ requests under the projects "**Funding of S&T Research in Universities and other R&D Organizations**" and "**Financial Support to Scientific Societies in Pakistan**" is being carried out. However, the funds for the first quarter of current financial year have not been received from MoST.

Science Popularization Activities

Federal and Provincial Science Caravan units organized seven Science Exhibitions, Film & Planetarium Shows in schools of their respective areas. More than 5500 students and general public visited these exhibitions.

National S&T Expo-2006

In connection with the inauguration of National Memorial Museum established at Shakar Paryan, Islamabad under the directives of the President of Pakistan, PSF is organizing "National S&T Expo-2006". More than twenty S&T organizations are taking part in this exhibition. PSF being the focal organization is coordinating with various organizations and several meetings have been held in PSF and PMNH. Documentaries highlighting the achievements of participating organizations are also being prepared in collaboration with Lok Virsa Museum.

In continuation of the UNESCO project "*Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women*" the PSF has signed "FEE Contract" with UNESCO, Islamabad for the fourth phase of the project, under which four booklets on various topics for neo-literates and a pictorial booklet on water issues for all participating countries would be prepared.

Lectures Delivered by Dr. N.M. Butt

- "Nanotechnology: Industrial Applications & Possible Adverse Effects" at Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Islamabad on Aug. 15, 2006.
- "Technology Based Development: The Case of Nanotechnology" in Int'l Conference organized by COMSATS at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad on Aug. 22, 2006.
- "Introduction to Nanotechnology" organized by Computer Society of Pakistan, RWP/IBD Chapter at Holiday-Inn, Islamabad on Aug. 31, 2006.
- "Importance of Nanotechnology in Pakistan" at Govt. Post Graduate Jahanzeb College, Saidu Sharif, Swat on Sep. 9, 2006.

Seminar/ Training Attended

- Dr. Azhar Hasan and M.S., Ms. Shaheen Khan, Secy., PSF attended national seminar on "Female Employment in Pakistan" at Pakistan Manpower Institute, Islamabad held from Aug. 30-31, 2006.
- Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, C.S.O. attended a training on "Management by Objectives" organized by Management Services Wing of Establishment Div., Islamabad from April 25-27, 2006.
- Dr. H. U. Khan, S.R.O. participated in the "International Students Invention Exhibition" as a Team Leader to coordinate the activities of Pakistani students. It was held from July 20-24, 2006 at Seoul, South Korea. Pakistani students presented their projects and won Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

Appointment/ Promotion

Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan, D.G., PMNH has assumed the charge of the post of Member Science (BS-21) in PSF w.e.f. August 25, 2006.

Dr. Farid Asif Shaheen, S.O. has completed his Ph.D in the field of Entomology from University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi. He has been promoted to Senior Scientific Officer (BS-18) w.e.f. Sep. 16, 2006.

Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

Linkages and Collaboration with International Organizations

- Swiss National Science Foundation has approved funding for an International Collaborative project between the Institute and Museum of Paleontology of the University of Zurich (PIMUZ), Switzerland and the Earth Sciences Division, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), Islamabad. This 3-year project is to be launched in Feb. 2007.
- In connection with another on-going project, Dr. Shahid Hussain and Mr. Hamid Dawood, along with a team of geoscientists of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland carried out two weeks fieldwork in Kaghan – Kohistan area.
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) has renewed the MoU with Pakistan Museum of Natural History for further 5 years.
- Mr. Muhammad Rafique, Associate Curator carried out field studies on Freshwater Fish of Sindh from Sep.16-22, 2006 with the collaboration of WWF-Pakistan.

PMNH Scientists Honoured

International Biographical Centre (IBC), Cambridge, England has recognized Dr. S. Azhar Hasan and Dr. Khalid Javed Baig as the **Noted & Eminent Professionals** in their fields and honoured them as the member of IBC's 'Leading Scientists of the World-2006'.

Donation of Material to PMNH

An eminent Geologist/ Paleontologist, Dr. Syed Mahmood Raza, Adviser, Higher Education Commission (HEC) has donated hundreds of his life long collection of books, scientific journals and other scientific material to Earth Sciences Division (ESD) of Pakistan Museum of Natural History.

Educational/ Technical Services

Pakistan Museum of Natural History provided educational guidance to 2,622 visitors (students 625, general public 1,954, foreigners 43) during July-Sep. 2006. Further, the Audio-Visual Centre of PMNH has been upgraded to accommodate more than 100 persons at a time.

Dr. Azhar Hasan, Dr. Shahid Hussain and Dr. Khalid Javed Baig discussed the wildlife and environmental issues in different programmes, presented by the television channels and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

Paper Presented

Mr. Muhammad Rafique, Associate Curator presented a paper entitled "A Case Study on Participatory Management of Freshwater Fish" during the training workshop on "Participatory Natural Resource

Management" organized by WWF-Pakistan from Sep. 12 to 15, 2006 in Karachi.

Papers Published

Amir, Shabir Ali, 2006. Cephalopod Fishery: A local technique to catch Cuttlefish in the coastal waters of Pakistan. STREAM Journal, NACA, Bangkok, Thailand. Vol. 5(2): 9-10.

Baig, K. J., Awan, M.R. and Ashraf, N. (2006). Ecological studies and zoogeographic affinities of the amphibians and reptiles found in Chagai desert, Balochistan, Pakistan. Pak. J. Zool. 38(2): 145-151.

Baig, Khalid Javed. (2006). Good Bye Turtles (article on illegal trade of turtles). Daily "The Nation", 14th July, p.16.

Leghari, M. K. and Ghafoor, S. A. (2006). Comparative ecological study of freshwater red algae from various localities of Pakistan. Int'l J. of Phycology & Phycochemistry. 2(1): 63-70.

Mashiatullah, A., Qureshi, R.M. and Leghari, M.K. (2006). Stable Carbon Isotope (SBC) composition of seaweeds of Karachi coast, Pakistan. Int'l J. of Phycology & Phycochemistry. 2(1):1-16.

Mishkat Ullah, Butt, Basitullah and Shah, Maqsood. (2006). Assessment of cane and internode damage in millable cane by sugarcane complex. Sarhad J. of Agriculture. 22(2): 297-302.

Training Received

Dr. M. Rashid Awan, Director, BSD attended a three-day training course on "Management by Objectives" organized by Management Services, Establishment Division, Govt. of Pakistan w.e.f August 8-10, 2006.

Field Studies

A team from Earth Sciences Division (Abdul Rahim Rajpar, Muhammad Latif Khan, Aamir Yaseen, K.A. Mirani) carried out geological studies along the southern flank of the River Haro (Khanpur, Hazara) for investigation of Bauxite deposits. About 20 samples were collected for further chemical analysis.

Dr. Khalid Javed Baig has been allowed to take over the current charge of the Director, ZSD w.e.f. July 29, 2006.

Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Associate Curator, BSD has been awarded Ph.D in Sep., 2006 in Biology (Plant Taxonomy) from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

Workshop on "Media and Science Awareness in the Knowledge Society"

To ensure better coverage of science in media, a workshop on "Media and Science Awareness in the Knowledge Society" was organized by PASTIC at Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar from Sep. 5-6, 2006. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Asif Iqbal Daudzai, Provincial Minister for Information and Public Relations, N.W.F.P. It was aimed at providing a forum for scientists and media practitioners to discuss related issues and evolve the strategy for promoting public awareness and understanding of scientific basis of events, as the informed public is an invaluable resource for any nation. The workshop involved 44 scientists, journalists, television producers, public relation persons and people working for the propagation of science in society.



Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman PSF presenting certificate to workshop participants

A roundtable discussion moderated by Dr. Haroon Rasheed, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar was held, wherein the eminent scientists and media personalities discussed the importance of scientific literacy and the problems faced in presenting science-related activities. Based on these discussions, following action items were identified:

- Training of media personnel and introduction of science journalism in the departments of journalism and mass communication.
- Need of interaction between scientists and journalists through regular forums/ exhibitions.
- Allocation of space/ time for coverage of S&T in print/ electronic media. Pakistan Newspapers Society/ Pakistan Broadcasting Association would be approached for this purpose.
- PSF was desired to convey the results of PSF funded research projects to the media.

The concluding session was presided by Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman PSF, wherein the certificates and shields were distributed to the participants and resource persons.

Documentation & Bibliographic Services

375 articles were supplied to the researchers. Under bibliographic services, 27,259 references were searched and supplied to 99 scientists.

Reprographic Services

Reprographic Unit printed the following publications:

- PSF Newsletter, Booklets/ Annual Report 2001-2002
- Summary Reports and Workshops material

Meeting Attended

Ms. Nageen Ainuddin, Director attended the WIPO Roundtable on "Formulation and Implementation of National Intellectual Property Strategy" from Aug. 16-18, 2006 in Islamabad.

Paper Published

Shah, Syed Aftab Hussain & Ainuddin, Nageen. (2006). "PASTIC and the Concept of Resource Sharing and Networking between Libraries". In: Proceedings of National Workshop, held from April 11-15, 2005 at NARC.

Trainings Received

Name	Title of Training
M. Ayub Dogar, Bibliographic Officer	"Application of Information Technology for Information Management" organized by SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi, India, from Aug. 28 - Nov. 24, 2006
M. Hassnain, I/C, Faisalabad Centre, Ms. Raheela Nawaz, A.S.I.O., Islamabad	"Information Technology for Information Management" organized by the SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi, India from Aug. 28 to Sep. 29, 2006.

Forthcoming Events

1. Expo at Karachi

Under the Technological Information Promotion System (TIPS), PASTIC has been organizing computer exhibitions since early 90s in several major cities which attracted the scientific, industrial and commercial circles. Now PASTIC has planned to organize an Expo at the Karachi EXPO Centre in **January 2007** in major areas covered under TIPS, with the aim to introduce and promote local as well as transferred technologies, which are successfully being used in Pakistan. The exhibition will provide an opportunity to learn about new products in the market that can be beneficial to them. It is hoped that Expo would facilitate interaction amongst technologists and vendors to explore new business opportunities. Those interested in the exhibition of their products may contact Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Scientific Information Officer, PASTIC for detailed information.

2. Workshop on "Access to Information and Intellectual Property Rights Issues"

PASTIC in collaboration with SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi India is organizing a workshop at **Holiday Inn Hotel, Islamabad from December 19-22, 2006**. The workshop has been designed for information professionals to upgrade their skills and familiarize them with communication technologies and the issues of Intellectual Property Rights, in digital environment.