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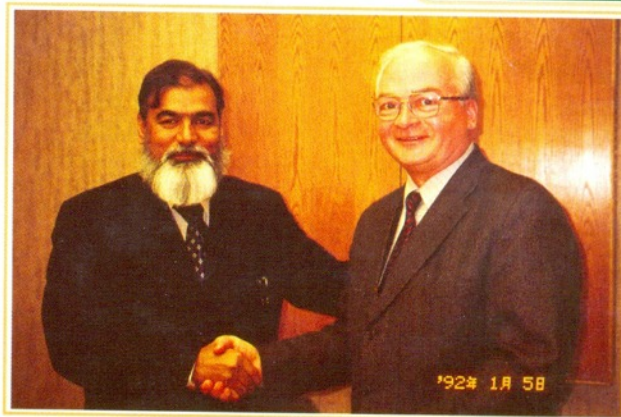
Rehan Zafar

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# Newsletter

June-July, 2005



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## Editorial

University education has recently picked up momentum in Balochistan. Three new universities have been established and several new disciplines are being introduced. However there is a lot to be done in the domain of quality and performance of our graduates in the job market. It is not only the local job market we should consider, we have rather to concentrate on acceptance of our graduates in the international job market. Those markets have no quota, no soft corner for the theme of underdevelopment and no ear for the plea of being underprivileged. Horizons of opportunities are open for those who can deliver. In order to produce highly skilled and competent human resources in our universities, it is imperative to bring effective and radical changes in our university systems. For this, we need to study the systems implemented in the universities of top international ranking. How education is being imparted; what curricula is being followed; how intensive and extensive their courses are; what new discoveries have been made; what is new and what is obsolete; what is applied and what is abstract; what abstract is likely to yield applicable results and what applied domains have been fully exhausted of their applicability\_ all this can be learnt from those who have excelled in knowledge at the optimum level and have benefited the humanity. But just an understanding of these systems is not sufficient. We also have to develop strong linkages with dominant powers in the domain of higher education.

The visit of Vice Chancellor and three Deans of BUITMS to four American universities in May this year is an important step in this direction. The visit has resulted in signing of two memoranda of understanding concerning mutual cooperation between American universities and universities in Balochistan in the form of faculty and student exchange, mutual research projects, advice on curricula and pedagogy and visits of academicians. These memoranda will have a profound impact on the quality of higher education in the province. Students will get opportunity to complete some part of their academic program in one of these universities. The delegation got in touch with Pakistani students who are studying in America and are keen to come back to Pakistan and serve their country in the field of their expertise. This tour provided an excellent opportunity to introduce BUITMS and its programs to the deans and academicians of American universities. Free IT program of BUITMS, which was initiated as part of the social obligation of the university to the society, got much applause and appreciation at the University of Minnesota.

BUITMS believes in strong linkage with universities at home and abroad. During the past two and a half years several scholars from foreign and Pakistani universities have visited BUITMS and shared their wisdom with academia and students. As a result of the visit of the vice chancellor to American universities, American scholars will come to BUITMS and other universities of the province more frequently for the promotion of mutual research interests. Prof. Dr. Raza-ul-Karim from Minnesota University has already visited BUITMS and delivered a few lectures here. Prof. Dr. Taseer from Howard was another prominent scholar to visit and talk to the students of our University. It is, no doubt, a promising opening.





## BUITMS Delegation Visits USA to Establish Linkages with American Universities

*Report by: Dr. Arif Kazmi,  
Dean Faculty of Basic Sciences, BUITMS*

A delegation headed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. M. Abbas Choudhary visited a number of American academic and research institutions during the second half of May 2005. Other members of the delegation included Dr. M. A. K. Malghani, Dean, Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics, Dr. Sabir Usmani, Dean, Faculty of Computer and Emerging Sciences and Dr. Arif Kazmi, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences.



*A view of The George Washington University*

The first stop was at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Duluth is a lovely city on the banks of Lake Superior, the Western most lake in the Great Lake system of North America which links the Canadian/American Midwest with the Atlantic Ocean through St. Lawrence's Seaway, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and finally Lake Superior. After a dinner attended by many top officials of the University, the official activities started on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>. BUITMS delegation met the Dean of the college of Engineering and Sciences as well as some of his leading advisors. Outlines of the possible ways of cooperation were discussed.

Later on, the Dean took the BUITMS delegation on a tour of the facilities of the University. Notable among these were the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Biology, the Library and the new Science building.

After the tour, the BUITMS delegation had a luncheon meeting with the Chairperson and other Professors of the Departments in the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. The VC, BUITMS, gave a presentation about his University.



*At University of Minnesota Medical School*

The VC's presentation generated a lot of enthusiastic questions as well as appreciative remarks. The free IT program of BUITMS was very much appreciated. Many Department Chairs and other Professors offered to cooperate with BUITMS in respect of Faculty and Student Exchange and in collaborative research. Following this luncheon meeting, the delegation visited the School of Medicine. The Dean/Director apprised the BUITMS delegation of the various research programs in his Faculty.

Dr. Malghani, our Biotechnology and Informatics Dean took keen interest in the various projects of the Faculty and informed the researchers about the various projects on metabolism studies and drug development at BUITMS. It was agreed to by both sides that some sort of mechanism for the faculty exchange and joint research be worked out.



*Signing Agreement with The George Washington University*

Following some other official meetings, it was time for a relaxing dinner hosted by the Dean College of Science and Engineering, Prof. Dr. James P. Riehl at an exquisite and elegant restaurant located on the waterfront in downtown Duluth.



*With University of Minnesota Dean & Faculty*





The next day started with breakfast meeting with senior staff members of the **Natural Resource Research Institute** (NRRI) of the University of Minnesota. This was followed by a visit of the Institute facilities. This Institute consists of the following units:

- i. Center for Applied Research and Technology Development doing applied research on peat, minerals, taconite, forestry, forest products etc.
- ii. Center for Water and the Environment doing research on Environment and resource management for lakes, rivers, streams and northern forests.
- iii. NRRI Business Group working on business services for entrepreneurs business of any size.

These facilities were very impressive and the work being done there was an eye opener. The VC and the other members of the BUITMS delegation had extensive discussions with the NRRI researchers and expressed the desire to learn from the NRRI experience.



*Signing agreement with University of Minnesota*

The next stop was once again the office of Professor J. P. Riehl, the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering where the MOU between the two Universities was signed. Greetings and mementos were exchanged and then it was time to move on to the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota.



*At University of Minnesota NRRI*

A two and a half hour drive from Duluth is the bustling metropolis of twin cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul). Here we were met by Dr. Kay Thomas, Director of International Student and Scholar Services of the University of Minnesota. The BUITMS had a social event with the University of Minnesota's Pakistani students. The VC and the Deans of BUITMS had extensive discussions with the University of Minnesota's Pakistani students over dinner. Many of them showed keen interest in BUITMS academic programs and Dr. Abbas Choudhary, VC BUITMS asked those who were nearing the completion of their graduate degrees to consider applying for academic positions at BUITMS. A number of students responded favourably to the suggestion.

The following day (May 18<sup>th</sup>) started with a meeting at the Office of International Programs. The BUITMS delegation was given an introduction on the University of Minnesota's Programs. This was followed by a tour of the Biotechnology Institute including a meeting with the Director Professor Kenneth Velantas.



*At The George Washington University Engineering School*

In addition to the usual academic research and teaching the University of Minnesota Biotechnology Institute has a service oriented Biotechnology Resource Center. It includes services such as Molecular Biology (including PCR cloning, Site-directed mutagenesis, Fusion-Protein Construction and Expression vector construction), various types of fermentation facilities, Recombinant Protein Expression (from vector construction to scaled up production), Downstream processing including recovery and purification of Proteins and small molecules and protein refolding. The BUITMS delegation also visited some of the important facilities of this center including Mass Spectrometry Consortium for life Sciences. Here we were told that training facilities on Mass Spectrometry may be availed by BUITMS researchers. Some of the most impressive facilities included Protein Analysis facility, Imaging Center, Biomedical Genomics Center, Bioinformatics Research and computing facility and High throughput Screening and analysis facility.





After this inspiring tour of the Biotechnology Institute the delegation had a meeting with Professor Robert Jones, Senior Vice President for System Administration. The two sides had a friendly exchange of views on the modalities of student and faculty exchange and collaborative research between the two Universities.

After lunch, there was a meeting with Professor Peter Huddleston, Associate Dean of the Institute of Technology. Once again the Dean was very receptive to our request for training of our graduate students at his Institute.



*With University of Minnesota International Program Director*

The last meeting of the day was with the most important official of the University of Minnesota, Professor Victor Bloomfield, Dean of the Graduate School. He was assisted by the Director of Graduate Admissions, Ms. Andrea Scott. In US Universities, admissions to the M.S. and Ph. D programs are governed by the Graduate School and its Head is the Dean. In this important meeting, the Dean agreed to accept the BUITMS junior faculty members in their Ph. D programs on the recommendation of the BUITMS senior faculty provided they meet the key requirements of the Minnesota's Graduate School. The meeting ended on a positive note. After a five hour drive to Madison, WI, we reached the University of Wisconsin.



*At University of Wisconsin Madison*

At the University of Wisconsin, the BUITMS delegation was welcomed by Ms. Marianne Bird Bear, Director of International Engineering Studies

and Programs. At 9:00 AM sharp we met in Room 2463 Engineering Hall. The BUITMS delegation was given a brief tour of the Engineering facilities and briefed about the international nature of the Engineering school. At 10:00 AM we met John Rowe, Associate Director of International Programs and Frank Kooistra, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The College of Agricultural and life Sciences is one of the largest units at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. It has 22 Departments and 17 Centers and Institutes. The Departments range from Agriculture and Applied Economics to Wildlife Ecology and include Agricultural Journalism, Agronomy, Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences, Animal Sciences, Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Dairy Science, Entomology, Food Microbiology and Toxicology, Food Science, Forest Ecology and Management, Genetics, Horticulture, Nutritional Sciences, Plant Pathology, and others while the Centers and Institutes include Agriculture Research Stations, Applied Population Laboratory, Biology Education Center, Dairy Research Center, Environmental Toxicology Center, Institute of Muscle Biology and many others.



*University of Minnesota Faculty*

Unfortunately, the BUITMS delegation had only one hour with the Associate Director of the International Programs and the Associate Dean and did not have time to visit the relevant Departments. At 11:00 AM the BUITMS delegation returned to the Engineering Hall for the scheduled meeting with the Dean of the College Professor Paul Percy and the Associate Dean, Professor Pat Farrell. We gave them an overview of BUITMS. The Deans appreciated our progress in the short period of BUITMS existence and offered the assistance of the University of Wisconsin's College of Engineering in our faculty development efforts. After lunch at the Faculty Club (hosted by the Associate Dean), we met Professor Parmesh Ramanathan, who has been elected to be the next Chairman of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Professor Ramanathan took the BUITMS delegation on an extensive tour of the undergraduate teaching and Research Laboratories of his Department and explained the philosophy of





integration of teaching and research in his discipline and how it is practically achieved. This was the last meeting of that day.

On Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>, our day started with a meeting with Professor Randy Dunham, Faculty Director, Center for International Business Education and Research of the School of Business, University of Wisconsin. Professor Dunham explained to us at length the activities of the Wisconsin Business School. Later on, we met Ms. Cynthia Williams, Director of External Relations, Division of International Studies. Ms. Williams explained the opportunities available to the International Scholars at the University of Wisconsin.



*At University of Wisconsin Madison*

After the meeting with Ms. Williams, it was time for Juma Prayers. We joined the large Islamic community of Madison for offering our prayers. From there we went to the Animal Sciences Building located at the Observatory Drive to meet a Pakistani Ph.D. student and his supervisor in Biomedical Engineering. We were fascinated to see the elegant work done by Mr. Nazeer and were thrilled to hear the praise his advisor had for him. Infact, he asked us to send more students from Pakistan of Nazeer's caliber.

Later on, our final official meeting was with Professor Terry Millar, Associate Dean of the Graduate School. With Dean Millar, we had an extensive discussion about the procedures for Graduate (MS/PhD) studies at Wisconsin. Dean Millar was very appreciative of our requirements for faculty development by the way of graduate training in various disciplines and offered his full cooperation.

We then met Dr. Saleh Shaikhani, a Madison, WI based former Faculty member at the HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry and currently working in the private sector in the area of Drug Design and Development.

In the evening we drove off to Chicago's Midway Airport for onward journey to Washington, D.C.



*Delegation at The George Washington University*

The first working day in Washington was Monday, May 23. We started with a visit to the International Division of the National Science Foundation. Unfortunately, the main contact person for Africa, Near East and South Asia, Dr. Osman Sanitian was out of town. We talked to another person who explained how the NSF (a United States Government agency) can help out a University in capacity building for its research and teaching infra structure. BUITMS delegation paid two visits to the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD where the Director of International affairs for South Asian region, Dr. Zakir Bengali, our host, gave us a lot of valuable information about collaborating mechanisms, NIH and scientific and medical communities in other countries.

The highlight of the visit to Washington D.C. was a meeting with the Dean of College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the George Washington University. The Dean Timothy Tong and his colleague had a long discussion with us and in the end a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at George Washington University and the BUITMS.



*With Pakistani Ambassador, Retd. General Jahangir Karamat, in Washington DC*

In the afternoon the BUITMS delegation called on Pakistan's Ambassador to US, Gen. (Retd) Jehangir Karamat. The BUITMS delegation apprised the ambassador of the nature of the visit and the ambassador greatly appreciated our efforts. The ambassador promised to take up with the US State





Department the issue of delays and hurdles in obtaining visas by the Pakistani Scholars in connection with their academic pursuits. The BUITMS delegation members requested him to explain to the US government that in order for Pakistan to be an effective coalition partner in the war against terrorism, much larger number of Pakistanis will have to be exposed to modern scientific education. In order to facilitate this, Pakistani academic exchange with USA could prove to be vital. While the American Universities are willing to extend cooperation, the US government authorities' policies are causing inordinate delays which should be removed.

Another academic institution visited was Georgetown University School of Medicine. The BUITMS delegation met the Dean and the Associate Dean and had discussions with them on various programs in the Georgetown School of Medicine. During the long discussions, the BUITMS Dean of Biotechnology, Dr. Malghani expressed keen interest in some of the researches particularly in areas of neurosciences and drug development. Modus operandi for collaborative research were discussed. It was agreed that BUITMS will send some of its researchers to Georgetown for its own faculty development.



*With Professor Eisner*

The VC left the following day for Quetta to look after some urgent matters at BUITMS. The Dean of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics and the Dean of the Faculty of Computer and Emerging Sciences left for New York where they had to catch their PIA flights two days later. The Dean of Faculty of Basic Sciences stayed back as his flight from Washington D.C. was on June 1<sup>st</sup>. During the remainder of the stay in Washington, Dr. Kazmi held a meeting with a Senior Scientist from the Environmental Protection Agency and discussed the possibility of cooperation between US-EPA and the BUITMS regarding collaboration. Later on, he also visited the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. The Scientists at the UMBI were very receptive to the idea of student and faculty exchange

and collaborative research between University of Maryland and the BUITMS. In a subsequent email, Prof Rita Colwell (former Director of the NSF and the current Head of the University of Maryland Bioinformatics Department) offered to admit two qualified BUITMS students to their Ph.D. Program.

## **Governor Balochistan's Visit to Chiltan Campus (June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005)**

*Report by: Dr. Abdul Hameed Bajoi*

The Government of Balochistan allotted 450 Acres undeveloped land at Hazar Ganji for the establishment of Chiltan Campus for Biotechnology and informatics. In order to meet the requirements of the campus, a tube well with 50 H.P submersible pump and 100kVA transformer was installed. The plantation of fruit trees including Pistachio, Olive, Grapes, which are high valued, low Delta and drought tolerant in nature was undertaken. Four most commonly grown economical apple varieties were planted. In all 10,000 wild and fruit trees have been planted in eight blocks measuring 250X100 feet each. Road side plantation has also been completed. Six labs for tissue culture are under construction and hopefully will be made available to the scientists by the end of August 2005. The site for two water tanks measuring 390X40 feet has been earmarked and tendered for the purpose. Site for animal breeding, crop hybridization and organic peat development has been earmarked. A higher education commission project costing Rs 2.4 m on conservation for endangered plant species and especially range land medicinal plants on a small piece of land 809X80 feet has been started.



*(Governor Balochistan at the ribbon cutting ceremony)*

In order to inspect the site and inaugurate the project activities, the Honorable Governor and Chancellor BUITMS, Quetta, Mr. Owais Ghani arrived at the campus at 5:30 Pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005. He presided over the function as the chief guest. Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary Vice Chancellor BUITMS, Professor Dr. M.A.K. Malghani, Dean Faculty of





Bioinformatics, Dr. Mudassir Israr, Professor Botany Department, Balochistan University and Professor Saifullah Khan Karachi University and prominent faculty members of BUITMS received the chief guest on his arrival.



*(Governor Balochistan, presiding over the function)*

The function started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Professor Dr. M.A.K Malghani welcomed the guests and briefed the audience about the future plans of the emerging campus. He reiterated that due to prolonged nine years drought spell in Balochistan the plant and animal species had been badly affected. Dr. Malghani stated that the six roomed lab under construction will be completed within next two months. The mother stock of endangered plants will be used to multiply and supply the plants at nominal rates to the institutions as well as to the growers for commercial production. He further declared that the students of M. Phil and PhD having agriculture background will initiate their Research work at the Research Farm of Chiltan campus to complete their Synopsis and thesis dissertations. He emphasized that within the limited period of Six months, the farm has been established. The animal house and peat development unit will be started soon. The mother stock of Chiltan markhore will be used to cross and breed similar species through cloning. He appreciated the interest shown by the Honorable Vice Chancellor in building up the infrastructure of the Research Farm at the Campus.



*(Plant tissue culture center function in progress)*

Dr. Mudassir Israr Professor Botany Department Balochistan University being the principal investigator of the Botanical Garden Project, briefly highlighted the plans of work of the HEC funded Project.



*(Dr. Mudassir Israr explaining the rare plant species)*

She highlighted the importance of medicinal plants like Ispaghul, Clonji in curing different ailments of animals and mankind. She expressed confidence that the project will isolate important and high value chemical constituents from the plants which will be used by graduate students for research leading to enrichment of drugs development industry.

She thanked the Honorable Governor Balochistan for sparing time to visit and for giving advice for valuable addition of economical fruit and medicine plants. She also thanked Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary and Dr. M.A.K Malghani for their support in implementing the project plan.



*(Audience at the plant tissue culture function)*

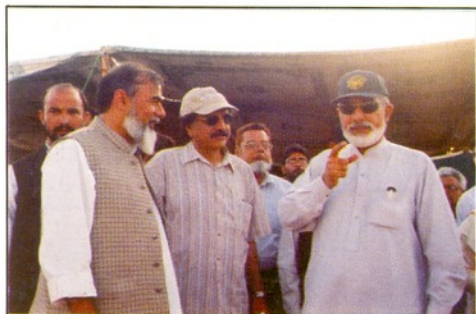
Dr. Abdul Hameed Bajoi, Senior Research officer, explained the achievements made within a short period of six months. He informed that 10,000 plants including Pistachio, Olive, grapes, Quetta Pine and apples had been planted for use by Biotechnology students to breed through tissue culture and propagate plant species which are drought tolerant and economically beneficial. The installation of high efficiency irrigation trickle system is operating on 18 acres of the research farm which is the largest demonstration of the system in the province. The trickle system is the sole solution to meet the challenging irrigational needs of Balochistan where





water is a more limiting factor as compared to other provinces where land is the limiting factor. The system has 60% water saving efficiency through which area under crops will be doubled in Balochistan. The students visiting the farm will convince their farmer parents to adopt the system which carries 25 years of usual life and is easy to maintain. The culled fruit for making their products with recipes will be developed by Biotech students for commercialization of the business.

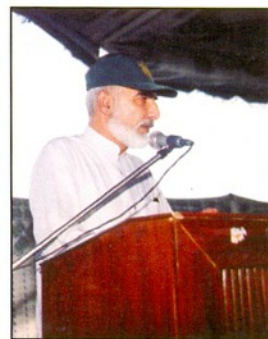
Dr Saifullah Khan professor, HEJ Institute, Karachi University in his address elaborated the importance of Tissue Culture and explained in detail the process of Tissue Culture as an industry in Pakistan. He informed that his lab at Karachi is working on research as well as on Commercial production of Banana, sugarcane, dates and potatoes through Tissue Culture. Through such efforts disease-free plants are supplied to the growers on nominal price and would bring revolution in the farming community. He ensured his regular support to the Botanical garden at The Chiltan Campus.



*(Governor Balochistan on his arrival in the pavilion)*

Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor BUITMS, in his speech remarked that it is the age of the Biotechnology which is struggling hard to meet the food requirements of growing population of the world which is about to touch the figure of six billion shortly. The population explosion is more severe in developing countries like Pakistan. The area to grow more food and scarcity of irrigation water which is 2% of the total available sea water of the world has put challenges for the scientists. Therefore global efforts are directed to make vertical increase in production through Biotechnology. He pointed out that the core of professors and teachers in Biotechnology are world renowned and quite capable of producing competitive and diligent students. He highlighted in his speech that the herbal medicines are gaining importance in curing ailments and the Chiltan Campus will hopefully meet the challenges of producing plants extracts and drug development for mankind. He thanked Chancellor/Governor Balochistan for promoting such activities at the university through

which the morale of the students and teachers gets regular boost due to his presence and valued advice.



*(Governor Balochistan Addressing the audience)*

The honorable Governor/Chancellor Owais Ahmed Ghani, chief guest on the occasion, appreciated the efforts made by Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics and their team. He also eulogized the efforts made by Dr. Mudassar Israr for initiating the Botanical Garden at Chiltan Campus which is first the beginning of an important Project. The addition of lots of plants deletion of lesser important plants is the next step. Plant exactions are the valuable ingredients, their syntheses, and drug development would lead to success of the project. The province carries lots of potential because 93% of the country's rangelands, meadows and pastures are in Balochistan. Almost 50% of the rangeland has been overgrazed due to migrant inundation of animal herds from the neighboring countries and almost over two million small ruminants of Balochistan itself.

The honorable Chancellor appreciated the collaboration between BUITMS, Balochistan University and HEJ institute. He desired that such coordination would further develop and improve.

He inaugurated the Botanical Garden and gave valuable suggestions about some medicinal plants already known to him. He also planted an ornamental plant gifted by Karachi University for the botanical garden.

He then walked through Block A to H having apples, grapes, pistachio, Olives, American Pine and Quetta Pine. He advised that the LDP pipes must be buried in the soil. Only the emitters may be left visible. Mr. Khalid, engineer and Managing Director of Taimoor Enterprises, who is the supplier of the Trickle System, agreed to the Chief Guest's suggestions and promised that he would put up estimates for alternations in the extensions of emitters.

Lastly the guests moved to the arena arranged for refreshments. Over 250 guests including Biotech students and professors bade farewell to the Chief Guest at 7:15 PM





## Curtain Raising Ceremony on Kofi Annan's Book

*Report By: Prof. Sultan Mehmood Niazi  
Director Languages*

Three prominent organizations functioning in Balochistan, i.e. BUITMS, UNDP and ADPB joined hands in holding the launching ceremony of UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan's report entitled "In Larger Freedom." The ceremony was held at the Auditorium of the Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences, City Campus and was attended by a large number of students, faculty members, representatives of the sponsoring bodies, elite intellectuals and guests. The main theme of the report was "Development, Security and Human Rights for All." Dr. Mohammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, BUITMS was the Chief Guest while Mr. Onder Yocer, the Country Director of ADPB presided over the ceremony.



*Onder Yocer addressing the audience*

Dr. M. A. K. Malghani, Dean, Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics in his welcome address described the report as a valuable document on International matters related to the point of survival of the human race in general and of the poor, down trodden, struggling masses of the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, in particular. He was of the opinion that the publication fulfilled the contemporary need of diagnosing the prevalent ills which are hampering the desired pace of development in the under privileged regions of the world.

Dr. Shahida Jaffery, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University emphasized the need of female participation in the struggle for justice, equity and alleviation of poverty. Such an ideal state could only be reached through the promotion of female education in the province, she said. She remarked that the establishment of the Women University was a major step taken by the government towards the achievement of the object of spread of female education. Female students from far off places like Turbat, Gawadar, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Barkhan, Zhob

and Pishin have enrolled for higher studies in various disciplines and their example is likely to prompt other females to avail of the higher educational facilities in larger numbers in the days to come, she stated.



*Dr. Shahida Jaffery, VC, SBK Women Univeristy*

Syed Ghulam Mohammad, Regional Director of the Area Development Program, Balochistan, rated Kofi Annan's book as the living testimony of facts and described it as the most thought provoking and practicable charter of human rights in the modern times, since it dealt with the modern days' problems and suggested their effective solutions from a pragmatic point of view.



*Mr. Ghulam Muhammad of Area Development Program*

Mr. Onder Yocer, the Country Coordinator ADPB in Pakistan, representing UN Secretary General, gave a briefing on the activities of ADPB and highlighted the common goals set by UN Secretary General in his book "In Larger Freedom" and were the focal point of ADPB functions in Pakistan. He analyzed the contents of the book in the light of the three main sectors of ADPB initiatives i.e.

- 1) Gender-equity and Millennium Development Goals
- 2) Linkage of ADPB with Millennium Development Goals of UNDP.
- 3) UN Millennium Development Goals as they apply to Balochistan.

Mr. Onder Yocer appreciated the substantive steps taken world-wide to combat poverty and expressed the need of concerted efforts on the part of all philanthropic agencies for significant decrease in global poverty and elimination of diseases.

Dr. Mohammad Abbas Choudhary, VC, BUITMS, in his concluding address traced the history of the





university and the tremendous progress achieved within a short span of years. He singled out the linkage of BUITMS with American and French Universities as a unique mark of expansion of academic and research facilities in Balochistan. Regarding the book he stated that the UN Secretary General had touched upon all the major issues confronting the world today, like security, Economic and Social Development, Human Rights and other spheres of Human activities in a very effective way.

### **Pakistan Software Board's Entrepreneur Search Program (ESP)**

*Report by: Rehan Zafar, MBA (Reg)-5<sup>th</sup> semester*

To encourage entrepreneurship within IT and Telecom sectors, Pakistan Software Board (PSEB) is conducting a nationwide "Entrepreneur Search Program" that will conclude with a business plan competition at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on October 1, 2005. As part of the Program PSEB, in partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprise Center (SMEC) at LUMS, will also hold seminars to encourage entrepreneurship, conduct a business plan competition at LUMS, and assign leading entrepreneurs as mentors and guides of selected students from Universities all over the country.

In this regard the Project Manager of PSEB Mr. Kamran Kamal visited BUITMS City Campus, Quetta. He was warmly welcomed by Dr. Arif Kazmi, Dean Faculty of Basic Sciences, and Prof. Fazal Bari, Controller of Examinations, BUITMS. During his visit to BUITMS, Mr. Kamran Kamal briefed the students about the program. He said that the program is designed to encourage students and youth of Pakistan to utilize their talent, ideas and energy in producing tomorrow's leading firms. This program will target more than half a million students studying at the leading universities all over Pakistan. The particulars of the program are as follows:

1. Prospective student teams will be required to submit a two-page concept paper describing their ideas by July 7, 2005. Each team should have 3-5 participants, with at least one student from business/commerce and one from technology area.
2. The best 25 teams will be invited for a 5-day entrepreneur workshop from August 1-5, 2005. Selected teams have to deposit Rs. 2000/= confirmation fee for the workshop by July 28, 2005.

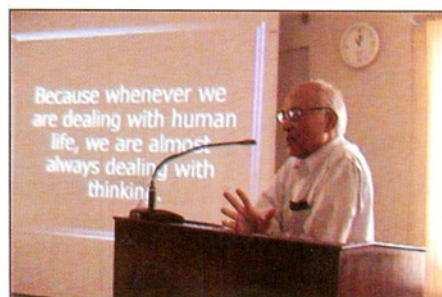
Final business plans would be submitted on September 7, 2005 and will be reviewed by a panel of judges. Final presentations will be made before the panel of judges consisting of venture capitalists and

business professionals at the Final Awards Ceremony on October 1, 2005. The top three business plans will be awarded cash prizes (First Prize Rs. 100,000, Second Rs. 50,000 and Third Prize Rs. 50,000). All top ten plans will also be considered for possible funding to establish their respective high-tech ventures.

### **Prof. Taseer Hussain's lecture on "Critical Thinking and Environmental Changes"**

*Report by: Muhammad Naeem Shahwani  
Assistant Professor Biotechnology*

Prof. Taseer Hussain, Professor Howard University, Washington DC, USA, during his visit to BUITMS, delivered a lecture on "Critical Thinking and Effect of Environmental Changes" on 24th June 2005. Before the start of his presentation, Worthy Vice Chancellor BUITMS Dr. Abbas Choudhary introduced him with the remarks that Dr Sahib is a very dynamic and sincere person and a true lover of Pakistan. He said that whenever he had been to USA he always enjoyed interesting meetings and fruitful discussions with Dr. Taseer. He thanked Dr Sahib for accepting his invitation for the visit to BUITMS.



*Dr. Taseer Hussain delivering his lecture*

Dr. Taseer Hussain started his brilliant and informative presentation on the topic of "Critical Thinking". He explained the "What is it?" and "Why is it?" of Critical Thinking. He said that the scrutiny and analysis of thinking is Critical Thinking. He said that Universities are supposed to generate and disseminate Knowledge, but unfortunately most of the Universities in Pakistan are only disseminating knowledge, due to lack of critical thinkers. Critical thinking of one person is not enough until & unless collective intellectual approach is developed for the said purpose. Critical thinking of one person is a human capital, while collective thinking is a social and national capital. He said that when we are dealing with life we are dealing with critical thinking. Just acquiring degrees is not the way of critical thinking, but it is something else, which can be done by the people, who may be degree holders or may not be degree holders.

He suggested different steps for acquiring the caliber

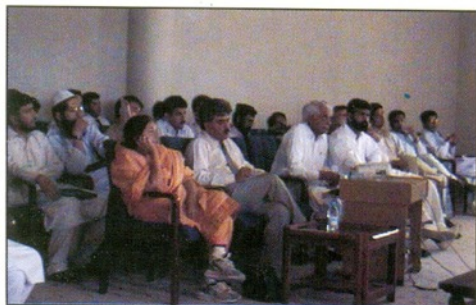




of critical thinking:-

They are (1) Reading (2) Writing (3) Saying (4) Hearing and then (5) Applying

When a person is clear in all these steps, he is an actual critical thinker.



*Dr. Taseer Hussain delivering his lecture*

He proceeded on to talk briefly on the topic of "Effects of Environmental Changes" and said that Genes are entities which contain complete structural and functional information, but are dependent on environment for expressing themselves. This environment which has been created by Almighty Allah is appropriate for expressing the genes according to their need and potential, but with the change in environment their expression and ultimately whole life system is likely to be altered. He said that the actual temperature on earth is  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  with out green house gases, but in the presence of green house gases, it becomes  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the average. But as we are continuously adding green house gases to the atmosphere of the earth by the combustion of petrol, coal, industrial wastes etc we are responsible for increasing the temperature. In this activity, developed countries are involved much more than us. Uptil now we have added the following proportion of different green house gases.

CO <sub>2</sub>	-----	30%
Nitrogen	-----	15%
Methane	-----	100%.



*Dr. Taseer Hussain delivering his lecture*

Due to this raise in green house gases %age, the world temperature has been increased from 0.3 to 0.6 C and the sea level at different places has risen by 10 to 25cm. Due to this environmental change, immense health, social and food hazards are cropping up. If we do not give up this attitude, by 2025 the earth

temperature will increase by 1- 4 C, which may cause very dangerous effects on human and vegetable life e.g. Due to heavy increase in sea level, countries like Bangladesh may disappear from the map of the earth. He said that this type of environmental change has some direct effects like damage to Heat stress stratospheric ozone layer, and indirect effects may cause infectious diseases like skin cancer etc. He suggested some future courses like Global Surveillance, Population control, Behavior modification (Through Critical Thinking) Disease prevention, Education for the public community and International Cooperation for possible check of such catastrophe. He said most of the gases are being added by the developed countries like USA etc. but now they are switching off their behavior and the trend is simultaneously shifting towards Asian Countries like China, India etc.

In the end a Question Answer session was held during which the faculty members and students of BUITMS asked pertinent questions and Dr. Taseer Hussain answered them in a very brilliant way.

## World Environment Day Celebration on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2005

*Reported by: Syed AHMAD ALI Shah, Program Coordinator (In-Charge), Center for Environmental Management*

Just like other countries, World Environment Day was celebrated in Pakistan on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The Center for Environmental Management at the Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences and Pakistan Television (PTV) jointly organized Walk-A-Cause on this occasion to create awareness among the students of this university. The walk was followed by lectures and messages.



*V.C giving interview for PTV*

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, BUITMS was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Ms. Afsheen Nighat, Public Relations Officer, BUITMS and Syed AHMAD ALI Shah Fareedi, Program Coordinator (In-Charge), Center for Environmental Management were the organizers of the event. Students were very enthusiastic as they displayed banners and play cards and made speeches





on the importance of environmental protection.

Dr. Mohammad Abbas Choudhary said that we should think as a team and act collectively for the environmental improvement of this country especially for the improvement of our own province. He urged the students to plant new trees and take good care of them. He said that BUITMS has planted 30,000 trees in its Chiltan Campus whereas for the first time introduced Drip Irrigation System has been introduced in any educational institution in Quetta to irrigate trees and other plantation. Such a system at Takatu Campus, will not only save our scarce water resources but will also protect plant roots from excessive water use.



*Students with Environment Day Placards*

Syed AHMAD ALI Shah said that fresh water scarcity is becoming the biggest environmental threat to our survival in Quetta valley. If it is not controlled and managed properly at this stage, it would be too late to mend. He said that ground water table in Quetta valley is depleting on an alarming scale of 6-7 feet per annum. Besides that, water contamination is also another problem to be addressed immediately, and is resulting the wide spread of water-borne diseases. We should all conserve water at individual level, at household level and at the community level by using water efficient systems.

Prof. Dr. M.A.K. Malghani, Dean, Research & Faculty of Bio-Technology; Prof. Sultan Mehmood Niazi, Director, Center for Modern Languages; Dr. Abdul Hameed Bajoi, Senior Research Officer; Dr. Mohammad Ishaq Ghaznavi, Director, Research Coordination & Student Affairs; Imran Durrani, Director, Planning and others also emphasized the importance of environmental protection specially air, noise, water and solid waste pollution in Quetta city.

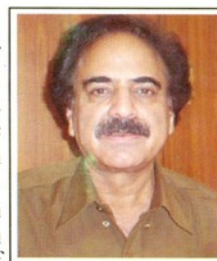
Mr. Muhammad Tahir; Haji Kamran Syed Ishtiaq Shah; Mehboob Ali; and other students of MS Environmental Management & Policy at the Center for Environmental Management as well as students from different Faculties of BUITMS also took active part on the occasion. They said that the students should come forward for the conservation our natural resources and protect our environment.

#### **Nomination of Dr. A.K Malghani on Board of Trustees, National Science Foundation**

As per Federal Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Science & Technology Gazette Notification No. 1(2)/2003 Elect/PSF dated May 12, 2005, the president of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has appointed Dr. M.A.K Malghani, Dean Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics, BUITMS as part-time member of the Board of Trustees of National Science Foundation for a

period of three years.

It is a matter of pride for BUITMS to have Dr. Malghani on the Board of Trustees of a prestigious body like the National Science Foundation for the second term in running. He is the only scientist from Balochistan with the distinction of being raised to the position of a member of Board of Trustees.



*Dr. M.A.K. Malghani*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Finance & Planning Committee Meeting**

*Report by: Ms. Afsheen Nighat Naqvi, P. R. O.*

6<sup>th</sup> finance and planning committee meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 at Takatu Campus under the Chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor BUITMS. Mr. Israr Hussain Sectary to Government of Balochistan, IT Department Quetta, Mr. Muhammad Azam Baloch, Registrar, BUITMS, Prof Dr M.A.K Malghani, Dean Research BUITMS, Prof Dr. Sabir Hussain Usmani, Dean/Chairman Deptt of Electronics, Prof Dr. Abdul Majeed Cheema, Chairman of Biotechnology and Informatics, Prof Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Chairman Department of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Mr. Mustafa Kamal, Director Finance attended the meeting. The meeting started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting and highlighted the progress with regard to different activities of the university and the success so far achieved. He specifically mentioned that the BUITMS is consistently working to meet the targets of HEC for increasing the enrollment in Higher Education. After that the agenda was taken up.

The Revised Budget of fiscal year 2004 and 2005 amounting to Rs. 88.750 m was presented, whereas the estimated budget amounting to Rs. 143.225 m of fiscal year 2005-2006 was also discussed in the meeting. This year 6 million rupees are reserved for research facilities for undertaking research in different fields. The last year's completed projects were also reviewed by members. These included conversion of one hall measuring 1800 square feet into 9 class rooms, three labs and one library, renovation of administration block and conversion into faculty offices, furnishing of offices, classrooms, labs, hostels etc. renovation and white wash, paint of bungalows and rest house for making shift arrangements for the student hostel, leveling of land and plantation. Installation of Tube well, provision of gas and electricity, development of 24 hours functional computer lab by renovating semi-constructed display center, and development of CAD/CAM lab.

Construction work in progress like the renovation and remodeling of hall-1 for academic purposes, sixteen bed hostels, mess, 20 bungalows, rest house and external development amounting to Rs. 46.254 million, construction of student hostel, VC's Residence, Rest house, amounting to Rs. 55.00 million came under discussion. The participants of meeting appreciated the achievements and progress made so far.