Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences

Newsletter

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Editorial

Spring Semester-2006, has drawn to a close. Students in all programs have had their term examinations and their results have been finalized. Preparations are afoot for another Jumbo function to mark the achievement of successful students i.e. the 2nd Convocation of the Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences. The culmination of the educational activities in the form of the convocation is a moment of pride and relief, not only for the students but for the faculty members and the institutional management as well. BUITMS has been very lucky to have a dynamic person like Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary at the helm of affairs. He not only radiates knowledge and scholarship but also depicts his vigilance and constant mobility. It is rare to see a person of his rank and caliber paying heed to numerous affairs at the same time. He is motivated & inspired by the desire to take BUITMS to such heights of prominence that others may only cherish to come somewhere near it.

The addition of another floor to the City Campus is on the verge of completion. The structural work has already been finalized and now finishing touches to furniture and fixtures are in hand. It is hoped that by the start of the next semester in September, 2006 everything would be in place to accommodate the additional intake of students and faculty members. The City Campus now stands three floors high and offers a very impressive look. The facilities provided at the campus can match with those provided at the most renowned institutions in the country, both in the private and the public sector. The batch of our previous passing out graduates received a warm welcome in the job market, and we hope that our succeeding batches would fair even better.

Honorable Governor Balochistan, Engineer Owais Ahmed Ghani, too, has taken personal interest in the progress of educational institutions in the province, in general and in the progress of BUITMS, in particular. He frequently keeps himself informed about the physical and academic developments, and infuses his zeal for assuring quality education in the faculty as well. It is hoped that his continuous patronization of BUITMS would yield still better results in the days to come.

Governor Balochistan visits BUITMS

Report by: Dr. Muhammad Nawaz &
Ahmad Shah Durrani

Keeping up to his fame as a staunch supporter of the cause of education, His Excellency Engineer Owais Ahmed Ghani, Governor Balochistan displays immense interest in the developmental projects undertaken by the educational institutions. He patronizes the institutions of higher education in the province in particular since it is these institutions which have the responsibility of steering the province onto the road to progress and prosperity.

Governor Balochistan escorted by VC

Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences is going on with her ambitious plan to prove herself as a highly esteemed and advanced institution not only in Pakistan but in the whole region. Various modernized study programmes have been introduced in the university in order to provide attractive opportunities to the students to get benefited and to have a bright future in return.

Governor and VC taking round of the campus

Besides various academic programmes, there are many on-going developmental projects which will further raise the image of the university. Millions of rupees are being spent on such projects in order to facilitate the students to have easy access to the modern educational facilities in science and technology.

His Excellency Owais Ahmad Ghani, Governor Balochistan and Chancellor Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, visited the Takatu Campus of the university here on Monday, July 31, 2006. He was escorted by Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, VC, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Dean Faculty of Computer & Emerging Sciences, Mr. Imran Hameed Durrani, Director Planning & Project Implementation and senior faculty members.

VC explaining development plan to the Governor

During his visit, he inspected many developmental projects under completion. He was informed by the worthy Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Abbas Chaudhary, on the various schemes on the occasion. Mr. Imran Hameed Durrani, Director Projects, BUITMS, also assisted the worthy Vice Chancellor BUITMS, on the spot.

Progress work being inspected

Governor Balochistan inspected Jinnah Hostel which was under construction and was going to be completed in the near future. Dr. Muhammad Abbas Chaudhary, the Vice Chancellor BUITMS told His Excellency Owais Ahmad Ghani, Governor Balochistan and Chancellor BUITMS, that the building comprises of four blocks, i.e. A, B, C and D respectively. The construction work of Block A and Block C is completed upto 60% while Block B of the hostel building is completed upto 40% while Block D

is in the construction phase of the sub-structure. The Vice Chancellor further told Governor Balochistan that the completion schedule for the Blocks A, B and C is September 2006 while Block D will be completed upto December 2006. Total cost of the project is amounting to Rs. 68.271 million and it will have the capacity of accommodating 300 students.
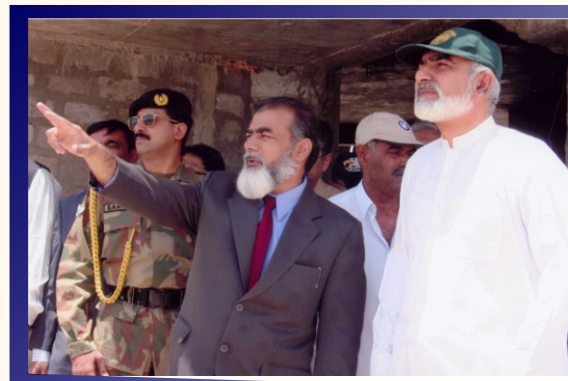

Students Hostel under construction

Governor Balochistan then went to see Iqbal Hostel. The Vice Chancellor briefed him that this hostel also comprises of four blocks, A, B, C and D. The construction of this project is in the phase of the sub-structure. 25% of the construction work is completed until now while the completion time period for the Iqbal Hostel is June 2007. The total cost of this project is Rs. 66.212 million. This hostel will also have the capacity of 300 students.
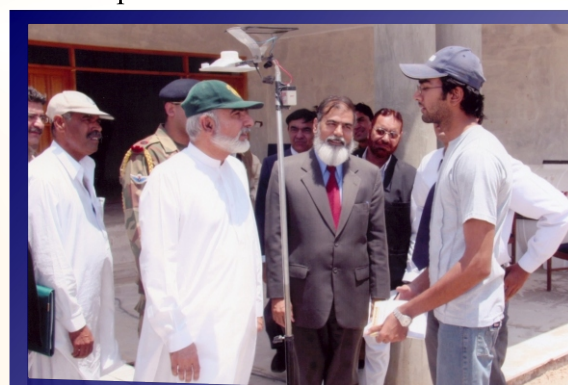

A view of VC's residence

The Governor was pleased with the progress of quality of work. He advised the builders to meet the deadline for completion of the 200 capacity block of the Jinnah Hostel. From Jinnah and Iqbal Hostels, the Honorable governor and the Vice Chancellor walked over to the nearly completed residence of the Vice Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor informed Governor Balochistan that the structural work of the Vice Chancellor Residence and Guest House is completed upto 95%. The remaining work will be completed upto August 25, 2005. Total cost of this project is amounting Rs. 20.768 million. The Governor, from

the Vice Chancellor Residence, also viewed the area and hill where the electricity through wind project is going on. From the balcony of the residence the Honorable Chancellor viewed the locale which spread from the back of Takatu Campus upto the hills of Takatu. Light refreshment was served to the Honorable guests on the balcony.

VC showing the extents of the campus

Earlier M/S Umair Anwar Khan and Muhammad Mohsin Javaid, students of BS(EE)6th displayed the Solar Streetlight Project recommended by the concerned students for the streetlight arrangement in Takatu Campus.

Governor being told about the Solar Light

The complete estimated cost and other ground work was done by M/S Umair Anwar Khan and Muhammad Mohsin Javaid themselves. This project was highly appreciated by the Honorable Governor and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary.

Students busy in the CAD/ CAM Lab

After that governor Balochistan visited Owais Ahmad Ghani (OAG) Engineering Hall. He met there students working on the computers. The Vice Chancellor told Governor Balochistan that the building is constructed by retrofitting and remodeling the industrial hall into academic building. This engineering Hall is designed to provide two basic facilities, the class rooms for the engineering facilities and a library. The covered area for this construction work is 30,000 sq. ft. The total cost of the project is amounting to Rs, 30.859 million.

Governor watching the equipment

From there, the Honorable guest left for the building, housing CAD/CAM Laboratories. This building has recently been augmented with four engineering labs. On his way to CAD/CAM Lab, the Honorable Chancellor was pleased to see a rig, which had been in its way to be placed in Petroleum and Gas Lab. Honorable Chancellor's final stop at Takatu Campus was the under-construction double-storey building comprising of 30,000 sq. ft. covered area. Work was in progress rapidly. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary explained purpose, design and progress to the Chancellor with the help of drawings and maps.

A Six-day In-Service Teachers Training Course in Mathematics

Report by: Prof. Fazal Bari

A Training Course in Mathematics commenced in the Syndicate Room of BUITMS, Quetta. Twenty two (22) participants attended the training.

Prof. Fazal Bari addressing the participants

On the opening day, Prof. Fazal Bari, the Course Coordinator and Controller of Examinations highlighted the importance of training and teaching of Mathematics in Degree Colleges and Universities. The efforts of Higher Education Commission in improving the academic expertise of the teachers were lauded. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman Higher Education Commission has worked tremendously in putting the educational system of the Universities on the lines.

Prof. Syed Ansaruddin conducting Training

Prof. Fida Hussain Director Learning Innovation and Higher Education Commission Organizer of the Course explained to the participants the role of Higher Education Commission in organizing training courses for Staff Development in various fields and disciplines. Higher Education Commission would continue in organizing such workshops also in future.

Prof. Fida Hussain, Director, LI (HEC)

Three highly qualified resource persons were engaged in teaching various topics included in B.Sc. / M.Sc. Curriculum in Mathematics.
1. Prof. Dr. Ansaruddin Syed BUITMS
2. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz BUITMS
3. Prof. Waheed Iqbal BUITMS
They took their sessions regularly and punctually and contributed a lot of in-put on various topics. Prof. Waheed Iqbal discussed various problems related to teaching of Mathematics at College and University level; he involved the participants in teaching practice which was then critically evaluated. Prof. Dr. Nawaz focused on the basic concepts of Linear Algebra and

Trainees busy in the class

Matrix Theory, such as linear independence of vectors, bases for vector spaces and eigen-value problems for matrices. Prof. Dr. Ansaruddin covered those topics related to the fundamentals of Calculus which are very often omitted from the usual courses on it at College and University level. Thus he familiarized the participants with handling of inequalities and absolute values, and provided techniques for the use of rigorous definition of limit of a function.

Another section of the Trainees

The six day course was completed successfully. Certificates were distributed among the participants on the closing day.

Prof. Shamim Akhtar was the Chief Guest at the certificate awarding ceremony. He highlighted the importance of Mathematics in our educational system. Mathematics is of prime importance for the Socio Economic uplift of our nation.

Prof. Shameem Akhter delivering the concluding address

The participants requested for another training in Mathematics of a longer duration in future. Accordingly a proposal would be sent to Higher Education Commission for consideration.

Pre test and post test were conducted to evaluate the impact of training towards improvement. It was observed that there was a marked degree of improvement among the participants.

Interdepartmental Song Competition by Students' Affairs Office

Report by: Zulfiqar Mushtaq

The Interdepartmental Song Competition was successfully organized by Students Affairs Office with the objective of exploring the hidden talent in BUITMS students.

Audience of the Song Competition

This impressive event was held in the Takatu Campus (Expo Centre) on 29th of June, 2006. The Expo Centre was jam-packed with audience waiting anxiously to watch students' performances. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Dean, Faculty of Computer & Engineering Sciences. He gave his precious time and warmly appreciated the participants for their brilliant efforts. Among the judges were Mr. Ali Zaman Shah (Director Students Affairs) and Muzaffar Ali who did their job commendably. The Chief Guest and the judges got a very warm welcome from the audience.

Mr. Shehzad presenting his song

The program began and the participants from different departments started to sing songs of their own choice. They not only sang superbly but also impressed the judges as well as the audience with their marvelous stage performance. The audience supported and bucked them up whole heartedly in order to boost up their confidence. The students were dancing and clapping in order to support their favorite participant singers. The contest among students for the prize continued till the last singer.

Another section of the audience

Finally the judges compiled the result and it was declared that Mr. Shahzad of BS(Bio)1 stood first, Mr. Faisal of MBA stood 2nd while Mr. Bilal Qadir of BS(BA) grabbed the 3rd position in the Interdepartmental Song Competition.

Dr. Nawaz awarding prize

The Chief Guest distributed the souvenirs among the winning participants.

Audience cheering the participants

The competition ended with glowing smiles on every body face which reflected the proof of yet another successful event arranged by the students Affairs Office for growing their talents.

Cheques Distribution under the Khushhali Bank Assistance Program

Report by: Prof. Sultan Mahmood Niazi,
Director Languages

It was in April, 2006 that an MoU for award of scholarships to diligent yet financially weak students of BUITMS (BM Faculty) was signed by Mr. Ghalib Nishtar, President Khushhali Bank and Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences. Practical issues in this regard were processed at such an amazing pace that cheques covering all the educational expenses (tuition fees, books & stationery, subsistence allowance etc.) were delivered to eleven selected students belonging to the different districts in the province of Balochistan, as only the indigenous students from Balochistan were entitled to avail the opportunity under the scholarships program.

VC along with other guests before the start of the ceremony

The cheques distribution ceremony started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Mr. Kadeem Kakar, superintendent, Students' Affairs conducted the ceremony, while the centre stage was bedecked by Mr. Mumtaz Marwat, Regional Manager, Khushhali Bank, Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, BUITMS and Prof. Shameem Akhtar, Dean-Faculty of Management & Social Sciences.
Dr. M. Ishaq Ghaznavi gave a brief introduction of the scheme and informed the audience that 11 students of BS(BA) II were going to be awarded scholarship cheques on the occasion while cases of another seven (07) students were under process. The parents of the eleven scholarship winners had also been invited to attend the function in order to build up closer relationships between them and the university administration and faculty. Dr. Ghaznavi told that the

scholarship holders had been freed from their monetary worries as they had been awarded sums of Rs. 31,000 per head per semester and after deduction of Rs. 11,500 as tuition fees, the students were still left with Rs. 19,500 each to cover their sundry expenses. He congratulated the students and their parents on being selected for such a unique privilege. He advised the scholarship holders to devote all their energies and time to academic achievement so that they could justify the confidence reposed in them.
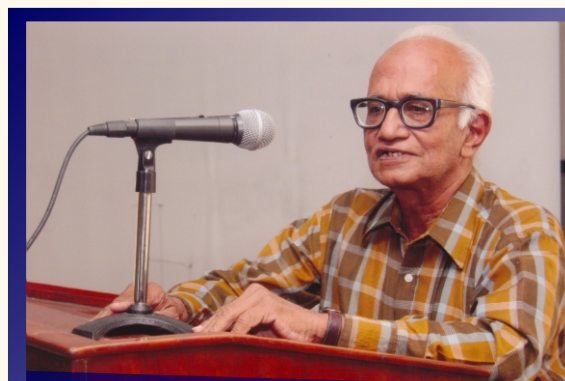

Dr. Ishaq Ghaznavi briefing the audience

Mr. Mumtaz Marwat, Regional Manager, Khushhali Bank, in his address stated that it was a matter of pride and satisfaction for him to have translated an ambition into reality. He had long cherished the dream of providing all assistance to diligent students. He said that a new tradition of financial support for the needy students had been established by Khushhali Bank in Balochistan to help the students focus entirely on their studies. He informed that such cooperation would continue in future as well in the form of internships and ultimate provision of jobs. He thanked the BUITMS authorities for giving him the honor of presenting cheques to the scholarship holders.
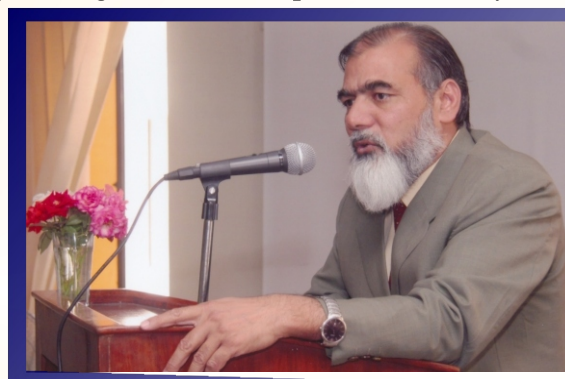

Mr. Mumtaz Marwat giving his views

Prof. Shameem Akhtar, in his address stated that the amount of scholarship given to the students should take care of their financial needs and provide them encouragement to pursue their studies whole-heartedly. He exhorted the students, not to rest on their

Prof. Shameem Akhtar addressing the gathering

Khushhali Bank's step for the amelioration of the plight of needy students is a pioneering golden example, he declared. He termed it as a momentous step on the part of Khushhali Bank for which he expressed gratitude on the part of his faculty.

Dr. Abbas Choudhary, VC, BUITMS

Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary highlighted the philosophy of the university regarding public good. It is mentioned in the Mission Statement that BUITMS is an equal opportunity institution, open to all persons of either sex who are qualified and meet the criteria of pursuing the programs without any discrimination of religion, race, creed, colour, geographical origin or physical impairment. He described the scholarship cheques distribution as a responsibility fulfilled for talented but financially deprived students. He pointed out that 650-700 students are presently getting financial support in one form or other, provided they pledge to work hard.

Mr. Ataullah receiving his cheque

The minimum requirement of 2 CGPA for the continuation of scholarship is nothing; he exhorted the students to aim at 3.8-4 as the conditions are conducive, and the faculty members are highly qualified and capable.

Ms. Aisha Javaid receiving her cheque

He requested the parents to keep in touch with the university and see that top class education is provided to their sons/daughters at affordable costs. He thanked Khushhali Bank for their gesture of generosity and avowed never to let them down.

Later cheques were distributed among the following:

Name	Father's Name	District of Origin
Khurram Mengal	Saifur Rehman	Noshki
Muhammad Hassan	Muhammad Usman	Loralai
Atta Ullah	Sado Gul	Zhob
Sana Ullah Luqman	Luqman Khan	Kharan
Hafiz M. Faheem	Muhammad Yousaf	Quetta
Aisha Javaid	M. Sarwar Javaid	Quetta
Ali Raza	Abdul Majeed	Quetta
Faheed Anwar	Muhammad Anwar	Mastung
Dileep Kumar	Eidan Mal	Bolan
Faheem Ahmed	Muhammad Yousaf	Kech
Faizan Hassan	Irfan Hassan	Quetta

The guests, scholarship winners and the participants of the function were served with refreshments afterwards. The parents and the faculty members exchanged views on the academic issues on the tea tables.

Pakistan Developer Conference 2006

Report by: Prof. Dr. A. H. S. Bukhari

Microsoft Pakistan Developer Conference 2006 started at Karachi Pearl Continental Hotel on June 28-30, 2006 and at Lahore Avari Hotel on June 28, 2006. This conference is organized by Microsoft every year at Karachi and Lahore simultaneously to facilitate the higher number of delegates to participate. The speakers who are usually Microsoft professionals are the same at both the places.

Students of BUITMS were extremely enthusiastic in attending this conference at Karachi. About 45 students of various disciplines of Computer Science, Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Engineering got registered themselves for the conference. Students of BUITMS were in the highest number to attend this 3-day conference, inspite of the fact, that most of other university students and teachers of the region attended this conference.

Prof. A. H. S. Bukhari along with other participants of the Conference

The encouraging act of Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, Vice Chancellor of BUITMS was very much appreciated in this regard who allowed one bus to transport the students to conveniently attend the conference. The delegation of BUITMS students was lead by Prof. Dr. A. H. S Bukhari, Chairman Departments of Information Technology, Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering and Mr. Muhammad Nadeem, Senior Lecturer of Computer Science.

Microsoft Professional delivering lecture

The 3-day conference was quite informative. The speakers were mostly Microsoft professionals from overseas and delivered latest know how focusing on technical tracks that showcase the latest version of the Windows Vista operating system, the 2007 Microsoft Office System, Windows Mobile software and the next version of Microsoft Exchange Server, as well as offerings such as Visual Studio 2005 and SQL Server 2005.

The delegates were given opportunity to get themselves engaged with the experts in an interactive environment during the panel discussion held at the

conference. Every day nine parallel tracks were in session and more than 2000 delegates attended this conference at Karachi.

Being part of Pakistan Developer Conference 2006 one was able to:

- Learn how to build, deploy, secure, and manage solutions using the full range of current and soon-to-be-released Microsoft products
  - Acquire skills to design and build streamlined, scalable, and secure applications
  - Get real-world learning and best practices from Microsoft's own professionals, local and international technology gurus
  - Learn how to solve issues related to the deployment and integration of software, troubleshooting problems, and better management of your applications and infrastructure
  - Find answers to problems you face every day, improve your existing productivity and management to prepare for the challenges of tomorrow

In addition to the above, the increase in practical knowledge of BUITMS students in attending this conference was that they learnt how to make presentations and organize a conference. Moreover, they got a chance to acquaint themselves with the customs of moving with academic, intellectual and technology expert community. They also established contacts with people belonging to different walks of life.

The most important aspect in attending this conference was that the name of Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, Quetta became famous among the participants as the majority in the student community was from BUITMS.

Research Papers presented in 1st International Conference on Software Engineering (ISE'06), Lahore

Report by: Imran Sarwar Bajwa, Lecturer

The software technologies are evolving and emerging with other disciplines to support and meet the computing needs. The 1st International Conference on Software Engineering 2006 (ISE'06) hosted by the University of Engineering and Technology highlighted these issues. This forum gave an opportunity to software developers, practitioners, and researchers working in different areas of Software Engineering and other supporting disciplines to present their research work and share the current emerging techniques/methods used in their work.

It is a matter of pride for Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences that four research papers were presented by the faculty members of the Faculty of Computer and Emerging Sciences.

The presenters were Prof. Dr. A. H. S. Bukhari, Mr.Imran Sarwar Bajwa, Mr. Muhammad Asif Naeem, and Mr. Riazu-ul-Amin. Prof. Dr. A.H.S. Bukhari was invited to chair two sessions on "Algorithms" and "Ontologies and Knowledge Engineering". The papers presented by the faculty members of the Faculty of Computer and Emerging Sciences were very much appreciated and considered high quality research papers.

Knowledge Based Replica Management in Data Grid

Authors: Riaz-ul-Amin
Imran Sarwar Bajwa
M. Asif Naeem
A. H. S. Bukhari

Abstract: As the number of scientific disciplines has increased, large data collections are emerging as important community resources. In domains of high energy physics and computational genomics, the volume of interesting data is already measured in terabytes and will soon be in total peta-bytes. The research communities need to access and analyze this data using complex computational and access techniques. No data management infrastructure provides solution against the complex computational analysis of huge and geographically distributed data sets. Most of the equerries usually search analyzed data from terabytes of distributed data repository, over wide area networks. Replicas, and other advanced techniques collectively maximize the use of scarce storage, networking, and computing resources. Existing data grid replication technique no doubt provides us with availability of required data sets, but in order to create replica it has to bear an overhead of huge computation for required data sets. Large network traffic causes the performance unsatisfactory. Our goal in this effort is to provide users with replication infrastructure in Grid that uses knowledgebase with learning capability so as to reduce the computation for creating dataset on each user's request.

Web Information Mining Framework using XML Based knowledge Representation Engine

Authors: Imran Sarwar Bajwa
M Asif Naeem
Riaz-ul-Amin
Muhammad Nawaz

Abstract: Information or knowledge representation is one of the principal elements of artificial intelligence based applications. Conventionally, predicate logic is used in various languages to represent the required knowledge. The recent fashion in knowledge The recent fashion in knowledge representation languages is to use XML as the low-level syntax. XML is the standard representation of multi-facet data. This generic representation tends to make the output of these KR languages easy for machines to parse. On the other hand, modern web repository is a huge collection of multilingual information contents. Information extraction is a vexing problem due to this multi-lingual base of the web data collection. The issue if semantic based information searching has become an impasse due to the variance and discrepancies in the characteristics of the data. In the conducted research, a dynamic web information framework has been proposed which is using an XML abased knowledge representation Engine. The proposed framework has a profound ability to store data straight away in XML format in the knowledge representation engine to avoid the time and other communication constraints involved in using an XML layer for the communication between the conspired mining agents and the underlying knowledge base representation engine.

A Web Smart Space Frame work for Information Mining: A base for Intelligent Search Engine

Authors: M. Asif Naeem
Imran Sarwar Bajwa
Riaz-ul-Amin

Abstract: A web smart space is an intelligent environment which has additional capability of searching the information smartly and efficiently. New advancements like dynamic web contents generation have increased the size of web repositories.

Among so many modern software analysis requirements, one is to search information from the given repository. But useful information extraction is a troublesome hitch due to the multi-lingual base of the web data collection. The issue of semantic based information searching has become a standoff due to the inconsistencies and variations in the characteristics of the data. In the accomplished research, a web smart space framework has been proposed which introduces front end processing for a search engine to make the information retrieval process more intelligent and accurate. In orthodox searching anatomies, searching is performed only by using pattern matching technique and consequently a large number of irrelevant results are generated. The projected framework has insightful ability to improve this drawback and return efficient outcomes. Designed framework gets text input from the user in the form complete question, understands the input and generates the meanings. Search engine searches on the basis of the information provided.

High Dimension Knowledge Extraction Using data Mining Framework in Cluster Environment

Authors: Riaz-ul-Amin
Imran Sarwar Bajwa
M. Asif Naeem
M. Abbas Choudhary

Abstract: Increase in the scientific disciplines has caused large data collections as important community resources. The volume of interesting data is already measured in terabytes and will soon total peta-bytes. The research communities access and analyze this data using complex computational and access techniques. We need to manage and access multiple sorts of data like content, structure and log data in our web sites. This data may be in form of unstructured text document. Our proposed data mining infrastructure with knowledge based clustering at computation al level provide load balancing, failover and high availability against the complex computational analysis and huge geographically distributed datasets. Most of queries of computational analysis are used for searching and analyzing terabytes of distributed data repositories over wide area network. This consideration is at the basis of the great interest about web information mining both in the academic and the industrial world. In order to make efficient search, lot of computational power is needed to minimize the response time for user with required results. Hence the integration of knowledge based computational clusters and data clusters can be the best solution for mining data in the defined scenario.

Visit to UMD, USA

Report by: Hafsa Dar and
Wajiha Iftikhar

Ms. Hafsa Dar   Ms. Wajiha Iftikhar

We, Wajiha Iftikhar and Hafsa Javaid Dar of BS (CS) VIII visited University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) as short term scholars on Student Exchange under the Linkage Agreement between UMD and BUITMS. We started our journey on July 14, 2006, when we went to Karachi by road. On July 15, 2006 we flew to Dubai and after spending about 8 hours at the airport, moved toward Amsterdam, where due to delay of flight we had to spend a day at the Hilton hotel. From there we arrived at Minneapolis after a flight of 8 hours over the Atlantic Ocean. The journey from Minneapolis to Duluth was of 40 minutes duration.

We were welcomed by Mr. David, the head of Engineering Department. Moving towards the dorm, we saw Duluth, a beautiful city surrounded by the Lake Superior. The roads were covered with lush green trees. We reached the campus at about 2 p.m. local time. Mr. David helped us check in the dorm. We were so tired that thereafter we spent whole day sleeping in our room.

The next pleasant morning we were told by Mr. David that we have to attend a work shop at Holiday Inn on Economic Development. We arrived at the Hotel at about 8:30 in the morning. We met people from different countries there. There were 45 participants for this workshop which lasted for one week. Every day speakers delivered their lectures on different topics related to Economic Development, the topics discussed during the workshop were:

- Small Business and entrepreneurship
  - Partner ships
  - Real Estate
  - Leadership
  - E-commerce

The timings of the workshop were from 8 in the morning till 5 in the evening. The first week was not as hectic as it seemed. The organizers not only invited highly qualified people to talk about different topics but also arranged different recreational trips during the workshop so that the people belonging to different countries and culture could become familiar with the history, civilization, traditions, architecture, industry and Economy of their city. We visited

- Lake Superior on Pizza train
- Cirrus, an Aircraft manufacturing company
- Port Harbor
- Canal Park

At the end of first week we were awarded certificates by the Dean of School of Business of UMD.

In the second week, we developed a business plan the sole purpose of which was to introduce a soccer ball in the market with the GPS chip in it, controlled by a Kiosk to determine the velocity, acceleration and coordinates of the ball. Moreover, this ball would be designed in such a way that the force and pressure exerted on the ball could be measured. The second week was more interactive than the first week. We met in the library in the morning till noon and Sir David and Miss Pat gave us guidelines for developing the business plan. After that all 8 group members developed different parts of business plan.

During the second week the most exciting feature was the visit to the Industrial Lab of University of Minnesota where we saw equipment and projects developed by the University students. We also saw the prototyping equipment that impressed us a lot. During our visit to UMD we had been issued Laptops by the University that helped us a lot for searching and making the business plan. Second week was more rewarding in a way that we met persons of different nationalities like Sweden, Ghana, Malaysia, and Bangladesh at Mr. Kareem's house. He is a Professor of Microbiology at UMD. We will remember his hospitality.

The last two days of our visit passed away very quickly because we had to do a lot in very little time. We prepared presentation and documentation of our business plan. And on Sunday July 30, 2006 we went to Minneapolis by road for a day accompanied by all the group members and Miss Pat. That was an exciting Journey. We went to Mall of America where we did some shopping. This was the first opportunity for us to see Minneapolis which means the city of Lakes.

On the last day we had to take our examination as well as to come back. That test covered all the material which we studied during the two weeks. We left Duluth at about 5:30 in the evening local time along with the memories of Duluth city, its people and most of all the University of Minnesota.

8th Free IT Program

BUITMS is good in maintaining its tradition, and one of its renowned and widely acclaimed traditions is conducting of the "Free IT Awareness Program" on regular basis. The commitment of BUITMS of spreading literacy all over Balochistan has not only been hailed within the country but outside the country, as well. When the BUITMS delegation, led by the worthy Vice Chancellor, visited USA universities, the faculties of US universities were pleasantly surprised to learn about this unique program and appreciated the Free IT Awareness Program and its spirit.

This program, the result of the vision of our vice chancellor Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary, was started in 2003 and is being conducted with ritual punctuality during each semester break ever since.

The 8th Free IT was held from 4th August up to 31st August, 2006.

This time the Free IT program was held at Takatu Campus only as the whole city campus was under going renovation work during the semester break. BUITMS provided free of cost transportation facilities to the participants from city campus to Takatu campus & back.

A total of 341 individuals belonging to different walks of life benefited from the program this time. The number of participants, this time, was less than usual. Firstly, because at this time of the year all the schools and colleges are open as compared to the other IT program which is in February when schools and colleges are closed due to winter holidays. Secondly this time it was being arranged in Takatu campus only, which perhaps is not a very convenient place for common people.

Students during Training

As started from the 7th Free IT Program, this program was also divided into basic and advanced course. The advanced course was meant for those participants who had either attended the basic program previously or they had some basic knowledge about computers.
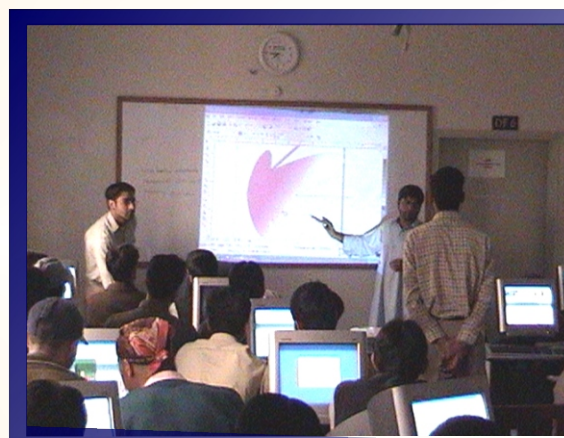
Out of 341 participants, 169 took basic course while 172 registered in advanced course. The topic covered under basic course were:

- Basic computer know-how.
- Word processing (MS Word).
- Presentations (MS Power Point).
- Spreadsheet Programs (MS Excel).
- Internet browsing and e-mail.
  While under the advanced course the following topics were covered:
- System Troubleshooting.
- Database, DBA (MS Access).
- Internet browsing, e-mail ID development, advanced search options etc.

Among the basic group of participants 103 were students, majority of them High School and College Students, some university students were also among them.

Students attending the lecture

Out of 172 students of advanced course 105 were students from high schools and colleges, 26 were shopkeepers, 21 Govt. employees, 2 teachers, 1 doctor and 1 engineer. This clearly indicates that both the youth and grown ups are realizing the importance of IT education in their daily professional lives.

This program was conducted with the help of those selected top notchers from faculties of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Management Sciences and Biotechnology.

The 8th Free IT Awareness Program was held under expert supervision and guidance of Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Dean, Faculty of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Ghaznavi, Director Research, Students and Academics Affairs and Mr. Qadeem Kakar coordinator of this IT program.

All the participants of this program felt enriched by the latest computer knowledge and were excited by their experience of keeping in touch with the ever growing sophistication in Information Technology. They thanked BUITMS for providing this opportunity free of cost.