

# BUIITEMS

QUALITY & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



# Newsletter

Vol 110

## Our Vision

To be among the leading universities of the world - accessible to all, imparting quality education and promoting cutting edge research.

## Mission Statement

At **BUIITEMS**, we are committed to providing quality education with focus on research and to equip students with the art of living as productive members of society, contributing to the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan in general, and Balochistan in particular.

## Our Goals

- ◆ To provide outstanding academic programs that further strengthen our performance, pre-eminence and efficiency.
- ◆ To provide an excellent teaching and learning environment to students to reach a level that matches the atmosphere prevailing at best universities in the world.
- ◆ To raise revenues from partnerships, research grants and technology transfer while strengthening our ability to more effectively invest and allocate resources for education.

## Our Core Values

- Accountability:** We are committed stewards of the human, fiscal and physical resources entrusted to us.
- Diversity :** We recognize that diversity leads to excellence, enhancing our teaching, scholarship and service as well as our ability to respect and interact with people.
- Integrity :** We practice honesty, truth and integrity in all that we do.
- Respect:** We treat each other with civility, dignity and respect.
- Social responsibility:** We contribute to intellectual, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being of the society.

# CONTENTS

◆ United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Delegation's Visit to BUIITEMS	05
◆ Collaborative Quality Training Session Held at BUIITEMS	06
◆ PhD Scholar Final Defense	07
◆ MoU Between Balochistan Food Authority and BUIITEMS	07
◆ Career Counseling Session	08
◆ United Nations International Organization for Migration (UN-IOM) Delegation's Visit to BUIITEMS	09
◆ Research Proposal Writing Workshop	10
◆ "Survival Skills Development to Build Resilience for Natural Disasters"	11
◆ Pollinator-friendly Miyawaki Garden Project: MOU Between BUIITEMS & OGDCL"	11
◆ Career Counselling Session on "Mental Health"	12
◆ PPL Campus Drive: PPL on Job Training Program - 2024	12
◆ Balochistan Youth-State Harmony Summit	13
◆ Food and Agriculture (FAO) Ramzan Campaign on Food Wastage - 2024	13
◆ BUIITEMS Tree Plantation Drive-2024: A Testament to Environmental Stewardship	14
◆ Partnership in Progress: UNFAO and BUIITEMS Lay Foundation for Joint Initiatives	15
◆ BUIITEMS Orientation Session Welcomes New MS, MBA, and PhD Students	15
◆ Addressing Challenges and Strategic Planning for Quality Improvement	16
◆ One-day scholarly workshop on Globalization and its Discontents	17

# Editorial

As we embark on a new quarter, the ever-evolving challenges we face continue to test our resolve and creativity. Yet, it is precisely in these moments of uncertainty that our commitment to hope, resilience, and innovation shines brightest.

At BUIITEMS, hope remains a driving force that fuels our ambition and vision for a better future. It is this hope that propels our efforts to build a community where every challenge is met with unwavering determination and optimism.

Resilience, too, continues to define our journey. Our students, faculty, and staff have demonstrated extraordinary resilience, adapting to new modes of learning and working while maintaining an unwavering commitment to excellence. This resilience is not merely about enduring difficulties; it is about harnessing the strength to transform challenges into catalysts for growth and innovation. We take pride in the stories of those who have turned setbacks into stepping stones, inspiring us all to persevere and excel.

Innovation remains the cornerstone of our progress. The establishment of the BUIITEMS Academy of Artificial Intelligence, the Center for Excellence in Water, Food, Energy Nexus and Climate Change, and the Center for Risk and Disaster Management are testament to our commitment to pioneering solutions for the pressing issues of our time. These initiatives exemplify our belief in the limitless potential of innovative thinking to create sustainable and equitable futures.

It is through the collective efforts of our BUIITEMS family that we can address the multifaceted challenges before us. By fostering an environment of support, creativity, and shared purpose, we can achieve remarkable feats and inspire others to join us in our mission.

From groundbreaking research to impactful community initiatives, the pages of this newsletter are a testament to our unwavering commitment to progress and positive change. Let us continue to draw strength from our hope, build on our resilience, and unleash the power of innovation. Together, we can navigate the complexities of our world and create a legacy of excellence.



## United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Delegation's Visit to BUIITEMS

Reported by: Dr. Zafar Lashari

Ms. Jennifer Ankrom, Country Manager, UNOPS along with Mr. Wajid Ullah Shahid, Partnerships Development, and Mr. Babar Tanwir, Technical expert visited BUIITEMS on January 09, 2024.



It was indeed a privilege to host the UNOPS delegates at BUIITEMS. The delegation was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Zafar Baloch, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez briefed the honorable guests about various aspects of the university's operations, faculty, infrastructure, financial aspects, and achievements over the years of its successful operation. He highlighted the journey of success over the years and its transformation to a contemporary and quality educational institute. Aligning the goals and programs of BUIITEMS with UNOPS in the development program for infrastructure resilience to address climate change and identify actions for SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 17, the delegation discussed the impact of the Balochistan Flood 2022 and outlined plans for Disaster Risk Reduction. They agreed to visit the university in the third quarter of the fiscal year, focusing on ecosystem readiness for disaster management and developing resilience strategies. Their goal is to draft suggestions for early recovery from natural climate hazard events, particularly in the context of Balochistan province.



- Single unit in various disaster zones.
- Locally available materials to be used for most economic reconstruction after floods
- Prepare standard design museums for various types of communities (disaster zones) and eco-friendly houses.
- Develop disaster reconstruction or guidelines.

Additionally, the delegation visited Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) at BUIITEMS. They expressed their gratitude to Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice Chancellor, for the comprehensive visit and expressed interest in collaborating with BUIITEMS in the future. The delegation also indicated its willingness to work with BUIITEMS consultancy operation to build a treatment system for communities affected by the extreme flooding in Balochistan.



## Collaborative Quality Training Session Held at BUIITEMS

Reported by: Dawood Ahmed Khan



A significant collaborative training session on Quality procedures and functions was conducted at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on January 3, 2024. The key representatives from the Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta, including Dr. Nadeem Samad Sheikh, Director of QAED at BUMHS, and Ms. Tamkanat, Additional Director of QAED at BUMHS participated in the training session.

The session was spearheaded by Syed Dara Shikoh Amir, Director of Quality Enhancement and Accreditation (QE&A) at BUIITEMS. The primary focus of the session was to provide comprehensive training on the establishment and operation of Quality offices, ensuring adherence to the latest quality assurance standards.

A significant part of the discussion centered around the new PSG-2023 Draft Document-01. This document outlines the latest procedural guidelines and quality standards that QEC offices are expected to implement. Syed Dara Shikoh Amir meticulously explained each process involved in establishing a Quality office, emphasizing the importance of these procedures in maintaining high educational standards and continuous improvement in academic institutions.

Dr. Nadeem Samad Sheikh expressed appreciation for the detailed insights and practical guidance provided during the session. The collaborative approach aims to enhance the quality assurance framework at BUMHS, fostering a culture of excellence and accountability in medical and health sciences education.

Ms. Tamkanat also highlighted the importance of such training sessions, noting that the knowledge gained will significantly contribute to the effective implementation of Quality processes at BUMHS. The hands-on training and detailed explanations of the new PSG-2023 guidelines were particularly beneficial for the attendees.

The event marks a crucial step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality assurance mechanisms within higher education institutions in Balochistan. By sharing expertise and best practices, BUIITEMS and BUMHS aim to enhance the overall educational standards, ultimately benefiting students and the broader academic community.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to ongoing collaboration and support between BUIITEMS and BUMHS, ensuring the successful implementation of Quality procedures and the continuous improvement of educational quality.



## PhD Scholar Final Defense

Reported by: Dr. Muhammad Asif

Mr. Muhammad Asif Raz presented his final PhD defense titled “Lottery Feature Stocks, Economic Downturn, and Social Media: A Case of an Emerging Stock Market” a direly needed research to outlook upon the economic downturn and social media aspects of today’s economic scenario, focusing the emerging stock markets.

Mr. Muhammad Asif Raz delivered his final defense presentation, articulating the culmination of his research endeavors. This moment not only signifies the academic prowess of a scholar but also reflects the dedication and commitment that define the pursuit of knowledge at BUIITEMS.

The PhD defense took place at the Video Conferences Room, at BUIITEMS, on 19th January 2024.



## MoU Between Balochistan Food Authority and BUIITEMS

Reported by: Abdul Wajid



On January 24th, 2024, A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BUIITEMS and Balochistan Food Authority at BUIITEMS. The signing ceremony was graced by the Pro Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rahman Khan, and the Director General of the Balochistan Food Authority Mr. Mohammed Naeem Bazai.

The primary objectives of this collaboration include:

- I. Joint Research Collaboration:** To facilitate collaborative research efforts by both organizations, in order to address pertinent issues faced by the food industry and the advancing scientific knowledge.
- II. Training Programs:** to develop & implement training programs aimed at enhancing skills and expertise in the field of food safety and regulation, thereby contributing to the professional development of individuals within the sector.
- III. Consultancy Services:** The MoU enables the provision of consultancy services by BUIITEMS to the Balochistan Food Authority, leveraging the expertise and resources of the university to offer valuable guidance and support in various aspects of food safety and regulation.
- IV. Utilization of Testing Services:** BUIITEMS will extend access to its cutting-edge testing facilities to the Balochistan Food Authority, to ensure provision of the highest standards of quality assurance and testing services to the food industry.

## Career Counseling Session

Reported by: Nafisa Nasar



A career counseling session at Firdowsi High School, Hazara Town, Quetta, was conducted on February 18th, 2024 by International Center for Refugee and Migration Studies (ICRMS), BUIITEMS. The primary objective of the career counseling session was to empower refugee students by providing them with comprehensive information and guidance regarding various career paths and educational opportunities available to them. The session aimed to increase awareness among students about different professions, strengthen their ability to recognize their skills and interests, provide insights into

higher education opportunities, and inform them about available financial aid and scholarships. The specific audience targeted for this session comprised refugee students from Firdowsi High School, Hazara Town, Quetta, in Class 9 to 12. These students were chosen to receive support in their career exploration and educational endeavors.

### The key areas of emphasis during the counseling session included:

- Introduction to career concepts and the distinction between skills, knowledge, and career choices.
- Explanation of the Occupational Theory of Holland, focusing on the five personality types and their relevance to career choices.
- Conducting the RIASEC test of Holland to help students identify their top three career personalities and understand the implications for their future career paths.
- Addressing stress management techniques, including recognizing stress symptoms, categorizing stressors, and implementing healthy coping strategies.
- Providing information on free online learning and certification options, as well as discussing freelancing and distant job opportunities for students.
- Highlighting available scholarships and financial aid options to support students in pursuing higher education.

The session engaged approximately 80 Afghan refugee students from Firdowsi High School, Hazara Town, Quetta. Through interactive discussions and activities, students gained insights into various career paths, identified their personality traits relevant to career choices, learned stress management techniques, and explored opportunities for further education and skill development. The output included increased awareness and understanding among students regarding career options and educational pathways, enhanced confidence and motivation to pursue higher education and career aspirations, and improved access to information on financial resources and scholarships.

### Future Course of Action

In the future, the ICRMS, BUIITEMS plans to continue its career counseling initiatives by organizing similar sessions in other schools and refugee communities. Additionally, follow-up sessions and workshops will be conducted to provide ongoing support to students in their career exploration and educational journey. Collaboration with local stakeholders and organizations will be sought to expand the reach and impact of these counseling programs, ultimately contributing to the self-reliance and socioeconomic empowerment of refugee students.

## United Nations International Organization for Migration (UN-IOM) Delegation's Visit to BUIITEMS

Reported by: Dr. Zafar Lashari

The UN-IOM Pakistan expressed interest in collaborating with BUIITEMS on IOM development program to integrate adaptation and mitigation measures with UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 13.

The UN-IOM team headed by Ms. Mio Sato, Chief of Mission, including Mr. Vincent Matteau Senior Program Coordinator HRR, Ms. Sumera Izhar, Recovery and Durable solutions advisor, Mr. Edward Jago Boase Programme Manager Shelter/NFI, WASH and CCCM, Mr. Sebastian Bonstra, Program Manager DTM Unit, and Mr. Nouman Sher, Provincial Liaison Coordinator visited BUIITEMS on February 20, 2024.



The delegation was received by Prof. Dr. Zafar Baloch, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez briefed the honorable guests about various initiatives taken by BUIITEMS regarding integrated adaptation and mitigation measures, especially focusing on the sustainable development goals SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 13. Furthermore, various aspects of the university operations, faculty, infrastructure, financial aspects, and achievements were also shared.

The delegation highlighted the role that UN-IOM's contribution to Pakistan, particularly Balochistan Flood 2022. IOM supports and coordinates the Organization's relations with its UN Member States, civil society, and the Universities. House buildings, single units, and proposals for construction in various disaster zones of Balochistan.

- Local available materials to be used for most economic construction/reconstruction after floods/disasters in Balochistan.
- Prepare standard design museum for various types of communities (disaster zones) which will be shared with stakeholders for further sustainable and ecofriendly buildings/ houses for CRA-N projects.
- Develop disaster reconstruction or guidelines (type of houses/ temp accommodation for various locations/zones).
- Internships for BUIITEMS Students.



The delegation thanked Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS, for such a comprehensive visit. The esteemed guests expressed their willingness for BUIITEMS' consultancy operation for the Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan, for the Community Resilience (Flood Recovery) project.

## Research Proposal Writing Workshop

Reported by: Nafisa Nasar



An interactive workshop on “Research Proposal Writing: Ethical Challenges of Researching and Engaging with Refugee Population” was conducted on February 22nd, 2024 at BUIITEMS. The session was a joint initiative of the Library Teaching and Learning Center BUIITEMS, and the International Center for Refugee and Migration Studies (ICRMS) BUIITEMS. The workshop aimed at engaging young researchers and academic professionals as an experience-sharing episode to exchange knowledge & insights into their research backgrounds and interests. Mr. Zafar Ullah, a

Ph.D. scholar at the University of Edinburgh, UK, led the discussion, highlighting research ethics, a critical aspect in studying vulnerable populations such as refugees. Delving the essential steps of crafting a research proposal, participants engaged eagerly, sharing & exploring various facets of their research ideas during the workshop. An insightful activity centered on the 'Informants' Capacity to Give Informed Consent to Participate in the Research' was conducted, encouraging participants to contemplate the ethical implications of their research practices. This hands-on approach provided invaluable perspectives on navigating ethical dilemmas within the research process. The ideas-sharing and exchange of diverse viewpoints enriched the learning experience, fostering a collaborative atmosphere conducive to intellectual growth & research passion. The subsequent Q&A session offered the opportunity to share their research issues and greatly contributed to bringing clarity & problem-solving guidelines. Mr. Zafar Ullah led the session and extended valuable guidance to new & young researchers in their respective fields of study. The Research Proposal Writing Workshop proved to be a resounding success, offering a platform for aspiring researchers to explore the nuances of ethical research practices while honing their proposal writing skills. The event's interactive nature and emphasis on ethical considerations underscored its significance in shaping responsible and impactful research endeavors. Around 45 participants attended the event.



## “Survival Skills Development to Build Resilience for Natural Disasters”

Reported by: Dr. Anila Ali & Mayen Khan

BUIITEMS Department of Environmental Sciences & Department of Training & Development organized the 4 Day training workshop on “Survival Skills Development to Build Resilience for Natural Disasters” hosting 70 participants. The training workshop was held from 5th to 8th March 2024, at BUIITEMS, Quetta. Disaster preparedness and response depend on gathering, analyzing, and acting on timely and accurate information before (hazard and early warning information), during (disaster needs assessment), and after disasters (progress of post-disaster recovery). The training was aimed at highlighting the need and importance of disaster preparedness and to enhance the skills of its participants in its context. The 4-day session included a wide range of topics that are essential to survive in extreme conditions. Participants of the workshop included students and faculty members. Keeping in view the vulnerability of natural disasters in Balochistan, the session proved vital in disseminating important knowledge and developing the interest of the youth in engaging in this faculty of study to engage in contemporary research & devise innovative solutions in the field.



The four days sessions included the following topics:

1. Basic Survival Skills in the Outdoors
2. Causes & Impacts of Natural Disasters
3. Psychological Impacts of Disasters
4. First Aid Course
5. Counseling & Stress Management
6. Leadership Skills
7. Water, Fire & Shelter
8. Fire Safety

The event was funded under the HEC Grant for Training, awarded to Dr. Anila Ali, Chairperson Department of Environmental Sciences.

## Pollinator-friendly Miyawaki Garden Project: MOU Between BUIITEMS & OGDCL”

Reported by: Abdul Wajid



On March 12, 2024, an important agreement was reached between the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS). This agreement, formally known as a memorandum of understanding (MoU), outlines a plan for a significant initiative: the launch of a plantation campaign. Specifically, the campaign aims to establish the "OGDCL growing pollinator-friendly Miyawaki Garden" project within BUIITEMS. Under this endeavor, OGDCL will provide funding support. The MoU was signed by the

Pro Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan.

## Career Counselling Session on “Mental Health”

Reported by: Wajid Mustafa



BUIITEMS Career Services, Directorate of UA&FA successfully organized a seminar on “Mental Health” where the guest speaker highlighted the importance of destigmatisation of mental health and therapy. The session with undergraduate students was conducted on March 12th, 2024, at Pink Hall, Sir Syed Block, BUIITEMS, Quetta. The session was highly successful as many students attended the session from all faculties of BUIITEMS, Takatu Campus. The session's guest speaker was Ms. Anqa Gharshin lecturer, Department of Psychology, BUIITEMS. She discussed

the importance of seeking help, and why or when a person should seek professional therapy. She gave contact information to local psychologists and shared online resources to book appointments for themselves or refer their loved ones. The resource person emphasized signs that help one understand the deteriorating mental health of students, especially when their stressors are academic performance related. The session was interactive, and the speaker entertained the participants' curiosity by answering their questions in detail.

## PPL Campus Drive: PPL on Job Training Program - 2024

Reported by: Wajid Mustafa

Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) launched a Campus Drive on “PPL on Job Training Program 2024” at BUIITEMS in collaboration with the Career Services Office, Directorate of UA&FA for the students & graduates of the following departments: -

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mining Engineering     | 2. Petroleum Engineering  |
| 3. Mechanical Engineering | 4. Electrical Engineering |
| 5. Electronic Engineering | 6. Chemical Engineering   |
| 7. Civil Engineering      | 8. Computer Engineering   |
| 9. Management Sciences    |                           |



Large number of students & graduates attended the PPL Campus Drive to seek career guidance and support. Mr. Daniyal Omer Bugti (Senior Trainee) & Mir Usama Mazhar HRM officer informed the audience about the company's core values and recruitment procedure. They encouraged the students & graduates to join PPL as a career through its program. During the Q&A session, the participants showed keen interest in the program and inquired about their On Job Training Program at PPL, Pakistan. Dr. Azizullah Shaikh, Chairman, Department of Petroleum & Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & Architecture briefed about the available facilities at BUIITEMS and drew attention to the modern technological and educational requirements of department. He also highlights areas in which PPL can support BUIITEMS in strengthening the P&G department to help produce well-versed graduates in line with contemporary courses at BUIITEMS.

## Balochistan Youth-State Harmony Summit

Reported by: Hamid Abdullah

The Balochistan Youth-State Harmony Summit, organized by 'Voice of Balochistan,' took place on March 20, 2024, at Markhor Auditorium BUIITEMS. The summit aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration between youth and the state, providing a platform for meaningful discussions and insights.



Key dignitaries, including Honorable Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Member of Balochistan Assembly Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, and renowned journalist Mr. Shahid Hameed Rind, graced the occasion, adding depth and perspective to the discussions. Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS, Dr. Khalid Hafeez (Professor of AI and Digital Transformation), enriched the summit with academic insight. The event witnessed 400 students from universities across Balochistan, reflecting the enthusiasm and engagement of the youth. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti urged students to prioritize their studies and research, emphasizing their role in advancing the province and the nation. Moreover, the importance of entrepreneurship was highlighted, with the minister urging the new generation to take up leadership roles. The Q&A session allowed students to interact with the guests, voicing their queries and concerns. Dr. Khalid Hafeez honored the esteemed guests with shields, acknowledging their contributions to the summit. Balochistan Youth-State Harmony Summit was a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and inspiration. It laid the groundwork for meaningful partnerships between the youth and the state, fostering hope for a prosperous and harmonious Balochistan.

## Food and Agriculture (FAO) Ramzan Campaign on Food Wastage - 2024

Reported by: Wajid Mustafa



Needless to say, the amount of food waste generated in Ramadan is significantly higher than in other months, as much as 25%. The "Ramzan Campaign on Food Wastage 2024" was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 26th March 2024 at BUIITEMS. The purpose of the event was to create awareness among students about the sheer wastage of food particularly in the holy month of Ramzan and critical issues linked to food wastage. It was emphasized that there is a chronic inclination of Muslims towards over-indulgence and lavishness in the holy month, even though the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

asked Muslims to adopt moderation in all walks of life. Suggestions and recommendation were discussed to review targeted initiatives across social media platforms, university campuses, and engagement with restaurants. The campaign educates the masses on the importance of reducing food wastage and encourage sustainable practices during this period of fasting. Mr. Faiz Barach, coordination and liaising specialist, FAO, and Dr. Azam Khan Kakar, Livestock Specialist, FAO, addressed the audience on the same. Dr. Azam shared the core values, accomplishments, and future objectives of FAO in Balochistan elaborated on the impact of food wastage, and recommended measures for the public to reduce food wastage. A large number of audience comprising BUIITEMS students, faculty members, and administrative staff attended the session.

## BUIITEMS Tree Plantation Drive-2024: A Testament to Environmental Stewardship

Reported by: Dr. Muhammad Naeem Shahwani



Tree Plantation drives combat many environmental issues like deforestation, soil erosion, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming, and enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. "Pakistan is among the top 10 most vulnerable countries affected by global warming,". "After oceans, trees are the second largest sink of carbon."

BUIITEMS Tree Plantation Drive-2024, was a remarkable initiative born from the collaborative efforts under the inspiring slogan "Own A Tree," initiated by the Dean Faculty of Life Sciences and Informatics, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Shahwani, underscoring BUIITEMS' commitment to environmental sustainability.

The drive garnered enthusiastic participation from students, deans, directors, and other employees across various disciplines of the University, reflecting our collective resolve to contribute meaningfully to environmental preservation. Notably, each student pledged to plant and nurture a tree, which will bear their name throughout and even after their tenure at BUIITEMS, a testament to their personal investment in our campus environment.

In a thought-provoking talk session, Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS, lauded the initiative, recognizing its significance in promoting environmental consciousness among our community members and beyond.

The highlight of the day was the ceremonial tree planting, led by Vice Chancellor and other esteemed participants. This symbolic act underscored BUIITEMS' dedication to environmental stewardship and served as a poignant reminder of our shared responsibility to safeguard our planet for future generations.

### A visit to BUIITEMS Plants Nurseries

BUIITEMS is proud to host and manage its own plant nursery where different native and other varieties of plants and trees are nurtured and prepared for plantation across Balochistan. Following the Tree Plantation Drive, Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez paid a visit to the plant nurseries of the university to inspect its progress and problems faced by the project. The Vice Chancellor issued immediate directives for its resolve, lauding the importance of the Green Initiative of BUIITEMS. He commended the staff's dedication and efforts in nurturing the greenery within the campus, acknowledging their vital role in maintaining BUIITEMS' Green environment. BUIITEMS Tree Plantation Drive-2024 stands as a shining example of university's commitment to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility."



## Partnership in Progress: UNFAO and BUIITEMS Lay Foundation for Joint Initiatives

*Reported by: Arooj Khan*

Upon a recent visit, the International Program Coordinator for Balochistan at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. Waleed Mehdi, met with Dr. Khalid Hafeez the Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS. The encounter proved to be highly productive, as leaders from both institutions engaged in an enriching exchange of concepts and ideas. UNFAO graciously shared their impactful contributions to Balochistan and various ongoing projects with the worthy Vice Chancellor, who reciprocated by outlining BUIITEMS' strategic plans. Recognizing the potential for synergy, both organizations have expressed their intent to formalize their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), aimed at mutual benefit. This collaborative spirit stressed a shared commitment to working together for the betterment of our respective institutions and the communities we serve. Professor Dr. Nazeer Ahmed, Dean Graduate Studies, and Arooj Khan, Lecturer (Dept. of Biotechnology) were also present on the occasion.



## BUIITEMS Orientation Session Welcomes New MS, MBA, and PhD Students

*Reported by: Hamid Abdullah*



On March 28, 2024, BUIITEMS Graduate Studies Office conducted an orientation session to welcome the incoming cohort of MS, MBA, PhD students. Students were introduced to the university's graduate program structure, graduate program regulations, and research opportunities. They were also acquainted with the wide array of resources available, including academic support services, research facilities, and extracurricular activities. The Vice-Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez,

while addressing, emphasized the importance of mentorship and encouraged students to establish meaningful relationships within their respective fields of study. Moreover, the session focused on professional development, highlighting workshops, seminars, and career services tailored to assist students in their academic and professional journey. Key policies and procedures were clarified, ensuring students had a clear understanding of their responsibilities and deadlines.



## Addressing Challenges and Strategic Planning for Quality Improvement

Reported by: Muhammad Asif Butt



A meeting with Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS was arranged for all Deans, Directors, and senior faculty members in the Training Hall on March 29, 2024.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez emphasized the need for cohesive communication to address existing discrepancies while discussing faculty initiatives and priorities.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that enhancing program quality requires analyzing assignments with quarterly performance metrics, making this our top priority in the upcoming strategy. Dr. Khalid Hafeez stressed the implementation of the following four strategic indicators that have been taken into account in different universities around the world that includes:

1. Learning and Teaching
2. Research and Commercialization
3. Marketing and Recruitment
4. Community Engagement and Collaborations.

Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of simplifying waste-reduction procedures, implementing austerity measures, and greening campuses through solar energy and a paperless environment as key components of the long-term strategic plan.

Dr. Khalid Hafeez announced that 60 faculty members are set to return after completing their Ph.D. He encouraged these scholars to broaden their knowledge and experiences. He also emphasized that their contributions and specialized roles within the community and institution must be recognized, demonstrating the value of their positions through actions and fulfilling their primary responsibilities.

The Vice Chancellor proposed focusing on programs with lower enrollment. To address this, he suggested that marketing efforts are needed and recommended engaging student bodies, such as alumni, to help increase student participation.

The discussion also covered action-based and problem-based learning, considered among the most effective teaching strategies. Assigning problem-based and project-oriented tasks can enhance students' knowledge retention, improve their understanding of their environment, and help them explore potential career opportunities.

He added that the institution invests Rs.1.3 million per student annually in various accounts to support academic and technological infrastructure, including labs, up-to-date equipment, and machinery.

Following the question-and-answer session, the meeting concluded with a vote of gratitude to the chair.



## One-day scholarly workshop on Globalization and its Discontents

Reported by: *Mehwish Qudoos Alizai*

The Department of Sociology organized a one-day workshop/scholarly talk on the topic Globalization and its Discontents, on March 29, 2024. Dr. Asim Bashir was the learned and esteemed guest speaker of the session. He is well renowned Economist, Public Finance Expert, former Technical Expert of Balochistan for Ninth National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and visiting faculty at the IBA Karachi. The session was attended by the faculty members and students from the Departments of Sociology, International Relation and Economics. The esteemed scholar discussed the multiple aspects of globalization while focusing on the South Asian context particularly the Pakistan's case. He thoroughly discussed Free Trade, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), its considerations and challenges. The faculty members of the Sociology department officially concluded the session by presenting a shield to the guest.







## Quality Policy Statement

**BUITEMS** contributes in defining standards and systems for the uplift of socio-economic order through quality education and services by:

- ◆ Providing an environment conducive to learning, teaching, academic inquiry and innovation
- ◆ Maintaining academic excellence and professionalism
- ◆ Adhering to established systems for ensuring good governance for management and transfer of knowledge
- ◆ Benchmarking with other leading institutions of higher education for improvement
- ◆ Enhancing efficient and effective operations by encouraging participation of stakeholders
- ◆ Pursuing continuous improvement through creativity, team work and adaptation to change

for

Playing a catalytic role to achieve the national, regional and global harmony.





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