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Centers for Advanced Studies in Water



Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro

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Partnering Universities:

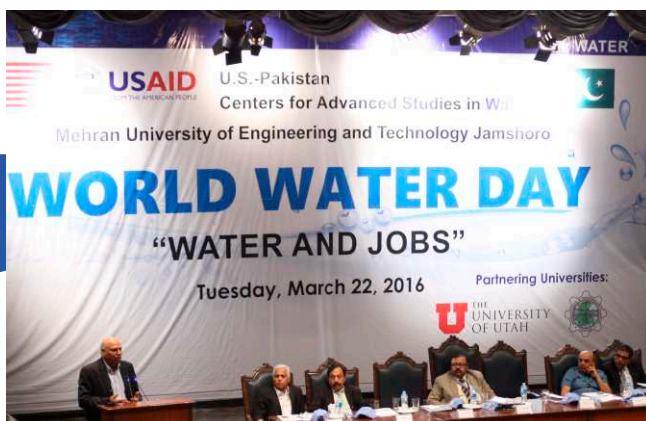


World Water Day 2016



The center celebrated World Water Day 2016 at main Auditorium Hall MUET Jamshoro. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor MUET Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili was chief guest in the event, whereas Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party USPCAS-W University of Utah, USA, delivered his speech on the historical perspective of the day. Mr. Naseer Memon, Chief Executive-Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), delivered his presentations "Water Woes of the Planet", Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, Project Coordinator-Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP) spoke on "Water and Jobs" - theme of the day in this year. Mr. Mehmood Nawaz Shah, Vice

Chairman – Sindh Abadgar Board delivered his presentation on "Water, Food Security Nexus". Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) Mr. Muhammad Waseem Vohra spoke on "Water and Industry". Students of USPCAS-W Ms. Maheen Saeed and Syeda Fatima Zehra also spoke on worldwide water facts and water challenges to Pakistan. The speakers said that keeping the importance of the water in view, one must avoid the excessive use of water. They further emphasized on the judicious use of water in daily life. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Project Director USPCAS-W presented vote of thanks and also shared water statistics. The day was closed with water awareness walk.





Australian High Commissioner visits USPCAS-W

Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Her Excellency Margaret Adamson visited U.S. – Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) and had meeting with officials of MUET and the water center at vice chancellor secretariat. Dr. Ghous Bux Khaskhelli then active vice chancellor briefed her about historical background of MUET, students' enrollment and the ranking of this university in Pakistan. In meeting, Dr. Kamran Ansari- Deputy Director USPCAS-W gave presentation on the vision, mission, objectives and achievements of the Center. Her Excellency Margaret Adamson said that water is shared commodity among many

nations in the world and the scope this water research center can be extended up to South Asia region. She said that Australia is committed to have academic collaboration in water sector of Pakistan and will cooperate for future joint ventures on water related applied research. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhary- Chief of Party USPCAS-W, University of Utah, USA briefed the High Commissioner about the technical support to the center provided by Utah University of USA. Registrar MUET Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, an Australian Alumnus presented traditional gifts and souvenirs to Her Excellency and other guests.



Water Experts Meeting



Water Experts were gathered by USPCAS-W to present proposals for the solution of water crisis and challenges in Pakistan. Water and Development experts participated in the meeting held at meeting hall of main library MUET Jamshoro. The experts have underlined the need for building water reservoirs, preparation of water policy and research in order to form framework to combat water crisis and challenges in the country. Former secretary irrigation Sindh and water expert Muhammad Idris Rajput gave a presentation on "Water Allocation and Distribution across Provinces", emphasizing on issues related to political economy of water with reference to Water Accord of 1991. Former Federal Secretary Mr. Fazlullah Qureshi gave presentation on "Water Governance and Institutional Performance" and framed his discussion within the context of agricultural productivity and poverty eradication. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party USPCAS-W, United States of America (USA) proposed a Framework of Action identifying eight broader issues and invited suggestions from the participants about the research needs to bridge the knowledge gap for finding plausible solutions to these issues. Vice Chancellor MUET Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili in conclusion emphasized that the Center shall establish and update a data bank in the field of

water accessible to all researchers in future and will work as a clearinghouse related to water challenges of Pakistan. The meeting was viewed as paving the way for the establishment of a Council for Research and Policy (CRP) which is supposed to work as a water think tank on the part of this center. Vice Chancellor Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam Prof. Dr. Memon Mujeeb-uddin Sahrai moderated technical session of the meeting. Project Director Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari gave the presentations about the aims and objectives of USPCAS-W. Mr. Babar Hussain Effendi, Managing Director Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), Nazir Ahmed Essani, General Manager (Transition) SIDA, Mr. Irshad Ahmed Bohio, General Manager WAPDA, Mr. Zarif Ahmed Khoro, Superintending Engineer Chotiari Reservoir Sanghar, Prof. Dr. Suleman Qazi, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, Project Coordinator Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP), Prof. Dr. G.B. Khaskheli, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Civil Engineering MUET, Prof. Mushtaq Mirani, Civil Society Activist, Mr. Mehmood Nawaz Shah, Vice President Sindh Abadgar Board, Mr. Jamaluddin Manghan, Project Director WSIP, Mr. Fazal Ahmed Nizamani, progressive grower and former Senior Chief Water, Govt. of Sindh, USPCAS-W Senior Faculty and administrative staff participated in the meeting.

International Women's Day 2016



USPCAS-W joined hands with MUET in celebration of International Women's day 2016. More than 800 girls and women from MUET and neighboring universities participated in the event. Vice Chancellor MUET Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili maintained that MUET is the first public sector university in the country adopted gender equity policy. Ms. Shabnam Baloch, Gender & Communication expert at USPCAS-W briefed the audience upon the key features of MUET's gender

policy. The vice chancellor and other senior officials applauded the technical input of USPCAS-W in the development of MUET's gender policy. Nobel laureate Ms. Malala Yousafzai addressed the audience through a video link and congratulated the University on this event and motivated the students to pursue excellence in education.

"I dreamt of
a country
where
education
would
prevail"

MALALA
YOUSAFZAI



Society of Women Engineers



The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Sindh chapter launched on the occasion of International Women's Day 2016 at MUET. Vice-Chancellor MUET Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili highlighted the importance of female education and its contribution in the society. President SWE Sindh Chapter

Dr. Khadija Qureshi, Professor Chemical Engineering Department, MUET, discussed the need for promoting women in engineering. Dr Zulfiqar Ali Umrani, Manager Innovation & Entrepreneurship, MUET, informed about the theme on Gender Equality by 2030. Ms Shabnam Baloch talked about MUET's Gender Policy. Ms Rosy Ilyas and Ms Mumtaz Munshi received life-time achievement awards for their services to the university.

Gender Outreach:



Meeting with female faculty staff of Quaid-E-Awam University of Engineering, Science & Technology (QUEST) Nawabshah was conducted in which Gender Policy of MUET shared with them. Whereas, MUET Prof. Dr. Khadija Qureshi discussed the membership option of QUEST female faculty and students for Society of Women Engineers. It was discussed that there shall be strong networking, learning and sharing between women faculty and students of different universities.

Social Tea with Female Students



Ms. Shabnam Baloch – Communication and Gender Expert conducted meeting with girl students of USPCAS-W on social tea gathering at ORIC Meeting Hall MUET Jamshoro. The meeting was focused on:

- To seek feedback from girl students regarding their experience as a 'girl student' during first semester at USPCAS-W
- To seek suggestions for the improvement of overall gender outlook of the center

and Gender Equity Plan (GEP) implementation

- The meeting helped out for understanding the strengths and gaps in implementation of GEP. Also experiences sharing and feedback in the meeting by the students suggested for further consultation with female students of other departments of MUET as their valuable suggestions could be incorporated in future Gender Equity initiatives.



Faculty Exchange Program

Six Faculty Members of this center including Prof. Dr. M. Munir Babar, Prof. Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Dr. Syeda Sara Hasan, Mr. Wali Muhammad Daudpota, Ms. Uzma Imran and Ms. Rakshanda Bano are on exchange visit to two different universities of United States. They will spend four to six months in American universities for their learning and research purposes. Dr. Babar and Mr. Daudpota are placed in Colorado State University (CSU) while the other four are in University of Utah (UU) which is partner university of MUET in providing technical support to this water research center. The faculty is engaged in research, a technical class, mentoring, a teaching engineering course, and writing. They are also involved in social and cultural experiences of the States. They are engaged in joint research projects with their faculty hosts. Dr.

Ramesh Goel is hosting Professor Rasool Bux Mahar for having joint research on investigating the occurrence and spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria (ARB). Dr. Steve Burian is hosting Professor Rakshanda Bano and working with her to develop a water management computer model of the Indus River Basin in Pakistan. Dr. Sarah Hassan is working on a project to synthesize silver nanoparticles for sensing and treatment applications. Professor Uzma Imran is studying water quality of the source supply for Karachi. On returning to Pakistan, they will disseminate the knowledge gained, at the universities of USA, to young faculty and students at MUET to enhance research infrastructure and prepare a cohort of engineers and scientists to address issues in Pakistan related to water treatment, hygiene, health and best environmental engineering practices.

Exchange Program for Students



Capacity of faculty and students of this Center through the exchange program is one of the key objectives of USPCAS-W, while discussing the students exchange program, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry – Chief of Party USPCAS-W, University of Utah, USA, informed students that the selection criteria, which includes 40% for course, 30% for thesis research proposal, 10% for class attendance and seminar participation, 10% for recommendation of academic supervisor and finally 10 % for

statement of purpose which will be written in the class. He further elaborated the students' assessment for exchange scholarship in terms of intellectual independence, analytical ability, spoken English, interpersonal skills and overall evaluation will be made. It was stated that maximum number of the students will be selected for the exchange program through this criteria. It is expected that the selected students will visit USA universities in September 2016.

Curriculum Reforms

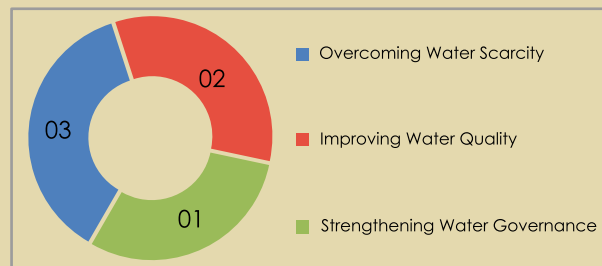
One of the main components of USPCAS-W is to bring curricula reforms at par excellence. In this connection, a new course “Water, Sanitation & Health” has been introduced. This program focuses on enhancing the knowledge and capacities of students in subjects of access to safe drinking water, sustainable sanitation, sustainable development goals in water and sanitation, hygiene overview, water treatment technologies, management of rural water supply schemes, gender and research etc. This program will be offered from fall 2016 batch of masters degree level.



Research Projects

Awards

One of the key objectives of this Center is to develop and implementing a self-sustaining applied research program in water. In this connection, the process to achieve this objective entails discussions at various levels with water experts, academicians, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders. The center received thirty (30) research proposals against the first call made in November, 2015. After rigorous review and scrutiny, Six (06) projects were finalized and grant amounting around Rs.14 million has been awarded for the selected projects on the following themes.



Graduate Seminars:

Graduate Seminar Series is one of the permanent features of the Center, in this quarter the following seminars were held at ORIC building of MUET.

Writing a Research Proposal

Dr. Sajjad Ahmed, Technical Advisor to USPCAS-W, from University of Nevada, USA conducted a training session in graduate seminar on "Writing a Research Proposal". Dr. Ahmed highlighted importance of research methodology in developing a research project and guided students for writing an effective research proposal, statement of purpose, synopsis and other related topics of research methodologies. USPCAS-W faculty, PhD and MS students attended the seminar.



Seminar on WEF Nexus and Sustainable Development

Prof. Dr. Tariq Banuri, Associate Director USPCAS-W University of Utah delivered a lecture in graduate seminar on "Water, Energy and Food Security (WEF) Nexus and Sustainable Development". Dr. Banuri termed that sustainable development is fully interconnected with WEF Nexus, both need to

be addressed properly and effectively in Pakistan. He said water, in Pakistan, considered a free commodity and people actually pay for energy not for water. However, water must be properly priced and effectively utilized. Faculty and students of the Center participated in the lecture program, followed by question and answer session.



Water Governance and Institutional Reforms in Water Sector

Mr. Nazeer Ahmed Essani, General Manager (Transition) Sindh Irrigation Drainage Authority (SIDA) delivered his lecture in the seminar on "Water Governance and Institutional Reforms in Water Sector". Mr. Essani said prosperity is linked with water and fair distribution of water, which will alleviate the poverty in the society. He said that fair distribution of water can only be possible by materializing institutional reforms in water sector of the country while SIDA is doing its best by bringing such reforms at grass root level in the designated districts of Sindh Province. He shared details and illustrated reports of water mechanism of country and suggested different research areas to the students of USPCAS-W. Faculty and students of USPCAS-W participated in lecture program which was followed by question and answer session.



Application of Data Analysis

Dr. Sajjad Ahmed, Technical Advisor to USPCAS-W, from University of Nevada, USA conducted a lecture on "Application of Data Analysis" in one of the graduate seminar series. Dr. Sajjad briefed the students from the technical aspects of data analysis, its impact and efficiency. The session conducted in ORIC Laboratory participated by MS and PhD students of USPCAS-W.



Introduction to ArcGIS Software Training

Mr. Mobin ur Rehman, Director Business Development, ER Solutions, Karachi conducted a training, in graduate seminar, on usage of ArcGIS software. He technically briefed the students for usage of ArcGIS Software, its applications and impact. He further involved all the students for practical usage of ArcGIS software and assigned to students to exercise. Faculty and Students of USPCAS-W participated in this training.

Establishment of Labs

In this quarter, there were two laboratories established in existing premises of the center i.e. GIS & Remote Sensing Lab and Computer & Software Lab. The up-gradation of the labs would be continued throughout the project period.



Student Activities:



Study trip to Manchar Lake

Manchar Lake is located at a distance of around 170 kilometers from MUET on west side of the River Indus, in district Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan. It is the major freshwater lake in Pakistan and one of Asia's largest. MS/PhD Students visited lake on February 26, 2016. Purpose of the visit was to get exposure of the current conditions of the lake, collect data for rapid environmental impact assessment and get GIS coordinates for mapping of the water quality profiles.

Study Trip to Model Agriculture Farm

Students visited Model Agriculture Farm at Tando Jan Muhammad, Mirpurkhas. The field visit aims at provide students the first-hand knowledge and exposure to the efficient water management practices in the area. The city is famous for its water management and high production of fruits and vegetables.



Society of Water Resources Managers

Society for Water Managers launched by the students of U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) on the occasion of World Water Day 2016. President Daniyal Hassan, briefed about aims and objectives of the society. Whereas Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili Vice Chancellor MUET, Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari- Project Director USPCAS-W, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry and others appreciated this students' initiative. The newly launched society is the first of its kind in the country which will pave the way for networking of water practitioners, learning and sharing platform for water professionals and also will work for water advocacy.



Picture Gallery:



USAID Financial Team meets PMU Staff of USPCAS-W



Delegation from USPCAS-ASF University of Agriculture, Faisalabad meets V.C. MUET



Dr. Kamran Ansari delivers presentations on Research Interests



Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting of USPCAS-W held at MUET Vice Chancellor Secretariat



MS Student delivers her proposed research project presentation



Ph.D. Students of (EnvEng) in International Symposium on Entrepreneurship at IBA-Karachi



Panoramic view of USPCAS-W Building inside: Construction work in Progress

Disclaimer:

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