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Centers for Advanced Studies in Water**



Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro

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Water SDG

**CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION**

**Ensure availability and sustainable
management of water and
sanitation for all**

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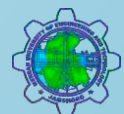
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Executive Seminar on Water SDG



MUET under the auspices of USPCAS-W organized an executive seminar on “Achieving Water Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities” at Karachi.

The objective of the seminar was to highlight issues, challenges and opportunities in achieving SDGs, especially the water SDG and its targets. It also aimed at sensitizing and connecting different stakeholders to direct their efforts in achieving water SDG. Syed Murad Ali Shah, Senior Minister for Energy, Finance, Irrigation, Planning and Development (P&D), Government of Sindh, chaired the inaugural session. The key speakers of the session included: Mr. Steve Urquhart, Global Ambassador University of Utah (UU) and Former Utah State Senator, Mr. Craig G. Buck, USAID Deputy Mission Director Sindh and Balochistan and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor

MUET, Jamshoro.

Dr. Sikandar Ali Mandhro, Minister for Environment and Coastal Development Authority, Government of Sindh (GoS) chaired the technical session. The speakers included: Prof. Tariq Banuri, Associate Director USPCAS-W-UU, Mr. Juan Carlos Negrette, Director Global Health-UU, Ms. Rehana Ali Memon, Secretary Planning & Development Department-GoS, Dr. Steve Burain, Director USPCAS-W-UU, and Prof. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Director USPCAS-W-MUET Jamshoro.

The speakers briefed the audience about SDGs in general and Water SDG in particular. They highlighted the issues and challenges pertaining to achieving the Water SDG. They also put forth their ideas, strategies and proposed action plans to overcome these challenges and how USPCAS-W at MUET can play central part in it.





U.S. Consul General and USAID Deputy Mission Director Visit USPCAS-W



U.S. Consul General Mr. Brian Heath visited USPCAS-W and congratulated the students and faculty of the Center, 18 students including 04 girls and 03 faculty members selected for Spring Exchange Scholarship. Mr. Heath said that USPCAS-W is part of USAID's \$127 million investment to develop innovative, practical solutions to Pakistan's energy, water, agriculture, and food security challenges. The University of Utah is providing technical assistance to the water

center, to educate and train the next generation of water sustainability leaders by improving MUET's technical and institutional capacities to deliver high-quality education and applied research. Mr. Craig G. Buck-USAID Deputy Mission Director, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili – Vice Chancellor MUET, Prof. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari- Project Director USPCAS-W, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry – the Chief of Party, from University of Utah, USA were also present in the event.

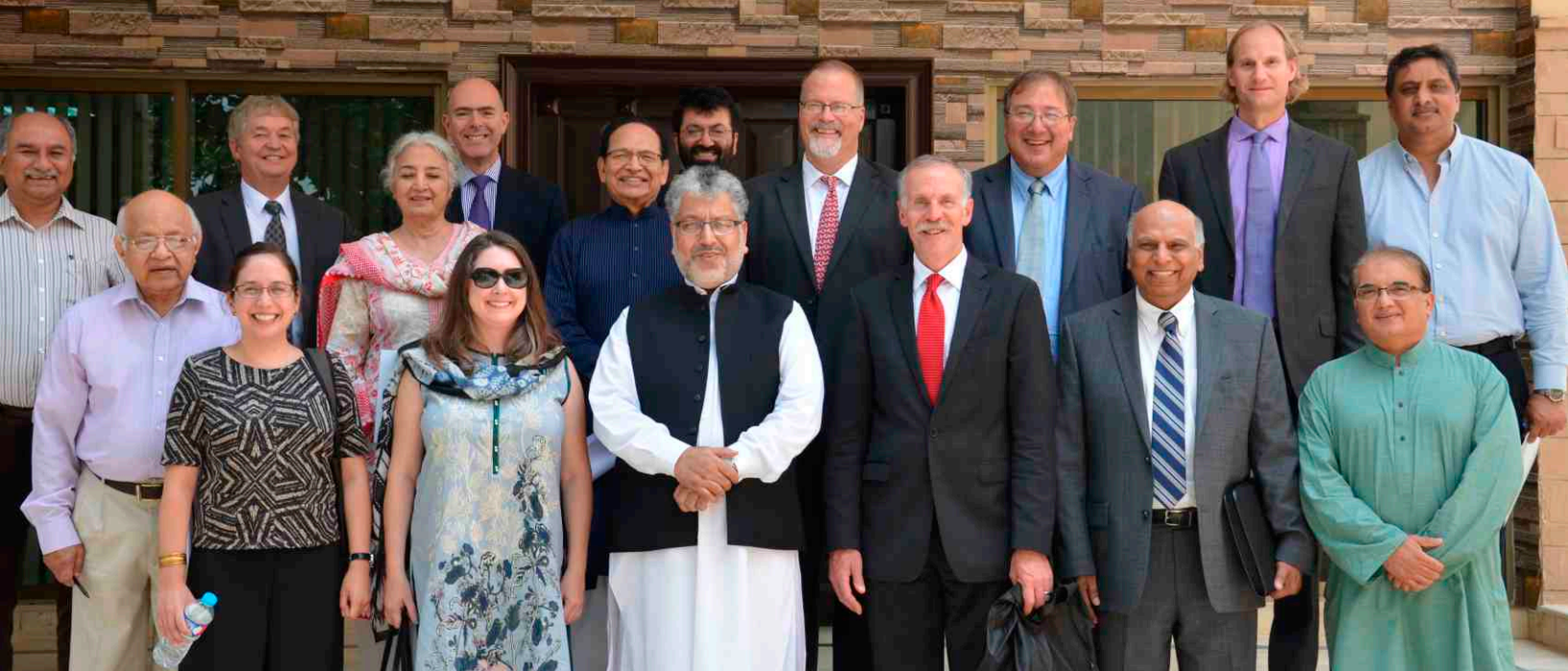


Visit of UU Senior Advisory Board

A delegation of Senior Advisory Board (SAB), University of Utah (UU), USA comprising of **Dr. Michael Hardman**-Distinguished Professor & Chief Global Officer, **Dr. Bob Adler** - Professor & Dean College of Law, **Mr. Juan Carlos Negrette** - Director of Global Health Program, **Dr. Richard Brown** - Professor & Dean College of Engineering, **Ms. Khawar Mumtaz** – Member USPCAS-W Board of

Governors (BoG) and Ex- Chairperson National Commission of Status of Women (NCSW) Pakistan, **Mr. Khalid Mohatdullah** an eminent water expert and member BoG USPCASW, visited Pakistan and had meetings with parliamentarians, ministers, media persons, government officials, business community, representatives from academia, industry, corporate sector and





civil society organizations. The purpose of SAB visit was to provide strategic guidance to USPCAS-W and advocate the overall goal of the Center among relevant stakeholders to achieve the sustainability of the center. The UU SAB members also spoke at the symposium organized by USPCAS-W on "Reforming Higher Education for Meeting 21st Century Challenges" held at Senate Hall, MUET Jamshoro. The symposium aimed at raising awareness about the role of higher education institutions in advancing sustainable development agenda in Pakistan. UU SAB delegation met with Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Government of Pakistan at Islamabad. The delegation expressed their support for the Minister's preferred concept of the Knowledge based Economy. The delegation met with the selected parliamentarians of Pakistan

including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senator Nasreen Jalil and others at Islamabad to discuss prospects under water SDG in Pakistan. Moreover, the SAB participated in the workshop at Higher Education Commission of Pakistan at Islamabad and also had meeting with green media, in which some selected journalists and editors participated. In the end, the delegation had courtesy call meeting with Mr. David Hale, US Ambassador to Pakistan at Islamabad. The delegation shared the depth and breadth understanding of USPCASW project and US strategic investment in Pakistan's development and also showed their interest in global cooperation particularly the interest in undertaking other similar assignments in Pakistan. The UU SAB delegation also visited Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law (SZABUL) Karachi.





UU Mission - July 2016

The University of Utah (UU), USA has partnered with MUET in its efforts in preparing the next generation of water sustainability leaders by improving latter's technical and institutional capacities in delivering high quality education and applied research. In addition to long-term capacity building, both partner universities have embarked on inculcating best practices of faculty members and students

through participatory seminars. The UU Mission comprising of Dr. Steve Burian, Dr. Tariq Banuri, Dr. Mercedes Ward, Dr. Christine Pomeroy, Dr. Mike Barber, and Mr. Matt Kosko arrived in July 2016 at USPCAS-W MUET, as a part of its routine activity mentioned in the agreement to provide technical assistance to the Center. The mission conducted the following activities:



Effective Teaching Workshop

Effective Teaching Workshop is a continuing activity of the UU Mission which started with anchor workshop that was held at USPCAS-W in June 2015 and followed by another activity 'Effective Teaching Boot Camp' that was delivered as part of the 2015 December mission. As a continuous process, the Effective Teaching Workshop for the July 2016 mission focused on continuous course, teaching improvement and experiential learning.



Curriculum Streamlining

To bring curriculum reforms is one of the main components of this center, in this regard, this mission held a meeting with the concerned to review the curriculum in which program outcomes were reviewed and revised. The mission also reviewed and finalized the course syllabi and the course schedule for all program streams.





Research Group Meetings

Building on the research groups established during May 2016 UU Mission to USPCAS-W MUET, the July mission facilitated three research group meetings. The 1st meeting was devoted to sharing the research program maps created prior to the arrival of the Mission wherein each faculty member described their past, current, and planned research activities they wish to pursue. The 2nd meeting involved self-critiquing group concept notes. The third session focused on developing an implementation plan for the project described in the concept note.



Research Coordination Workshop

The goal of this workshop was to establish a research coordination process for the faculty to share research activities, stimulate creativity, and build collaborations. The workshop was structured in seven sessions, including seminars, small group breakouts, and discussions. This effort will be further supported by mentoring, partnerships, and collaborations facilitated by USPCAS-W.



Preparations for intake of Fall-2016 Batch

The mission was briefed about the status of new admissions and preparatory/refresher courses, including possible instructor assignments. The meeting also discussed the mentoring and twinning arrangements for the next semester.



Faculty-Students Mentoring

This innovative initiative aims at strengthening the faculty-student advisee relationships. In order to develop a shared understanding of how the research supervision should work, smaller research group meetings were organized with each faculty member who are supervising students' research. These meetings were also attended by the respective students of each supervisor.



Graduate Students Workshop

This workshop comprised of two parts; First part was held with those students who were selected for the exchange program. They were briefed that how should they prepare themselves to meet the technical, social and cultural challenges while at UU, USA. They were also given understanding in detail about their overall program during exchange visit. Second part was held with those students who were not selected for the 1st round of exchange program. This session was meant to provide clear and specific guidelines for the criteria to be used for selecting the spring exchanges.





RESEARCH

Research Grant Awards:

The center has issued 2nd call of proposals and this time the center has invited Concept Notes for research projects aimed at addressing water-related issues impeding socio economic development of Pakistan. Among others, the concept notes are sought on following issues:

- ✍ Water scarcity
- ✍ Water quality
- ✍ Water governance
- ✍ Agriculture water management
- ✍ Groundwater management
- ✍ Urban and irrigation water systems
- ✍ Adaptation to climate change

After review and scrutiny of the concept notes, the successful researchers would be asked to submit the detailed proposal.

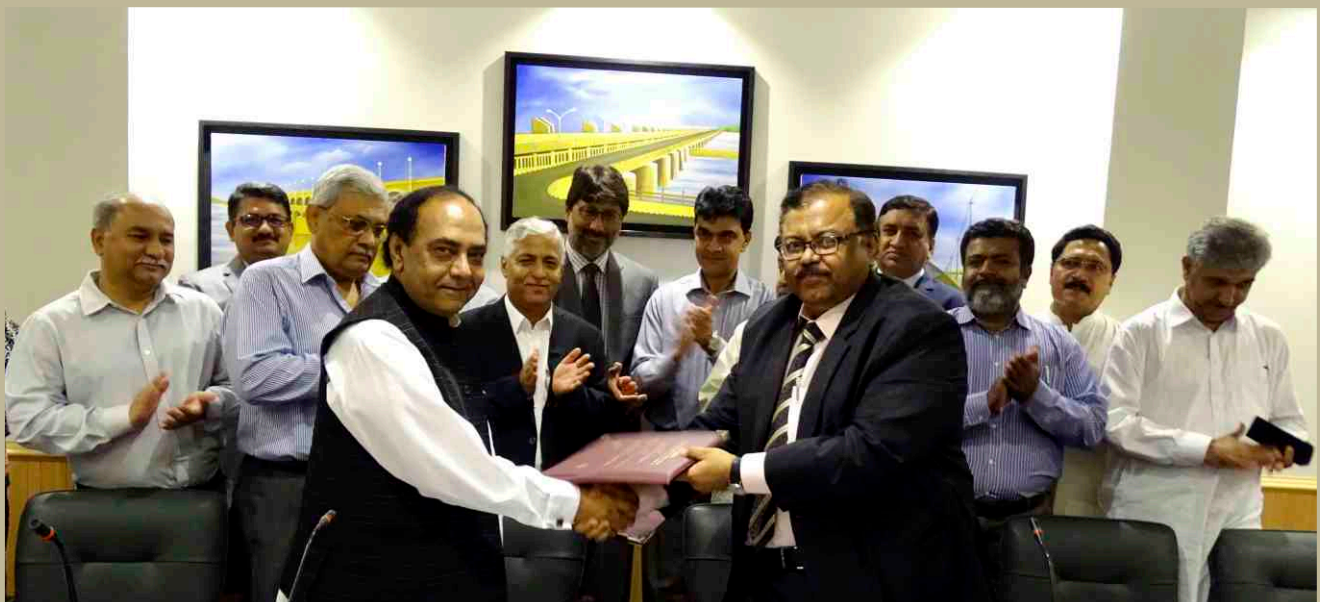


PARTNERSHIPS

MoU with Sindh Irrigation Department

USPCAS-W believes in partnership building and collaborative efforts to achieve the broader objectives related to water governance in the country. In this connection, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh. The MoU aims at enhancing capacity of officials of the department. The MoU agreement signing ceremony held at Karachi; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili – Vice Chancellor MUET and Syed Zaheer Hyder Shah – Secretary Sindh Irrigation Department inked the agreement. The MoU agreement was witnessed by Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari – Project Director USPCAS-W and Engr. Zarif Iqbal Khoro – Superintending Engineer of Sindh Irrigation

Department. Vice Chancellor MUET Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili said that this MoU will contribute in the collaboration of University-Industry-Government (UIG) framework which represents triple helix model of effective relations among all of three sectors. He said MUET will work beyond the agreement and through this water center, efforts for research and reforms in the irrigation department will be made to achieve collective and common good. Syed Zaheer Hyder Shah, Secretary Sindh Irrigation Department, said that this MoU is the first of its kind on the part of Sindh Government, which is conceived in current Annual Development Plan (ADP) by any of the government departments.





Technology Venture Commercialization (TVC)

Standing Committee on Business-Academia Collaboration

A standing committee on Business-Academia Collaboration on Water has been formed through joint efforts of the Center and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FPCCI), to carry forward the agenda of business-academia collaboration on

sustainable solutions to water related issues. The committee will serve as an interactive and collaborative arrangement between scientists/researchers and business entities for proposing technology-led solutions to overcome challenges of water scarcity, quality, access and management.



Seminar on “How to Transform Ideas into a Viable Business”

A seminar “How to Transform Ideas into a Viable Business, was organized by the Standing Committee on Business-Academia Collaboration on Water (SCBACW). The purpose of the seminar was to sensitize and aware the MUET faculty and students about Technology Venture Commercialization (TVC), process of initiating and following through the patenting of new developments, and capitalizing on the research ideas. Dr. Zeeshan Khatri, Associate Professor at MUET Textile Department was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Khatri said that the successful entrepreneur is the one who has innovative ideas and potential to transfer ideas into a viable business and take the existing problems as the business opportunities. On the occasion, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry - Chief of Party USPCAS-W UU, Dr. Tahua Hussain Ali, Pro Vice Chancellor MUET, Prof. Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Senior Vice President of the Committee, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Secretary of the Committee, and Mr. Awais Anwar Chandio, shared their views.



GENDER EQUITY



Oath taking ceremony of Executive Council of Society for Women Engineers



Society for Women Engineers (SWE) founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization in the United States with members from different countries across the globe. In this connection, MUET in collaboration with the Center established Sindh Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (Professional). The society is the motivating force that inspires women to choose engineering as career aspiration and be recognized for their life-changing

contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders in this area. Following office bearers took oath on this occasion;

Dr. Khadija Qureshi - President
Ms. Shabnam Baloch - Vice President
Ms. Uzma Imran - Secretary
Ms. Hadiqa Maqsood - Event Coordinator
Ms. Nafisa Zaki - Media Coordinator
Ms. Quratul Ain - Treasurer
Ms. Yasmin Jamali - Executive Member
Ms. Attiya Baqai - Executive Member
Ms. Sahib Khatoon - Executive Member

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili said that MUET has always been a lead public university when it comes to promote gender equity. MUET is the first public university adopted official gender equity policy and established baby day care center.



Sports Event to Promote Gender Equity

USPCAS-W Gender Equity Committee organized a friendly Badminton Tournament among the Center's faculty and management staff. The purpose of this event was to create enabling environment for both genders and develop team building. Dr. Ghous Bux Khaskheli, Dean Faculty of Architecture & Civil Engineering and Engr. Saleem Ahmed Memon, Director Sports inaugurated the tournament. The final match of the tournament was played between the Green and Red teams. Green

team consisting of Mr. Shahid Panhwar and Ms. Maria Memon from administration office won the match from Red team comprised of faculty members; Ms. Rakhshanda and Mr. Rehan. On this occasion, the shields of appreciation were presented to the focal person and members of the Gender Committee. Almost all faculty members including senior professors and project management staff of the Center participated in the tournament.





Orientation on Gender Equity Policy to New Batch

The new batch of students of USPCAS-W were given a detailed orientation about MUET gender policy, USPCAS-W gender equity plan, role of gender committee and anti-harassment policy. It was an interactive session with students in which their role as a partner to strengthen center's initiatives to promote gender equity was highlighted.



Social Tea with Girl Students

USPCAS-W Gender Equity Committee organized a get-together for female students at girls' hostel, on September 22, 2016. Two female students from 2015 batch shared their stories and year-long experience at the center. The senior students' counseled the juniors to work hard and avail the most out of this given

opportunity. Students of the new girls hostel shared their issues and suggested possible solutions to Project Management Unit (PMU). The discussion between the students and PMU was quite helpful and productive. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari – Project Director directed the PMU team for early solutions of the issues faced by the girls in the hostel.



Development of Gender Action Plan for Fall Semester

In order to implement the Center's gender equity plan, series of activities have been conducted. The efforts have been institutionalized to the university level which has crystalized in the form of such actions as: passing of official gender policy, registration of Society of Women Engineers (Professional and Students Chapter), notifying the gender equity committee and

appointment of sexual harassment officer. Regular meetings of SWE and Gender Equity Committee are the key strengths to take the gender equity agenda further. The Gender Equity Committee in consultation with the technical experts of University of Utah has developed the detailed gender action plan for the Fall 2016 semester.

USPCAS-W Gender Policy Objectives

- Promote diversity and inclusiveness amongst its faculty, student and staff
- Reduce gender inequalities in access to research and education



Exchange Program



First Cohort of Students of USPCAS-W arrived at UU, USA

First group of 18 MS/PhD students including four female students along with three-faculty members of the Center left for University of Utah (UU), United States of America (USA) in mid-August. The faculty and students will spend four months at the

UU and will be facilitated and supported by UU Professors for catering their teaching and research needs. The students would attend specific courses and work on their research projects in co-supervision of their respective professors.



International Day of Peace Celebrated

Society of Water Managers (SWM) of the Center organized an event on the eve of International Day of Peace on the theme, "Water and Peace". Mr. Nazeer Essani, General Manager (Transition) Sindh Irrigation Drainage Authority (SIDA) delivered lecture

on, "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the Building Blocks of Peace". The event included speech and picture competition among the students of the Center. In the end of the activity, shields and certificates were distributed among the participants.





Graduate Seminars:

As a part of the regular graduate seminar on Water Security in Pakistan and student exposure to water-related issues and challenges, the following activities were held:

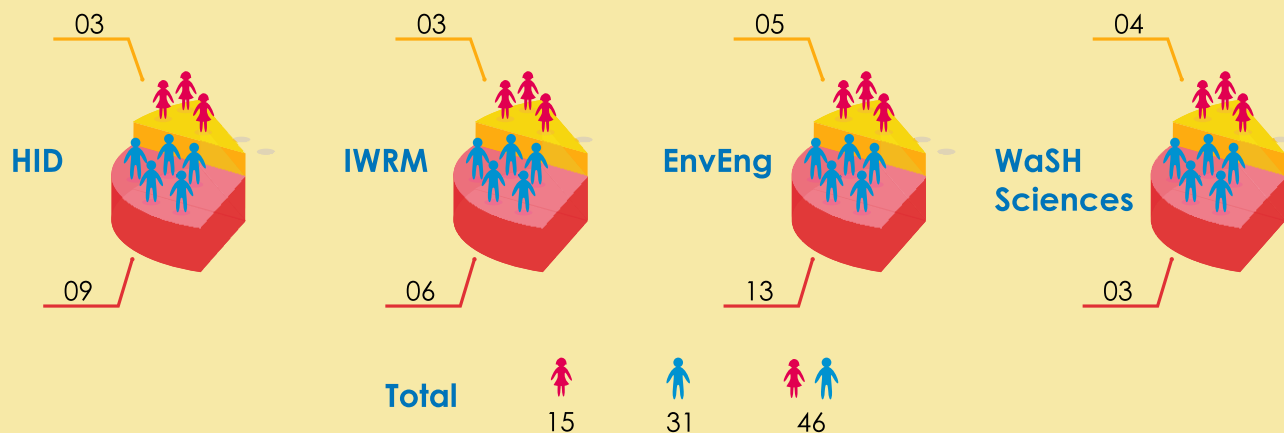
Students of the Center watched a Documentary "World without Water" followed by interactive question and answer session that was facilitated by Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Chandio, Director Administration of the Center.

Dr. Arjumand Zaidi Senior Research Fellow of the Center delivered lecture on Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Hunza River Basin.



Fall 2016 MS Batch Joins the Center

The enrollment process of all selected students was completed in July 2016. Total 46 students joined this Center for MS program including 15 female students.



Welcome and orientation day for the second batch of MS students of the Center was held at USPCAS-W, MUET on August 29, 2016 followed by start of regular academic session.

