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**BY 2030 EVERYONE
WILL HAVE SAFE WATER TO DRINK**

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Partnering Universities:



MEHRAN UNIVERSITY
of Engineering & Technology
Jamshoro, Pakistan



Prioritizing Water Research Agenda

1st Meeting of National Water Research Network

The first meeting of National Water Research Network (NWRN) held at MUET on October 24, 2016. The meeting was participated by water-related experts and stakeholders including the representatives from Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) Islamabad, Ministry of Water and Power, and academia from eight different universities of the country.

It was pledged that the NWRN will serve as an important platform for developing shared understanding of water sector agenda, supporting the achievement of water Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and sharing of knowledge and best practices for capacity building of water sector professionals.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor MUET chaired the meeting and viewed that the network will be very helpful in bringing together the required knowledge and capacities to address the water sector challenges of Pakistan.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party USPCAS-W, University of Utah said that NWRN can make meaningful contributions in prioritizing the water sector research agenda and the network is to develop its research map around the six targets of water SDG. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR said that the water research-policy interface can be improved by reducing the existing gaps among relevant stakeholders.

Dr. Ashraf was also nominated as a Chairman of the three-member steering committee of the network.

Dr. Bakhshal Lashari, Project Director USPCAS-W concluded the meeting by summarizing the discussion and listing down the next steps for moving forward with the NWRN. Dr. Lashari was nominated as secretary of the network committee.

Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar and Dr. Altaf Ali Siyal, senior faculty members of USPCAS-W also shared their views by highlighting the importance of collaborative research in the context of water SDG and business-academia linkages.

Other participants of the meeting included: Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor MUET, Dr. Qazi Tallat, Deputy Advisor on Energy from Ministry of Water and Power - Government of Pakistan Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashiq Kharal, Director CEWRE - UET Lahore, Prof. Dr. Hamza Farooq Gabriel, Director Regional Center NUST Islamabad, Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Chairman University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Dr. Tahir Sarwar, Chairman Department of Water Management -University of Agriculture Peshawar, Dr. Shafqat Ejaz, Director NED University Karachi, Mr. Imdad Hussain Khoso, faculty member from Lasbella University Uthal, Mr. Iqtidar Hussain, faculty member from Karakoram International University, Gilgit, Mr. Haris Akram Bhatti, faculty member from NED UET, and Dr. Kamran Ansari and Shahid Panhwar from USPCAS-W.



UU Mission - December 2016

The University of Utah (UU) mission led by Prof. Dr. Steve Burian, Director USPCAS-W, UU included Dr. Tariq Banuri, Prof. Timothy Gates, Dr. Jennifer Weidhaas, Dr. Allan Andales, Dr. Scott Benson, Dr. Sajjad Ahmad and Dr. M. Aslam Chaudhry. During the week-long visit from December 11- 17, 2016, the mission conducted following workshops, seminars and brainstorming sessions for capacity building of center's faculty, students and staff.



Research Collaboration Workshop

The goal of the Research Collaboration Workshop was to advance the USPCAS-W Research Agenda. The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Review and discuss ongoing research projects and research strengths related to water challenges and opportunities in Pakistan
2. Identify and initiate individual research activities and coordinate into synergistic research program
3. Stimulate the development of synergy between MUET researchers U.S. researchers, and the broader water research community in Pakistan and the world
4. Identify ways to balance cutting edge research with immediate impact on policy, practice, and people





Grant Writing Workshop

The goal of the Grant Writing Workshop was to introduce strategies and techniques to make good grant proposals. The workshop focused on the following objectives:

1. Critically examine proposals and describe aspects that reviewers like and dislike.
2. Present clear and coordinated research questions that address proposed objectives and/or hypotheses.
3. Craft a compelling story that frames the research project.
4. Create flow charts and illustrative diagrams that present project objectives and activities in clever, interesting, and effective ways.
5. Develop a message and use the concept of resonance to effectively deliver the message so reviewers and sponsors comprehend the aims and impacts of the proposed work.



Teaching Workshop - Helping Students to Help Themselves

The goal of this workshop was to improve the ability of faculty to motivate students, help assess their ability to learn independently and more broadly provide clear expectations for performance and procedures for assessment using rubrics.



Graduate Student Workshop

The goal of the Graduate Student Workshop was to provide research development training for all students of the Center. The objectives the workshop were to:

1. Provide critical feedback on research presentations to strengthen the product and impact of the work.
2. Provide suggestions and feedback to improve thesis document preparation.
3. Provide feedback on proposed topics and align topics with MUET faculty, U.S. faculty, and USPCASW research agenda.
4. Provide guidance for proposal development, literature review, and preliminary research.





Strengthening Research-Policy Interface



USPCASW-MUET and the university of Utah, USA in partnership with Government of Balochistan, IUCN Pakistan and Taragee Foundation organized a two-day Expert Consultation Seminar on “Strengthening Research-Policy Interface for Improving Water Management in Balochistan” held in Quetta.

Mr. Muhammad Khan Achakzai, Governor Balochistan was the Chief Guest of the event. The participants of the event hailed from the federal and provincial governments, donors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and media.

Mr. Achakzai in his keynote remarks said that the scarce water resources of the Province were relentlessly exploited beyond their renewal potential causing an alarming rate of depletion of water table in many natural aquifers. He said that the floodwater is the only potential resource which can be exploited by diverting water to lands for conserving in the soil or by constructing dams to create storage reservoirs. He further said that the construction of delay action dams and check dams on small streams and gorges may help both in increasing the groundwater recharge and reduce the occurrence and the intensity of the flash floods.

Dr. Tariq Banuri, Associate Director USPCAS-W and, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) chaired the technical sessions which focused on strategies to achieve water SDG and water research priorities in Balochistan. While the working groups deliberated upon managing water scarcity, controlling groundwater mining and responding to climate change on second day of the event.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor MUET, Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Project Director USPCASW- MUET, Dr. Steve Burain, Director USPCASW- UU, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party USPCASW-UU, Engr. Khalid Mohtadullah, Water Expert-UU, and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, Technical Advisor USPCAS-W MUET spoke in the seminar. Representatives from Government of Balochistan Mr. Sher Yar Taj, Secretary - Planning and Development Department and Syed Abu Akif, Secretary - Ministry of Climate Change, Mr. Amjad Rashid, Chairperson - IUCN Pakistan Members' Committee, Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative - IUCN Pakistan and other stakeholders participated in the seminar.



International Conference on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development



The USPCAS-W actively participated in organizing the 4th International Conference on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (EESD) at MUET with collaborative support from Coventry University, United Kingdom.

The conference attracted researchers, engineers, scientists and academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world who presented their research contributions and development activities in the energy sector and helped identify issues and challenges as well as future development strategies. Besides Pakistan, the delegates from United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Turkey, Taiwan and other countries participated in the conference.

Inaugurating the conference, Syed Wamiq Bokhari, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pakistan Petroleum Limited highlighted the current energy situation of Pakistan and stressed on the need for integrated long-term energy planning in Pakistan. Joining him were Prof. Dr. Corrado Clini, former Minister for Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, Dr. Jonathan Daniel Nixon, University

of Coventry, UK, and Engineer Amjad Ali Awan, CEO, Alternative Energy Development Board of Pakistan as the guests of honor.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor MUET welcomed all the delegates and participants of the conference. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party USPCAS-W, University of Utah, USA, deliberated on water-related sustainable development goals and water scarcity in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Khanji Harijan, Chairman of the conference gave an overview of the conference while Syed Murtaza Haider Rizvi from Sindh Engro Coal Mining spoke about the coal mining project. Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Professor of Environment Engineering at USPCAS-W presented the recommendations of the conference in the concluding session.





Partnerships



MoU on Water Governance with ACIAR

USPCASW-MUET signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australian Center for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) Pakistan for the project, "Efficient Participatory Irrigation Institutions to Support Productive and Sustainable Agriculture in South Asia". Dr. Munawar Raza Kazmi, Country Manager ACIAR, Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Project Director USPCAS-W signed the agreement whereas; Prof. Dr. G.B. Khaskheli, Dean Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering MUET and other Center's staff witnessed the signing ceremony. On the occasion, Dr. Kazmi said that this is a three-year project and is commissioned by the University of South Australia, which will be implemented in two countries; Pakistan and India. Prof. Khaskheli said that water scarcity has emerged as a global phenomenon so it needs to be treated globally. He said that Pakistan and India shared the similar problems of water governance, cropping pattern, ecosystem, and environmental conditions, whereas this MoU will help to improve the water governance issues of both countries. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Project Director said that USPCAS-W at MUET is state-of-the art center, which is endeavoring to solve the contemporary water problems of the country by developing human capital.

He said that the water center is equipped with modern water laboratories to conduct applied research on water sector in Pakistan. He further said that MoU with ACIAR will pave the way for USPCAS-W to work for water governance in South Asia region. Officials of MUET and USPCAS-W attended the MoU signing ceremony.





Capacity Building of Stakeholders



The Center strives for capacity building of the stakeholders in various water-related areas. In this regard, an agreement was signed with the Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh for enhancing the capacity of the department's officials. Accordingly, the Center organized first five-day training workshop in December on "Advance Training in Hydraulic Modeling Using HEC-RAS" for the officials of the Department includes Superintending Engineers (S.Es), Executive Engineers (XENs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AXENs), Deputy Directors and others. The training was imparted by Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, University of Nevada, USA who is Technical Advisor to USPCAS-W and other faculty members of the Center. Dr. Ahmad believes that this training will enable the officials to perform following advanced modeling and analysis functions using HEC-RAS:

Designing a Stable Channel, Dam Break Analysis, Modeling Pump Stations, Computing Scour at Bridges, Sediment Impact Analysis and Sediment Transport Analysis.

Mr. Irshad Ahmed Memon, Chief Engineer Kotri Barrage was the chief guest in the conclusion and certificate distribution ceremony. He said that such capacity building workshops play a vital role for the capacity building. Engr. Memon thanked the management of for organizing such a successful training workshop. Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Project Director of the Center said that this Center plans to start 5-6 month diploma program and short certification course in near future for the sustainable capacity building of the water stakeholders. He said that the Center also provides the need-based training and consultancy to the relevant departments.



Women Resource Center Launched

Women Resource Center (WRC) has been established under the implementation plan of MUET's Gender Equity Policy (GEP) at the University. Dr. M. Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the WRC said that MUET administration is striving hard to empower women and recently the university has formed Gender Equity Committee (GEC) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Sindh Chapter. He acknowledged the assistance of USAID and its sponsored water research center - USPCAS-W, which is in-fact the driving force

behind the GEP of the University. The WRC is to help in implementing the GEP as well as in transforming policy principles into action plans.





Graduate Seminars



Dr. Arif Anwar, Head, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), delivered his presentation on "Pakistan's Water Apportionment Accord 1991 - 25 years on".



Dr. Khalid Riaz, Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad conducted Graduate Seminar on "Water Management Planning in Pakistan: Social and Technical Perspective."



Dr. Mubarik Ali, Member Food Security and Climate Change, Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad conducted graduate seminar on, "Impact of Climate Change on Meeting Water and Food Security SDGs in Pakistan."



Society of Water Managers' Event

Dr. Kamran Ansari, Deputy Director USPCAS-W conducts session on "Technical Writing for Scientific Journals", organized by Society of Water Managers (SWM) of the Center.





Poster Competition

Poster competition among the MS students of Environment Engineering (ENV.ENG.) and Water, Sanitation and Health (WaSH) Sciences departments of the Center was held at ORIC, MUET Jamshoro. Total 24 MS students from both disciplines participated in the competition. Dr. Sara Hassan, Assistant Professor of ENV.ENG, was the organizer of the event. MS students of ENV.ENG, displayed the posters on different physical, chemical and biological processing units on water and climate whereas the students of WaSH Sciences presented their posters on chemistry and biology for water and sanitation.

Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari, Dr. Kamran Ansari, Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, and other faculty members of the Center visited the competition.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party, University of Utah was the chief guest at the certificate distribution ceremony. He lauded the efforts of the students who participated in the competition and appreciated the organizers of the event. According to the decision of the jury, Ms. Sumra Arain of WaSH Sciences and Ms. Huma Tariq of ENV.ENG. both got first position, Mr. Muhammad Raffae and Ms. Jassica Lawrence of ENV.ENG. secured second position. From WaSH Sciences, Ms. Pashmina Iftikhar and Ms. Shaista Mubark got second position and Mr. Doulat Ram of ENV.ENG. got the third position in the competition. The position holders were awarded the certificates of merits, whereas other participants were also given the certificates of participation.

Faculty-Student Exchange Experiences

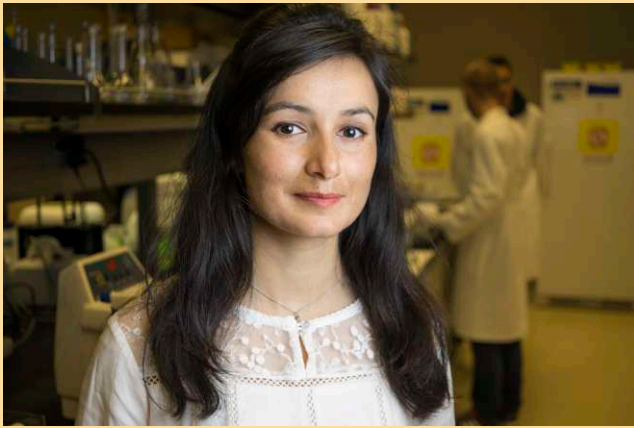
Faculty Exchange Experiences

Exchange visit at University of Utah UU, USA, has paved the way to enhance my capacities in all three sectors of my job i.e. teaching; research and services. During the exchange visit, I explored the beauty of the United States by visiting national parks in the States. Hiking on Antelope Islands and camping in San Rafael swell were my breathtaking and ecstatic experiences.



Mr. Waqas Ahmed, Assistant Professor USPCAS-W shares his exchange experiences.

Student Exchange Experiences



"I'm from Gilgit-Baltistan, the northern part of Pakistan. After completion of my graduation in Islamabad, I was selected in USPCAS-W for MS Environment Engineering. My research field is wastewater treatment and during my visit at UU, I got very much support from the Chemistry Department of UU, where I utilized the facilities of laboratories for my research goal."

Iram Sifat, MS (Environmental Engineering)



"My exchange visit at UU was a life changing experience, it boosted my confidence level beyond my thinking limits and now I can do so much more than I had ever thought."

Bushra Danish Talpur - MS. (Environmental Engineering)



"My exchange visit was an incredible experience, never to be forgotten. It shaped a part of my character and change my view about life. I had the best time of my life in the University of Utah, USA. Exchange opportunity is to do and see things you could never dreamed of."

Muhammad Touseef, MS (IWRM)



"During exchange visit to the University of Utah, I learned many things which include how to conduct research in an efficient manner. Along with research skills, exchange helped me to enhance my communication skills, cross-cultural interaction skills and networking & collaboration skills."

My best experience in Utah was to enjoy the snow. I also visited two different cities of two different states, but I found Utah as my favourite state."

Sultan Shaikh, MS (Environmental Engineering)



Student Exchange Experiences

"I enjoyed relevant course work and developed skills for using different softwares, which can be used effectively for stormwater Management and watershed modeling in Pakistan."

Dahaji Mal, MS (HID)

"Visit to UU was an amazing experience for me. It was not only my technical capabilities which were polished during the visit but the tour overwhelmed me with new opportunities that enhanced my personality, attitude, communication skills and management abilities."

Moazzam Ali Rind MS, (HID)



"I had a wonderful research experience. it was a great opportunity in order to achieve my research goals because labs of the University of Utah were fully equipped with modern and latest scientific equipments. I wish for better relationship with the University of Utah."

Muhammad Muqeet,
PhD Scholar (Environmental Engineering)

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MUET, Jamshoro

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