



PROSPERITY

SDG

Sustainable Development Goals



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDGs Annual Report 2024

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Sustainable Development Goals



Talib S. KARIM

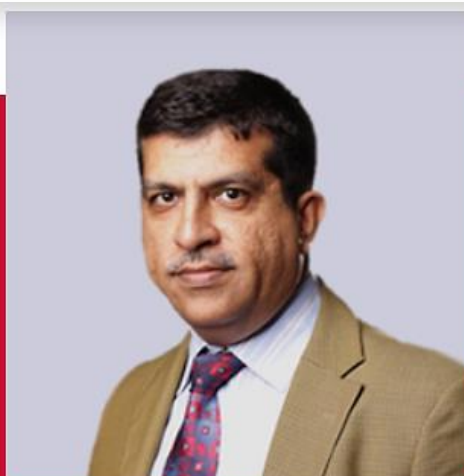
President
Institute of Business Management



President’s Message – Talib S. Karim

I **welcome everyone** who is passionate about pursuing higher education and look forward to completing a nationally accredited and globally accepted recognized degree at the Institute of Business Management. We promise quality-oriented and rewarding professional and personal growth opportunities in your journey with our Institute. Over the last decades, we have worked dedicatedly to fulfill our mission and deliver on our promise to develop global leaders. Our unwavering commitment to invest in people, systems, and infrastructure contributes immensely towards enhancing our capabilities. The institution over the years has received quite a few international and national rankings and accreditation and has been ranked and qualified for several local, national, and international agencies like Universal, NBAEC, CIEC, APQN, NACTE, PEC, and relevant bodies. Our linkages with leading educational institutions worldwide continue to strengthen. More than 40 students went on exchange programs for a full semester each last year to partner universities in Italy, Georgia, North Cyprus, Morocco, Malaysia, Thailand, China, South Korea, and Japan. Tuition and accommodation costs were fully covered in most cases. With over 7,500 graduates already working for MNCs or national companies or spearheading their own enterprises, there is hardly any doubt that IoBM has come a long way. The feedback that we periodically solicit from institutions, and our alumni, gives us comfort that the hard work of our dedicated academic and management personnel benefits thousands of talented individuals who have walked through the corridors of this institution. At IoBM, we provide merit and need-based scholarships to students to cover up to 100% of tuition fees. We offer an environment that enables constructive learning avenues for the students to develop themselves as lifelong learners with a sense of citizenship and empathy to serve the global community. We promote a culture of research and investigation across the board. There are many platforms where research and advocacy are supported by the institution in the shape of faculty research grants, student research societies, and institutionally sponsored research symposiums and conferences. We currently have four research journals and three of them have received HEC recognition. We value all aspects of ensuring that our student community, faculty and staff, and community get the best from our services. That is why we remain committed to reshaping the destiny of our potential youth and executive student body and the country at large.

Rector's Message – Prof. Tariq Rahim Soomro



Prof. Tariq Rahim Soomro
Rector
Institute of Business Management

At IoBM sustainability is not an aspiration but a fundamental business strategy that the university and its stakeholders have embraced in its development path. We understand that ideas like climate change, quality education, outreach and equitable resource management cannot be fought within a single country. Many of our faculty and students collaborate in projects and research addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals; we emphasize creativity with sustainability.

IoBM on its part is working tirelessly for the promotion and strengthening of its stature as a center of excellence in Education, Innovation & Sustainability well-aligned with SDGs. Our efforts are demonstrably improving the world by encouraging responsible behavior and environmental stewardship. Our work enriches the educational experience and empowers our students to truly lead in sustainable development.

We remain dedicated to expanding our impact and creating pathways for long-term success, both for our institution and the communities we serve.

Message from Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)



The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) is dedicated to carrying forward the commitment to promote sustainability and the United Nations' SDGs. We aim to mainstream sustainability in all academic, research, and operational practices by benchmarking against global and national standards for long-term impact.

QEC aligns with the vision of IoBM to be a research-led, innovation-driven, and societally meaningful organization that enhances quality in sustainability initiatives throughout all areas of university operations nationally and internationally. We hope to live and spread the essence of ecocentric practice, social impact, legislative responsibility, and resilient environmental principles in all our academic programs, research outputs, and community engagement.

Our mission is to provide the tools for tomorrow's leaders and changemakers to thrive in a world where collaboration and innovation become our practice, which leads us toward sustainability.

Together, we have dedicated our efforts to keep IoBM at the forefront of knowledge creation, retention, and sustainable development.

OUR TEAM

Institutional Quality Assessment and Effectiveness (IQAE) Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)



ATIF SHAHAB

DIRECTOR IQAE/QEC



ASIF Z. WARSI

SENIOR ASST. MANAGER IQAE/QEC



MARIA ASAD

SENIOR OFFICER IQAE/QEC



DANIA RAHEEL

SENIOR OFFICER IQAE/QEC



INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) Quality Enhancement Department was established on April 2nd, 2008, under the visionary leadership of President IoBM, Talib S. Karim. Its inception marked a significant milestone in IoBM’s commitment to excellence in education and continuous improvement. Since its establishment, the department has played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of education and fostering a culture of innovation and academic rigor at IoBM. The quality enhancement cell is duly recognized and ranked in top “W” category by Quality Assurance Division of HEC.

VISION

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Institute of Business Management, aims to be one of the leading centers ensuring the highest national/international quality education standards and enabling IoBM to stand amongst the leading global HEIs commanding public respect and confidence

MISSION

The mission of QEC is to promote public confidence in the quality and standards for the award of degrees, management and overall quality of knowledge being imparted at IoBM by creating, enhancing and safeguarding the learning environment through strict implementation of internal and external standards stipulated by HEC and other national and international accrediting bodies.



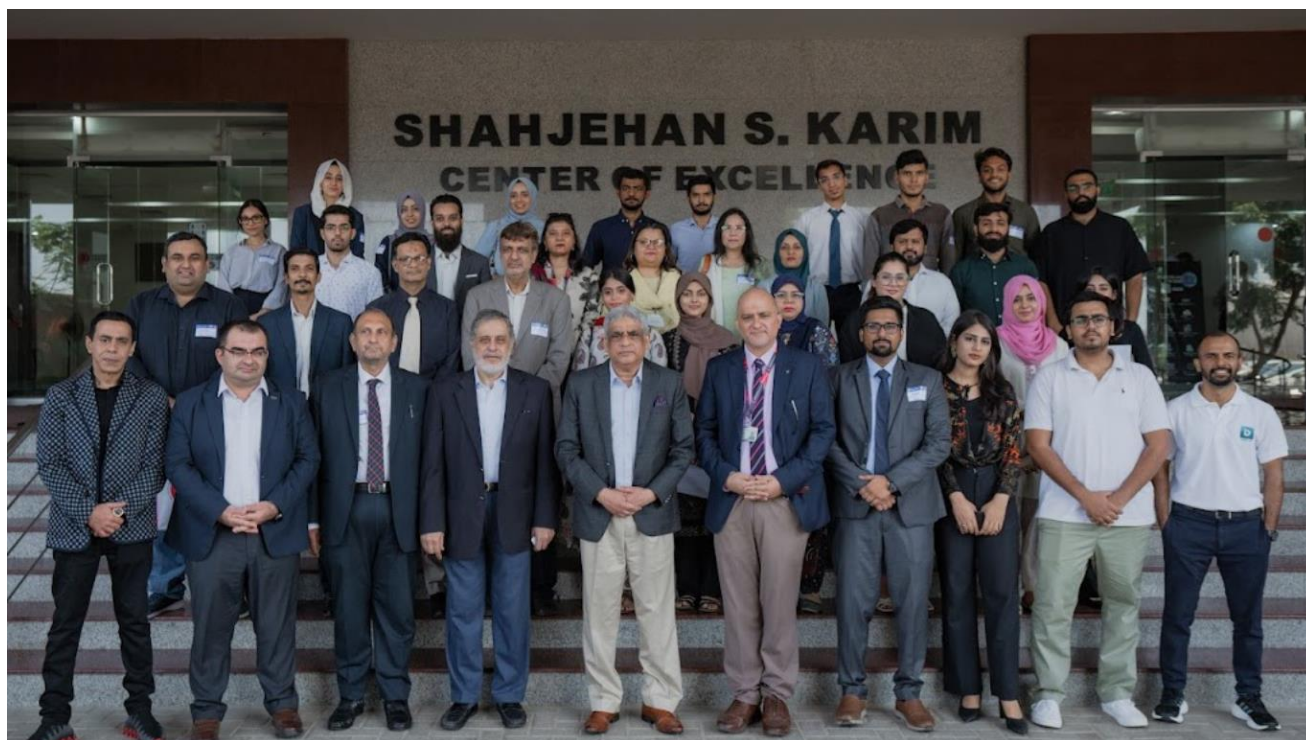
Mr. Ron Kozlowski's session on actuarial science held at IoBM

Mr. Ron Kozlowski, a distinguished Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), delivered an insightful and engaging presentation to IoBM students today. The session explored the vast opportunities within actuarial science in today's data-driven world, with a special emphasis on actuaries specializing in general insurance.

The session, titled "Discover the CAS Actuarial Pathways: Learn How to Clear the Actuarial Exams and Explore New Opportunities with CAS," featured Mr. Kozlowski emphasizing the importance of rigorous study, analytical thinking, and staying current with industry trends. He encouraged students to join CAS as associate members, providing them access to continuing education and professional development resources. He also highlighted the value of passing CAS exams and engaging with local actuarial organizations to further enhance career prospects.

The session was arranged by IoBM's Placement & International Cooperation Department in coordination with SHMA Consulting, a key partner in recruitment and development of IoBM's Actuarial Science and Risk Management (ASRM) and Mathematics & Statistics programs. Key contributions were made by Mr. Shariq Zia, People and Culture Lead, and Syed Moosa Ali, Senior Actuarial Manager, SHMA Consulting. The session was attended by students, senior faculty and Head of ASRM & Mathematics.

Mr. Ron Kozlowski's session on actuarial science at IoBM aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through **SDG 4: Quality Education**, as it fosters specialized learning in actuarial science, enhancing students' skills in risk management and general insurance. Additionally, the session supports **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** by preparing students for careers in an in-demand profession, encouraging professional development, and promoting industry readiness. This initiative strengthens both educational quality and employment opportunities.



Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center, IoBM hosts Cohort-3 graduation ceremony

The Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) held the Cohort-3 Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, September 21, 2024, celebrating the achievements of five start-ups that completed the 6 month incubation process. These start-ups were recognized for their innovative approaches to addressing social needs and becoming self-sufficient businesses. Present at the occasion were Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM; Mr. Zubair Tufail, CEO of Tufail Chemical Industries Ltd., Honourable Guest of Honor; Mr. Imran Haleem Sheikh, Deputy CEO of Bank Islami, was the Chief Guest, who addressed the audience via video message; and Syed Azfar Hussain, Program Director of the National Incubation Center (NIC), Karachi. The event was attended by corporate executives, venture capitalists, and industry experts. The ceremony marked a major milestone for Pakistan’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, with these start-ups set to make significant contributions to the country’s socio-economic development.

During his speech, Mr. Zubair Tufail emphasized the importance of innovation in Pakistan’s business landscape. He praised the start-ups, calling them the future of Pakistan’s economy. “Their commitment to innovation and social responsibility will play a pivotal role in addressing the country’s challenges and unlocking new economic opportunities,” Mr. Zubair said. Mr. Imran Haleem Sheikh stressed the need to foster innovation and commended SSKIC for its guidance to start-ups. He advised aspiring entrepreneurs to embrace learning from failure.

Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of SSKIC-IoBM, expressed optimism for the future, praising the resilience and creativity of the entrepreneurs. He emphasized that their ventures would significantly contribute to Pakistan’s economic growth and social impact. The event was organized by Mr. Raza Abbas and his team, Agha Muhammad Hassaan and Zehra Farooqui, with iobm student volunteers.

The graduating start-ups included: Zarai Baramdaat, Filtresha, Jeanius Digital, 1Archiver, and DIGIBOOKS. Valedictorian Shahroz Ali, founder of Zarai Baramdaat and an IoBM graduate, credited SSKIC for providing resources and direction essential for scaling his venture. Alumni speaker Bilal Afridi, founder of Creative3D Printers (Cohort-1), shared his journey of transforming an idea into a successful business.

The Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) at IoBM, through its efforts in fostering innovation and supporting startups, aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For instance, it contributes to **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** by promoting entrepreneurship and job creation through the incubation of new businesses. Moreover, by supporting startups like Zarai Baramdaat, which focuses on agricultural exports, it also aids in **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** by encouraging innovation in agriculture, which can lead to improved food security

Graduating Start-ups

The start-ups that graduated from Cohort-3 are as follows:

- **Zarai Baramdaat:** Areeba Ali, Shahroz Ali, Hassaan Sohail
- **Filtresha:** Shahma Aroob, Shaheer Hussain, Hadia Sabah, Khadija Aslam
- **Jeanius Digital:** Sharjeel Ahmed, Shazim Ali Mughal, Mohammad Ahmed
- **1Archiver:** Ali Adil, Ali Zafar, Fiza Khan, Syed Sanan, Moiz Jokhio, Shafia Bahar
- **DIGIBOOKS:** Rida Zainab, Aurangzaib Alamgir, Waqar Alamgir



SSKIC-IoBM hosts second workshop for UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (UNESCO EE-Net)- Pakistan Chapter

UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (UNESCO EE-Net)- Pakistan Chapter had its second workshop of its Start-up Readiness Program on Saturday, September 21, 2024, which was designed and hosted at the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC), Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi. The session, titled "Idea to Impact: Building a Winning Business Model that Thrives", was led by Mr. Azhar Rizvi, CEO of Cambridge Advisors Network.

Mr. Rizvi introduced participants to the Lean Business Model Canvas, a powerful tool for developing agile and efficient business strategies. He explained the nine essential building blocks, covering everything from value proposition and customer segments to channels and revenue streams.

To enhance the learning experience, Mr. Rizvi provided each group with a Business Model Canvas template to apply to their own start-ups. This hands-on exercise allowed participants to refine their business models and identify key areas for improvement. The interactive session also featured real-life examples from Mr. Rizvi's vast consulting experience, illustrating how successful businesses maintain a lean and adaptive approach to thrive in competitive markets.

Mr. Raza Abbas- Head of Incubation and Focal Person: UNESCO EE Net presented souvenirs to our distinguished trainer and prizes were awarded to the best-performing participants who demonstrated clear understanding and application of the lean business model concepts. The session not only equipped attendees with valuable skills but also fostered a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among the start-ups.

The second workshop for UNESCO EE-Net hosted at the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC), IoBM, aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, it supports SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by equipping participants with entrepreneurial skills.

through the Lean Business Model Canvas, promoting economic resilience. Additionally, it contributes to SDG 4: Quality Education by providing practical, hands-on learning experiences to enhance business knowledge, fostering innovation and inclusive, sustainable business development.

In addition to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), the workshop also relates to **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**. The focus on building agile, lean business models fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, which are key components of promoting sustainable industrialization and innovation. Moreover, by supporting start-ups and promoting entrepreneurial thinking, the workshop contributes to developing resilient infrastructure and industries



Seasoned playwright Mr. Ali Moeen unveils the art of screenwriting to IoBM students

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted an inspiring guest speaker session featuring renowned playwright and screenwriter Mr. Ali Moeen, who offered valuable insights to BS Media Studies students specializing in screenwriting. Held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, the event was coordinated by Muhammad Omar Iftikhar, Senior Assistant Manager at MARCOM, IoBM. Before the session, IoBM faculty member Muhammad Faraz interviewed Mr. Ali Moeen for the podcast *Urdu Aj Kal*, produced by IoBM, where Mr. Moeen reflected on his career and experiences in the media industry. Following the podcast, Mr. Moeen delivered a thought-provoking and engaging lecture, providing students with practical advice on becoming successful screenwriters.

In his lecture, Mr. Moeen highlighted the importance of developing a habit of reading and keenly observing society. He encouraged students to find inspiration in everyday life and explore meaningful themes for their stories. His insightful guidance offered aspiring writers practical tips for honing their craft and creating impactful narratives. The event was well-received by both students and faculty, who appreciated the opportunity to learn from one of Pakistan's most distinguished screenwriters.

The guest speaker session featuring Mr. Ali Moeen at IoBM setting standards for SDG 4: Quality Education by promoting inclusive and quality education through knowledge-sharing on screenwriting, a valuable skill for media students. His emphasis on reading and observing society also supports SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, as it encourages diverse storytelling that can give voice to underrepresented communities, fostering a more inclusive media landscape.



UNESCO EE Net- Pakistan- Start-up Readiness Launch

The Pakistan Chapter of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (UNESCO EE-Net) launched the pilot Start-up Readiness Program on Saturday, September 14, 2024. The program was held and conceptualized at the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi. The event featured a workshop on “Mindset Shift: Innovating with Purpose & Sparking Entrepreneurial Thinking”, attended by students from leading public and private universities as well as TVET vocational institutions. Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of SSKIC-IoBM and the focal person for UNESCO EE-Net, highlighted the significance of the network, sharing that IoBM has the distinct honour of being appointed the national chapter of UNESCO EE-Net in Pakistan, the first of its kind in the country’s history.

The workshop’s resource persons were Mr. Raza Abbas and Ms. Naureen Ghaffar, Managing Director of Agile Global Consultancy, Executive Committee Member of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and an alumna of IoBM. Mr. Raza initiated the training session by sharing a video on the significance and the rules of high-performance teamwork. He set the foundation by introducing an activity where participants could develop a "purpose reservoir" to self-motivate and reflect during their start-up journey. He also shared the effectuation framework for igniting entrepreneurial thinking, outlining its five principles. He inspired the importance of developing an agile mindset and discussed tools for cultivating an agile and purposeful mindset through 11 specific tools. Ms. Naureen Ghaffar underscored the value of conducting individual SWOT analyses for business, after which groups of participants were formed to collaborate toward the common goal of business success.

The group did their SWOT analysis as well for much better clarity in the execution of the business idea. Participants learned the business execution process as we shared real-time experiences along with case studies. Key aspects focused on were developing patience in dealing with the stakeholders, taking calculated risks, understanding the viability of a business idea in such a way that it can be

commercialized, having the right team members to make things happen in the right direction, having a set of KPIs defined for the team members to avoid any sort of conflicts. Overall, the essence of the session to create an entrepreneurial mindset seems to have been achieved as the participants were enjoying the pressures of real-time business experience and will be vigilant in their business journey.

Dr. Imran Batada, Chief Digital Officer and Director of CIT at IoBM, was the Chief Guest. He was pleased to see an interactive audience, inspiring the participants by highlighting the opportunities available for start-ups, and he praised the excellent work of the SSKIC team. The Start-Up Readiness Program is a game-changing initiative designed to improve the quality of start-ups in incubation centers and increase their retention throughout the start-up journey.

The **UNESCO EE-Net Start-up Readiness Launch** aligns with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in several ways. It promotes **SDG 4: Quality Education** by providing entrepreneurial skills and mindset training to students from diverse educational institutions, enhancing their ability to innovate and create sustainable business solutions. Additionally, it supports **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** by fostering entrepreneurial thinking, which can lead to job creation and sustainable economic development.

Summary of Start-Up Readiness Program:

<https://incubation.iobm.edu.pk/startup-readiness-program/>

The program consists of four interactive workshops from September 14 to October 5, 2024.



Delegation representing leading Malaysian Universities visits IoBM

A delegation representing various Malaysian universities visited the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on Saturday, September 14, 2024. The guests included senior representatives from prominent institutions such as Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, among others. The Chief Guest of the event was His Excellency Herman Hardynata Bin Ahmed, the Consul General of Malaysia.

Present at the occasion representing IoBM were Mr. Talib S. Karim, President; Mr. Bashir JanMohammad, Chancellor; Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean of CCSIS; Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean of CBM; Dr. Nadia Ayub, Dean of CESD, along with Heads of Departments, faculty members, and management. Mr. Zubair Bandukda, President of the Textile Institute of Pakistan; Dr. Mansoor uz Zafar Dawood, Vice Chancellor of ILMA University; and Dr. Kashif Mehmood, Director of KASBIT were also present.

The visit aimed to strengthen academic collaborations, explore potential partnerships, and discuss opportunities for enhancing student exchanges and research initiatives between IoBM and the visiting Malaysian universities. This gathering marked a significant step toward fostering international educational ties and building robust networks for academic and research development.

The program began with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Hafiz Humayun Baig. Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of Internship, Placement and International Office, served as the Master of Ceremonies. She provided a detailed overview of IoBM's academic, research, and extracurricular activities. She also emphasized IoBM's strong associations with several Malaysian universities and

highlighted the fact that many IoBM faculty and management members have completed their PhDs at universities in Malaysia.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Talib S. Karim warmly welcomed the guests and expressed his gratitude to the Consul General of Malaysia for supporting the visit. He highlighted the close and cordial relations Mr. Bashir JanMohammad has maintained with Malaysia and mentioned that IoBM is frequently invited to meetings hosted by Mr. JanMohammad when Malaysian universities and government officials visit Pakistan. The President of IoBM also noted that IoBM has several active MoUs with Malaysian universities. He emphasized the strong bond between Pakistan and Malaysia, which has fostered ongoing collaboration, and expressed confidence that this partnership will continue to grow. He further called for additional research collaborations and faculty exchanges, encouraging IoBM faculty members who have completed their PhDs to consider pursuing post-doctoral opportunities in Malaysia to gain international exposure.

In his speech, His Excellency Herman Hardynata Bin Ahmed, Consul General of Malaysia, praised Mr. Bashir JanMohammad for his pivotal role in strengthening ties between Pakistan and Malaysia. He announced Malaysia's plans to open a trade office in Karachi to streamline and enhance trade and economic activities between the two countries. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for a formal partnership in the field of education, promoting greater collaboration and exchange between academic institutions in both countries.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Mr. Bashir JanMohammad shared his experience with the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Mahathir Mohamad, and expressed his admiration for the Malaysian people and the opportunities the country offers. He paid tribute to the late Founder President of IoBM, Mr. Shahjehan S. Karim, acknowledging his vision and efforts in establishing the institution. Mr. JanMohammad noted that while IoBM is producing graduates, there are limited job opportunities available, emphasizing that fields such as artificial intelligence and data science represent the future. He called for increased communication and collaboration with Malaysian universities and highlighted IoBM's commitment to providing scholarships and financial aid to its students.

Mr. Novie Tajuddin, Chief Executive Officer of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), presented the theme of the event and highlighted the importance of fostering international collaborations in higher education. He emphasized the role of global partnerships in enhancing academic standards, facilitating student and faculty exchanges, and promoting research initiatives between Malaysia and Pakistan. Mr. Tajuddin expressed his optimism about the future of educational ties between the two nations, stressing that such initiatives would not only benefit the institutions involved but also contribute to the broader development of the region's academic and research capabilities.

The recent visit by a delegation representing leading Malaysian universities to the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) supports SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by fostering international academic collaborations. The discussions on potential partnerships, student exchanges, and research initiatives directly contribute to strengthening the global network for education, which is essential for sustainable development. Moreover, the visit highlights the importance of SDG 4: Quality Education, as the collaboration aims to improve research and higher education standards between the two countries.



HR Networking Lunch hosted by Placement and International Office, IoBM

The Department of Placement and International Office at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted an HR Networking Lunch on Monday, August 19, 2024, with representatives from 18 companies in attendance. The event aimed to strengthen industry-academia ties and foster partnerships with leading HR professionals. It provided a platform for HR leaders to discuss talent acquisition strategies and share insights on the latest industry trends. The luncheon also sought to enhance internship opportunities, align academic programs with market demands, and build robust corporate connections. Events like these are essential for cultivating cooperation between academia and industry, offering opportunities for mutual collaboration. During the event, Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of the Department of Placement and International Office, presented an overview of IoBM, highlighting its key features, programs offered, and various departments. The luncheon was also attended by other Heads of Departments and members of the management team.

The HR Networking Lunch hosted by the Placement and International Office at IoBM aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**, by fostering partnerships that enhance internship opportunities and align academic programs with market demands. This event exemplifies the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, crucial for creating sustainable employment pathways and supporting economic growth. Additionally, it contributes to **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** by promoting cooperation among various stakeholders in the education and business sectors to achieve shared objectives.



PEC Re-Accreditation Visit for B.E. Electrical Program

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) re-accreditation visit for Batch 2020 onwards for the BE Electrical program took place on July 29 and 30, 2024. The visiting team consisted of Engr. Prof Dr. Najam ul Islam, VC Namal University, Mianwali, who served as the Team Leader; Engr. Prof Dr. M. Nasir Khan from GCU Lahore; Engr. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Musavi from FAST-NUCES, Islamabad; Engr. Dr. Saqib Jamshed Rind from NED UET, Karachi; and Engr. Mujeeb Ur Rehman Khalil as the PEC Representative. The PEC team arrived at 9:00 am on the first day and was warmly received by the HEI representatives. Following a visit to the office of the Rector, IoBM, the Head of the Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. M Imran Majid welcomed everyone and presented the key features of the program, including Program Educational Objectives (PEOs), Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), curriculum and learning processes, continuous quality improvement, and industrial linkages.

Following the introductory session, the team was split into two groups. Group 1, led by the Team Leader, toured the facilities across the campus. Meanwhile, Group 2, comprising Program Evaluators (PEVs), inspected specific lab facilities, computer labs, and project labs. They focused on safety measures, the adequacy of well-equipped and furnished labs, and the conduct of program-specific labs and classroom lectures. They found that all facilities met the required standards.

After visiting the campus, the review team discussed various topics such as admissions, student attendance, prospectus, course files, faculty research, seminars, workshops/conferences, faculty training, and a safety orientation program. They also reviewed the Final Year Project (FYP) reports. During the afternoon session, the review team interacted with students, faculty members, lab engineers, technical staff, and supporting staff. Subsequently, they also had an interaction session with the Examination, QEC, Placement Bureau, Safety Committee, Registrar, and Treasurer. The

team reviewed documentation in the exhibit room and held a review meeting to summarize the major findings of Day 1.

On the second day, a meeting was held with the program's stakeholders, including seven alumni and two employers. The alumni provided feedback on the program, and Mr. Muhammad Asif Siddiqui, CEO of Sigma Ventures, shared insights on how the Industrial Advisory Board Members helped to improve the quality of the program. During this meeting, the observations from the two-day visit were shared, along with suggestions to further improve the program's quality. The PEC had on their last visit accredited EE Batch 2019 at Level II (Washington Accord compliant).

The recent Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) re-accreditation visit for the B.E. Electrical program at IoBM aligns closely with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 4: Quality Education** and **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**. By ensuring that the program meets high educational standards and includes continuous quality improvement processes, the accreditation enhances the educational framework necessary for fostering innovation and sustainable industrial practices.

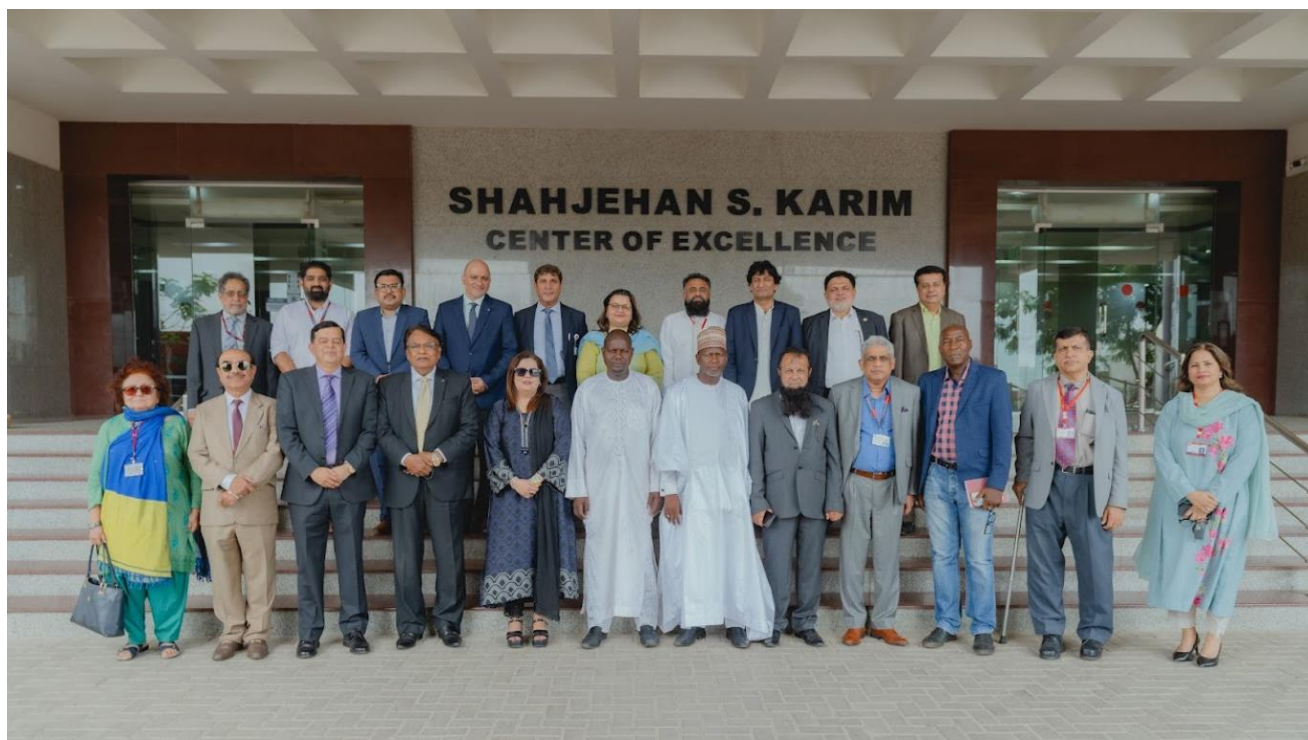


IoBM and NICAT Forge Partnership to Boost Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and the National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) have signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development. Key areas of collaboration under this MoU include the exchange of information and best practices, which will empower the next generation of innovators to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The MoU was signed by Raza Abbas, Head of Incubation at the Shahjehan Karim Incubation Centre, IoBM, and Ms. Sarah Tims, Head of Community & Events at NICAT. This strategic collaboration will establish a robust framework for cooperation between the two entities, focusing on the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise to support aspiring entrepreneurs and startups.

The partnership between IoBM and NICAT aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Their collaboration aims to boost entrepreneurship and skill development, contributing to economic growth and innovation by creating a supportive ecosystem for startups and aspiring entrepreneurs.



Academic Delegation from Niger visits IoBM

At the invitation of Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), a distinguished contingent from Niger visited the IoBM campus on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. This visit underscored the strengthening of educational ties between Pakistan and Niger, promising future collaborations and mutual growth in the academic field. The visiting delegation from Niger included Mr. Ibrahim Guero Mahamadoul-Hadi, Rector of KAAT University; Dr. Halidou Soumana Ibrahim, also from KAAT University; and Mr. Sanda Maiga Abdoulaye, Rector of IPSP. They were accompanied by Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Pakistan's Ambassador to Niger; Mr. Ibrahim bin Maqsood, representing the African Institute of Technology (AIT), Niamey; and Ms. Saima Agha, MPA and Sindh Assembly Parliamentary Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs. Prof. Dr. Mansoor uz Zafar Dawood, Vice Chancellor, ILMA University, and Prof. Dr. Syed Urfan Hyder, Vice Chancellor, Salim Habib University also attended the meeting.

In his Welcome Address, Mr. Talib Karim stated, "We are a community of 30+ private sector universities in Sindh, with a strong network of such institutions. As a country, we are disconnected from Africa. We need to increase our collaboration." He added that universities in Pakistan, both private and public, should open their doors in the fields of academics, research, and faculty exchange, among other areas.

The meeting was attended by IoBM's Rector, Deans, Head of Departments, Faculty, and Management. Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector of IoBM, recited verses from the Holy Quran. The Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of Placement & International Cooperation, who also presented an overview of IoBM to the visiting guests. The delegation from Niger expressed that Pakistan excels in student exchange programs, training, research, lab technology, health sciences, engineering, and IT. They envision collaborating with IoBM to facilitate educational opportunities for students in Niger, aiming to create a mutually beneficial partnership. This collaboration is expected to enhance academic and professional development for students in both countries, fostering innovation and knowledge exchange in these critical fields. During their visit, the delegation was given a

comprehensive tour of IoBM's state-of-the-art facilities, showcasing the institution's commitment to providing a world-class education. The visit concluded with a souvenir distribution ceremony, marking the occasion with tokens of appreciation.

The academic collaboration between IoBM and Niger aligns with the **SDGs** by promoting **quality education** (SDG 4) through potential faculty exchanges and student opportunities, reducing inequality (SDG 10) by offering academic access to underserved communities, and fostering **partnerships** (SDG 17) that encourage innovation, capacity building, and cross-cultural understanding. These collaborations aim to contribute to the global goals of **education, health, and sustainable growth**, driving progress in both countries.



IoBM Hosts Two-Day Faculty Training for STEAM Education

The College of Computer Science and Information Systems (CCSIS) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted a two-day faculty training session for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) on August 5-6, 2024. The event was held in collaboration with the UK-Pakistan Science and Innovation Global Network (UPSIGN) and the Rangoonwala Foundation. This comprehensive training has equipped IoBM faculty to transform their teaching practices, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment that prepares students for the challenges of the future. At the conclusion of Day 2, IoBM President Mr. Talib Karim presented certificates and appreciated the efforts of the CCSIS team. The STEAM faculty training session was spearheaded by Brig. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean of CCSIS, along with his team. It was jointly organized by Engr. Muhammad Asghar Khan and Engr. Dr. Khalid Bin Muhammad. The event aimed to revolutionize STEAM teaching practices among the IoBM faculty.

Distinguished guests led the sessions, including Ms. Madiha Sajid, Senior Fellow of Higher Education Academy UK and Lead Trainer UPSIGN; Dr. Lion Shahab from University College London, UK and Dr. Sajid Saleem from NUST Pakistan. The experts shared their valuable insights and expertise to equip IoBM faculty with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster a dynamic and inclusive learning environment.

The primary objective of the STEAM training was to enable IoBM faculty to transform their teaching practices, ensuring that students are well-prepared for future challenges and opportunities. Over two days, a total of 11 insightful sessions were conducted, each focusing on critical topics essential for STEAM education. Key topics covered during the training included: Reflective Log based on Rolfe's (2001) "What, So What, Now What" Framework for Reflective Practice; How Do We Learn? / Barriers to Learning; STEAM Teaching Methods: Active Learning Techniques; Problem-based Learning; Flipped Classrooms; Team-based Learning; Assessment for Learning; Building Inclusive Educational Environments; and Planning & Presentation of STEAM Model Lessons. The training

session concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment among the faculty members, who are now better equipped to integrate innovative teaching methods into their curriculum.

The recent STEAM faculty training at IoBM aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering inclusive, innovative education (SDG 4: Quality Education). This initiative promotes equity in learning environments, helping to reduce inequalities (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities) by equipping educators with modern, inclusive teaching techniques that prepare students for global challenges. Furthermore, through its collaboration with international experts, the event supports **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**, highlighting the importance of global academic cooperation in achieving a sustainable future.



Digital Shift in Higher Education

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), New Horizon and Huawei Technologies hosted a landmark event at the Movenpick Hotel, Karachi on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. The objective was to showcase how its newly deployed IT infrastructure is transforming its work environment. This initiative aims to streamline day-to-day and strategic objectives, make IoBM a paperless institution, enhance its LMS software, improve data security, facilitate remote learning, enable efficient resource management, and support innovative teaching methodologies.

The event highlighted IoBM's leadership in digital transformation, with Huawei Technologies as the technology provider and New Horizon deploying the IT infrastructure. IoBM's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology underscores its dedication to providing a modern and efficient educational environment, positioning itself at the forefront of digital innovation in higher education.

The Chief Guest of the event was Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC. He noted that only a select few universities have undertaken such significant IT initiatives. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among universities, stating that working in isolation will not yield meaningful results. "Even with technological advancements, human interaction remains essential," he added.

Mr. M. Bashir Janmohammad, Chairman of the Board at IoBM, underscored that IT development is essential to Pakistan's future. He emphasized IoBM's commitment to driving the nation's technological advancement and innovation through strategic initiatives. Mr. Talib Karim, President IoBM, emphasized the necessity of a robust IT infrastructure for researchers, students, and faculty to remain competitive on a global scale. He stated that with Dr. Imran Batada's proposal and the support of IoBM's Board, the digital infrastructure has been successfully implemented. He added that technology will increasingly dominate processes, and it is crucial to be prepared for this transformation.

Dr. Imran Batada, Chief Digital Officer and Director of CIT at IoBM emphasized that digital disruption and transformation will profoundly reshape the academic industry in the twenty-first century. He highlighted the critical importance of integrating advanced technologies to enhance educational methodologies. Mr. Qaiser Sarwar, COO of New Horizon, elaborated on the development of a state-of-the-art IT infrastructure for IoBM. He praised IoBM's leadership and the support provided by Huawei Technologies.

Mr. Shahzad Rasheed CEO of Huawei Cloud stated that, “Embracing the digital shift in higher education is pivotal for Pakistan’s future. By leveraging technology, we can democratize access to quality education, foster innovation, and equip our youth with the skills needed to thrive in a global economy.” Mr. Atif Khan, Commercial Sales Director for South EBG at Huawei, underscored the vital role of integrating digital technology in advancing organizations globally. He highlighted how digital innovation is essential for driving efficiency, growth, and competitive advantage in today's dynamic business environment.

A key feature of the event was an insightful panel discussion on "Redefining Higher Education in a Digitally Disrupted World." Moderated by Dr. Imran Batada, the panelists included Mr. Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman of PASHA; Mr. Jibran Jamshad, CPO and Education Lead at Microsoft; Mr. Asif Jafri, CEO Kistpay and Director E-Ocean Pvt. Ltd; and Mr. Azhar Nawaz, Chief Information Officer, Engro Corp. The speakers shared a common consensus that technology and digital transformation will provide the acumen and direction needed to revolutionize educational methodologies, enhance learning experiences, and prepare students for future challenges. They also emphasized that embracing digital innovation is crucial for modernizing offices and organizations, enabling them to operate more efficiently and effectively in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The deployment of digital infrastructure at IoBM closely aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By enhancing remote learning, improving data security, and promoting a paperless institution, IoBM directly contributes to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** by increasing access to quality education and fostering innovative teaching methodologies. The improved resource management and IT infrastructure also support **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)** by embracing technological innovation and sustainable industrialization. Additionally, the emphasis on efficient resource use and minimization of waste aligns with **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, promoting sustainable practices in the institution's operations. Collaborative efforts with partners like Huawei also reflect **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**, demonstrating how cross-sector collaboration can drive meaningful progress in sustainable development.



Mr. Raja Kamran President, Council of Economic and Energy Journalists, enlightens IoBM students on Pakistan’s Economic Policy

The class of Pakistan Economic Policy at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) had the privilege of hosting Mr. Raja Kamran, President of the Council of Economic and Energy Journalists (CEEJ), as a guest speaker on Saturday, July 27, 2024. His visit was a significant opportunity for students to gain firsthand insights from a seasoned expert in the field of economics.

Mr. Kamran shared his extensive experience and insights on a range of economic topics, including the current economic landscape, energy sector challenges, and policy-making processes in Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of sound economic policies and their impact on the nation's growth and development. His interactive session allowed students to engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of complex economic issues.

The faculty of the course, Dr. Mirza Aqeel Baig, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Kamran for his valuable contribution. He presented Mr. Kamran with a memento as a token of appreciation for his time and effort. Dr. Baig highlighted the importance of such interactions in bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world applications.

Mr. Kamran's discussion on Pakistan’s Economic Policy highlights the critical role of sound economic strategies in achieving sustainable growth. This aligns closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The insights shared emphasize the need for effective policymaking to address Pakistan's economic challenges, supporting the broader global objectives of poverty eradication, and equality. Engaging students in such discussions fosters awareness and equips them to contribute towards achieving these goals.



IoBM SPARK Spark High School Summer Internship Concludes

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) concluded its inaugural SPARK High School Summer Internship program with a closing ceremony on July 25, 2024. Gracing the occasion with his presence was Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM. He stated that the purpose of SPARK was to involve interns in creative and interactive activities that provide a valuable learning experience.

The innovative program, launched on June 24, 2024, offered high school students from Karachi Grammar School and Nixor College a unique five-week opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the dynamic world of business.

During the closing event, supervisors from various departments shared their valuable insights, while the interns enthusiastically recounted their enriching experiences as participants in the IoBM SPARK program. Throughout the immersive SPARK experience, students bridged the gap between theory and practice, applying their theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. They developed critical thinking skills and gained a deeper understanding of various industries.

Reflecting IoBM's commitment to experiential learning, SPARK was managed by the Internship, Placement & International Office's Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD, and Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Assistant Manager. Key departments, including the Center of Information Technology (CIT), Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC), MARCOM, and Media, provided extensive support, ensuring interns gained exposure to diverse work environments. Ms. Anamta Salam, Marketing Executive at MARCOM, played a crucial role in coordinating between departments and interns, ensuring a seamless experience for all involved. The program proudly featured talented interns from Karachi Grammar School, including Muhammad Fardeen and Loven Kumar, and from Nixor College, including Ammar Thakur, Syed Abdullah, Kumkum Lohana, Haya Arif, Samiya Sohail, Rayyan Faisal, Kashmala Rizwan, and Arham Kajani. SPARK's success underscored IoBM's dedication to fostering the next generation of business leaders through practical and experiential learning opportunities.

The SPARK High School Summer Internship program at IoBM set high standards for several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. The program fosters experiential learning by bridging the gap between theory and practice, directly supporting SDG 4 by providing high-quality education that equips students with the skills needed for employment. Through its focus on business and innovation, the internship also advances SDG 8 by promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. Moreover, the collaboration between departments and external high schools exemplifies SDG 17, fostering strong partnerships that enhance educational outcomes and community impact.



IoBM Total Communications sign MoU for Exclusive Academic Partnership at INFOSEC

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and Total Communications have entered into a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), designating IoBM as the Exclusive Academic Strategic Partner for the upcoming INFOSEC Conference. The MoU was signed by Dr. Imran Batada, Chief Digital Officer and Director of CIT at IoBM, and Mr. Faisal Rahim, CEO of Total Communications.

This collaboration is set to advance research, innovation, and academic engagement in the field of information security. It aims to create a robust platform for experts and professionals to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and tackle the emerging challenges in the rapidly evolving landscape of information security, benefiting both professionals and students.

The strategic partnership between IoBM and Total Communications for the INFOSEC Conference aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, this collaboration supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by fostering innovation in the field of information security. The partnership provides a platform for knowledge sharing and academic engagement, promoting SDG 4 (Quality Education) through education in emerging technologies and cyber-security, crucial for future-ready human capital. Furthermore, it resonates with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration that bridges academia and industry to address global information security challenges.

The signing ceremony was attended by several distinguished IoBM officials, including Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector; Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean of CBM; Dr. Mohammad Abbas, Dean of CCSIS; Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of SSKIC; Mr. Umer Hafeez, Head of Network and Computer Support; Mr. Asim Farooq, Manager and Head of Development; and Mr. Muhammad Ishfaq, Senior Project Coordinator. Representing Total Communications was Mr. Talha Rahim, Manager of Strategic Planning (Events).



IoBM and The Hunar Foundation sign MoU

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and The Hunar Foundation (THF) have signed an MoU to exchange information, best practices, and collaborate on joint initiatives and programs in incubation, mentoring, support, access to facilities, resources, and entrepreneurship education. This collaboration is between IoBM’s Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) and The Hunar Foundation’s Emerge, Pakistan's first TVET. It aims to enhance support for startups, provide opportunities for capacity development, promote sustainable growth, and strengthen the startup ecosystem in Pakistan. The MoU was signed by Raza Abbas, Head of SSKIC-IoBM, and Tahir Jawed, CEO of The Hunar Foundation-THF. IoBM, as the National Chapter of UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network in Pakistan, envisions working with like-minded organizations, such as THF, to promote education, inclusion, and skills development.

The collaboration between IoBM and The Hunar Foundation (THF) directly supports several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By focusing on education, skill development, and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as incubation and mentoring, the partnership aligns with SDG 4 by promoting inclusive and equitable quality education. It also advances SDG 8 by fostering economic growth through skill-building and creating job opportunities for startups and entrepreneurs. Finally, the collaboration strengthens SDG 17 by fostering meaningful partnerships aimed at achieving sustainable development goals in Pakistan through shared resources and expertise.



Oric-IoBM hosts a workshop on Mastering Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo

Dr. Ather Akhlaq, Associate Professor of Health Informatics and Health Management and Director of ORIC at IoBM, conducted a comprehensive workshop on "Mastering Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo" on June 29, 2024. This workshop provided in-depth training for researchers, students, and professionals in fields such as social sciences, business, and healthcare, enabling them to enhance their qualitative data analysis skills using NVivo software. Participants gained detailed insights into the NVivo interface, data import and organization, coding and annotation, data analysis techniques, visualizations and reporting, and best practices and tips. The workshop was divided into two sections: Introduction to NVivo and Data Collection and Analysis, offering a well-rounded learning experience.

The workshop on "Mastering Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo" supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by equipping researchers and students with the necessary tools to enhance their data analysis skills, fostering a culture of research excellence and evidence-based decision-making. Furthermore, contributing to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by promoting the development of cutting-edge solutions to tackle cybersecurity challenges.



IoBM and Bahria University sign MoU

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and Bahria University have formed a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate collaborative research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The MoU, signed by Vice Admiral (Retd.) Khawaja Ghazanfar Hussain HI (M), Director General of Bahria University, and Professor Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector of IoBM, aims to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and joint research projects between the two institutions.

This partnership seeks to offer mentorship and training while facilitating the exchange of best practices in business management. The MoU will enable both universities to leverage each other's strengths, fostering a culture of excellence. Representing IoBM at the signing ceremony were Dr. Ather Akhlaq, Director of ORIC, and Syed Faraz Ali, Manager of ORIC. Representing Bahria University were Professor Dr. Muhammad Zahid, Dean of Bahria Business School; Dr. Liaquat, Head of Management Sciences; Dr. Mubashir Khan, Head of Business Studies; Dr. Waqar Ahmed, Deputy Director of ORIC; Ms. Irum Shafique, Deputy Director of QADR; Dr. Mubashir Ali Khan, Head of Business School; and Ubed Amjad Ali, Head of Research and Business Solutions Centre.

The partnership between IoBM and Bahria University can be aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focusing on quality education (SDG 4), industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). By fostering joint research projects, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives, both universities contribute to enhancing educational quality and supporting innovation. Additionally, this collaboration exemplifies SDG 17 by promoting partnerships that aim to address global challenges through academic cooperation, capacity building, and sustainable practices.

IoBM launches SPARK High School Summer Internship 2024

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) launched its innovative SPARK High School Summer Internship program in 2024 with an orientation session on June 24, 2024. This intensive five-week program offers high school students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the dynamic world of business. Reflecting IoBM's commitment to experiential learning, SPARK is managed by the Placement & International Cooperation Department. Key departments like Center of Information Technology (CIT), Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC), MARCOM, and Media provide extensive support, ensuring interns gain exposure to diverse work environments. Students from prestigious institutions like Karachi Grammar School, Nixor College, and Roots are participating in this program. This year, students from Karachi Grammar School and Nixor College are participating.

The immersive SPARK experience allows students to bridge the gap between theory and practice. They can apply their theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, develop critical thinking skills, and gain a deeper understanding of various industries. Mr. Nabhan Karim, HoD of MARCOM and Media Production, elaborated on this project-based approach, highlighting how it helps interns discover their passions and align their skills with career goals.

During the welcome address, Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD Placement and International Cooperation, emphasized the program's focus on developing well-rounded individuals. Interns will gain valuable insights into various IoBM departments while honing essential skills like problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and time management. Mr. Raza Abbas, HoD of SSKIC, also addressed the interns, providing an overview of the incubation process at IoBM and its key activities.

Guest speaker, Mr. Salman Baig, IoBM alumnus and President of Old Grammarian's Society, delivered a motivating speech. He advised interns to plan for the future, be proactive, and continuously learn. He emphasized their potential, calling them the "SPARK" who can achieve their dreams by "IGNITING" their potential and "RISING" through teamwork. IoBM's SPARK internship program is a testament to the institute's dedication to fostering a progressive learning environment. By equipping young minds with practical skills and real-world exposure, IoBM is actively shaping the future workforce and nurturing the next generation of business leaders.

IoBM's SPARK High School Summer Internship program with the SDGs as follows:

1. **SDG 4: Quality Education** – The SPARK program provides experiential learning opportunities, allowing students to gain practical knowledge beyond traditional academics. This aligns with ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.
2. **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – By offering internships that focus on business, innovation, and skills development, IoBM is fostering an environment where young individuals can transition smoothly into meaningful employment, contributing to decent work and economic growth.
3. **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** – The involvement of diverse stakeholders, including high schools like Karachi Grammar School and Nixor College, reflects a partnership approach aimed at strengthening educational opportunities through collaboration, which directly supports SDG 17.



IoBM and Tech Valley sign MoU to promote scholarships

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and Tech Valley, Google for Education Partner in Pakistan, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaboratively distribute Google Career Certificate program scholarships to eligible learners. The MoU was signed by Mr. Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech Valley, and Dr. Imran Batada, CTO and Director of CIT at IoBM. Tech Valley will provide up to 500 scholarships to IoBM for the Google Career Certificates Program, allowing IoBM to distribute these scholarships to learners under their care. Additionally, Tech Valley will prominently feature IoBM as a key partner in the GCC scholarship distribution on their social media platforms and offer dedicated support and resources for the program's implementation and promotion. This partnership between IoBM and Tech Valley aims to enhance access to quality education and career opportunities, empowering learners with the skills needed to thrive in the digital economy.

The partnership between IoBM and Tech Valley aligns with several key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through the provision of 500 scholarships for Google Career Certificate programs, this collaboration ensures access to high-quality education and digital skills development, thereby contributing to SDG 4. By fostering a partnership that promotes learning opportunities for students, it also strengthens SDG 17 by building collaborative efforts for educational advancement. Moreover, the initiative enhances employability and supports digital inclusion, which resonates with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by empowering students with the skills required for the future of work.

In conclusion, this partnership not only contributes to enhancing access to education but also fosters global collaborations to address the evolving challenges of the digital economy, ensuring alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



Fourth Valley visit to IoBM

Mr. Kimihide Ando, Managing Director of Ando K. Limited and former Managing Director of Mitsubishi Corporation Pakistan, along with Ms. Aki Takeda, Executive Director of Fourth Valley, visited the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) to explore recruitment opportunities for Pakistani talent in Japan. During their visit, Mr. Ando and Ms. Takeda initiated discussions with IoBM's management, faculty, and students. The meeting was organized by IoBM's Internship, Placement, and International Office in collaboration with the College of Computer Science and Information Systems (CCSIS). Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of Department, and Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Assistant Manager, represented the Internship, Placement, and International Office. This visit marks a significant step towards fostering international employment connections and underscores the growing importance of global talent mobility in addressing demographic and economic challenges. Moreover, The Japanese delegation also attended the Final Year Project showcase by CCSIS and interacted with Brig. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean of CCSIS, along with Heads of Departments, faculty, and students.

The visit of Fourth Valley to the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of fostering international collaboration and enhancing global talent mobility. The discussions on recruitment opportunities for Pakistani talent in Japan not only contribute to **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** by promoting job creation and economic opportunity, but also **SDG 4: Quality Education**, as these initiatives encourage skills development and knowledge sharing across borders. Moreover, the engagement in international employment opportunities supports **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**, promoting national and international collaboration to tackle demographic and economic challenges while providing avenues for cultural and knowledge exchange.



Reveries of an Urban Dreamland: Artistic Research Residency Podcast Series Out Now

The artistic research residency podcast series, *Reveries of an Urban Dreamland*, focuses on how we can design strategies for human and non-human interactions that would help us reshape our cities into a much more sustainable engine of survival, rather than the socially-constricting, energy-intensive, and life-shortening beast that they are right now. Karachi—a complex city that is already being disproportionately affected by climate change—presents an ideal context to explore this question.

This 9-part podcast series brings together the experiences of resident researchers and guest speakers, including architects, designers, scholars, and activists from Karachi and around the world to discuss novel interfaces developed during the residency through playful forms of participatory behaviours and engagement strategies. In each episode, residency curator Taqi Shaheen, along with artistic director Usman Haque and design advisor Ling Tan, discuss legal, cultural, social and political frameworks for human and non-human interactions with the resident artists and guest speakers through the lens of innovative projects developed during the residency.

In the first episode, renowned architect and social researcher Arif Hasan, discussing the project “Collateral Damage” by the resident artist Arsalan Nasir, questions the disappearance of creatures like butterflies and squirrels in Karachi. Hasan urges a return to an era where cohabitation with non-human species was more harmonious, cautioning against the devastating impact of current human practices on these creatures. Lawyer and human rights activist Abira Ashfaq highlighted the legal system's damaging role through urban development projects.

Talking about resident artist Suneela Ahmed’s book and interactive website “Novel Pedagogies”, artist and curator Noorjehan Bilgrami stresses the importance of developing such educational tools for reconnecting society with its natural surroundings. Dr. Shahid Amjad, Head of Department of

Environment and Energy at IoBM, talks about the urgency of creating new learning models on all academic levels.

Discussing “Extinction”, a performative research by Afreen Seher and Vajdaan Shah, Tofiq Pasha Mooraj, a renowned gardener emphasizes: “The non-humans are not living amongst us, we are living amongst the non-humans.” Dr. Shahida Wizarat, Professor of College of Economics and Social Development at IoBM also discussed food security and how it was far more economical to produce natural foods as compared to the GMO foods.

Mahera Omar, filmmaker and co-founder of PAWS, and Shahzad Qureshi, founder of Karachi Urban Forest, suggest a shift in perspective towards ecological tidiness disorder, emphasizing the benefits of leaving natural elements undisturbed for both humans and non-humans. Ling Tan, the residency's design advisor, stressed the importance of retaining wonder in adulthood and residency's research project "Khayali Karachi" by Anita Zehra and Shabbir Mohammed, allows us to reimagine new possibilities for our urban survival.

The podcast series also features conversations with international scholars, artists and activists including Léopold Lambert, the editor-in-chief of The Funambulist, who discusses the conception, creation, and impact of The Funambulist magazine and his work around political struggles against colonial ecocides and toxic atmospheres— in particular, the violence imposed onto indigenous tribes and non-human living beings.

Hira Sheikh and Marcus Foth discuss smart urban governance and multi-species justice , Alexandra Deschamps-Sonsino highlights moral disengagement of the design sector, and how creative professionals can integrate climate change knowledge in their practice. In one of the episodes, An-Ting, a theatre artist and composer, shares her immersive storytelling projects around human and human-interaction where she weaves diverse encounters into her creations, blending music with other art forms to delve into the depths of the human experience.

The *Reveries of an Urban Dreamland* podcast series ties closely to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing challenges related to sustainable urban development, climate action, and inclusivity. The discussions within the series explore the ecological and social dynamics of Karachi, a city heavily impacted by climate change, aligning with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The residency's emphasis on reimagining human and non-human interactions and the advocacy for biodiversity preservation resonate with SDG 15 (Life on Land). By integrating knowledge-sharing, innovative design, and participatory engagement, the podcast contributes to reshaping urban landscapes into sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ecosystems.

The podcast series is part of a collaborative artistic research residency by the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and Umbrellium supported by the British Council.

The artistic research residency projects and podcast episodes can be accessed on www.residency.iobm.edu.pk

Listen to the Preview here: [Collateral Damage](#), [Novel Pedagogies](#)

All episodes can be listened to on [YouTube](#), [Apple Podcast](#), [Spotify](#) and other podcast platforms.



HEC awards Rapid Technology Transfer Grant (RTTG) to IoBM

The Department of Environment and Energy Management has been awarded a prestigious research grant from the Rapid Technology Transfer Grant program. Dr. Jamshaid Iqbal, Assistant Professor of Environment and Energy Management, leads as the Principal Investigator (PI) of this innovative project.

This groundbreaking initiative aims to pioneer the development of a state-of-the-art Textile Waste Recycling Machine. Designed to transform textile waste into high-quality raw cotton and fluffy material, this machine offers a sustainable solution with wide-ranging applications. The possibilities are limitless, from serving as raw material for the textile industry to being utilized as fillers for pillows, quilts, jackets, and sofa cushions. This recycled material can also be utilized for making floor mats, sheets, and even bricks, showcasing its versatility and environmental benefits.

To bring this vision to life, The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) has collaborated with SAMA Packaging Machines & Processing Systems, a renowned manufacturer of packaging machines and processing solutions in Pakistan. Led by Managing Partner Mr. Shahzad Umar SAMA, who boasts 22 years of expertise in the field, SAMA has been a pioneer since its inception in 1978. With 47 years of experience and a track record of excellence, SAMA is the largest exporter of machines in Pakistan with its machines being exported to over 22 countries, in the past, machines were imported into Pakistan but now the game has changed as we export, cater domestic and international market too and now we are trusted name in the international market use Made in Pakistan, Made for Pakistan and for globe too.

In a significant step towards collaboration, Mr. Shahzad Umar SAMA recently visited IoBM on May

8th, 2024, where he engaged in discussions with President Talib Syed Karim, along with key representatives including the Director of ORIC, Head of Corporate Affairs, Head of the Department of Environment and Energy Management, and the Principal Investigator of the project, Dr. Jamshaid Iqbal.

In pursuit of fostering stronger ties between industry and academia, SAMA Packaging Machines & Processing Systems and the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) are actively working towards formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shortly. This strategic partnership aims to synergize expertise, resources, and capabilities to drive innovation, sustainability, and mutual growth.

The recent awarding of the Rapid Technology Transfer Grant to IoBM by the Department of Environment and Energy Management signifies a pivotal step towards achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, this initiative aligns with **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**, as the development of a Textile Waste Recycling Machine addresses the urgent need for sustainable practices in waste management. Additionally, it supports **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** by fostering innovation through collaboration with SAMA Packaging Machines & Processing Systems, ensuring that industrial practices evolve to meet environmental challenges. Moreover, this partnership embodies **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**, highlighting the importance of collaboration between academia and industry in driving technological advancements that promote sustainability and social responsibility.



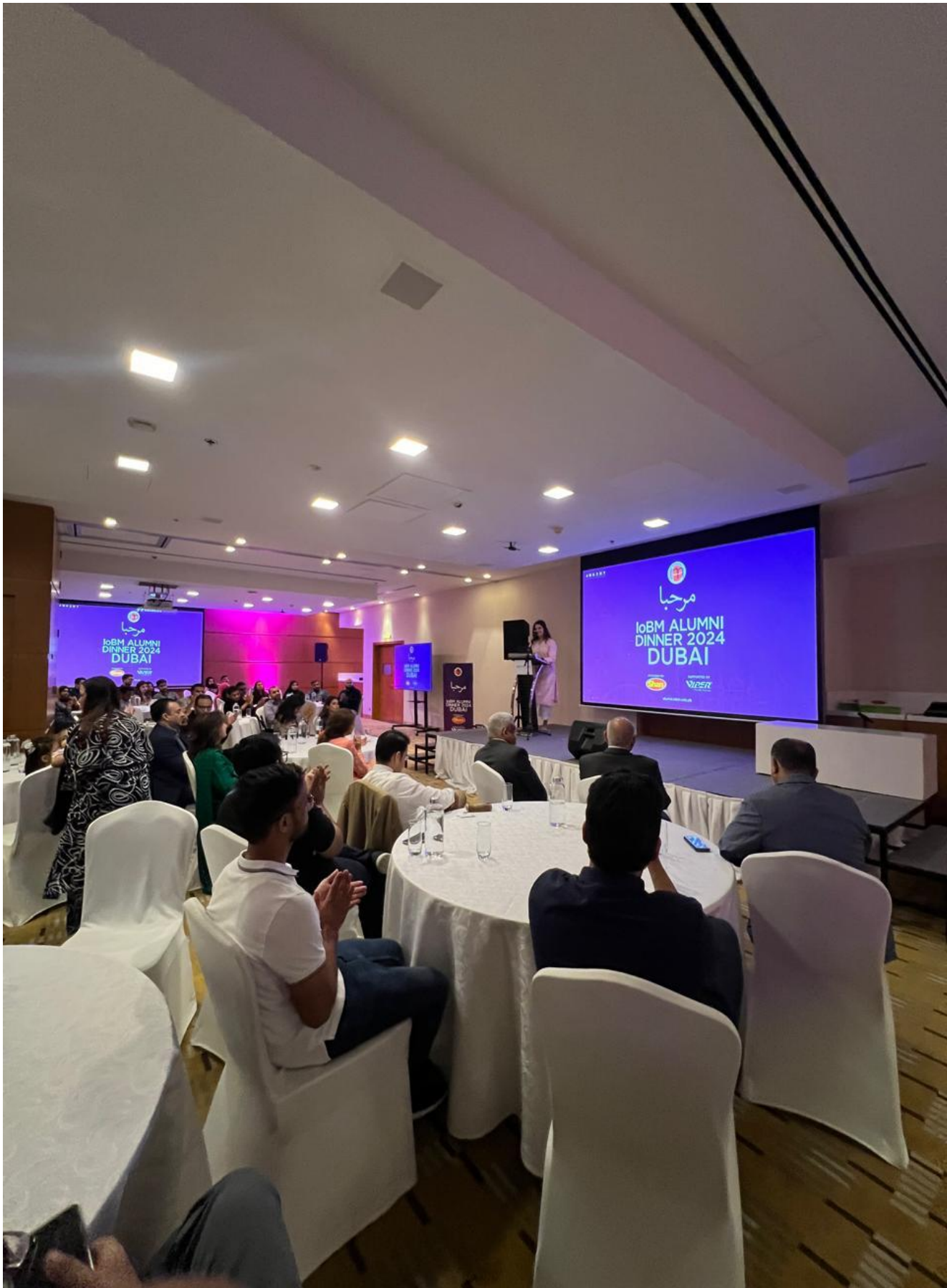
Poster Presentation - Capstone Project of MBA IM & EEM

The Department of Industrial Management and Environment & Energy Management hosted an event to showcase the Capstone Projects for Spring 2024- MBA program on Saturday, 25th May 2024. The students presented their projects addressing contemporary challenges and paving the way for a greener, more efficient future. Highlights included energy recovery systems, eco-friendly practices in various industries, advancements in food safety, and vendor management systems. The next generation demonstrated how they are turning waste into wealth and enhancing performance through smart, sustainable solutions.

The participation and valuable suggestions of the esteemed IoBM faculty, along with the meticulous evaluation by our honored external examiner, Sayed Irfan, who has a diverse and enriching professional background that carries high value for creating organizational synergy. He specialties in

Operations & Supply Chain Management and Decision Modelling, Energy Conservation & Management. The feedback greatly contributed to the success of the event, inspiring our students to continue their innovative work towards a sustainable future.

The Capstone Project presentations demonstrated a strong alignment with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Projects such as energy recovery systems and eco-friendly industry practices reflect SDG 7 by contributing to sustainable energy solutions. Similarly, advancements in food safety and vendor management systems resonate with SDG 12 by promoting responsible production and consumption, reducing waste, and enhancing supply chain efficiencies. These projects show the next generation’s commitment to integrating sustainability into various industries, supporting the broader goals of environmental responsibility and economic growth. The feedback provided by IoBM faculty and external examiner Sayed Irfan further motivated students to pursue innovations aligned with these global objectives.



IoBM hosts Alumni Reunion Dinner in Dubai

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi, organized an Alumni Reunion Dinner in Dubai on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the Novotel Dubai Al Barsha. This memorable event brought together IoBM alumni from various sectors residing in the UAE, allowing them to reconnect with former colleagues and reminisce about cherished experiences at the Institute. Established in 1995, IoBM has over 14,000 alumni working in Pakistan and abroad, especially in the Gulf States, North America, Australia, and other countries.

Gracing the occasion with their presence were Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM, and Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Vice President of the Foundation for Higher Education (IoBM’s parent company) and Chief Advisor, IoBM. The Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Mahira Zakiuddin (IoBM graduate: BBA 2005, MBA 2006).

In his address, Mr. Talib S. Karim highlighted the enduring mission of the late Founder President of IoBM, Mr. Shahjehan Syed Karim, to educate students who can contribute to society after graduation. He called for the establishment of the IoBM Endowment Fund - UAE, designed to support strategic initiatives, provide scholarships and financial aid, and promote innovation and research. He also proposed the creation of the IoBM Alumni UAE Chapter to engage with alumni in the region and outlined various future projects aimed at enhancing the Institute's current status.

Mr. Bashir Janmohammad, Chancellor of IoBM, recognized the efforts of IoBM’s late Founder President, Mr. Shahjehan S. Karim, in establishing IoBM and hailed him as a visionary leader. He added that IoBM alumni are the backbone of the Institute and should continue contributing to IoBM and society.

Mr. Salman Beg (MBA Executive from IoBM’s first batch – 1995), who is the General Secretary of Global Outreach and Engagement for the IoBM Alumni Association, encouraged IoBM alumni to maintain strong connections and collaborations with their peers to ensure the growth and flourishing of the alumni network.

Syed Faraz Ali, Manager of the Alumni Office at IoBM, presented the vote of thanks. He emphasized the importance of such gatherings in fostering greater engagement within the IoBM alumni community worldwide. The evening concluded with a mesmerizing musical performance.

The creation of the IoBM Endowment Fund and the proposed UAE Alumni Chapter directly contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education), as it focuses on offering scholarships and financial aid to promote equitable access to higher education. The institution’s emphasis on fostering innovation and research supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Additionally, the idea of establishing the IoBM Alumni UAE Chapter can be linked to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), encouraging global cooperation and knowledge-sharing within the alumni community. These initiatives reflect IoBM’s commitment to developing a sustainable, educated, and innovative society through higher education and cross-border collaborations.



Innovative ideas presented at Eureka Fair

The Management & HRM Department of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) organized the Eureka Fair – Spring 2024, on Saturday, May 4, 2024. MBA students from the course MAN608-Technology, Operations, & Innovation applied their learning to develop tangible innovations. A total of 25 projects, managed by nearly 100 students, made the Eureka Fair a memorable event. The Eureka Fair showcased a dynamic range of projects, spanning from mobile applications addressing pressing social issues to sophisticated embedded systems tailored for various domestic and commercial needs. These projects illustrated the diverse interests and innovative acumen of participating students. By providing this platform, the Eureka Fair empowered students to not only bolster their confidence in their innovative abilities but also inspire their peers to embark on similar journeys of creativity.

Dr. Junaid Ansari, from the Management & HRM Department, warmly welcomed guests from academia and industry. Guest adjudicators offered constructive feedback, challenging the students' ideas and guiding them in considering new possibilities in their innovations. By the end of the event, the hall bore witness to the vibrancy of innovation. This event wasn't just about showcasing the students' projects; it was about igniting possibilities, forging connections, and laying the foundation for a future driven by their creativity and dedication. Furthermore, the event served as a channel for invaluable industry insights, fostering stronger academia-industry connections. Esteemed representatives from the technological and corporate sectors were invited to assess these projects, further enhancing the bridge between academic ingenuity and real-world application.

The Eureka Fair aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The students' innovative projects reflect efforts toward addressing global challenges through technology

and innovation, enhancing the capabilities of industries while promoting sustainability. Furthermore, the inclusion of representatives from various industries and academia highlights the importance of SDG 17, which emphasizes partnerships across sectors to drive sustainable development. By fostering collaboration and innovation through events like the Eureka Fair, institutions contribute to global efforts aimed at achieving a more sustainable and equitable future

[Click here to read more about Eureka Fair - Spring 2024](#)



IoBM celebrates World Press Freedom Day

IoBM's Media Department celebrated World Press Freedom Day by organizing a panel discussion, which illuminated the significant role of journalism in nurturing freedom of the press. The event served as a platform for insightful discourse, underscoring the imperative need to safeguard the principles of free speech and independent journalism.

Esteemed guests, Mr. Faizullah Khan, Reporter at ARY, and Ms. Shazia Hasan, Senior Staff Reporter at Dawn and Visiting Faculty at the Media Studies Department, IoBM, graced the occasion with their presence, offering their experience and wisdom to the students. Mr. Faizullah and Ms. Shazia explored the challenges faced by journalists and emphasized the necessity for resilience in upholding integrity in the field. From uncovering stories of social injustice to exploring the complexities of reporting on various issues affecting society, the speakers provided invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of modern-day journalism.

By bringing together thought leaders and practitioners, IoBM's Media Department reaffirmed its commitment to producing the next generation of journalists and empowering them to drive positive change. The vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Ejaz Wasay, Head of Media Studies, IoBM, who also presented mementos to the speakers.

IoBM's efforts to foster a culture of free speech and independent journalism through its Media Department align directly with **SDG 16** ("Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"), which highlights the importance of access to information and fundamental freedoms. Additionally, by empowering students through education (**SDG 4**) and addressing societal inequalities (**SDG 10**), IoBM reinforces its broader commitment to the global SDGs.



Speakers' Den: A Series of Empowering Workshops for Entrepreneurs

The Shahjehan S Karim Incubation Center (SSK-IC) hosted the "Speakers' Den." These workshops aimed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate various aspects of their startup journeys. Each session was led by an expert speaker who shared their experiences and insights, providing valuable guidance to the participants.

Workshop 1: Getting Started: Securing Grants for Startups

Date: Monday, April 22nd, 2024

Speaker: Khushal Piracha

Khushal Piracha, Co-Founder and Funding & Partnerships Lead at Chiragh Education Technologies, focused on securing grants for startups. Drawing from his own journey and success story, Khushal guided participants in identifying their core problems and developing solutions. He shared practical tips on how startups can effectively position themselves to secure grant funding, emphasizing the importance of clearly defining and addressing the problem they aim to solve.

Workshop 2: How to Draft a Winning Pitch Deck for Grants

Date: Monday, April 29th, 2024

Speaker: Maira Siddiqui

The second workshop was led by Maira Siddiqui, the Founder of Chiragh Education Technologies and a startup grant winner. Maira shared her startup journey and provided detailed insights on crafting a winning pitch deck. She outlined the key elements that make a pitch deck compelling and successful in securing funding. Through presenting her own winning business idea, Maira demonstrated practical techniques and strategies that participants could apply to their own pitches, helping them enhance their chances of securing grants.

Workshop 3: Leadership and its Importance in Entrepreneurship

Date: Thursday, May 2nd, 2024

Speaker: McManis S. Lee

The final workshop in the series was conducted by McManis S. Lee, Section Chief, Public Affairs at the US Consulate.

The workshops hosted by the Shahjehan S Karim Incubation Center focused on entrepreneurial education, leadership, and financial empowerment, the event supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) through skill development, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by fostering entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Furthermore, the emphasis on inclusive business practices and gender equity in leadership contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality), while promoting access to resources through grants and pitch strategies highlights efforts toward reducing inequalities, aligning with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



SSK-IC presents Shell Tameer Workshop

On April 16th, 2024, Shell Pakistan Limited organized the "Shell Tameer Workshop on Entrepreneurship & Business Model Canvas," aimed at helping startups reflect on their transformative journey from inception to success. The workshop featured three comprehensive sessions designed to equip the entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge.

The workshop was divided into three key sessions, each focusing on a critical aspect of entrepreneurship and business development.

Session 1: Understanding Entrepreneurship

The first session, led by Imran Azeem, Head of Training & Development at Shell LiveWIRE, introduced participants to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Imran highlighted the importance of innovation and competitiveness in the startup ecosystem. He shared various competitive models and interactive techniques that encouraged participants to think creatively and develop innovative solutions.

Session 2: Business Model Canvas Basics

In the second session, Imran Azeem continued to guide the participants through the basics of the Business Model Canvas. This session provided a structured framework for startups to visualize their business ideas, identify key components, and understand how different elements of their business interconnect. Participants were grouped and tasked with developing an innovative startup idea using the Business Model Canvas, fostering a collaborative and hands-on learning environment.

Session 3: Making a Pitch Deck

The final session, led by Muhammad Saifullah, Programme Coordinator & Communications Manager at Shell Pakistan Limited, focused on creating an effective pitch deck. Saifullah tested the students' abilities and provided personal mentoring to each startup. He shared insights on how to create visibility for their business and identify the right platforms for promotion. Participants learned how to craft compelling pitches that effectively communicate their business ideas to potential investors and stakeholders.

About the Speakers:

- **Imran Azeem:** Head of Training & Development at Shell LiveWIRE, a flagship social investment programme of Shell Pakistan Limited. Imran is an experienced development sector consultant with a deep understanding of entrepreneurial development and training.

Muhammad Saifullah: Programme Coordinator & Communications Manager at Shell Pakistan Limited. Saifullah has extensive experience in guiding startups and enhancing their visibility through strategic communication and mentoring.

The "Shell Tameer Workshop on Entrepreneurship & Business Model Canvas" hosted at SSK-IC is closely tied to several key SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By equipping entrepreneurs with essential skills in business modelling and pitching, this initiative fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, crucial for economic development and sustainable growth. The hands-on approach empowers startups to create competitive and socially impactful businesses, directly contributing to long-term sustainability and local economic progress.



IoBM and Ismail Industries Limited sign MoU

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and Ismail Industries Limited (IIL) signed an MoU on Tuesday, April 09, 2024, to strengthen academia-industry linkages. The signatories were Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD Internship and Placement, IoBM, and Mr. Arif Hussain Nomani, Group Sr. General Manager HR & Admin, Ismail Industries Limited.

As per this collaboration, IoBM will serve as a talent sourcing institution for IIL for summer internships, MTO programs, and campus Ambassador Programs. Moreover, IIL will remain a Platinum Sponsor for IoBM's Career Fair from 2025 to 2027 and will conduct Capacity Development initiatives (Surveys and Projects) for Capstone and Final Year Projects covering various areas of expertise. Furthermore, Ismail Industries Limited will support innovation by supporting IoBM's Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Centre (SSKIC) through pre-vetting, mentorship, and funding for new cohorts. IIL will also decide to set up a vibrant space for students, built around the theme of sustainability, recycling, and upcycling.

The MoU between IoBM and Ismail Industries Limited aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By supporting talent sourcing, student development programs, and innovation through the Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Centre (SSKIC), this collaboration fosters educational growth and practical skill development (SDG 4). The focus on sustainability through space design, upcycling, and recycling reflects a commitment to responsible production and infrastructure development (SDG 9). Moreover, the partnership

exemplifies cross-sector collaboration between academia and industry, contributing to the advancement of SDG 17, which emphasizes the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals.

Present on the occasion were: Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector IoBM; Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean CCSIS; Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean CBM; Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Assistant Manager, Internship and Placement; Mr. Raza Abbas, HoD SSKIC; Syed Faraz Ali, Manager, ORIC; Ms. Rabiya Sabri, HoD Academics, and Ms. Ghazala Rizwan, Internship Officer.



IoBM Empowers **250+ Students** as Entrepreneurs Through BBSHRRDB Project



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IoBM Empowers 250+ Students as Entrepreneurs Through BBSHRRDB Project

The recently concluded four-month BBSHRRDB project, in collaboration with IoBM, witnessed 280 students earning their diplomas. This initiative holds the promise of transforming these students into knowledgeable individuals, budding entrepreneurs, and successful job creators. The graduating students showcased their viable business ideas at the Final Symposium for Batch XV of the BBSHRRDB program at IoBM.

The BBSHRRDB project at IoBM not only empowers over 280 students to become entrepreneurs but also aligns closely with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By fostering skills in entrepreneurship, the initiative supports **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**, promoting sustainable economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, the project's commitment to inclusive education resonates with **SDG 4: Quality Education**, ensuring access to lifelong learning.

opportunities. This approach cultivates a culture of innovation and inclusivity, vital for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, thereby contributing to **SDG 1: No Poverty**, **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**, and **SDG 13: Climate Action**. Ultimately, the project exemplifies how higher education institutions can play a transformative role in achieving the SDGs and building resilient communities.

Distinguished industry leaders attended the Final Symposium to share their insights and feedback. They were: Hussein Hassanali, Khursheed K., Shayan Baig, Shoaib Mirza, Sumreen Noman Ansari, Muhammad Aftab Nehal, Iftikhar Arif, Asad Zaidi, Khushnood Aftab Shaikh, Faisal Hussain, Masroor Anwer, Shakeel Akhter, and Farhan Arif.



Institute of Business Management
appointed as the **National Chapter** of the

UNESCO

Entrepreneurship
Education Network (EE-Net)
in Pakistan

IoBM appointed as National Chapter of UNESCO EE-Net

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) has been appointed as the National Chapter of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net) in Pakistan. In its role as a National Chapter, IoBM's Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) will spearhead efforts to advance entrepreneurship education across the country. This will involve organizing workshops, seminars, and other relevant activities aimed at raising awareness and nurturing entrepreneurial skills. By aligning with UNESCO's EE-Net objectives, IoBM seeks to cultivate a generation of innovative entrepreneurs who will contribute to sustainable economic and social progress, thereby supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The mission of UNESCO EE-Net is to foster a vibrant and dynamic community of entrepreneurs and educators passionate about promoting entrepreneurship education in the Asia-Pacific region, to

collect valuable insights from successful entrepreneurs to develop and update entrepreneurship education courses and materials, and to prepare a comprehensive seven-year plan for the EE-Net from 2024 to 2030. The Chapter will focus on tech start-ups with verticals including the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Agri-Tech, Health Tech, Ed-tech, Blockchain, and Metaverse.

The appointment of IoBM as the National Chapter of UNESCO's EE-Net focused particularly on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). By fostering entrepreneurship education, IoBM's Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center is positioned to empower aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly in technology sectors like AI and Agri-Tech, contributing to economic resilience and innovation. Moreover, through targeted workshops and seminars, this initiative aims to address educational disparities, enhance employment opportunities, and support sustainable economic growth in Pakistan, thereby advancing the broader agenda of sustainable development as envisioned by the United Nations.



IoBM secures 2nd place in the 73rd Annual Flower Competition

We are thrilled to announce that the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) has secured the second position among all educational institutes in the esteemed 73rd Annual Flower Competition, organized by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan. This achievement not only showcases IoBM's commitment to excellence but also highlights our contribution to creating a visually captivating and environmentally friendly campus environment. Lt Col (R) Muhammad Faraz, Senior Manager overseeing Maintenance, Security, and Proctor Office, IoBM received the prize on behalf of IoBM.

As part of our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IoBM's recognition in the 73rd Annual Flower Competition reflects our dedication to fostering sustainable practices within our campus environment. This achievement aligns with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), emphasizing the importance of creating green spaces that promote biodiversity and enhance community well-being. Furthermore, our initiatives support SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing an enriching environment for learning and personal development, ultimately contributing to a holistic educational experience for our students.



IoBM alumna, Minzah Shehzad, secures a grant for her Capstone Project from the HEC

IoBM alumna, Ms. Minzah Shehzad, completed her MBA in Environment and Energy Management (EEM) in 2023. She completed her Capstone Project, "Developing a Textile Waste Recycling Machine," which has garnered significant recognition. The project secured a grant of PKR 5.0 million from HEC under the Rapid Technology Transfer Grant. Dr. Jamshaid Iqbal, Assistant Professor in EEM, served as the project supervisor, contributing to its success and impact. We congratulate Ms. Minzah on her achievement.

Ms. Minzah Shehzad's innovative project on textile waste recycling not only show cases of her commitment to environmental sustainability by focusing on responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), but her initiative also directly addresses waste management challenges in the textile industry, contributing to climate action (SDG 13). Furthermore, this project has the potential to create decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) by fostering green technology and entrepreneurship. The grant from HEC underlines the importance of supporting such transformative projects that not only empower individuals but also promote sustainable practices in line with the global agenda for a better future.



SSKIC selects top 5 start-ups for Cohort 3

The Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Centre (SSKIC) at IoBM concluded its Final Pitch Day for Cohort 3 on February 17, 2024. As many as 30 start-ups competed for a spot in the 6-month program. It will provide comprehensive support, including mentorship from industry experts, access to funding and investment opportunities, co-working space and infrastructure, and skill development workshops and training programs.

A distinguished panel of 12 judges from the industry evaluated the pitches. They were: Dr. Seema Ansari, Advisor to Rector, IoBM; Dr. Imran Batada, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) and Director CIT, IoBM; Prof. Dr. Farhan Essa, Chairman, Dr. Essa Health Services Pvt. Ltd.; Sami Haider, Head of Human Resources, Dr. Essa Laboratory & Diagnostic Centre; Salman Tufail, Director, Tufail Group; Dr. Mariam Mateen Khan, HoD, Entrepreneurship, IoBM; Mr. Salman Beg, Director, Enterprising MFG Co. Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Halil Ibrahim Basaran, Karachi Programme Coordinator, TIKA; Ms. Evelyn Abrogena, Advisor Individual Life Operations, EFU Life Assurance Ltd.; Ms. Uzma Zaidi- Chief HR. Officer, Unity Foods Ltd.; Dr. Eram Abbasi, Director of Entrepreneurship, DHA Suffa University; and Mr. Shayan Ahmed Baig, EVP and Deputy Head Shariah Compliance, Meezan Bank.

After careful deliberation, the judges selected the following top 5 start-ups to join Cohort 3:

- **Greenova8:** Invest directly in climate solutions through an accessible, blockchain-powered platform.
- **DigiBook:** Streamline reservations, manage finances, and grow a travel business.

- **Filt Resha:** Eco-conscious filter paper from upcycled waste, redefining sustainability through quality, community, and environmental responsibility.
- **1Archiver.AI:** Archive data, access history, and simplify legal compliance.
- **Jeanius Digital:** Precision fit, AI design, and virtual try-on for a perfect denim experience.

The initiatives showcased by the selected start-ups at the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Centre (SSKIC) align closely with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For instance, Greenova8 and Filt Resha are actively contributing to SDG 13: Climate Action by promoting sustainable practices and reducing waste, while DigiBook supports SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through enhancing business operations in the travel sector. Additionally, Jeanius Digital's use of AI for sustainable fashion promotes responsible consumption (SDG 12). The emphasis on mentorship and community engagement within the SSKIC program also reflects the importance of SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, as collaboration is key to achieving sustainable development.



IoBM Celebrates World Engineering Day 2024

World Engineering Day celebrated on 4th March every year is an official International Day proclaimed in 2019 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This year's theme was "Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World."

The College of Engineering and Sciences (CES) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) celebrated World Engineering Day by organizing a guest speaker session on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in the newly renovated R&D Lab of the CES. The discussions fostered during the session highlight the crucial role of engineering solutions in building a more sustainable future for all. Invited to speak on this occasion were Mr. Irfan Ahmad, Energy Consultant, and Syed Adeel ur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer, PRIME Business and Energy.

Dr. Muhammad Imran Majid, HoD Electrical Engineering Department, CES introduced the speakers and highlighted the role of emerging technologies including Skylink, Project Kuiper, and the local relevance of using Software Defined Network, to create a private backbone network, an NRPU project spearheaded by CES. Mr. Irfan Ahmad shared insights on the opportunities and challenges involved in transitioning towards a renewable energy landscape in Pakistan. Syed Adeel ur Rahman delivered a presentation on "Environmental Social Governance (ESG)." He explored the increasing significance of ESG principles, in business strategies underscoring the importance of integrating social considerations into traditional profit-centric approaches.

Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Acting Rector, IoBM presented the closing remarks. He thanked the esteemed speakers for sharing their valuable ideas on this occasion. This is the third in the annual celebration of World Engineering Day. The first and second annual celebrations from 2022 and 2023 can be viewed below:

WED 2022 celebration link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7U3HHNLdPWM>

WED 2023 celebration link: <https://www.iobm.edu.pk/news-events/detail/iobm-organized-world-engineering-day-2023/>

The IoBM's celebration of World Engineering Day 2024 focus on "Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World" directly contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by promoting innovative engineering practices that aim to build resilient infrastructure and foster sustainable industrialization. The discussions on renewable energy, spearheaded by experts like Mr. Irfan Ahmad and Syed Adeel ur Rahman, tie into SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) by addressing the transition to renewable energy. The emphasis on Environmental Social Governance (ESG) principles reflects SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), highlighting the importance of integrating sustainability into business strategies to mitigate environmental impact. Furthermore, the role of partnerships and collaborations discussed during the event underscores SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), promoting cross-sectoral dialogue to support the achievement of the SDGs.



President’s Merit Scholarship Ceremony 2022-23

Institute of Business Management (IoBM) organized the President's Merit Scholarship Ceremony 2022-23 on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Nineteen meritorious students were presented with the certificates in a ceremony attended by the proud parents of these students. Present on this occasion were IoBM’s Mr. Bashir Janmohammad, Chancellor; Mr. Talib S. Karim, President; Ms. Sabina Mohsin, VP, FHE and Chief Advisor, IoBM; Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean CBM; Brig. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean CCSIS; Dr. Nadia Ayub, Dean CESD; HoDs, management, and faculty.

The President's Merit Scholarship Ceremony 2022-23 was planned and organized under the leadership of Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Vice President, Foundation for Higher Education and Chief Advisor, IoBM. She received complete facilitation from the Admissions Department and the Financial Assistance & Scholarship Department ensuring the success of the event.

While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Talib Karim expressed his delight in hosting this annual event that recognizes high-achieving students. He added that a significant number of the accomplished students present are girls. He underscored the importance of cultivating a culture of learning and encouraged students to present themselves as future managers with confidence and professionalism. Mr. Bashir Janmohammad acknowledged the hard work of the parents of the meritorious students and encouraged students to aspire to be job creators. He urged them to dream big in their chosen fields and emphasized the values of punctuality, honesty, and adherence to rules.

This scholarship initiative aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4: Quality Education, which emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. By recognizing and supporting high-achieving students, the

Institute of Business Management (IoBM) contributes to the upliftment of future leaders, fostering gender equality (SDG 5) and economic growth (SDG 8). Moreover, through financial assistance programs, IoBM addresses barriers caused by financial disparities, supporting efforts to reduce inequality (SDG 10) and alleviate poverty (SDG 1), as outlined in the university’s commitment to societal development.

The MC of the event was Dr. Shagufta Ghauri. Associate Professor & HoD, Management and HRM. Parveen Shah, a student of BBA (Honors) and a recipient of the scholarship recited the verses from the Holy Quran. Parveen Shah received the scholarship for the fourth time, Madiha Zehra received it for the third time, and Muneeba Asif, Murtaza Hatim Bohra, Aiyaza Ahmed, Karim Amin and Armeen Arif received it for the second time. The event concluded with the revealing of the plaque with the names of the meritorious students.

List of Meritorious Students receiving the President's Merit Scholarship 2022-23

- Fatima Sarwar - BBA (Honors)
- Mahnoor Asif - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance
- Ammar Shahkar Sayied - BBA (Honors) - Awarded 2nd time
- Nawal d/o Syed Naster Junaid - BBA (Honors)
- Joshua David - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance
- Muneeba Ashraf - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance - Awarded 2nd time
- Saima Shiraz - BS (Entrepreneurship)
- Huda Shariq - BS (Honors) Accountancy, Mgmt. & Law
- Armeen Arif - BS (Actuarial Science & Risk Mgmt.)
- Ayiza Salman - BS (Economics, Media & IR) - Awarded 2nd time
- Murtaza s/o Hatim Bohra - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance - Awarded 2nd time
- Zoha d/o Syed Furqan Hussain - MBA
- Perveen Shah - BBA (Honors) - Awarded 4th time
- Aiyza Ahmed - BS Mathematics and Economics - Awarded 2nd time
- Karim Amin - BS (Social Entrp. & Social Leadership)- Awarded 2nd time
- Kinza Batool - MBA
- Muhammad Mohib Zafar - BBA (Honors) - Awarded 3rd time
- Illiyyaan s/o Murad - BBA (Honors)
- Zainab Imran - BS (Mathematics and Economics)
- Laiba Gul Durrani - BBA (Honors) - Awarded 3rd time
- Rimsha Kawaguchi - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance
- Madiha Zehra - BS (Data Science) - Awarded 3rd time
- Amaan Ali - BS (Entrepreneurship)
- Muhammad Waseem Siddiqui - MBA
- Yameena Nasir - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance - Awarded 3rd time
- Reheela Qadri - MBA
- Alvina Aamir - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance - Awarded 2nd time
- Mehreen Hasan - BS (Psychology)
- Easha Kashif - BS Joint (Honors) Accounting & Finance - Awarded 2nd time
- Ayesha Ahmed - BBA (Honors)



IoBM and Mondelez sign MoU

Mondelez has become the lead sponsor for the podcast Celebrating Sweet Success, a product of the IoBM Alumni Association produced by the IoBM Media Department. In this regard, a memorandum of understanding was signed between IoBM and Mondelez on Saturday, February 25, 2024. This podcast has been developed to foster a stronger network among its Alumni by featuring successful alumni serving in top corporate positions in Pakistan’s corporate sector. The signatories of the MoU were Mr. Talib S. Karim, President IoBM, and Mr. Sami Wahid, Managing Director, Mondelez Pakistan, an IoBM alumnus (BBA 2004, MBA 2005). Present on the occasion were Mr. Salman Beg, President IoBM Alumni Association, and the members of the IoBM Alumni Association including Mr. Farhan Ahmed, Head of Corporate Affairs of Habib Bank Ltd. and Mr. Abrar Ahmad Khan, CEO TruFocus Consulting, and Secretary General IoBM Alumni Association. Mr. Nabhan Karim, HoD IoBM MARCOM and Syed Faraz Ali, Manager, ORIC and Manager Alumni Association, were also present.

The partnership between IoBM and Mondelez contributes significantly to SDG 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," by fostering collaboration between academia and the corporate sector. This initiative enhances alumni engagement through knowledge sharing, which aligns with SDG 4, "Quality Education," by creating platforms that promote lifelong learning opportunities. Furthermore, the podcast "Celebrating Sweet Success" not only strengthens networks but also supports economic development (SDG 8, "Decent Work and Economic Growth") by showcasing successful alumni contributing to Pakistan's corporate sector. Through these combined efforts, IoBM continues to advance its role in addressing various SDGs.



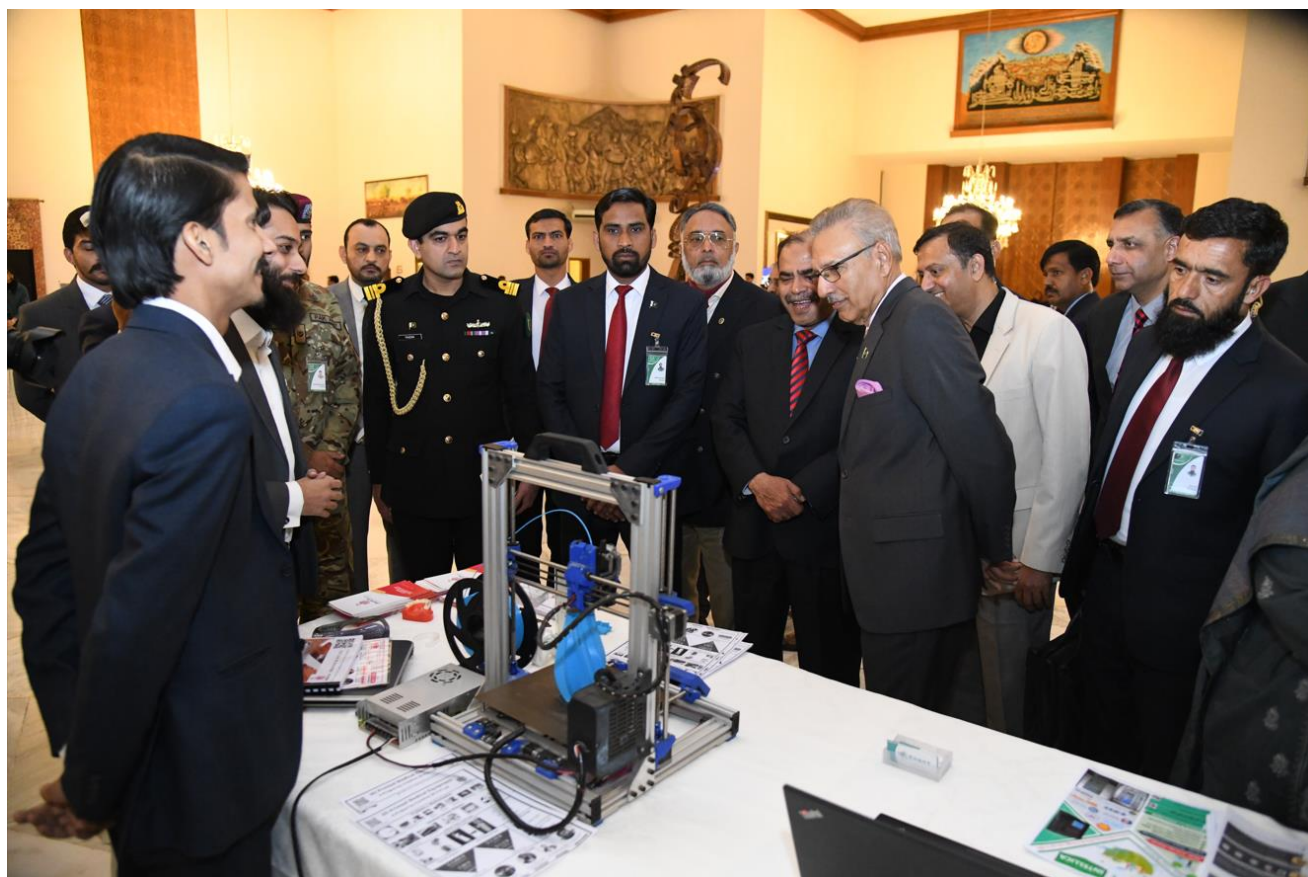
A discussion on academia-industry future held IoBM

Mr. Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman, PASHA; Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan, Global Chief Information Officer, Aga Khan University; and Ms. Naureen Anwar, Senior Vice President, Systems Ltd. were invited to speak at a panel discussion on 'Exploring Trends in Academia-Industry Relationships and Charting Future Courses of Action.' The event was organized by the College of Computer Science and Information Systems (CCSIS), IoBM, on Thursday, February 22, 2024. The guests shared insights, experiences, and perspectives on fostering stronger collaborations and addressing emerging challenges in the academia-industry interface. Brig. Prof. Muhammad Abbas, Dean CCSIS, moderated the event. Present on the occasion were IoBM's Management, Deans, Faculty Members and Students.

While discussing the evolution of the IT industry, Mr. Zohaib mentioned that much needs to be done to bridge the gap between academia and industry by implementing policies and procedures that impact the national landscape. He urged students to acquire knowledge on topics related to generative AI, cyber security, and others that will be prominent fields in the coming years. Mr. Shaukat Ali stated that two dynamics in the world and Pakistan are being observed. The relationship between academia and industry has evolved tenfold worldwide due to advancements in technology and cultural diversity. Academia needs to solve societal problems and implement solutions in collaboration with industry. Ms. Naureen highlighted that the industry has been facing constraints in the post-Covid period related to resources and talent. She suggested involving more senior faculty when academia and industry collaborate, as they interact directly with students and can share key insights in their lectures. Mr. Shaukat added that universities and industry work based on their respective expectations, priorities, and mindsets. Aligning these aspects between academia and industry is essential to creating a harmonious blend of collaboration and alliance fostering growth."

During the discussion, the speakers shared a common consensus and provided insights on the current academia-industry relationship. They identified prominent collaborations, investigated the impact of technological advancements, discussed the role of research, and highlighted the connection between the IT industry and academia. The panel discussion concluded with the presentation of shields to the panellists. Head of the Computer Science Department, Engineer Asghar Khan, and Industry Liaison focal person for CCSIS, Dr. Khalid Bin Muhammad, expressed gratitude to all the panelists, industry and academic guests, faculty, and the volunteers of Digicon Society and students.

At the panel discussion, speakers from academia and industry highlighted key challenges and opportunities for stronger collaborations between these two sectors. This discourse is particularly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as fostering such collaborations supports goals like SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Bridging the gap between academia and industry not only enhances the quality of education but also promotes innovation and economic growth, as emphasized by the need for students to be prepared for emerging fields such as AI and cybersecurity. These interactions align with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which encourages collaboration across sectors to achieve sustainable development. By aligning academic curricula with industry needs, institutions can contribute to both local and global sustainability efforts.



IoBM resident startups shine at the 3rd National Idea Bank 2024

DigiBook and Creative 3D Printers Pvt Limited, two start-ups associated with the Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Centre (SSKIC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) were declared as top ideas at the third edition of the National Idea Bank (NIB). They were presented with the awards by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, at a ceremony held at the President's house on Thursday, February 15, 2024. DigiBook topped the competition as the national winner whereas Creative 3D Printers Pvt Limited (for presenting their '3D Printed Medical Device'), an alumnus start-up at SSKIC's Cohort-I was ranked among the top 10 at the NIB grand finale. Both start-ups have been selected to visit Silicon Valley for mentorship and networking sessions to enhance and evolve their business ideas. This event was organized by the National University of Technology (NUTECH) in collaboration with ASPIRE Pakistan.

The awards were presented to Aurangzaib Alamgir, Founder of DigiBook and Entrepreneur in Residence at SSKIC-IoBM, and to Bilal Afridi, Co-Founder and COO of Creative 3D Printers Pvt. Limited. Founder and Director of Creative 3D Printers Pvt Limited, Atif Baig, an IoBM alumnus, was also present. The Co-founder of DigiBook, Rida Zainab, is also an IoBM alumna. The start-ups were accompanied by Mr. Raza Abbas, focal person of the National Idea Bank at IoBM, and the Head of Incubation at SSKIC-IoBM.

The SSKIC was established by IoBM's Management with a vision to foster creativity and management skills among the youth as the Institute envisions 20% of its students becoming entrepreneurs. While addressing the occasion, President Dr Arif Alvi called for providing an enabling environment for youth to nurture their intellectual abilities and benefit from their innovative ideas for the country's prosperity. "Pakistani youth are blessed with enormous potential, brilliant minds, and

bright ideas; however, they needed an appropriate platform to transform their ideas into competitive and quality products to increase the country’s exports and reduce imports,” he remarked while addressing the season finale of the third edition of National Idea Bank.

To connect the achievements of DigiBook and Creative 3D Printers with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both projects align with key global targets, including **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**, **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, and **SDG 4: Quality Education**. Creative 3D Printers' focus on innovative 3D-printed medical devices directly contributes to **SDG 3** by improving healthcare access and medical solutions, particularly in developing medical technology to address local health challenges. Similarly, DigiBook's digital educational platform aligns with **SDG 4**, enhancing educational quality and accessibility through technology, which also supports **SDG 9** by fostering innovation in the education sector. Furthermore, their success highlights the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in advancing **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as these start-ups create new job opportunities and promote sustainable business practices.



IoBM Open House 2024

Enthusiastic students from Intermediate and A-level tracks, representing leading schools and colleges across Karachi, were invited to experience our campus life at the IoBM Open House 2024 held on February 15, 2024. The visiting students engaged with the faculty members of IoBM's undergraduate programs. They inquired about the program details, learning objectives, and career paths and were eagerly visiting the stalls with a vision to plan their future. Members of IoBM's various student societies guided these students through the campus tour and were informed about the spaces on campus used for academic, research, extracurricular and recreational purposes. The event was organized by IoBM's MARCOM with support and guidance from IoBM's Management and facilitation from Academics, Admissions, General Administration, IT, Security, and Housekeeping,

The IoBM Open House 2024 showcased to visiting students the following undergraduate programs offered at IoBM: BBA, BS Accounting and Finance, BS Accountancy, Management and Law; BS Actuarial Science and Risk Management, BS Joint Honors Business and Psychology, BS Psychology, BS Media Studies, BS Mathematics and Economics, BS Mathematics and Computational Finance, BS Statistics and Business Analytics, BS Logistics and Supply Chain Management, BS Entrepreneurship, BS Technology Management, B.Ed Honors 1.5 and 2.5 Years Weekend Program, BS Economics, BS Joint Honors Economics and Finance, BS Computer Science, BS Data Science and BS Software Engineering.

The IoBM Open House 2024 not only introduced prospective students to a variety of academic programs, but it also reinforced IoBM's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. By

providing access to diverse educational pathways, the event highlighted how IoBM strives to reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and foster lifelong learning opportunities for all, equipping future generations with the skills necessary to address global challenges. Furthermore, IoBM's active engagement with local communities and collaboration with external stakeholders reflects its role in promoting sustainable development through education and partnerships.



Minzah Shehzad secures Rapid Technology Transfer Grant



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Minzah Shehzad secures Rapid Technology Transfer Grant

Ms. Minzah Shehzad, an alumna of IoBM's MBA Environment and Energy Management (EEM) program, has made significant contributions to academic excellence through the successful implementation of her Capstone project, titled "Developing Textile Waste Recycling Machine." This project has not only showcased her dedication but also secured a grant of PKR 5.0 million for the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the esteemed Rapid Technology Transfer Grant. Under the guidance of Dr. Jamshaid Iqbal, Assistant Professor in EEM, Ms. Minzah Shehzad's accomplishment serves as a testament to IoBM's commitment to excellence and the impact that both the institution and its alumni continue to make in the fields of academic and research.

The recent success of Minzah Shehzad in securing a Rapid Technology Transfer Grant for her innovative project on textile waste recycling underscores the vital role that education and technology play in advancing Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By addressing the pressing issue of textile waste, Ms. Shehzad's initiative contributes not only to environmental sustainability but also promotes economic growth through innovative practices. This aligns with IoBM's commitment to fostering a research-oriented culture that supports the broader agenda of the SDGs, highlighting the importance of sustainable solutions in education and industry.



Mayor Karachi, Mr. Murtaza Wahab and Mr. Bashir Janmohammad inaugurated IoBM Career Fair 2024

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) organized a Career Fair on its campus on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. Mayor Karachi, Mr. Murtaza Wahab was the Chief Guest. He admired the efforts undertaken to bring top companies under one roof and was confident that it would prove beneficial to both the exhibitors and the students. Present at the inauguration ceremony were Mr. Bashir Janmohammad, Chancellor IoBM, Mr. Murtaza Wahab and Mr. Talib Karim, President IoBM, along with IoBM's head of departments, faculty, and management. The event was organized by IoBM's Internship, Placement and International Office (IPIO-IoBM). The event was organized by Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD, and Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Assistant Manager, along with their team including Ghazala Rizwan, Internship Officer and Iqra Aurangzaib (Intern), Hamza Zahid (Intern). They received complete support from the IoBM Leadership and various departments including General Administration, Housekeeping, IT, MARCOM, Maintenance and Security. Students representing societies also participated in the planning and on-ground activities before and during the event.

Students attending IoBM's Career Fair 2024 expressed their excitement about the opportunity to interact with representatives from diverse industries. The event featured over 90 organizations representing the corporate and banking sectors of Pakistan. The Fair provided students a direct engagement with the HR personnel of the participating companies. Moreover, the representatives guided students on the country's job market, advised them on choosing the best career paths, and offered tips on resume-making and interview preparation. The students discovered a range of career possibilities that helped them refine their goals based on their interests and fields of study. The Career

Fair 2024 was a testament to IoBM's commitment to offer holistic education ensuring that students are well-equipped to succeed in the competitive job market.

The IoBM Career Fair 2024 promoting quality education (SDG 4) and decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). By connecting students with over 90 leading organizations, the fair not only facilitates direct engagement with industry leaders but also empowers students to make informed career choices that contribute to sustainable economic development. Furthermore, IoBM's commitment to holistic education ensures that students are equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in a competitive job market, thereby fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This initiative underscores the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and the corporate sector, as emphasized by SDG 17, which advocates for partnerships to achieve these goals effectively.



SSKIC Pitch Training Showdown for Top 30 Shortlisted Cohort III Startups

On January 25th, 2024, the Shahjehan S Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) organized a dynamic pitch training showdown. This event focused on equipping budding entrepreneurs with the skills to pitch their business ideas like seasoned professionals. While having a great idea is essential, being able to pitch it effectively is crucial for securing support and investment.

The pitch training workshop aimed to refine the pitching abilities of young entrepreneurs through guided sessions with expert trainers, learning the art of storytelling, the power of data-driven pitches, and how to deliver their presentations with confidence and clarity.

Guest Speakers:

Sheikh Hammad Amjad: Sheikh Hammad, a seasoned expert in the startup world, provided invaluable insights into the Business Model Canvas. His session equipped participants with the tools to build a robust foundation for their pitches, ensuring they could effectively communicate their business strategies and potential.

Maira Siddiqui: Maira, the Founder of Chiragh Education Technologies, shared her journey and experiences in the startup world. She presented her own startup pitch, demonstrating effective pitching communication. Her story was not only inspiring but also provided practical examples of successful pitch strategies. Maira's session highlighted the importance of passion and clarity in delivering a compelling pitch.

Session Outline:

Business Model Canvas Mastery: Providing participants with essential insights into the startup world and teaching them how to craft a solid foundation for their pitches by effectively mapping out their business ideas and strategies.

Pitch Deck Deconstruction: Focusing on breaking down the essential elements of a successful pitch deck. Participants learned about the key components that investors look for, ensuring that their presentations are comprehensive and compelling.

Visual Storytelling & Clarity: Participants were taught how to design their pitches to capture attention and drive impact. The session covered techniques for visual storytelling, emphasizing clarity and engagement.

Interactive Practice Sessions: These sessions allowed participants to practice their pitches and receive expert feedback. The interactive nature of the practice sessions helped them polish their delivery and gain confidence in their presentation skills.

Hence empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs, providing them with the tools and support needed to thrive in the competitive startup landscape.

Seminar on Enhancing Education Effectiveness held at IoBM

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi organized a seminar on Enhancing Education Effectiveness on January 18, 2024. Invited as esteemed speakers were Mr. Saleemuddin, Director Quality Assurance, Sindh Higher Education Commission (HEC); Mr. Yousaf Jamil, Director QEC, Iqra University, and Dr. Arshia Samin Naqvi, Director QEC, Sohail University. The speakers discussed the methodology of pursuing QS Ranking by the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and what steps can be taken to foster an environment of academic and research learning, faculty development, and uplifting the impact of education. Present on the occasion were IoBM's Acting Rector, Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Director QEC, Dr. Shahid Amjad, along with the representatives of the QEC of various HEIs of Karachi and the faculty and management of IoBM.

While presenting the opening remarks, Dr. Shahid Amjad elaborated on the accomplishments and activities of IoBM's QEC. During his presentation, Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Jamil shared the strategies that the HEIs must follow when pursuing to be ranked in the QS Rankings. These include academic reputation, employer reputation, employment outcomes, citations per faculty, faculty-student ratio, international students, and international faculty. He presented in detail how to implement each of these strategies.

While addressing the audience, Dr. Arshia highlighted Institutional Performance Effectiveness. She said rankings are useful for creating a competitive environment among HEIs, helping in improving quality and enabling stability. She added that higher education has been forced into a highly competitive business environment due to globalization, the fourth industrial revolution, high demand for higher education, and increased competition. Mr. Saleemuddin shared the Quality Assurance Initiatives taken by Sindh HEC including training, SDG-focused activities, strategic plans for higher education institutions, formulation of KPIs for senior positions of HEIs, and certified reviewers' training. While presenting the vote of thanks, Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro said that through collaboration and cooperation, the HEIs can work to enhance Pakistan's education landscape. The event was organized by IoBM's QEC team including Atif Shahab Butt, Manager QA, along with Maria Asad, and Dania Raheel.

The recent initiatives by the Shahjehan S Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) and the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) pitch training program fosters **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** by equipping aspiring entrepreneurs with essential skills, thereby promoting innovation and sustainable economic development. Meanwhile, the seminar at IoBM emphasizes **SDG 4: Quality Education**, focusing on enhancing educational effectiveness and institutional performance, which is crucial for fostering a knowledgeable and skilled workforce. Additionally, both events contribute to **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**, as they encourage collaboration among educational

institutions, experts, and industry leaders to collectively address challenges in the entrepreneurial landscape and higher education. Such efforts are vital for creating a more sustainable and equitable society.



IoBM Secures 7th Place in HEC Men's Chess Championship

The IoBM Boys Chess Team has secured the 7th position at the HEC All Pakistan Intersarsity Chess Men Championship 2023-24. It was hosted by the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, Sindh, from January 13 to 15, 2024, at LUMHS Gymnasium under the aegis of HEC.

Among the 20 universities representing Pakistan in the Championship, the IoBM Boys Chess Team demonstrated exceptional skill, earning them the 7th position in the overall standings. This remarkable achievement reflects the unwavering dedication, hard work, and strategic prowess displayed by our team members throughout the competition. Notably, this marked IoBM's inaugural participation in the HEC All Pakistan Intersarsity Chess Championship.

The journey of our team in the Chess Championship not only brought pride to our university but also was a source of excitement and a sense of accomplishment within the Chess community. The team's impressive performance led it to defeat much experienced opponents in the initial three rounds. By Round 4, IoBM acquired the third place in the points table, showcasing their competence and resilience.

The impressive performance of the IoBM Boys Chess Team at the HEC All Pakistan Intersarsity Chess Championship aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as Quality Education (SDG 4) by fostering a culture of strategic thinking and teamwork through chess, the university is not only enhancing educational outcomes but also promoting skills that are essential for future professional success. Such initiatives contribute to building resilient communities and empowering individuals to achieve their potential, ultimately advancing the global commitment to sustainable development.



Orientation for Spring Semester 2024 held at IoBM

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) organized the Orientation Session for the Spring Semester 2024 on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Under the inspirational leadership and guidance of Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Executive Director, IoBM, this event was executed by the Admissions Department with Mr. Imdad Mugheri (Manager Admissions) and his team collaborating with various departments, including Academics, General Administration, Finance, IT, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Security.

Present at the Orientation were IoBM’s President, Mr. Talib S. Karim; Executive Director, Ms. Sabina Mohsin; Acting Rector, Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro; Deans, HoDs, and Management Staff. The Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of Placement and International Cooperation. Anas Abdul Razzak, an MBA student, recited verses from the Holy Quran, followed by Ms. Juveria, who presented their translation.

During his speech, President IoBM, Mr. Talib S. Karim, extended a warm welcome to the students and expressed optimism that IoBM would instill in them the necessary skills for success. He emphasized that classroom attendance is just a fraction of the university experience, thereby encouraging students to network with other students and actively engage in student society’s events and activities. Mr. President discussed the shift from the traditional note-taking process to utilizing digital media and technology for assistance. In this regard, he underlined the significance of the Learning Management System (LMS) that facilitates student-faculty engagement for assignments, coursework updates and assessments. When highlighting financial assistance at IoBM, President IoBM accentuated the Institute’s commitment to ensuring that any student facing financial challenges will receive assistance to continue their education. Moreover, he stressed the importance of Capstone

Projects, where senior students, under their faculty's mentorship, collaborate with the corporate sector to identify and solve real-world problems. President IoBM was hopeful that these projects would be developed into case studies to benefit students, academicians, researchers, and scholars.

Earlier, in his Welcome Address, Acting Rector, Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, offered detailed insights into various aspects of IoBM's campus life. He shared key policy points that the new students should follow during their stay at IoBM. Dr. Soomro's detailed presentation included points about Campus Life (continuous assessment system, academic counseling, attendance, code of conduct, student societies, social media policies), Semester System and Credit Hours (Catalog, Academic Calendar, CPGA), and information about Departments (Academics, Transport, Finance, IT, Security, Scholarships, Internship, and Placement).

IoBM alumna, Rameen Danish, currently a Management Trainee at Mindshare (a subsidiary of GroupM), while sharing her experience at IoBM said that the journey for new students at this Institute would be exciting as the academic and co-curricular activities will shape them into well-rounded individuals and potential leaders. She highlighted IoBM's ability to mold character and instill leadership qualities for the future. Rameen added that students will experience moments of stress and jubilation that are a part and parcel of the academic experience. She asked students to enjoy their life at IoBM because the journey will spark innovation and foster self-discovery. Rameen encouraged students to embrace the unique chapter of their academic years, actively participate in student activities, and explore the limitless opportunities IoBM offers.

The orientation session at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) focused particularly on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 1 (No Poverty) by promoting financial assistance for students facing challenges and excel in quality education. IoBM emphasizes its commitment to inclusivity and educational access, fostering an environment where every student could thrive. The institution's focus on Capstone Projects also highlights its role in addressing real-world challenges, aligning with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by encouraging innovative solutions in collaboration with the corporate sector. Furthermore, initiatives that support networking and community engagement among students embody the spirit of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), illustrating the vital connections between education and sustainable development.



IoBM and TIP sign MoU

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and the Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) formalized their partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. This agreement underscores their shared commitment to advancing research, innovation, commercialization, education, and training, while also highlighting the crucial role of incubation centers in fostering knowledge transfer and information exchange. The MoU was signed by Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM, and Dr. Zubair Bandukda, President of the Textile Institute of Pakistan. The Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD, Internship, Placement and International Office, IoBM.

The MoU recognizes several areas of mutual interest for collaboration, including joint research projects, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building activities, as well as organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, and support for student entrepreneurs, among other initiatives. IoBM has appointed Dr. Syed Adeel Ali Shah, Head of the Logistics & Supply Chain Department, as the coordinator for liaising, coordinating, and facilitating communication between the two institutions. His responsibilities also include identifying areas of mutual benefit across various schools and departments within both organizations. Dr. Adeel Shah was instrumental in the planning and

successful finalization of this MoU, with additional support from Syed Faraz Ali, Manager of ORIC at IoBM, who also played a key role in facilitating the process.

The MoU signed between IoBM and the Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is a key focus, as the partnership emphasizes research, innovation, and capacity-building activities, enhancing educational opportunities through joint seminars, conferences, and workshops. The collaboration also supports **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth** by fostering entrepreneurial initiatives and creating opportunities for student entrepreneurs, ultimately contributing to job creation and economic development within the textile industry. By emphasizing research and innovation, the MoU aligns with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, driving technological advancements and strengthening industry infrastructure. Finally, the partnership promotes **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, as it encourages knowledge sharing and collaboration between educational institutions, fostering sustainable growth through strengthened partnerships and knowledge transfer. Through these initiatives, the MoU supports sustainable economic development and innovation in the textile sector.



Inauguration of IoBM's Newly Fabricated In-house Cricket Nets

The Sports and Student Affairs Department at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), in collaboration with the IoBM Cricket Team, inaugurated the newly fabricated in-house cricket nets on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. The new facility is designed to enhance training and net practice for IoBM's cricket players, offering them a professional-grade space to refine their skills and techniques. The inauguration ceremony was led by Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM, with key attendees including Mr. Riaz Akbar Contractor, Head of the Sports and Student Affairs Department (SSAD); Mr. Nabhan Karim, Head of MARCOM; Mr. Hasan Irfan, Assistant Manager of SSAD; and members of the IoBM cricket team.

This initiative is part of IoBM's continued efforts to promote sports and provide top-notch facilities to its students. The addition of the in-house cricket nets is expected to have a significant positive impact on the performance and motivation of the cricket players. By having a dedicated space for regular practice, the players can hone their skills consistently and improve their gameplay. The availability of these nets will enable the team to simulate match conditions during training, helping them build better strategies and enhance their focus. Moreover, this facility will boost the morale of the players by showing them the institution's commitment to their development, potentially leading to stronger team performance in intercollegiate and inter-university tournaments. This modern infrastructure is seen as a crucial step in helping IoBM's cricket team achieve greater success on the field.

The inauguration of IoBM's newly fabricated in-house cricket nets directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being** is central to the initiative, as the facility promotes physical activity, fitness, and overall well-being among students through enhanced sports training. By providing a professional-grade space for consistent practice, the project also supports **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, fostering a holistic learning environment that includes physical education as a vital component of student development. The investment in sports infrastructure aligns with **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality**, as it offers equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background, to engage in team sports and develop their skills. Furthermore, the development of this facility supports **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**, as it contributes to the creation of well-equipped, resilient, and inclusive educational environments. Through these efforts, the in-house cricket nets enhance student engagement and contribute to a healthier, more balanced academic life.



"A Screenplay from Pakistan" launched at IoBM

To preserve and celebrate classic Pakistani film screenplays, the Media Studies Department at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) launched the initiative "A Screenplay from Pakistan" on its campus on October 8, 2024. Each volume in the series will feature original scripts from acclaimed films, honoring the rich heritage of the nation's cinema. The first volume, *Saawan*, written by Dr. Mashood Qadri, was unveiled at the event, which was attended by leading media professionals, as well as IoBM faculty, management, and students. In his opening remarks, Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering creativity and preserving Pakistan's cultural legacy. He expressed hope that the project would reignite interest in the art of reading. Satish Anand, Chairman of Eveready Group of Companies, praised the project as a commendable effort to celebrate and promote Pakistan's cinematic traditions. He envisioned the project as an opportunity to inspire and educate the next generation of filmmakers, helping them better understand the roots of Pakistani cinema and its evolving narrative styles.

Muhammad Faraz, a faculty member of IoBM's Media Studies Department and project lead, aims to make these screenplays accessible to students, filmmakers, and media professionals. Alongside Nabhan Karim, Head of Media Production and MARCOM at IoBM, Faraz introduced the initiative, which includes the launch of a dedicated website to promote the scripts of selected films. Special video messages from *Saawan*'s screenwriter, Dr. Mashood Qadri, and lead actor, Arif Bahalim, were

also played, adding significance to the occasion. Notable attendees included Syed Mubashir Imam, CEO of ChannelTek Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.; Mohsin Iqbal, Head of Programming, Express News; and Javed Saba, senior poet and journalist. The event also featured a panel discussion moderated by Tariq Bin Azad, a Research Scholar at the Urdu Lughat Board. The panelists were Kamran Wajih, Director of Marketing Planning and Strategies at Express Media; Zaheeruddin Ahmed, CEO of Dareechay Films; renowned scriptwriter Omair Ahmed Khan; and Muhammad Faraz. The discussion explored the power of storytelling in shaping narratives, fostering empathy, and bridging cultures. Through personal insights and examples, the panel highlighted the enduring influence of effective storytelling. Ejaz Wasay, Head of IoBM’s Media Studies Department, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, marking it as a significant milestone in IoBM’s contribution to advancing Pakistan’s cinematic heritage.

The launch of “A Screenplay from Pakistan” at IoBM directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is central to this initiative, as it aims to enhance students' understanding of Pakistani cinema and storytelling by making screenplays accessible to them, fostering both academic and cultural learning. The project also supports **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality**, by preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan, offering equal opportunities for diverse groups, including students, filmmakers, and media professionals, to engage with national cinema. By encouraging creative storytelling and preserving traditional narratives, the initiative aligns with **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, as it promotes cultural understanding and empathy, fostering stronger societal connections. Lastly, the focus on storytelling and cultural exchange supports **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, as it strengthens collaborations among educational institutions, media professionals, and industry leaders to preserve and promote Pakistan’s cinematic legacy. Through this initiative, IoBM contributes to both the preservation of cultural heritage and the advancement of creative industries.

Mr. Azfar Ahsan talk at IoBM “Pakistan needs a country strategy!”

Mr. Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, former Minister of Investment for Pakistan, delivered an insightful talk at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on "Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward" on October 17, 2024. He provided a comprehensive analysis of the nation's investment climate, outlining key challenges, emerging opportunities, and strategic recommendations for driving sustainable economic growth.

In attendance at the event were members of IoBM's senior management, including Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students, alongside distinguished guests from various sectors. Present on the occasion were Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM; Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector; Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean CCSIS; and Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean CBM.

Mr. Azfar Ahsan highlighted four critical areas: foreign direct investment (FDI) data and its economic impact, foundational issues, a roadmap for improving the investment landscape, and the influence of political and religious factors. He emphasized the urgent need for reforms, criticizing the country's reliance on assumptions rather than data-driven decisions, which he argued hinders progress and economic development.

He noted that with 67% of Pakistan's population comprises of the youth, the country ranks as the fifth-largest globally. He stressed that such a young, dynamic nation cannot be managed through short-term, ad-hoc measures. Instead, he advocated for long-term strategies spanning 15 years or more to tap into the youth bulge, calling for strategic investment and unified political vision beyond party politics to ensure Pakistan's long-term prosperity.

He urged the audience to reflect on Pakistan's future, stating, "This is the age of economic interests, where success is defined by mutual exchange and strategic partnerships." He called for a complete restructuring of ministries and institutions to position Pakistan on a path to long-term prosperity. Furthermore, Mr. Ahsan underscored the urgent need for greater collaboration between ministries, advocating for the merging of ideas, ideologies, and insights to foster progress. He highlighted the importance of nurturing a culture of continuous learning and called for the inclusion of private-sector professionals into public-sector roles to facilitate public-private partnerships to enhance governance, innovation, and development.

He addressed a critical national issue: the imbalance between productivity and satisfaction. “As a society, Pakistan often finds contentment in minimal output, leading to a disconnect between effort and results,” he noted. He emphasized the need for a cultural shift that prioritizes efficiency, hard work, and productivity to foster meaningful progress. He further stated, “A national strategy is essential to overcome extreme political polarization,” urging the nation to come together as Pakistanis united by a common purpose and vision for the future.

Mr. Azfar Ahsan's talk at IoBM directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth** is a key focus, as

Ahsan’s emphasis on improving Pakistan’s investment landscape and fostering long-term economic strategies aims to stimulate sustainable economic growth, create job opportunities, and attract foreign direct investment (FDI). His call for restructuring institutions and fostering public-private partnerships also supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, driving the development of resilient infrastructure and innovative solutions for economic challenges. Additionally, Ahsan’s focus on the youth bulge and the need for long-term strategies aligns with **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, as it advocates for investment in human capital and the nurturing of skills that support sustainable development. His discussion on overcoming political polarization and fostering a unified national vision further connects with **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, promoting better governance, inclusive decision-making, and long-term societal stability. Through these recommendations, the talk contributes to shaping a prosperous and sustainable future for Pakistan.

During his vote of thanks, Mr. Talib S. Karim expressed his gratitude to Mr. Azfar Ahsan for sharing his insightful and thought-provoking ideas during the talk. Mr. Karim was confident that Mr. Ahsan's words would leave a lasting impact on the audience. He also recognized Mr. Ahsan's long-standing association with IoBM and praised him as a role model for the youth of Pakistan.



Mr. Javaid Ahmed's book, *From Rhetoric to Rigor in Management Practice*, launched at IoBM

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted the launch of *From Rhetoric to Rigor in Management Practice*, authored by Mr. Javaid Ahmed, Advisor to the President of IoBM and Senior Fellow of Strategy and Innovation. The book provides valuable insights for students, researchers, and professionals, focusing on improving organizational performance through strategy and innovation while promoting critical thinking to create meaningful impact. The Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Juveria Baig, Head of Department, Internship, Placement & International Office. The event was graced by the presence of IoBM's President, Mr. Talib S. Karim, along with Heads of Departments, management, faculty, and students. Esteemed guests from both academia and the corporate sectors were also present.

Dr. Ishrat Husain, Professor Emeritus at IBA and the event's Chief Guest, praised the book's forward-thinking approach to management education, noting its potential to transform how organizations pursue innovation. He emphasized the value of the case studies in the book for fostering critical thinking and practical insights. Dr. Husain also urged universities to prioritize creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship in their curricula, encouraging students to focus on skill development.

Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM, highlighted that book launches at IoBM celebrate the academic and professional contributions of faculty and management, while also promoting local literature and

offering valuable reference material for students and researchers. He commended Mr. Javaid Ahmed’s expertise in strategy, acknowledging his significant contributions to IoBM, and expressed confidence that the book would further enrich the academic community.

During the event, Mr. Javaid Ahmed had a thought-provoking discussion with Mr. Sami Wahid, Managing Director of Mondelez Pakistan, on applying management theories in practice. Reflecting on his career, Mr. Ahmed shared how his passion for marketing and strategy shaped his professional journey. He underscored the importance of rigor in driving success, noting that managers who blend intuition with disciplined methods consistently outperform those relying solely on instinct. He also pointed out that as a nation, we often prioritize compliance over innovation, a mindset that must shift to foster real progress.

Other distinguished speakers included Dr. Huma Baqai, Rector of MITE; Dr. Amir Jafri, CEO Angel Investor; Mr. Ali Hasan Naqvi, Executive Director of the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP); Mr. Javier San Juan, former President of L’Oréal Latam; Mr. Tariq Amin, former MD of Rhone Poulenc Pakistan; Dr. Shujaat Mubarak, Professor and HoD at Edinburgh Business School; and Lt. Gen. Tariq Ghazi, former Commandant of the National Defense College, Islamabad.

Dr. Huma Baqai, Rector of MITE, commended the book for its readability and praised its well-structured chapter abstracts, which, she noted, significantly enhance its value. Dr. Amir Jafri, CEO of Angel Investor and former CEO of ICI, lauded Mr. Javaid Ahmed for consistently challenging the status quo, urging others to question norms and break free from complacency. He emphasized that while this approach has occasionally met with resistance, it showcases Mr. Ahmed’s innovative thinking and commitment to driving continuous progress.

Mr. Ali Hasan Naqvi, Executive Director of the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP), who has known Mr. Javaid Ahmed since 2001, described his ideas as inspiring. He praised the book’s focus on three critical pillars: Competitive Advantage, Value Innovation, and Operational Excellence. Dr. Shujaat Mubarik, Professor and HoD at Edinburgh Business School, shared a video message acknowledging the practical framework provided by Mr. Ahmed’s case studies, which he believes will help bridge the gap between theory and practice. He also highlighted the chapters on community building, which he found particularly insightful regarding leadership. Dr. Mubarik paid tribute to the late Founder President of IoBM.

Mr. Tariq Amin, former MD of Rhone Poulenc Pakistan, concluded by emphasizing Mr. Javaid Ahmed’s exceptional talent for teaching, noting it as one of his greatest strengths. In a recorded message, Mr. Javier San Juan, former President of L’Oréal Latam, described the book as a true reflection of Mr. Ahmed’s exceptional qualities and insights. Lt. Gen. Tariq Ghazi, former Commandant of the National Defense College, Islamabad, remarked that the book is not for the faint-hearted but for those committed to lifelong learning. He urged young readers to pay particular attention to the sections on rigor, emphasizing their importance. He noted that the book isn’t linear—readers can explore it according to their own interests and ambitions. While it offers a strong framework, the real solutions will emerge as readers engage deeply with its content.

The launch of *From Rhetoric to Rigor in Management Practice* by Mr. Javaid Ahmed at IoBM directly advances multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering education, innovation, and institutional strengthening. The book’s emphasis on cultivating critical thinking, skill development, and practical application of management theories contributes to **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, as it enriches academic learning and equips students and professionals with tools to address real-world challenges. By encouraging organizations to embrace innovation, strategy, and operational excellence rather than mere compliance, the initiative aligns with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, promoting a culture of creativity and competitiveness essential for sustainable growth. Furthermore, the book’s focus on leadership, community building, and bridging the gap between theory and practice supports **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, as it underscores the importance of rigor, accountability, and effective governance within organizations and society. Together, these contributions highlight the book’s potential to inspire a new generation of leaders, innovators, and policymakers dedicated to driving meaningful progress in Pakistan and beyond.



IoBM represented at the 10th UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education in Uzbekistan

The 10th UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education brought together 200 representatives from 35 countries—educators, policymakers, practitioners, and key stakeholders in the field of entrepreneurship—at the International Hotel Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from October 10–11, 2024. This event was meticulously organized by UNESCO, the Uzbekistan government, and Alfraganus University, making it a standout occasion.

Mr. Raza Abbas, the Focal Person for the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (Pakistan Chapter) and Head of Incubation at the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC), Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi, Pakistan, represented the Pakistan National Chapter. He showcased the chapter's activities and highlighted Inclusive Entrepreneurship Education initiatives at the meeting held at Alfraganus University, Tashkent.

The event, which ran from October 10–13, 2024, included Mr. Abbas' presentation on Pakistan's inclusive initiatives, such as Start-Up Readiness programs and future plans being rolled out at SSKIC, IoBM. He emphasized the private sector's role as a key driver of sustainable entrepreneurship education, both nationally and regionally. Mr. Abbas highlighted the importance of collaborative leadership and partnerships with other National Chapters to enhance impact. Additionally, he stressed

the inclusion of women, marginalized communities, and school educators as critical components of sustainable entrepreneurship education. He further noted that regular dialogues among National Chapter representatives are essential for driving collaboration and achieving sustainable outcomes.

Two start-ups founders from ShahJehan Syed Karim Incubation Center- SSKIC-Cohort 3 at the Institute of Business Management were also selected to present their start-ups respectively -Ms. Shahma Aroob- Founder Filtresha and Mr. Kunwar Shahroz Ali Khan- Founder- Zarai Baramdaat at the meeting virtually.

Preamble

Reflecting on the history of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net), which was established in December 2013, the network serves as a vital Asia-Pacific platform dedicated to enhancing entrepreneurship education through knowledge exchange, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and the development of innovative tools and approaches. The EE-Net continues to be crucial in addressing the ever-evolving challenges young people face in today's increasingly complex job markets. We honor the memory of the late Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim, former Director of UNESCO Bangkok, whose visionary efforts in promoting entrepreneurship education continue to guide us. This 10th meeting aligns with Uzbekistan's national priorities for 2024, as **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev** has declared it the **"Year to Support Youth and Entrepreneurship,"** showcasing the nation's commitment to empowering its younger generations.

Key Highlights

- 1. The Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim Lecture**
- 2. Launch of the Special Journal on Entrepreneurship Education:**
- 3. Induction of Nine National Chapters into the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net)**

The formal inclusion of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Uzbekistan into EE-Net marks a significant step forward in strengthening global collaboration. These countries will play pivotal roles in advancing entrepreneurship education in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Mr. Raza Abbas, the focal person of the Pakistan National Chapter, received a shield on behalf of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) as the appointed National Chapter of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network in Pakistan.

4. 56 International Presentations on Youth and Entrepreneurship Education:

During the meeting, thought leaders and practitioners from various sectors delivered 56 presentations across four key themes, offering diverse perspectives and innovative solutions to the challenges of entrepreneurship education.

Presentation Themes

1. Effective Government Policies and Advocacy to Promote Entrepreneurship Education for Youth
2. Best Practices of Entrepreneurship Education Initiatives in Schools, Universities, and Training Institutions:
3. Youth-Led Startups
4. Building Supportive Ecosystems for Youth Entrepreneurship

This meeting has reaffirmed the pivotal role of entrepreneurship education in equipping young people to navigate the complex challenges of the 21st century, particularly within the framework of Industry 4.0 and the rapid technological advancements reshaping global industries. Participants emphasized the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to entrepreneurship education—one that fosters innovation, resilience, and adaptability in young entrepreneurs.

A collective aspiration emerged for the EE-Net to address urgent global concerns, with a strong focus on green, digital, and sustainable economies. Entrepreneurship education should drive solutions that tackle social, environmental, and technological issues, facilitating the transition to greener economies in an increasingly digital world. Key areas for future action include:

- ☐ **Strengthening collaboration** between governments, educational institutions, and the private sector to design and implement more effective entrepreneurship education programs.
- ☐ **Promoting entrepreneurship education** that integrates digital skills, sustainability, social value creation, and addresses global socio-economic, environmental, and technological challenges.

- **Expanding access and inclusivity** in entrepreneurship education, ensuring that marginalized and disadvantaged groups, particularly in rural and urban areas, are empowered with the skills needed for the future.

Call to Action

The UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net) renews its commitment to addressing the needs of young people, preparing them to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and agents of change. We pledge to support the creation of sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystems within our respective countries and work collaboratively to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moreover, EE-Net will actively contribute entrepreneurial solutions to global social, economic, environmental, and technological challenges, fostering innovation in green technologies and promoting environmentally sustainable business models. Let this meeting be the beginning of a new chapter in global entrepreneurship education—one that empowers youth, drives innovation, promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and confronts the critical challenge of climate change in the digital era.

IoBM's participation in the 10th UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education in Uzbekistan directly advances several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by promoting inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurship education. The focus on skills, critical thinking, and innovative practices for youth and marginalized groups contributes to **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, while youth-led start-ups and entrepreneurial ecosystems advance **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**. By emphasizing digital transformation, Industry 4.0, and green technologies, the initiative supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, while its commitment to integrating women and marginalized communities aligns with **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities**. Finally, the collaborative framework between governments, academia, and the private sector reflects **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, underscoring the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation. Together, these efforts highlight IoBM's role in fostering inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainable development on both national and global levels.



Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan, Global CIO of Aga Khan University, Inspires IoBM Students with Digital Insights

The College of Computer Science & Information Systems (CCSIS) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted an insightful session titled "Digital Journey of HEIs: Case Study of Aga Khan University" in the CBM Auditorium. The event featured Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan, the esteemed Global Chief Information Officer at Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), as the keynote speaker. He shared invaluable insights into the digital transformation of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), showcasing the remarkable journey of Aga Khan University.

Organized by Dr. Khalid Mehboob and led by Dean CCSIS, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, TI, the session highlighted the pivotal role of digital initiatives in modernizing education. At the conclusion of the event, Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan was presented with a commemorative shield in recognition of his contributions and valuable insights. Following the session, he met with IoBM President Mr. Talib Karim to explore potential collaboration opportunities. The gathering also included Dr. Imran Batada, CTO, and Mr. Asghar Kahan, Head of the Computer Science Department, further enriching the discussions on future partnerships.

The session with Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan on the digital transformation of Higher Education Institutions directly supports several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By showcasing how

technology can modernize learning and improve institutional efficiency, the initiative advances **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, ensuring students and educators benefit from innovative, technology-driven approaches. The focus on digitalization and modernization also aligns with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, as it highlights the role of advanced digital systems in strengthening educational and organizational infrastructure. Furthermore, the exploration of collaborative opportunities between IoBM and Aga Khan University reflects **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, emphasizing cross-institutional cooperation to drive sustainable progress in education and technology. Together, these contributions illustrate how digital innovation can transform higher education and foster long-term development.

PIDE
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Pakistan's Premier Economic Think Tank
Advocating reform through Socio-Economic and Public Policy Research
Groundbreaking Research to Propel Pakistan's
Pharmaceutical & API Industry

API Manufacturing – Case Study of Pakistan
Building a Resilient API Industry: Reducing Imports, Boosting Exports

By



Dr. Afaq Kazi PhD
Institute of Business management, Karachi

Groundbreaking Research to Propel Pakistan’s Pharmaceutical and API Industry

Dr. Afaq Kazi, Associate Professor and Senior Consultant at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), conducted an important study focused on the API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) manufacturing industry in Pakistan. The research aimed to build a resilient API sector by reducing imports and boosting exports, ultimately contributing to the growth of Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry.

This case study was funded by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Government of Pakistan. It provided valuable insights into the current state of API manufacturing in the country, identifying key challenges and opportunities for development.

The findings were published in a Business Recorder article, which can be accessed through the provided link. This publication highlighted the significance of enhancing local API production capabilities, ensuring that Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry becomes more self-sufficient and competitive in the global market.

- [Link to the article published in Business Recorder](#)
- [Link to the case study](#)

Dr. Afaq Kazi’s research on strengthening Pakistan’s Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) sector directly advances critical United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By focusing on reducing import dependence and enhancing local production, the initiative contributes to **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, fostering a stronger and more resilient pharmaceutical manufacturing base. At the same time, by aiming to improve access to essential medicines through domestic API development, the research supports **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being**, ensuring that affordable and reliable healthcare solutions are available within the country. Furthermore, by identifying export opportunities and promoting competitiveness in the global pharmaceutical market, the study aligns with **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as it has the potential to generate employment, attract investment, and strengthen Pakistan’s economic standing. Together, these contributions highlight how targeted research and policy collaboration can drive sustainable growth in a sector vital to both public health and economic development.



CCSIS Students Experience the IT Landscape at Systems Limited

The College of Computer Science & Information Systems (CCSIS) at IOBM recently organized an industrial visit to Systems Limited for its third and final-year students. Dr. Khalid Mahboob, the Industrial Liaison Advisor, and Mr. Muhammad Sohaib Naseem, a faculty member at CCSIS, accompanied the students on the visit. This field trip provided students with an exceptional opportunity to explore the professional environment of one of Pakistan's leading IT companies. During the visit, students received a comprehensive office tour, where they observed the company's dynamic workplace and gained firsthand experience of the industry's workflow.

A key highlight of the visit was an insightful meeting with Yasir Abbas Merchant, the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Manager, as well as the Academia Linkages Coordinator at Systems Limited. Mr. Yasir A. Merchant and his core team shared invaluable insights into the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities within the IT sector. The interactive session allowed students to ask questions and reassured them about the alignment of their academic skills with industry expectations. Overall, the visit was instrumental in bridging the gap between academia and industry, equipping students with practical knowledge and networking opportunities that will undoubtedly bolster their future careers.

This initiative aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** through practical learning opportunities beyond the classroom, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** by equipping students with industry-relevant skills for future employment, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)** by exposing them to innovative practices within Pakistan’s IT sector, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)** by fostering stronger collaboration between academia and industry.



IoBM and Alfraganus University, Uzbekistan sign MoU

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Pakistan, and Alfraganus University, Uzbekistan, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 10th meeting of the UNESCO APEID Entrepreneurship Education Network held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Alfraganus University, a leading and rapidly growing private university in Uzbekistan, initiated the MoU to build collaborative relationships with prominent institutions across the Asia Pacific region.

The MoU was signed by Rector Prof. M. Mahmudov of Alfraganus University and Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of the Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) at IoBM and the focal person for the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network - Pakistan Chapter. Mr. Abbas represented Rector Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro of IoBM in this landmark agreement.

This MoU aims to foster academic and educational cooperation based on equality and reciprocity, promoting sustainable partnerships and mutual understanding between Alfraganus University and the Institute of Business Management. Through this agreement, both institutions are committed to strengthening collaborative efforts in research, educational exchange, and innovation. The MoU signing ceremony took place during an exclusive reception on the second day of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network Meeting. This event brought together over 250 representatives

from 35 countries, including educators, policymakers, practitioners, and key stakeholders in the field of entrepreneurship, all committed to advancing global entrepreneurship education and collaboration.

The scope of collaboration under the MoU is as follows:

- Student exchange for research and study
- Exchange of faculty, staff, and research scholars
- Exchange of non-academic/administrative staff for cross-training
- Joint development and promotion of academic publications and information
- Development of collaborative research and other joint research activities, including continuing education programs
- Organization and participation in seminars, symposia, short-term academic programs, and academic meetings
- Exchange of academic materials, databases, publications, and information
- Joint participation in funded programs, including Erasmus and other international projects

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IoBM, Pakistan, and Alfraganus University, Uzbekistan, directly supports several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering international academic collaboration and innovation. By promoting student and faculty exchanges, joint research, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, the partnership advances **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, enhancing learning opportunities and global exposure for students and educators. The focus on collaborative research, innovation, and capacity-building aligns with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, as it encourages the development of knowledge-driven solutions and strengthens institutional frameworks. Moreover, the emphasis on cross-border cooperation and shared academic programs reflects **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, highlighting the importance of global collaboration in addressing educational and developmental challenges. Together, these efforts demonstrate how academic alliances can drive sustainable progress through education, innovation, and international cooperation.



IoBM hosts the 8th International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) successfully hosted the 8th International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance (ICIBF 2024) from November 11 to 13, 2024. The event began with a pre-conference workshop on November 11, followed by the inaugural session on November 12 at a local hotel in Karachi. The conference was organized by IoBM's Centre for Islamic Business & Finance (CIBF) in collaboration with the Department of Accounting and Finance.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), delivered a keynote address emphasizing the importance of embracing a truly Islamic financial system. “While the focus has been on offering Shariah-compliant alternatives to conventional banking products, we must go beyond that. We need to provide a genuine Shariah alternative,” he stated, stressing the need for a comprehensive transformation of the banking ecosystem to achieve a true Islamic economic system. He called for a fair, just, and equitable system that requires collaborative efforts from all stakeholders.

The inaugural session also featured distinguished speakers, including Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM; Mr. Bashir Janmohammad, Chancellor of IoBM; Dr. Ishrat Husain, Former Governor of SBP; Mr. Rizwan Ata, CEO & President of BankIslami Pakistan Limited; Mr. Yousaf Hussain, President &

CEO of Faysal Bank; and Syed Amir Ali, Deputy CEO of Meezan Bank Limited. IoBM's Rector, Deans, management, and faculty members were among the attendees.

In his welcome address, IoBM President Mr. Talib Karim stated, "As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to guide students, our future leaders, towards transforming financial institutions from traditional to Islamic models." He noted that a significant challenge lies in addressing the shortage of skilled manpower within the Islamic finance sector.

ICIBF 2024 gathered presidents, CEOs, financial experts, and policymakers from Pakistan's banking and finance sectors to discuss the future of the industry in light of the Islamic banking mandate. A significant topic at the conference was the recent constitutional amendment requiring the elimination of all forms of Riba (interest) from banks by 2028—a change that, according to Dr. Ishrat Husain, calls for a major disruption in the industry. Dr. Husain warned against a siloed approach among authorities, stressing that such an approach could undermine the core principles of Islamic banking. He also highlighted the challenges posed by the current tax system, which he described as arbitrary and regressive, and called for reform to curb evasion and malpractices.

ICIBF 2024 provided a platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss trends, challenges, and opportunities in Islamic finance. International speakers from Malaysia, Bahrain, the USA, Australia, the UK, and Saudi Arabia participated both in person and online, contributing valuable perspectives to the discussions. The Master of Ceremonies for ICIBF's inaugural session was Ms. Juveria Baig, HoD International Office & Placements, IoBM.

During the closing ceremony held on November 13, 2024, Mr. Talib Karim remarked, “As we conclude the 8th International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance, it is truly inspiring to witness this flagship event expand once again, enriched by a diverse array of speakers and a wide range of pertinent topics. This year’s conference was especially timely, as Pakistan’s banking industry approaches the pivotal 2028 milestone for a complete transition from conventional to Islamic banking.” He further emphasized, “The role of educational institutions like IoBM in this transition is crucial. We are dedicated to preparing a workforce equipped to tackle the unique challenges and seize the opportunities presented by Islamic banking. To support this mission, we are enhancing our curriculum to more comprehensively integrate Islamic Banking and Finance, while also offering specialized certifications in this field.” The primary aim of the ICIBF has been to raise awareness and foster collaboration among scholars and researchers to share best practices that advance the discipline. Furthermore, we recognize that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) align closely

with Islamic values, and we will continue to weave these principles into our Islamic finance education.

The 8th International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance (ICIBF 2024), hosted by IoBM, directly advanced several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by promoting an equitable, Shariah-compliant financial system. Through its focus on developing a fair and just economic framework and addressing systemic reforms, the conference supported **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, fostering sustainable financial practices that encourage transparency and stability. By highlighting the need for innovation in Islamic finance and preparing a skilled workforce to meet the 2028 transition mandate, it aligned with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, strengthening financial institutions and building capacity for future challenges. Furthermore, the global collaboration among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers underscored **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, emphasizing international cooperation in advancing inclusive and sustainable financial models. Together, these contributions reflect how ICIBF 2024 served as a catalyst for transforming Pakistan’s banking industry while reinforcing the global movement toward ethical and sustainable finance.

IoBM President Mr. Talib Karim expressed heartfelt gratitude, extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Imam Uddin for his dedication to making the conference a success. He acknowledged the invaluable support of Rector Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro; Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Dean CBM, IoBM; as well as the Deans of CCSIS, CESD, and the Accounting and Finance Department. He also recognized the essential contributions from the MARCOM, General Administration, and Housekeeping teams, and thanked the student volunteers for their enthusiastic and dedicated efforts throughout the event. He affirmed their shared commitment to equipping students with the knowledge necessary to shape a more equitable and sustainable future through Islamic banking and finance.



IoBM and Global Entrepreneurship Network Collaborate to Strengthen Pakistan’s Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) have joined hands to propel entrepreneurship in Pakistan by signing a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. This collaboration, finalized during Global Entrepreneurship Week (November 18–26, 2024), aims to bolster the nation’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, support budding entrepreneurs, and foster a culture of innovation and creativity.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector IoBM, and Mr. Safeer Ul Haq, Global Co-ordinator for Strategic Alliances and Partnerships for Global Entrepreneurship Network in Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by key stakeholders from IoBM, including Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of the Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC); Dr. Marium Mateen, Head of the Entrepreneurship Department; Syed Faraz Ali, Manager ORIC; and Mr. Agha Hassan, Officer, SSKIC.

This partnership underscores the shared vision of IoBM and GEN to empower young minds, nurture entrepreneurial talent, and create avenues for sustainable growth. By combining their expertise and resources, the two organizations aspire to spearhead impactful initiatives that inspire innovation and equip future business leaders to thrive in a competitive global landscape.

The partnership between IoBM and the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) directly advances several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening Pakistan’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. By fostering innovation, creativity, and the development of new ventures, the collaboration supports **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, creating opportunities for sustainable business development and job creation. Its focus on nurturing entrepreneurial talent and promoting innovation further aligns with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, as it encourages the growth of resilient enterprises and knowledge-driven industries. Moreover, the collaboration embodies **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, bringing together academic and global networks to pool expertise and resources for greater impact. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate how strategic alliances can empower youth, drive economic growth, and build a more innovative and sustainable future.



UNESCO EE Net-Pakistan & IoBM: Launch of She Leads - Women Founders Bootcamp

As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024, the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) proudly hosted the #SheLeads Women Founders Bootcamp. Organized in collaboration with IoBM and UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education | Pakistan Chapter, this transformative two-day event aimed to empower and equip aspiring women entrepreneurs with the skills and insights essential for their entrepreneurial journeys. Participants included representatives from Hunar Foundation's Emerge - Pakistan's First TVET. Incubator and students from IoBM's Entrepreneurship Degree Program, creating a diverse and inclusive platform for learning and growth.

Day 1: Financial Strategies for Sustainable Business Growth

Facilitator: Ms. Naureen Ghaffar, Managing Director of Agile Global Consultancy, Executive Member of RCCI, and IoBM alumna.

Key Highlights:

- Deep dive into effective financial management strategies for business scalability.
- Practical guidance on ensuring long-term business stability through informed financial decisions.

- Engaging discussions on sustainable business growth.

Day 2: Mastering the Art of Pitching and Business Planning

Facilitator: Ms. Ziana Sakhia, CEO of Bechlo.pk and IoBM alumna.

Key Highlights:

- Hands-on sessions focusing on creating impactful business plans.
- Mock pitching exercises to refine communication and persuasion skills.
- Product displays and interactive activities to help participants bring their ideas to life.

Event Details Dates: Monday & Tuesday **Time:** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Venue: 2nd Floor, SSK Incubation Center, SSKCE Building

Each workshop included 3 hours of practical training and interactive learning, creating a vibrant and dynamic environment for participants.

Impact and Future Opportunities The bootcamp garnered an overwhelming response, with participants showcasing dedication and enthusiasm for building innovative, sustainable ventures.

Acknowledgements: Mr. Raza Abbas, Head of SSKIC and Focal Person for UNESCO EE Net-Pakistan Chapter, presented mementos to the trainers, acknowledging their contributions.

Next Steps:

- Top ideas from the bootcamp will be shortlisted for the SSKIC Cohort 4 Incubation Program, culminating in the final pitching round in December 2024.
- This initiative highlights IoBM and SSKIC’s commitment to fostering women’s entrepreneurship, breaking barriers, and nurturing the next generation of women leaders.

Participant Reflections Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage in this experiential learning journey. They appreciated the chance to develop their skills and gain confidence in launching and scaling their ventures. With programs like She Leads, IoBM continues to champion women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

The *She Leads – Women Founders Bootcamp*, organized by UNESCO EE Net-Pakistan and IoBM’s Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center, directly contributed to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering women’s entrepreneurship and innovation. By equipping aspiring women founders with financial management, business planning, and pitching skills, the initiative advanced **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**, empowering women to overcome barriers and actively participate in entrepreneurial ecosystems. Its focus on building sustainable ventures and preparing participants for incubation opportunities aligned with **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as it encouraged job creation, economic participation, and long-term business stability. Furthermore, by nurturing innovative business ideas and supporting scalable enterprise development, the bootcamp reinforced **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, highlighting the role of women-led ventures in driving progress. Together, these efforts underscore IoBM’s commitment to empowering women as catalysts of inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



CCSIS hosts a session on Cybersecurity Careers

On November 28, the College of Computer Science and Information Systems (CCSIS), IoBM, organized a thought-provoking session titled "Navigating Careers in Cyber Security: Insights from Industry Expert." Invited as a guest speaker on the occasion was Mr. Muhammad Azam Mughal, CEO and Co-founder of SecureBeans

During the session, Mr. Azam shared invaluable insights into career pathways in cybersecurity, emphasizing the critical importance of continuous learning and adaptation in this rapidly evolving field. Drawing from his extensive experience in cybersecurity consulting and education, he encouraged participants to pursue relevant certifications and practical experiences to enhance their employability. His leadership in the industry positions him as a key figure in guiding aspiring professionals on how to navigate their careers effectively. At the conclusion of the event, the Dean of CCSIS, Brig. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas and Industrial Liaison & Event Advisor, Dr. Khalid Mahboob, presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Mughal for his engaging and informative presentation.

The CCSIS session on "Navigating Careers in Cyber Security" directly advanced several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by preparing students for careers in a critical and fast-growing field. By equipping participants with knowledge on career pathways, certifications, and

practical skills, the initiative supported **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, ensuring access to relevant, future-focused learning opportunities. Its emphasis on employability and workforce readiness aligned with **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as it encouraged students to pursue professional development that contributes to a skilled and resilient labor market. Furthermore, by highlighting the importance of cybersecurity in protecting digital infrastructure, the session reinforced **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, underscoring the need for innovation-driven professionals to safeguard technological progress. Together, these efforts reflect IoBM’s commitment to preparing graduates for meaningful roles that strengthen both the economy and digital resilience.



International Conference on Education 2024 focuses on an educational revolution for Gen-Alpha

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted the third International Conference on Education (ICE 2024) on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Organized by IoBM's Education Department within the College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), ICE 2024 aimed to introduce advanced global education practices to Pakistan's academic landscape. The conference theme was "Educational Revolution from Gen Z to Gen Alpha." The two-day conference offered educators a platform to explore and adopt innovative teaching methods like blended learning, flipped classrooms, and project-based learning.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Mohammad Abbas Baloch, Secretary, Boards and Universities, Sindh. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Carl Lander, Member of the Board of Directors, Council of British International Schools (COBIS); Dr. Athar Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor, Al-Kawthar University, Karachi; Dr. Sarala Thulasi Palpanadan, Deputy Dean, English Language and Linguistics Department, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia; and Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University.

Mr. Talib Karim, Conference Patron and President of IoBM, highlighted the urgency of the conference theme in his address. He stated, "As educators, we face the challenge of engaging a new

generation of learners who are less receptive to traditional teaching methods. Faculty must adapt their approaches to effectively reach Gen Alpha, a generation characterized by its tech-savviness and access to vast amounts of information." He emphasized that the conference speakers would delve into critical educational challenges and offer valuable recommendations.

Dr. Nadia Ayub, Dean of CESD at IoBM, welcomed attendees, emphasizing that this Conference showcases IoBM's educational progress and provides a roadmap for future quality education, guiding us towards shaping the future of learning. She highlighted how the diverse discussions will bring together key leaders to develop solutions for Pakistan's educational challenges.

Mr. Mohammad Abbas Baloch, Secretary, Boards and Universities, Sindh, emphasized the need for our education system to evolve further to meet the changing demands of the global landscape. This can be achieved through initiatives such as fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, integrating technology effectively into the curriculum, and promoting lifelong learning opportunities.

Mr. Carl Lander emphasized the need to recognize the unique learning styles and challenges of each generation, from Boomers to Gen Alpha. He highlighted how societal shifts have significantly impacted how children learn, necessitating a shift in our teaching approaches. Recognizing the advantages of Gen Z and Gen Alpha learners, Mr. Lander emphasized that Gen Z, in particular, possesses a skillset that surpasses that of previous generations. He stressed the importance of cultivating critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and strong social skills in Gen Alpha.

Acknowledging the evolving landscape of education, including the emergence of technology-driven learning environments, Mr. Lander posed a critical question: "Will technology be the way forward?" He emphasized that while technology plays a crucial role, teaching remains a human art and science. Ultimately, the key to success lies in nurturing meaningful connections between teachers and learners.

Dr. Athar Mahmood presented a captivating overview of human progress, tracing our journey from pre-historic times to today's mobile-centric lifestyle. He emphasized the remarkable advancements in our ability to store, process, and share information throughout history. Dr. Sarala Thulasi Palpanadan delivered a presentation on the transformative role of AI in education. She emphasized that the transition from Gen Z to Gen Alpha signifies a profound shift in the educational landscape, driven by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal expectations.

ICE 2024 at IoBM fostered international academic collaboration, strengthening ties between Pakistani educational institutions and their global counterparts. This collaboration is expected to integrate global best practices into local education systems.

Other notable speakers included Shahzad Roy, Education Activist; Ashique Hussain, Additional Director, Directorate Curriculum Assessment and Research (DCAR), Sindh; Dr. Aftab Ahmad Shaikh, Director, BS-20, Education Policy, Commission, Sindh; Dr. Renato Peneluppi (Executive Director, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China); Dr. Mark Lipton, Professor, School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph; and Danish Farooqui, Deputy Executive Director, HSS School System.

The International Conference on Education (ICE 2024) aligns directly with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting innovative educational practices to adapt to the needs of Gen Alpha. **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is at the core of this initiative, as the conference seeks to introduce advanced global education practices, foster critical thinking, and explore new teaching methods like blended learning and project-based learning. By addressing the unique learning challenges of Gen Alpha and encouraging the integration of technology into education, the conference also contributes to **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, as it emphasizes the role of technology and AI in transforming the educational landscape. Furthermore, the international collaboration fostered at the conference strengthens ties between local and global educational systems, advancing **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**. Through these efforts, ICE 2024 plays a pivotal role in shaping a more inclusive, equitable, and innovative educational future.



IoBM's 27th Convocation Celebrates Graduates' Vision of Limitless Excellence

The 27th Convocation of IoBM took place on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM, and Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Vice President of the Foundation for Higher Education (IoBM’s parent body) and Chief Advisor, IoBM, and the Convenor of the the Convocation Planning Committee (CPC), meticulously planned and executed the event to ensure its success, in collaboration with various departments at IoBM including Admissions, Academics, Examinations, Internship and Placement, IT, Purchase, Finance, MARCOM, Media, Security, Maintenance, General Administration.

A vibrant sense of excitement and boundless ambition illuminated the faces of the 1,591 graduates as they received their degrees during the 27th Convocation of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on Saturday. Aspiring entrepreneurs and future leaders celebrated this significant milestone with enthusiasm, sharing the joyous moment with their proud parents. Among the graduating class, 24 exceptional students were awarded gold medals, while 44 received merit certificates. Degrees were conferred across a diverse range of programs, including BBA, BS, MBA, MS, MPhil, and PhD.

The event was honored by the presence of distinguished guests, including Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori as the Chief Guest; Dr. Gohar Ejaz, former caretaker Federal Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Production, as the Guest of Honor; and former caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan,

Anwaarul Haq Kakar. The Keynote Speaker was Yasmin Fasih, an IoBM alumna from the first batch (1997), currently serving as the Regional Human Resource Manager for Operations Execution in the Asia-Pacific region at Maersk, Singapore.

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, in his address, encouraged the graduates to reflect on the day their parents accompanied them on their first day of school and how their unwavering support has guided them to this significant milestone. He praised the visionary leadership of IoBM's late Founder President, Shahjehan Syed Karim, for establishing this prestigious institute of higher learning. Tessori called upon the youth to raise their voices, take initiative, and work toward creating a brighter and more promising future for themselves and the nation.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz highlighted that the seats occupied by the graduates today represent less than one percent of all graduates, emphasizing the exclusivity and privilege of their achievement. He noted the immense opportunities available in Pakistan and presented an economic overview of the country, illustrating how graduates can contribute to various sectors. “We have immense potential to grow, and what we need today is you!” he concluded.

IoBM President Talib Karim presented the Institute's Progress Report, underscoring IoBM's dedication to achieving AACSB accreditation, expanding global partnerships for alumni, and integrating advanced technology into the curriculum to enhance the learning experience. He also highlighted the efforts of IoBM's Center for Islamic Business and Finance, which is actively aligning its initiatives with the broader developmental goals set by the government.

In his Welcome Address, IoBM Chancellor Bashir Janmohammad advised the graduates to always respect their parents. He encouraged them to dream big and develop entrepreneurial skills to add value to their lives and careers. He also acknowledged the unwavering support of parents in helping students achieve their dreams.

Anwaarul Haq Kakar expressed his excitement about being among the youth, stating, "I feel energized when I am surrounded by young minds brimming with vigor. A formal education helps channel this energy toward meaningful objectives." He encouraged the graduates to actively contribute to building an egalitarian society where everyone fulfills their role according to their abilities, describing it as the Pakistani dream we must collectively strive to achieve. He also urged the graduates to embrace new aspirations, emphasizing that creativity is deeply connected to the essence of life.

During her keynote speech, Yasmin Fasih remarked, “Today, we celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in your lives.” She commended the graduates for their hard work and perseverance, reflecting on her own journey at IoBM and how it played a pivotal role in her success. “Remain deliberate and purposeful in your approach, embrace lifelong learning, and don’t hesitate to take chances in life,” she encouraged.

Valedictorian Rida Asif, the proud recipient of the Shahjehan Syed Karim Gold Medal, highlighted the importance of corporate social responsibility in her address. She encouraged her fellow graduates to utilize their education and skills to drive meaningful change and make a positive impact on society.

IoBM's 27th Convocation was more than just an academic milestone; it was a celebration of perseverance, dedication, and triumph. The event paid heartfelt tribute to the unwavering support of parents and faculty, whose guidance and encouragement played a vital role in shaping the graduates' journey toward a bright and promising future.

Citations and Announcements

Citations to introduce the various speakers of the Convocation were as follows: Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Vice President, FHE and Chief Advisor, IoBM introduced the Chancellor for his Welcome Address; Ms. Rabia Sabri, HoD Academics introduced the valedictorian; Mr. Ejaz Wasay, HoD Media Studies introduced the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Muhammad Misbahuddin, General Manager HR and Senior Advisor to the Vice President, FHE, introduced the Guest of Honor. Governor Sindh, Chief Guest, and Mr. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakkar, were invited to speak by Ms. Juveria Baig.

The Rector of IoBM, Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, conferred degrees upon graduates of the Master’s and PhD programs, while the Dean of CBM, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kashif, conferred degrees upon graduates of the Bachelor’s, MS, and MPhil programs.

Dr. Shagufta Rafif, Head of the Human Resources Management Department, proudly announced the names of graduates receiving Gold Medals. Graduates awarded Merit Certificates were announced by Dr. Fariha Raza, Head of the Marketing Department, and Muhammad Asghar Khan, Head of the Computer Science Department.

Gold Medalists

The 24 recipients of the gold medals at the IoBM Convocation were:

Fatima Sarwar (BBA (Honors) – Janmohammad Dawood), M. Mohib Zafar (BBA (Honors) – Meezan Bank), Laiba Gul Durrani (BBA (Honors) – Ghulam Faruque), Tahreem d/o Aqeel Ahmed Shaikh (BBA (Honors)- Shan Foods), Maaha Jetha (BBA (Honors) – Mondelez Pakistan), Sandesh Kumar (BS (Honors) Accountancy, Management and Law – Faizan Steel), Muhammad Faizan Abid (BS (Actuarial Science and Risk Management) – EFU Life Assurance), Simran Ashok (BS (Computer Science- PayPak), Yameena Nasir (BS (Honors) Accounting and Finance – EFU Life Assurance), Syeda Manahil Amin (BS (Honors) Accounting and Finance – Westbury Group of Companies), Madiha Zehra Misri (BS (Data Science) – Dr. Ahmer Syed Karim), Aiyza Ahmed (BS (Mathematics and Economics) – Imam Ali Kazi Memorial), Maira Rais (BS (Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership) – Management Association of Pakistan), Zulekha Adnan (BS (Industrial Management) – Upfield Pakistan), Siddiq Asim (BS (Entrepreneurship) -Tufail Industries), Alishba Khursheed (BS (Economics, Law and International Relations) – S. H. Hashmi Memorial), Laiba Adnan (BS (Honors) Business and Psychology – DVAGO), Eisha Wahid (BS (Logistics and Supply Chain Management) – Afeef Packages), Rida Asif (BS (Honors) Economics and Finance – Shahjehan Syed Karim), Alifya Tinwala (BS (Education) – Dr. Essa’s Laboratory), Ursalan Ilyas (MBA (Industrial Management) – President IoBM), Lalit Kumar (MBA (Weekend) – Orient McCann), Yaseen Raza Haider (MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management) – Jubilee General Insurance) and Muhammad Abbas (MSc in Organizational Psychology and HRM – Tabba Foundation).

Merit Certificates

Merit certificates were awarded to students across various degree programs, as follows:

BBA (Honors): Ayesha Khan, Haris Muhammad Shahid, Fiza d/o Imtiaz Hassan, Amina Butt, Maria Nisar, Zainab d/o Muhammad Javed, Shamikh Pervez, Humza Ahmed Khan, Bushra Nadeem, Haya Khan, Mohammad Hamza Brohi, Ayesha Abdul Samad, Khadija Siddiqi, Aimen Adnan, Unzilla Shaikh, Farzeen d/o Karim, Maham Saqib, Tooba Najm-ul-Hasan, Sara Ghani, Umm-e-Abiha Ameer and Saad Iftikhar. BS (Honors) Accountancy, Management and Law: Areeba d/o Muhammad Jawaid and Minahil Fakhir. BS (Computer Science): Mubashir Bhanja. BS (Honors) Accounting and Finance: Rizwan Abbas, Muhammad Ali Imran Mamsa, Syed Mohammad Saud Tauqir and Daniya Nadir Merchant. BS (Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership): Hira Sohail and Asma d/o Abdul Hafeez. BS (Honors) Business and Psychology: Manal Tariq, Ayesha Tariq Khan, Sania Khalid, Fatima Ahmed, Aqsa d/o Muhammad Shahid and Rihab Khalid Khan. BS (Honors) Economics and Finance: Ramsha Shaikh. BS (Education): Arwa Abbas. B.Ed.: Eman Sadiq, Hira Ahmed and Maria

Ahmed. M.Phil (Organizational Psychology): Tayyiba Imtiaz. PhD (Education): Diana Louisa Ambrose and Dania Shoaib Khan.

The 27th Convocation of IoBM aligns with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing education, innovation, and economic growth. **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is directly addressed as the event celebrates the achievements of graduates across various programs, promoting access to higher education and lifelong learning opportunities. The convocation also underscores **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth** by preparing graduates to contribute to Pakistan's economy through enhanced skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership, thus fostering economic development. Additionally, the event's focus on preparing graduates for leadership roles, particularly in fields such as business, finance, and entrepreneurship, supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** by encouraging innovation-driven growth. By celebrating the vision of graduates and their potential contributions to society, the convocation further strengthens **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality**, ensuring that education and opportunities are available to a diverse group of individuals, regardless of their background. The event also contributes to **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals** by fostering collaboration among educational institutions, government officials, and industry leaders to create a robust educational ecosystem.



IoBM Participates in Historic MoU Signing for Entrepreneurship Education Alliance in Asia

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), representing Pakistan as the National chapter of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Network), where Mr. Raza Abbas, HoD of the Shahjehan Syed Karim Incubation Center (SSKIC) and Focal Person: UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network- Pakistan Chapter represented the institution at this momentous event which took place on 7-8 December 2024 in Hangzhou, China.

The MoU signing signifies a significant step forward in fostering entrepreneurial spirit and driving economic growth within the region. Representatives from the UNESCO National Chapters in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand were also present.

The 2024 Annual Conference of UNESCO EE-Net National Chapter-China, which was held at Hangzhou Normal University where representatives from China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Sri Lanka signed a historic, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Entrepreneurship Education Alliance in Asia. This collaboration aims to strengthen entrepreneurship education across the Global South.

The MoU outlines a multifaceted approach encompassing cross-border education programs tailored to national and local needs, capacity building initiatives including curriculum development, teacher training, and policy workshops, youth development programs to foster entrepreneurship and

economic growth, joint research focusing on AI, digital technologies, entrepreneurship ecosystems, and talent development, and academic exchange through international conferences and meetings for education and employment experts.

The participation of IoBM in the historic MoU signing for the Entrepreneurship Education Alliance in Asia directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is at the core of this initiative, as the MoU aims to enhance entrepreneurship education through cross-border education programs, curriculum development, and teacher training, fostering lifelong learning opportunities. By focusing on youth development and capacity building, the alliance also contributes to **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, promoting entrepreneurship as a key driver of job creation and economic development. The collaboration, which includes joint research on AI and digital technologies, supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, fostering innovation and the development of entrepreneurship ecosystems across the region. Additionally, the MoU's emphasis on academic exchange and policy workshops aligns with **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, strengthening collaboration among countries to achieve shared educational and economic objectives. Through these efforts, IoBM is helping to shape a more inclusive and innovative entrepreneurial landscape in Asia.



IoBM Recognized as First Pakistani University in the Business Graduates Association (BGA)

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) is the first university from Pakistan to be an esteemed member institution of the Business Graduates Association (BGA), an international membership and quality assurance body of world-leading and high-potential business schools who share a commitment for responsible management practices and lifelong learning, and are looking to provide positive impact on their students, communities, and the economy as a whole. BGA is part of the same organization as the Association of MBAs (AMBA), the world's impartial authority on postgraduate management education.

As a BGA member institution, students of IoBM are able to access BGA's individual membership, which offers a range of tools and resources designed to support the professional and personal development of business students and graduates, free of charge. Tools available within the BGA member platform include CV building services, a job search function, skill assessments, thought-leadership, partner discounts and much more.

IoBM's recognition as the first Pakistani university to join the Business Graduates Association (BGA) aligns directly with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is prominently addressed, as this membership provides IoBM students with enhanced access to tools and resources for personal and professional development, fostering lifelong

learning and skill-building opportunities. Through the promotion of responsible management practices, IoBM’s membership also contributes to **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, enabling students to pursue meaningful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. The resources available, such as CV building services and job search functions, empower students to enhance their employability and contribute to economic growth. Additionally, the association with BGA emphasizes **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, fostering innovation and leadership in business education, while strengthening connections between business schools globally. Through these initiatives, IoBM’s membership in BGA helps shape a more inclusive and responsible business education ecosystem, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and prosperous future.



GRSC, IoBM organizes the launch of a Book on Public and Economic Diplomacy

The Global Research & Studies Center (GRSC) at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted the launch of Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey's book, “The Currency of Influence: Economic Diplomacy and Public Perception through Public Diplomacy”, on December 24, 2024. The launch brought together experts, diplomats, and academicians, underscoring the importance of fostering dialogue in public diplomacy. Ambassador G. R. Baluch, Director of GRSC, IoBM moderated the session. Ambassador M. Alam Brohi and Ambassador Hasan Habib served as reviewers, offering valuable insights into the book's themes and its relevance to contemporary economic and public diplomacy. The event was attended by IoBM’s Deans, Management, Faculty and students.

During his address, Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM, emphasized the importance of soft diplomacy, stating that it plays a pivotal role in fostering people-to-people connections, academic collaborations, and sports exchanges, areas where politics should remain absent. He acknowledged the growing challenges faced by Pakistan's diplomats, primarily due to the country's economic constraints, which limit its ability to influence global superpowers. "The global acceptance of our passport is declining, making foreign service increasingly demanding," he remarked. Mr. Karim also announced that Ambassador Sirohey’s book will be added to IoBM’s collection, providing valuable insights for students pursuing international relations and diplomacy.

Earlier, in his remarks, Ambassador G. R. Baluch provided a thoughtful overview of the book, highlighting its significance as a comprehensive case study for students and professionals of foreign services. He praised Ambassador Sirohey's illustrious career, characterized by self-motivation, decisiveness, and an exceptional work ethic, which firmly establishes him as a distinguished figure in the field of diplomacy. Ambassador Baluch also commended the book's emphasis on creativity, a human touch, and innovative, out-of-the-box approaches to addressing diplomatic challenges facing Pakistan.

Addressing the audience, Ambassador Sirohey shared that the book represents the culmination of his diplomatic career, documenting his experiences, results, and insights. He highlighted that the primary objective of public diplomacy is to win the hearts and minds of the host government and its citizens, noting that positive engagement plays a crucial role in influencing government decisions and aligning diplomatic efforts with embassy goals. Reflecting on his tenure as Pakistan's ambassador to Niger, Ambassador Sirohey shared initiatives aimed at projecting a positive image of Pakistan. He celebrated Eid with orphans, prioritized women's empowerment, and distributed books to promote education. Additionally, he demonstrated personal commitment by sacrificing a portion of his salary to host guests at his home, without burdening the government.

Ambassador Hassan Habib provided a chapter-wise summary of the book, highlighting Ambassador Sirohey's detailed exploration of the mechanisms of diplomacy and the pivotal role of foreign services in ensuring national security and effective diplomacy. Ambassador Habib emphasized the significance of the chapter on the "human touch" in public diplomacy, noting that it underscores the importance of foreign service officials fostering meaningful connections with the public. He added that the book will be an essential read for the new entrants in public diplomacy.

Dr. Shahid Amjad presented Ambassador Brohi's review, who was unable to attend. His review highlighted the challenges of living in a globally interconnected world where tourists, refugees, terrorists, emails, and greenhouse gases transcend borders. "We must accept the world as it is, not as we wish it to be," remarked Ambassador Brohi, emphasizing that the stark realities of the modern era are reshaping state diplomacy. He underscored Pakistan's shortcomings in addressing misconceptions perpetuated by adversarial forces, stressing that one of the key roles of diplomacy is to rectify such misunderstandings. This, he argued, requires continuous engagement, open communication, and sustained dialogue. Ambassador Brohi praised the book as a comprehensive treatise, noting that its parameters and tools provide foreign service cadets with a well-outlined strategy for navigating the

complexities of modern diplomacy. He called for Pakistan to adopt rigorous efforts to strengthen its diplomatic outreach and public image on the global stage.

The launch of the book on public and economic diplomacy at IoBM aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is directly addressed by enhancing students' understanding of diplomacy, international relations, and public diplomacy, particularly through the incorporation of the book into IoBM's academic curriculum. This initiative fosters knowledge-sharing and provides valuable insights for future diplomats and international relations professionals. The event also contributes to **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality**, as it promotes positive engagement and the empowerment of marginalized groups through initiatives like women's empowerment and educational outreach, as demonstrated in the book's case studies. Furthermore, the discussions around soft diplomacy and creating people-to-people connections directly support **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** by advocating for the importance of diplomacy in fostering peaceful international relations and combating misconceptions that can lead to conflict. Through these efforts, the launch promotes greater international cooperation and understanding, advancing global peace and collaboration.



UNDP GAIN team Visits IoBM for Actuarial Collaboration

The UNDP’s Insurance and Risk Finance Facility, in collaboration with Milliman, launched the Global Actuarial Initiative (GAIN) in September 2022 to strengthen actuarial expertise and capacity in select developing countries. This initiative aims to empower governments and the insurance industry to better manage increasingly complex risks, particularly climate-related challenges. By fostering actuarial capacity and deepening local insurance markets, GAIN is paving the way for more resilient economies and societies.

Insurance is a cornerstone of economic resilience, and actuaries are essential to quantifying, pricing, and managing evolving risks. However, in many developing countries, the actuarial profession is still in its infancy, with only a handful of trained experts. Building actuarial capacity is crucial for enhancing financial resilience and expanding access to insurance. To address this, GAIN has been rolled out in 12 countries, with comprehensive roadmaps already underway in 8. Over the next few

years, the initiative aims to expand to 20 countries. GAIN provides both short-term capacity-building training and long-term support for strategic policy development.

Through this initiative, actuarial professionals and academic leaders receive specialized training, while students benefit from mentorship programs. GAIN also assists regulators and public-sector entities in developing in-house actuarial expertise and improving data availability, which are critical for driving sustainable change. As part of this partnership, volunteers travel globally to collaborate with universities, insurers, and governments, offering training, mentorship, and guidance. By building local capacity and fostering international collaboration, GAIN is shaping the future of insurance and risk management in developing countries.

To advance its objectives, the UNDP’s GAIN program team made their inaugural visit to Pakistan on December 12, 2024. During the visit, they met with the faculty of the Actuarial Science and Risk Management (ASRM) department at IoBM. The discussion emphasized the need to raise awareness about the high-demand actuarial profession both locally and globally. The GAIN team expressed their appreciation for IoBM’s BS (ASRM) program, which has been successfully running for the past 15 years. The meeting concluded on a positive note, exploring potential future collaborations, including student and faculty development programs and specialized training opportunities under the GAIN initiative.

The following representatives of the UNDP GAIN initiative participated in the meeting:

- Stephen A. White, President and CEO, Milliman, Seattle
- Sher Afzal Paracha, Associate Actuary, Milliman, Chicago
- Sana Ehsan, National Project Coordinator, Insurance and Risk Financing Resilience, Environment & Climate Change Unit, UNDP Islamabad Office
- Mezan Javed Zia, Actuarial Analyst, Milliman, Karachi

IoBM’s panel of faculty members included:

- Brig. (Retd.) Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean, CCSIS
- Dr. Mir Ghulam Hyder Talpur, Head, Actuarial Science and Risk Management
- Mr. Sohail Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor, Actuarial Science and Risk Management

- Mr. Jahagir Baig, Senior Lecturer, Actuarial Science and Risk Management
- Ms. Ayesha Hameed, Senior Lecturer, Actuarial Science and Risk Management

This milestone visit marked a significant step toward fostering collaboration and strengthening the actuarial profession in Pakistan.

The UNDP’s GAIN team visit to IoBM contributes directly to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is prominently addressed by enhancing actuarial education through specialized training, mentorship, and collaboration between academia and industry. By fostering actuarial expertise and building local capacity, this initiative also supports **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as it creates a skilled workforce capable of managing complex financial risks, including those linked to climate change, and expanding the insurance industry. The GAIN program’s focus on developing robust insurance and risk management systems is aligned with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, as it strengthens local financial markets and promotes resilience in the face of evolving global risks. Additionally, through its efforts to improve data availability and regulatory frameworks, the initiative contributes to **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** by enhancing governance and institutional capacities in risk management. Through these efforts, the GAIN program is helping to build resilient economies, promote sustainable development, and drive international collaboration in risk management.



Eureka Fair at IoBM (Fall 2024)

The Management & HRM Department at Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted its highly anticipated Eureka Fair – Fall 2024 on December 28, 2024. The event, held at Room 314 of the CBM Building, was a vibrant showcase of ingenuity, featuring 17 innovative projects developed by MBA students from the course MAN608 - Technology, Operations, & Innovation.

The Eureka Fair provided a dynamic platform for students to present their innovative business solutions and prototypes, a culmination of months of hard work and creative problem-solving. The projects reflected the students' ability to apply their academic learning to real-world challenges, offering diversified perspectives and transformative ideas. Over the years, the Eureka Fair has cemented its reputation as a launchpad for successful ventures. Many projects showcased in previous editions have been endorsed by leading technology incubators like Nest I/O, SSKIC, and NIC, with some securing grants from IoBM’s ORIC platform. This year’s fair upheld that tradition, with several projects standing out for their innovation and feasibility.

The event attracted a distinguished gathering of senior representatives from the technological and corporate sectors, who engaged with the students and evaluated their projects. Their valuable feedback and insights highlighted the potential for these prototypes to address market needs

effectively. The interaction not only boosted the students' confidence but also reinforced IoBM's commitment to fostering stronger academia-industry linkages.

The Eureka Fair at IoBM directly contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is at the forefront, as the event allows students to apply their academic learning to real-world challenges, fostering experiential learning and innovation. The fair also aligns with **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as it showcases entrepreneurial projects that can lead to new ventures, job creation, and economic growth, particularly in the technology and innovation sectors. By bringing together academia and industry representatives, the event supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, promoting innovation and the development of viable business solutions. Additionally, through the mentoring and feedback from industry leaders, the fair strengthens **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, enhancing collaboration between academia, businesses, and technology incubators. Ultimately, the Eureka Fair plays a vital role in nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators while supporting sustainable economic development.

Given below are the details of the guests invited and attended the Eureka Fair (Fall 2024) along with other details: Please visit the link below for more details:

<http://docs.google.com/document/d/1ulZFe5rdRVq1KHvYqShlXsDdcjCCQJl/edit>



TELEC Group Explores Collaboration Opportunities with CCSIS

The College of Computer Science and Information Systems (CCSIS) at IoBM welcomed a delegation from TELEC Group, led by Syed Hussain Sajjad, Group Chief Operating Officer, on January 4, 2025. The visit aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaboration, fostering innovative opportunities for students and faculty alike. Discussions centered on potential partnerships in Final Year Projects (FYPs), internships, and industrial visits, with a shared focus on equipping students with practical skills and real-world industry exposure. Both sides explored ways to align academic programs with evolving industry requirements, ensuring students are prepared for future challenges in the tech sector.

Representing CCSIS, Dr. Abbas, Dean of the College, and Mr. Asghar Khan, Head of the Department of Computer Science, underscored the significance of bridging the gap between academia and industry to drive innovation and career readiness among students. Syed Hussain Sajjad reaffirmed TELEC Group’s commitment to nurturing future talent by collaborating on educational initiatives that promote experiential learning and skill development.

The meeting concluded with both parties agreeing to hold follow-up sessions to outline a concrete collaboration framework, marking the beginning of a promising partnership between IoBM and TELEC Group.

The visit by TELEC Group to IoBM’s CCSIS aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **SDG 4 – Quality Education** is directly addressed, as the collaboration focuses on enhancing academic programs through partnerships that provide students with practical skills, industry exposure, and real-world learning opportunities. The discussions around final year projects, internships, and industrial visits also contribute to **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**, as the partnership aims to improve career readiness and prepare students for the demands of the technology sector, driving economic growth and job creation. By aligning academic programs with evolving industry needs, the initiative supports **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, fostering innovation and developing the necessary infrastructure to prepare students for future technological challenges. Finally, the emphasis on collaboration between academia and industry contributes to **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, strengthening the connection between educational institutions and businesses to advance sustainable development and foster innovation.



Sustainability Report 2024