



# News Letter

PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

*Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-economic Development*

## International Conference on “CPEC Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation” and “Silk Road Disaster Risk Reduction”



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Pakistan Academy of Sciences in collaboration with Chinese Academy of Sciences organised an International Conference on “CPEC Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation” and “Silk Road Disaster Risk Reduction” on 17-18 July, 2017.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) ranges from Kashi of China to Gawadar Port of Pakistan with overall length of 3000 km. Under the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it connects the “Silk Road Economic Belt” at its north end and “21 Century Maritime Silk Road” at its south, and involves national collaboration on different aspects such as transportation, energy, fiber optic cable and maritime. The geological setting of CPEC is complex. The converge of the mountains of Himalaya, Karakorum and Hindu Kush ranges in this region have led to active tectonic activities, sharp elevation and climate variation. The presence of overwhelmed natural hazards in this region has made it the museum of disasters which requires scientific exploration. Subject to the natural environment, CPEC suffers from a large range of natural hazards, such as earthquake, landslide, rock fall, debris flow, flood, avalanches and GLOF. These hazardous activities pose enormous threats to CPEC. In order to minimize such risks, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Pakistan Academy of Sciences organized an international workshop on 17-18, July, 2017 in Islamabad.

Theme of the Workshop was Natural hazards risk assessment and mitigation strategies at CPEC. Topics covered during the Workshop were CPEC Natural Hazard Database and Information Sharing; CPEC Natural Hazard Formation and Mechanism; CPEC Natural Hazard Risk Assessment; CPEC Natural Hazard Forecast, Monitoring and Early-warning; CPEC Natural Hazard Mitigation Strategy and Key Technology; CPEC Natural Hazard Major Infrastructure and Associated Risk; CPEC Natural Hazard Risk Management and Post-Disaster Reconstruction.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Federal Secretary S & T, Mr. Fazal Abbass Maken. He extended full support to the joint initiative of Pakistani and Chinese Academies of Sciences for establishing “International Earth Sciences Institute” in Islamabad that will be equipped with modern facilities to assess risk, mitigate and respond to disasters. More than 100 delegates from China, Iran, Nepal, ICIMOD, Srilanka, Italy, Hungary, Mongolia and Russia participated in the event. Prof. Dr. M. Asif Khan, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University and Prof. Dr. Zabta Shinwari, Secretary General, PAS were the chief organizers of the event.

## Salient Glimpses of the CPEC Workshop



## Faculty Development Workshop

A Faculty Development Workshop was organized on 10-11 August 2017 at Pakistan Academy of Sciences by University of Peshawar in collaboration with University of Utah (UU), USA to benefit the faculty members of Karakoram International University, University of Peshawar, Quaid-i-Azam University, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology and Islamic International University.

The Workshop was structured in two sessions: (1) continuous course and teaching improvement, and (2) enhancement in the quality of research through better research management, the judicious use of boot camps,

effective fund raising, and strengthened academic governance. Around 25 participants from the above mentioned Universities participated in the Workshop.

A Faculty Development Training Team led by Prof. Tariq Banuri represented University of Utah. The UU Team included:

Prof. Steve Burian  
Ms. Jewell Lund  
Prof. Court Strong  
Dr. Jeff Ullman



## One Health Fellowship

The United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS) initiated a 2-year fellowship program on One Health research between Pakistani young investigators, their research mentors and US experts in relevant scientific disciplines, in order to promote training, foster collaborations and provide mentoring of young scientists in One Health related research. The scientific focus of the fellowships is medical-veterinary interventions on zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases.

In continuation to the above, NAS held a meeting in Thailand which was attended by Dr. Anwar Nasim,

President, PAS and Prof. Zabta K. Shinwari, Secretary General, PAS. The Fellows of the One Health Program also participated in this meeting.

During the meeting, the Fellows presented their research highlighting the rationale of their projects in the Pakistan One Health context, their scientific methods, the transfer of knowledge and training opportunities (both gained and given), the collaborations established, the implementation of that research knowledge/training in Pakistan.



## Commonwealth Science Conference

During the Commonwealth Science Conference held in Singapore on 15 June 2017 the Presidents and/or other representatives of 22 national science academies from across the Commonwealth countries met for the first time in a formal setting.

There was a general consensus that this was a useful first formal meeting of Commonwealth academy presidents. There was a great enthusiasm shown by the academies to do more together. Many of the academies already have strong bilateral links, through memoranda of understanding (MoUs), exchange programmes, and other

connections. By bringing the academies together, the Conference helped to foster camaraderie between the representatives. There was also a willingness to work together and convene discussions at national and regional levels.

The participants agreed that some form of association of Commonwealth science academies would be very valuable. This forum could form a thread between future Commonwealth Science Conferences and Commonwealth Summits.

## Dr. Ismat Beg, Fellow of PAS Honored by HEC

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has conferred the Distinguished National Professor award upon Prof. Dr. Ismat Beg, Lahore School of Economics, Lahore in recognition of his meritorious services in the field of education and research. The award is presented to those academicians who exhibit exceptional performance in their respective fields. Dr. Beg is a Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (U.K.), a Chartered Mathematician and a Chartered Scientist.



## Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman to establish Pak-Austrian and Pak-Italian Universities in Pakistan

Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS has been appointed as the Chairman of Steering Committee for establishment of Pakistan Italian University in the Lahore Knowledge Park and Pakistan Austrian University in Haripur, Hazara. These universities will be funded by the provincial governments of Punjab and KP, respectively. The universities are expected to start functioning by the end of 2018.

In case of Pakistan Italian Engineering University, Lahore, a consortium of the following universities will award the degrees:

1. Torino
2. Bologna
3. Bari

In case of Pak-Austrian University in Haripur, the four collaborating Austrian Universities are:

1. Vienna
2. Graz
3. Innsbruck
4. St. Poulten



## Prof. Atta-Ur- Rahman's Book Published in Chinese Language

A book titled, "Exciting World of Discovery" by Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS has been translated and published by Science Press Beijing in Chinese language. The book covers recent scientific advances in genetics, nano-technology, medical sciences, agricultural sciences and many other fields.

## Elsevier Publishes Three Books of Prof. Atta-Ur-Rahman, FRS

Three volumes of "Studies in Natural Product Discovery" have been published by Elsevier Science Publishers (Volume 51-53), 2017. This book series was initiated under the editorship of Prof. Atta-ur Rahman, FRS, 30 years ago and now has become the most comprehensive encyclopedic series which covers Chemistry and Biological Activities of Natural Products derived from Terrestrial and Marine Sources.



## Dr. Abdul Rashid brings Laurels to the Country

Dr. Abdul Rashid, Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Pakistan, has brought laurels to the country by receiving the prestigious *J. Benton Jones Award* in Nanjing, China on 14 May, 2017. (<http://isspa2017.csp.science.cn/dct/page/70015>). This Award is conferred biennially by the Soil and Plant Analysis Council of USA to a scientist of any country who has made significant contributions in the development and advancement of soil testing and plant analysis. Dr. Rashid is the first Asian scientist to win this recognition.

Dr. Rashid has also received many other recognitions, including IFA Norman Borlaug Award for excellence in crop nutrition research.

