

News Letter

PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-economic Development

JULY 2016

Volume 11, No. 3



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Regional Information Center for Science and Technology to Open Branch in Pakistan Academy of Sciences

The Regional Information Center for Science and Technology (RICEST) was established in 1991 under an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). It was meant to act as the regional center for reference, study and bibliographical information and other services in relation to scientific and technological matters.

Recognizing the importance of academic, research and technological cooperation between universities and research centers for active engagement of academic members and researchers in the domain of S&T and in order to expand the academic relationships, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Information Center for Science and Technology. The MoU with RICEST will provide a two-year IP based access to its online databases for PAS. In case the information sources is available at RICEST but not online, RICEST will deliver it through its Document Delivery Services. PAS will be providing Infrastructure and IT related equipment for establishing RICEST's branch in its headquarters. The IT staff of PAS will be trained in Iran for one week and will be producing quarterly reports about the quality of the services being offered by RICEST. PAS will publicize the establishment of RICEST center and will also enhance the services to the Pakistani Academic Community. PAS has also agreed to collect journals of Pakistani universities; then RICEST will provide facilities to index them in their databases.

Both the parties agreed to provide opportunities for the academic community (faculty members, researchers, etc.) to participate in conferences and international meetings of each other and also to exchange their scientific publications including books, technical and research reports, theses, computer software for educational and research purposes.

Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences recently visited Iran and during his visit he finalized the terms of the MoU with Dr. M. J. Dehghani, President, Regional Information Center for Science and Technology.



Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari with Senior Fellows of Academy of Sciences of Iran.

A Delegation of Chinese Academy of Sciences visits Pakistan Academy of Sciences

A 6 member delegation of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) visited Pakistan Academy of Sciences Headquarters, Islamabad on 31st May 2016 to invite PAS to co-organize the CAS spearhead “National Science and Research Organizations Summit Forum on the Belt and the Road Initiative” which is to be held in Beijing, China from 7-8 November, 2016.

Prof. Khalid M. Khan, acting President of PAS led the

PAS side; the Fellows present on the occasion included **Prof. Dr. M. D. Shami**, **Dr. M. Iqbal**, **Prof. Dr. M. Ashraf**, **Prof. Dr. Anwar ul Hassan Gilani** and **Dr. Abdul Rashid**.

The Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of Chinese Academy of Sciences, **Mr. Jinghua CAO**, led the CAS delegation.



PAS-sponsored Research Projects

The following new research projects were approved by the PAS-HEC Committee:

Title	Principal Investigator
Osteogenic Potential of a Local Herb <i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> : Development of Potential Drug for Osteoporosis	Prof. Dr. A.R. Shakoori
Leptin Gene Polymorphism in Over, Under and Normal Weight Depressed Patients	Prof. Dr. Darakhshan Jabeen Haleem
Synthesis and Characterization of a disulfide crosss-linked multifunctional in situ gelling cargo for oral peptide drug delivery	Dr. Gul Shahnaz (Member, PAS)

PAS-sponsored Workshop

The PAS financial support was approved by the PAS-HEC Committee for organizing the following Workshop by the Fellow of the Academy:

Title	Principal Organizer
Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Lifescience Research, at Pakistan Academy of Sciences, April 26-28, 2016	Prof. Dr. Wasim Ahmad

PAS-sponsored Travel Grants

The following travel grants were provided by the Academy:

Title	Participant
2nd United Arab Emirates Conference on Pure and Applied Chemistry, to be held in Sharjah from 1-3 March, 2016	Prof. Dr. Haq Nawaz Bhatti
2nd Scientific Agricultural Conference (2nd SAC), at the College of Agriculture, University of Duhok, Iraqi Kurdistan Region, 26-27 April, 2016	Prof. Dr. K. B. Marwat
16 th Science Council of Asia Conference, SCA-16, to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 30 May-1 June, 2016	Prof. Dr. Azra Khanum

Dr. Anwar Nasim receives Quaid-i-Azam Gold Medal 2016

Dr. Anwar Nasim President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, was honoured with Quaid-i-Azam Gold Medal 2016 by Nazriya Pakistan Council (NPC) on 24 March, 2016 at Aiwan-i-Quaid, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.

Mr. Zahid Malik, Patron-in-Chief NPC, presided over the function. The awards ceremony is a regular annual feature of NPC, as a part of the Pakistan Day celebrations since 2006. The main objective of the event is to acknowledge and encourage outstanding Pakistanis of different ages, with extra ordinary achievements in different fields of life.

The medals are conferred upon 15-20 Pakistanis every year for their splendid achievements in promotion of patriotism, ideology of Pakistan, science and technology, sports, education, social service, art and craft, literature, medical etc. A jury, constituted from the members of the

NPC Executive Committee, confers awards named after Quaid-i-Azam, Allama Iqbal, Madar-i-Millat, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Dr. A.Q.Khan with relevance to the areas of achievements of the awardees.

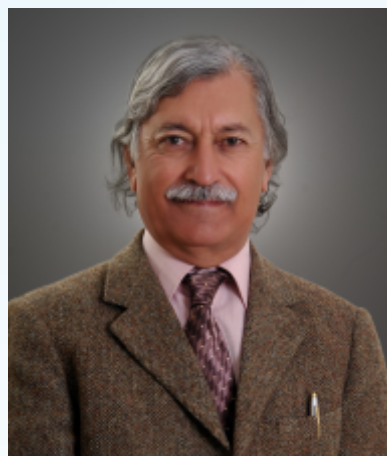


Prof. M. Qasim Jan Reappointed as Chair of TWAS Expert Committee

Prof. M. Qasim Jan was appointed as chair of the TWAS Independent Expert Committee in Earth, Astronomy and Space Sciences for three years (2013-2015). In a rare gesture of appreciation, he has been reappointed by TWAS to continue as Chair of the Committee for another term of three years.

The Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative (SRMGI) is an international project which seeks to expand the global conversation around governance of solar radiation management (SRM) research. Recognizing the need for more widespread and inclusive discussion about governance of SRM research, SRMGI was established in 2010. It is co-convened by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Environmental Defense Fund, and the Royal Society, and it has led the way in bringing new voices from the developing world into the

global conversation on governance of SRM research. Prof. Qasim Jan is TWAS representative and co-Chair of SRMGI for more than a year now.



Foreign Fellow Prof. R. J. Peterson becomes Vice Chair of Forum on International Physics

Foreign Fellow R. J. (Jerry) Peterson, of the Department of Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder, has been elected as the Vice Chair of the Forum on International Physics (FIP) of the American Physical Society (APS). This position leads to the offices of Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair, for a four year total commitment.

FIP sponsors several sessions of invited papers at the two largest meetings of the APS. For the January 2017 meeting in Washington DC, sessions are being arranged on 'the status of overseas graduate students in US physics graduate programs' and on 'physics for diplomacy'. For the March 2017 meeting in New Orleans, invited sessions will be on 'global synchrotron light sources' and 'physics for our cultural heritage'.



The University of Karachi Research Complex named after PAS Foreign Fellow Prof. Wolfgang Voelter

To pay tribute to the services of **Prof Wolfgang Voelter** to Pakistan, a research complex was established after the renowned German scientist.

Built with the support of the federal government at the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), the Rs. 85 million new research wing focuses on applied chemical science, textile chemistry, nanochemistry and other disciplines of national need.

Highlighting Prof Voelter's services, former chairman of the Higher Education Commission, **Prof Atta-ur-Rahman**, said he had tremendous love and respect for the people of Pakistan and confidence in their abilities. He was Pakistan's great supporter and was like a role model for all Pakistani students.

A recipient of many international awards, Prof Voelter was truly the ambassador of Pak-German scientific cooperation and friendship between the two great nations, he said.

"The government of Pakistan acknowledged his services by awarding two civil awards, Hilal-i-Pakistan and Sitara-i-Pakistan."

The Vice Chancellor of The University of Karachi, **Prof Mohammad Qaiser** said Prof Voelter played a key role in providing crucial financial assistance to the KU in research. "His great services will always be remembered in Pakistan," he remarked.

"Approximately 40 Pakistani scientists, students, and technicians have got advanced research training in the esteemed laboratory of Prof Voelter, including 20 full PhDs," said director of the ICCBS **Prof Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary**.



International Conference on Solid State Physics organized by Prof. Dr. Zakria Butt

Prof. Dr. M. Z. Butt, Fellow PAS and President Pakistan Institute of Physics (PIP), collaborated with Prof. Dr. Shahzad Naseem, Director Centre of Excellence in Solid State Physics (CSSP), University of the Punjab, Lahore in organizing International Conference on Solid State Physics, December 13 – 17, 2015, in Lahore. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates from 12 countries of four continents, namely Europe, America, Australia, and Asia.

Speaking in the Inaugural Session, Prof. Dr. M. Z. Butt, Guest of Honor, highlighted the efforts of the Pakistan Institute of Physics in furthering the teaching and research activities in Pakistan.



Prof. Zabta K. Shinwari becomes COMEST Member

The UNESCO has selected Prof. Dr. Zabta K. Shinwari, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences as member of its World Committee on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) for year 2016-2019.

Prof. Shinwari is the first Pakistani who has been selected as member of COMEST. Under this charge he will provide guidance on specific issues related to ethics of science and technology and will contribute in drafting texts for declarations.

UNESCO's COMEST, established in 1998, has had a prominent voice on the ethical issues arising from scientific and technological advancements, fulfilling its mandate as an independent advisory body that utilises the collective intellectual power of its eminent members to provide guidance on these important ethical issues to UNESCO, the scientific community, decision makers and the public at large.

This commission is composed of eighteen leading scholars belonging to diverse scientific, legal, philosophical and cultural fields from various regions of the world.

The UNESCO often chooses COMEST member among eminent personalities from different fields.



Prof. S.N. Kharin wins The Ragnar Holm Scientific Achievement Award

Prof. S. N. Kharin, a Foreign Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, was recently awarded The Ragnar Holm Scientific Achievement Award. The Award derives its significance and prestige from the scientist whose name it carries. The contributions of Dr. Ragnar Holm to electrical contact theory and application are renowned the world over. The award was created in 1971 by the Steering Committee of the Holm Conference. An awards committee appointed by the steering committee of the conference meets annually and considers nominations for the award that have been received and determines whether they have a worthy candidate. The award is not

limited to candidates from the United States, nor to works that have been presented to the IEEE-Holm Conference



Obituary

Prof. Dr. Nasir ud Din

A highly accomplished and decorated scientist and a senior Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, **Prof. Dr. Nasir ud Din**, expired in Lahore on Thursday, 18 February, 2016. He was born in Amritsar, British India on 15 August 1937. He obtained his M.Sc. in 1957 from University of the Punjab and PhD in 1963 from Edinburgh University, Scotland.

Prof. Dr. Nasir ud Din was Chairman, Institute of Molecular Sciences & Bioinformatics, Lahore. He spent major period of his professional career as Executive Director at Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Lahore. He served as Professor of Biochemistry and Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Research, The Lahore University. Prior to that he was Visiting Professor to a number of International Universities which included Georgetown University, USA, University of Geneva, Switzerland and Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

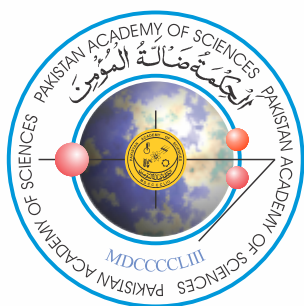
Prof. Nasir ud Din had earned many national and international honors and awards, including *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* by the Government of Pakistan, Visiting Scientist Award, World Health Organization.

May Allah Almighty bless his soul with eternal peace. Aameen.



A Joint Pakistan-US Workshop
**“Strengthening and Sustaining a Network of
Public and Animal Health
Clinical Laboratories in Pakistan”**

Islamabad, Pakistan
September 27-29, 2016



The National Academies of
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To be organized jointly by:

**The U.S. National Academy of Sciences,
Engineering and Medicine (NAS)**

and

Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS)

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