

# Newsletter

## PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## Ground-breaking Ceremony of China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC) and the International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk (October 25-27, 2023)



An international conference on "Climate Change and Disaster Risk" was organised at the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad from October 25-27, 2023. The ground-breaking ceremony of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC) and the inaugural ceremony of the International Conference on Climate Change were held in the Auditorium of the Department of Earth Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, on Nov 25, 2023. Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, Minister of Food Security and Research, GoP was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Prof. Zhang Yaping, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, Minister of Food Security and Research, GoP, and Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan attended the ceremony and launched the Centre. Prof. Khalid M. Khan, President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Qasim Jan, Education Minister, KPK and Former President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Tasawar Hayat, Secretary General of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Cui Peng, Director-General of CPJRC, and Prof. Niaz Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, addressed the gathering and witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony.

## ANSO-PAS-MAAP Conference on “Pathogens Transmission Beyond Borders” (October 16-18, 2023)

A 3-day ANSO-PAS MAAP Conference on “Pathogens Transmission Beyond Borders: Understanding the Complexities of Cross-species Infectious Diseases” was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) in the PAS Auditorium from October 16-18, 2023 in collaboration with Alliance of International Science Organization (ANSO), and Monbukagakusho-MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP). The Conference was supported by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Alliance of International Science

Organization (ANSO), Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the Department of Biotechnology Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad. Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari was the focal person of the event. The Conference aimed to effectively treat and prevent the development of cross-species infectious illnesses for a thorough understanding of the complications associated with pathogen transmission across boundaries.



## Visit of the CAS Delegation to the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (October 26, 2023)

A 9-member delegation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) led by Prof. Zhang Yaping, Vice President CAS visited Pakistan Academy of Sciences on October 26, 2023. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan (President PAS) welcomed the CAS delegation in the PAS video conferencing facility room in the presence

of PAS Council Members. Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Secretary General, PAS) briefed the delegation about the academic & scientific role of PAS and its achievements. The delegation of CAS and PAS Council Members discussed possibilities of collaboration on scientific and technical matters of mutual interests.





## Invited Talk: Interfacial Pre-melting and the Mechanics of Frost by Foreign Speakers (August 29, 2023)

Prof. Dr. Alan W. Rempel, Prof. Dr. Anita Weiss, and Devlin Rutherford (Ph.D. Researcher) Visited Pakistan in connection with the Project titled: "Enhancing the study of Climate Change and Glaciology in Gilgit-Baltistan through collaboration between Karakoram International University, and the University of Oregon". Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Fellow PAS facilitated the organization of talk on "Interfacial Premelting and the Mechanics of Frost" on August 29, 2023, at the PAS Auditorium. The key

objective of the talk was "to address concerns about the presence and consequences of melting of ice surfaces at subzero temperatures, referred to as "premelting". The talk offered a brainstorming session for environmentalists, ecologists, climatologists, geologists, hydrogeologists, biogeographers, and climate change specialists to discuss the Interfacial Premelting and the Mechanics of Frost insights into the response of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change.



## Launching of "General Agricultural Research Policy Document of Pakistan" (September 26, 2023)

Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, President, PAS and Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat, Secretary General, PAS, organised the Launching of the "General Agricultural Research Policy Document of Pakistan" titled: "Food and Agricultural Policy for Green Revolution 2.0" on September 26, 2023, at the PAS Auditorium. Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, Fellow PAS & Caretaker

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (GoP) was the Honourable Chief Guest at the occasion. Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum, and Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran also participated and talked at the occasion.





## Memorial Reference for Dr. A.Q. Khan (Late) October 10, 2023

Pakistan Nuclear Society (PNS) in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) organized the Memorial Reference at PAS Auditorium on October 10, 2023. Several Distinguished Professors Renowned Scientists, and Research Scholars from various universities attended the Reference and prayed for the departed soul. They also shared

unforgettable memories and the prestigious contributions of Dr. A.Q. Khan towards research and development (R&D).



## National Health Research Conference (September 9-10, 2023)

Health Research Institute, National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, organized a 2-Day conference on “National Health Research” in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSRC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) at Serena Hotel, Islamabad from September 9-10, 2023. Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Khan (President PAS) addressed the inaugural session of the conference. Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari (Fellow

PAS) presented the overall scientific activities and role of the Academy at the occasion. Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Secretary General PAS) along with the PAS Fellows namely; Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gillani, Prof. Dr. M. Waheed Akhter, and Prof. Dr. M. Perwaiz Iqbal, also attended the conference. The conference aimed to promote collaboration and networking among funding agencies, researchers, policymakers and allied stakeholders, and to identify gaps in research policy and discuss strategies for research prioritization and capacity strengthening.





### 3-Day National Workshop organized by PAS, KP Chapter titled “Food Security Issues” (August 9-11, 2023)

Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) sponsored KP Chapter for the organization of a 3-Day National Workshop titled “Food Security Issues (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Non-timber Forest Products and Weeds)” at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal from August 9 to 11, 2023. The event was

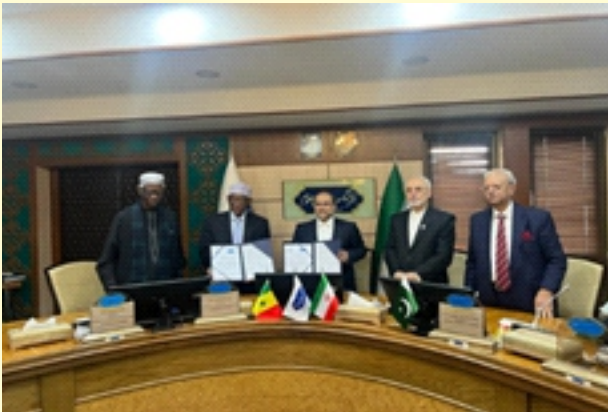
inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal. Prof. Dr. Khan Bahadar Marwat (Fellow PAS) provided a comprehensive talk on "Food Security Issues," followed by further oral presentations. Eminent scientists delivered a total of 15 detailed lectures during the workshop.



### Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Khan's visit to Iran Academy of Sciences and participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Award Ceremony (September 29 to October 3, 2023)

Upon the invitation of Iran Academy of Sciences (IAS) and Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF), Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Khan (President PAS) visited the office of IAS from 30<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023 and attended the “5<sup>th</sup> Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Award Ceremony” held in Isfahan, Iran on October 2, 2023.

He also attended side events vis. 9<sup>th</sup> Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP), cultural tours, visits, etc., from September 29 to October 3, 2023. He also delivered a talk on the role of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Network of Academies of Sciences in Islamic Countries (NASIC).



## **Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik (Fellow, PAS) Took Oath as Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (September 11, 2023)**

It is indeed a matter of great honour and immense pride for the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) to announce that Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, Fellow, PAS has taken oath as Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research on

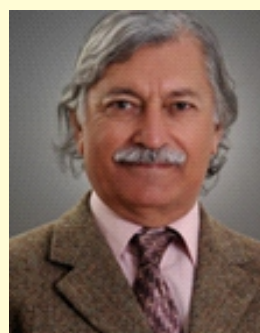
September 11, 2023. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi administered the oath in a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



## **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan took the Oath as Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Secretary of Higher Education (August 18, 2023)**

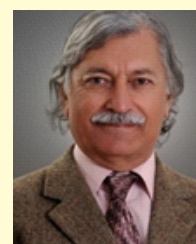
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Fellow, PAS and distinguished National Professor (Emeritus), University of Peshawar was sworn in on August 18, 2023, as a member of the provincial interim cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). He is among one of the new 12-member caretaker cabinet, comprising nine

ministers, two advisers and a special assistant. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali administered the oath in a ceremony held at the Governor House which was attended by the KP caretaker Chief Minister, Mohammad Azam Khan and other distinguished guests and officials from KP.



## **PAS Fellow Elected as Member (Academician) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)**

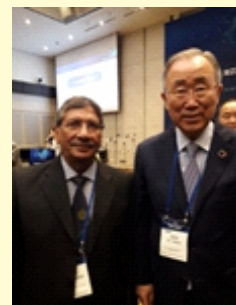
Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Former President of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), has been elected in the year 2023 as a Member (Academician) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).





## **PAS Fellow Elected as President of Science Council of Asia (SCA) (October 20, 2023)**

Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig, Fellow and former Sec. General of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences has been elected as the President of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) for the term 2023-2025. The announcement was made during the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SCA held in Seoul, Korea on 20 Oct., 2023 at the occasion of 2023 SCA Conference and General Assembly.



Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig (President SCA) with Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Ex. Sec. General UNO at the 2023-SCA Annual Board Meeting in Korea.

## **Induction of Editor at the PAS Editorial Section (October 1, 2023)**

Dr. Muhammad Javed Akhtar took the charge of Editor, PAS Editorial Section on October 1, 2023. Dr. Javed Akhtar retired from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) as Chief Scientist. He served as Director-Coordination (PINSTECH) from 2018-2021; Executive Secretary, International Nathiagali Summer College, from 2016-2021 and Editor-in-Chief, of "The Nucleus", a quarterly Scientific Journal of PAEC, from 2017-2021. In recognition of his contribution in the scientific field, he was awarded "Pride of Performance" in 2009. He received "Dr. M. Raziuddin Siddique Award" and Gold Medal (for scientists

under 40 years of age) in 1995 by PAS. He was also awarded the "Ibn-al-Haytham Prize" (for scientists under 40 years of age) in 1997 by PAS.



## **Prof. Dr. Syed M. Qaim Chairs a Technical Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (August 28-31, 2023)**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna organized a Technical Meeting on Nuclear Data for Medical Applications from 28 to 31 August 2023 in which about 20 experts from 15 countries participated (in person or virtually). Professor Dr. Syed M. Qaim from the Forschungszentrum Juelich and the University of Cologne, Germany, was asked to chair the whole 4-day event and lead the technical discussions. The aim of such meetings is to advise the IAEA about the new developments and future directions in a specific field.

Professor Qaim is a leading authority in the area of medical radioisotopes and has been advising the IAEA and the World Council on Isotopes (WCI) in this field for many years. He was the Chairman of the International Nuclear Data Committee of the IAEA for about six years. During this period he induced the IAEA to expand its nuclear data activities by including medical applications, which has now become an

integral part of the work of the IAEA. A research group from the Government College University Lahore (GCUL), Pakistan, also participates in the Coordinated Research Programme (CRP).

Professor Qaim is a Foreign Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), a Fellow of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) and a Fellow (from North) of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He has always supported the development of science in Islamic and other Third World countries.



## Obituary

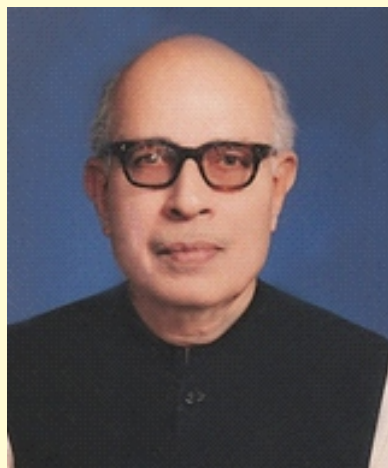
### Prof. Dr. Misbah-ud-Din Shami 1930 - 2023

Prof. Dr. Misbah-ud-Din Shami, a versatile Chemist and one of the most highly rewarded academicians and researchers of Pakistan in the field of Inorganic Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Process Technology, and Chemical Crystallography, breathed his last on August 15, 2023, in Islamabad.

He joined the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) as a Fellow in 1982 and served the Academy as President from 1988-92, Secretary General from 1984-88, 1992-96, and 1998-2002, Associate Secretary General from 2009-2010, and Treasurer from 2005-2008.

During his service, he also held prestigious positions such as: Nominee of HEC on the PAS Council, 2018-2020; Member, Advisory Committee on Education, Government of Pakistan, 2014-2016; Project Coordinator for the World Bank assisted Project on "Higher Education and Scientific Research", 1993-1996; Advisor to the Chancellor, Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan, since 1998; Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan, 1980-1990; Whole-time Member, University Grants Commission, Islamabad, (Status of Vice Chancellor), 1976-1980; University of the Punjab, Lahore: Pro-Vice Chancellor, 1974-1976; Dean, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Pharmacy, 1973; Director, Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology, 1972-1974; Professor, 1970-1974; Reader (Associate Professor), 1966-1970; Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Royal Society of UK at Imperial College of Science & Technology, London, 1969; Lecturer, 1952-1966.

The summary of his other remarkable positions is as follows: Founding Fellow and Vice President, Islamic World Academy of Sciences; Fellow and Former President, Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers; Fellow and Former Vice-President, The Chemical Society of Pakistan; Member and Former



President, Pakistan Association of Scientists and Scientific Professions; Life Member and Former President, Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science; Member, Syndicates/Boards of Governors, Selection Boards, Finance & Planning Committees of several Public and Private Universities and R&D Organizations; First Pakistani Member, International Advisory Panel of East-West Center, Hawaii, USA; Member, Editorial Boards of six Scientific Journals.

In recognition of his academic and scientific achievements, Prof. Shami received prestigious awards, including Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICHE), Lahore, 2010; Pakistan Academy of Sciences Golden Jubilee Medal, 2002; Legend of Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology, University of the Punjab, 2001; Medal by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Jordan; Sitara-i-Imtiaz by President of Pakistan, 1990; First Pakistani to receive International UNESCO Kalinga Prize, 1990; Niels Bohr Medal by UNESCO, 1990; Pakistan Talent Forum National Award, 1987; Allama Iqbal Centenary Commemorative Medal, 1974.

May Allah Almighty bless the departed soul with eternal peace. Amin.