



# Newsletter

## PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## China Pakistan Joint International Symposium on The Economically Important Plants of the Himalayas – A Shared Wealth of Pakistan and China (April 26, 2024)



An integrated joint Symposium on “The Economically important plants of the Himalayas – a shared wealth of Pakistan and China” was organized at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) on April 26, 2024, at the auditorium of the Academy. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Ex-minister of Education of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Ex-President of PAS inaugurated the symposium. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Baig, Secretary General PAS welcomed the participants, and Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan, Principal Organizer of the event from Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, highlighted the objectives and the importance of holding the event at the Academy. Prof. Jie Liu and Prof. Zeng-Yuan Wu, Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Prof. Asad Ullah, Director Botanical Garden University of Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Tahira Jatt, Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, delivered their knowledgeable presentations focusing on various aspects of the economically important plants of the Himalayas. More than 150 participants from different universities and research institutions of the country attended the event. The symposium was followed by a two-day field visit to Galliyat for the botanical excursion, during which various plants were collected for herbarium and molecular data analyses. The Chinese delegate expressed deep interest in joint future research projects and collaborations with QAU, University of Peshawar, NARC, PMNH, PAS, PSF and SALU.

It's pertinent to mention that the Chinese team from KIB is on its field visit to Pakistan under the PSF-NSFC Joint project titled “Ecological and molecular assessments of the prioritized endemic plants in the Himalaya”. Principal Investigators of the project, Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan from Pakistan and Dr. Jie Liu from China is of the opinion that the current project could be a milestone for further collaborations between QAU and KIB in future. Dr. Jie Liu and Dr. Zeng-Yuan Wu also visited QAU and trained the students on plant sample collection and processing for herbarium and DNA studies. Later on, they also met the Chinese and Pakistani teams working at the Quaid-i-Azam University, China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre (CPJRC).

Towards the end of the symposium, Dr Shujaul Mulk Khan, Director of Career Counselling & member of PAS, presented a vote of thanks and acknowledged the financial support of the Pakistan Academy of Science to organize the event. He also appreciated the efforts of other sponsors i.e., Pakistan Science Foundation, National Science Foundation China, University of Peshawar, Directorate of ORIC, QAU and as well as the staff of PAS & Plant Ecology Lab. QAU to organize the event at the Academy.



## Felicitation Ceremony for PAS Fellows who Received Civil Awards 2024

The Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) organized a felicitation ceremony to recognize recipients of Civil Awards 2024 for their outstanding contributions to the society. The event was held at the PAS Auditorium on April 22, 2024. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The ceremony honored the winners' great

achievements and excellent service in various professions. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasized the necessity of recognizing and rewarding those who have made significant contributions to the improvement of Pakistan. He emphasized the awardees' critical role in influencing the country's growth and urging others to follow suit. The details of the awards are given below:

### PAS Fellows who Received Civil Awards on March 23, 2024, in the Field of Science and Education

Sr#	Name of Awardee	Field	Award
1.	Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan	Education	Hilal-i-Imtiaz
2.	Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig	Science	Hilal-i-Imtiaz
3.	Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutta	Education	Sitara-i-Imtiaz
4.	Prof. Dr. Sohail Nadeem	Education	Sitara-i-Imtiaz
5.	Dr. Jamshed Iqbal	Science	Sitara-i-Imtiaz
6.	Prof. Dr. Sardar Khan	Environmental Science	Tamgha-i-Imtiaz
7.	Prof. Dr. Aamer Saeed Bhatti	Education	Tamgha-i-Imtiaz
8.	Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad	Education	Tamgha-i-Imtiaz





## Visit of Delegation from University of South Africa (UNISA) to Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) (March 1, 2023)

A delegation of the officials from University of South Africa (UNISA) visited Pakistan Academy of Sciences on March 1, 2024. The delegation was led by Prof. Malik Maaza, School of Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Studies (SIRGS), University of South Africa. Prof. Dr. Noor Muhammad Butt, Senior Fellow PAS, and the Officials from the National Center of Physics (NCP), Islamabad, Pakistan, also accompanied the delegation. Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig (Secretary General, PAS) and Dr.

Riffat Mehmood Qureshi (Director Admin, PAS) welcomed the visiting delegation and presented an overview of the organizational structure, aims and objectives, national & international collaboration, as well as salient achievements of the PAS since its inception. The meeting aimed to briefly discuss the role of PAS and the possibilities for the establishment of a long-term mutually beneficial relationship for scientific collaboration and scholarly research activities.



## Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood, Fellow PAS, Got the COMSTECH Lifetime Achievement Award

Asghari Maqsood from Pakistan has been honored with the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Life-Time Contributions Award in Physics (shared) for her outstanding research achievements in 2023. She received a certificate signed by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan/Chairman COMSTECH, along with a monetary prize.



## Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood, Fellow PAS, Honored as a Pakistani Scientist

With great pleasure, ScholarGPS announced that Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood has been recognized as a Highly Ranked Scholar in the world by ScholarGPS, a prestigious global academic ranking organization. This exceptional honor is a result of Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood's outstanding academic achievements and groundbreaking research contributions, which have placed her in the esteemed top 0.05% and at No. 7 of all scholars worldwide. This

remarkable distinction is a testament to Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood's dedication, expertise, and influence in her field, and we are thrilled to celebrate this achievement. Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood on this extraordinary recognition, which solidifies her position as a leading scholar and thought leader in her discipline.

<https://scholargps.com/highly-ranked-scholars?year=2022&specialty=Ferrite+%28magnet%29>



## Deliberation on Secrets of the Universe: Global Experts Gather at UOL for In-depth Discussions on Gravitation and Cosmology (May 2024)



To delve into the contemporary advancements in the field, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at The University of Lahore (UOL) recently organised a three-day International Conference on Gravitation and Cosmology (ICGC24), in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). About 200 participants from around the globe attended this event.

The conference aimed to provide a platform for researchers to present their research findings, exchange ideas, discuss concerns, and inform the broader scientific achievements. Along with research paper presentations, the conference also had a series of plenary lectures and invited talk sessions. Under the auspices of Prof Dr Muhammad Sharif (HoD, Mathematics & Statistics Department); Prof Dr Shahid Munir, Chairperson, Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Prof Asghar Qadir (Mathematician and Cosmologist), Prof Muhammad Ashraf (Rector, UOL) and Prof Muhammad Iqbal (Director, Office of Research and Commercialisation (ORIC) and Dean, Faculty of Sciences) talked in the inaugural session.

There were a total of 21 plenary/invited speakers at this conference. The International plenary speakers included Prof Aroon Kumar Beesham (South Africa), Prof Carlos Herdeiro (Portugal), Prof Seyed Mohammad Sadegh Movahed (Iran), Prof Gonzalo J. Olmo (Spain), Prof Jackson Levi Said (Malta), Prof Bobomurat Ahmedov (Uzbekistan), Prof Ahmadjon Abdujabbarov (Uzbekistan), Prof JinLin Han (China), Dr Kazuharu Bamba (Japan), Prof Salvatore Capozziello (Italy), Prof Philippe Jetzer (Switzerland) and Dr Ali Övgün (Turkiye).



Prof Dr Muhammad Sharif



Prof Asghar Qadir



Prof Dr Shahid Munir



Mr Bobomurod Ahmedov



Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal



Mr Carlos A.R. Herdeiro



The local plenary speakers included Prof Asghar Qadir (PAS), Prof Jameel Un Nabbi (University of Wah), Prof Muhammad Jawed Iqbal (University of Karachi), Prof Azad Akhtar Siddiqui (National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)), Prof Muhammad Azam (University of Education), Prof Ibrar Hussain (NUST), Dr Ghulam Abbas (The Islamia University of Bahawalpur), Dr Abdul Rehman Kashif (Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST)), and Dr Suhail Khan (University of Peshawar). Moreover, around 53 speakers presented their research papers at this international conference.

During the opening ceremony, Prof Dr Sharif (HoD/Convener) gave the welcome address and mentioned the areas of the field such as general relativity, alternative theories of gravity, gravitational waves of cosmological and astrophysical origin, stellar structures, black holes, etc., that were covered during the conference. He shared his hopes regarding the conference and its role in knowledge advancement. Moreover, he revealed the achievements of the Mathematics Department and its research endeavours. While concluding his speech, Prof Sharif expressed his gratitude towards the organizing committees for putting together such a massive event. Following his speech, Prof Iqbal steered the audience's attention towards the recent progress in the field of gravitation and cosmology. He also highlighted the university's commitment to nurturing the spirit of exploration. Afterwards, Dr Ashraf encouraged the organising committee to put up their efforts in staging

the conference. He said that the event provided an opportunity for young scholars and researchers to interact with senior ones and learn novel concepts. The rector also shared UOL's progress by mentioning the recent rankings which placed it amongst the top five universities in the country.

As the guest of honour, Prof Asghar Qadir expressed his gratitude for being invited to the conference. With the conference day also being the birthday of Prof Dr Abdus Salam (Nobel Laureate, and Physicist), Prof Qadir shared the distinctions and contributions of Prof Salam. He also appreciated Prof Sharif for his expertise and efforts in empowering students to carry forward their knowledge. Finally, Dr Munir praised UOL for gathering experts to delve into the mysteries of the universe. While stating PHEC's role in catalysing innovation and exploration, he said, "As the chairman of PHEC, I am committed to promoting initiatives that are targeted towards promoting excellence in research. Also, PHEC helps universities in improving their international rankings and helps them in making significant contributions to the advancements of knowledge and innovation." The scientific and research-oriented gatherings create a conducive environment for young scholars to trigger the critical thinking that is necessary for scientific inquiry. This international conference on gravitation and cosmology provided a platform for students to interact with field experts to gain first-hand knowledge.

## An International Conference on “Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analysis with Applications in Natural Sciences”

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on “Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analysis with Applications in Natural Sciences”, was organized by the Faculty of Basic & Applied Sciences, Air University (AU) Islamabad with resounding success. The conference, held both online and physically,

brought together over 200 participants from across the globe. The said conference was mainly sponsored by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Higher Education Commission (HEC).



Chief Guest, Minister for IT, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Vice Chancellor, Air University, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan, HI (M), Registrar Air University, Air Cdre (R) Abdul Wahab Motla and Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood attending the presentation at Air University Auditorium.



Chief Guest, Minister for IT, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, graced the occasion with her presence, emphasizing the importance of data-driven approaches in shaping the future of science and technology. Vice Chancellor, Air University, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan, HI (M), Registrar Air University, Air Cdre (R) Abdul Wahab Motla, Dean Faculty of Basic & Applied Sciences, Professor Dr. Asghari Maqsood, SI, Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of

Sciences, and the Conference Chair, Dr. Ammara Nawaz Cheema, along with other esteemed dignitaries, warmly welcomed to guests of the conference.

More than 100 papers were presented, showcasing cutting-edge research and innovative application of statistical methods across diverse domains of natural science. The conference was concluded on a high note.

## Dr. Abdul Rashid (PAS Fellow) Conferred Fellowship of Artificial Intelligence Industry Academy

In March 2024, Dr Abdul Rashid, PAS Fellow, was elected Fellow (Academician) of "Artificial Intelligence Industry Academy (AIIA), based in Hong Kong, China. The mission of AIIA is to promote the rapid development of the artificial intelligence (AI) industry, encourage innovation and application of AI in various industries, facilitate deep integration of AI with the economy and society, and contribute to the progress and development of human society. The AIIA's membership of over 3,000 academicians and scientists, possessing extensive expertise and a wealth of research achievements, is committed to promoting the application of AI across diverse sectors.

Dr Rashid is an eminent crop nutrition and soil fertility specialist, whose innovative problem-solving research has won him topmost international scientific recognitions, like International Fertilizer Association's NORMAN BORLAUG AWARD, International Plant Nutrition Institute's SCIENCE AWARD and East-West Center DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

