QUALITY

Enhancement Cell

University of Swat

Annual Newsletter

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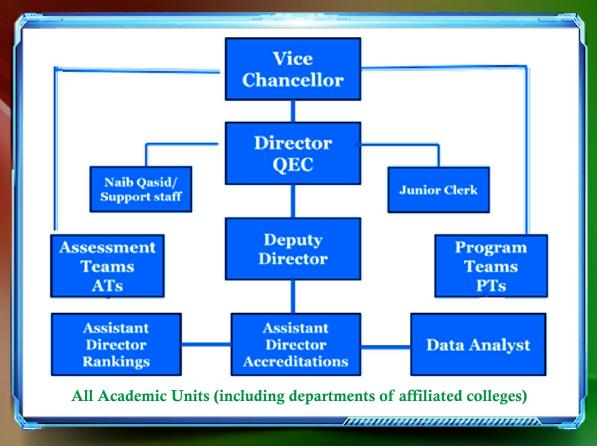
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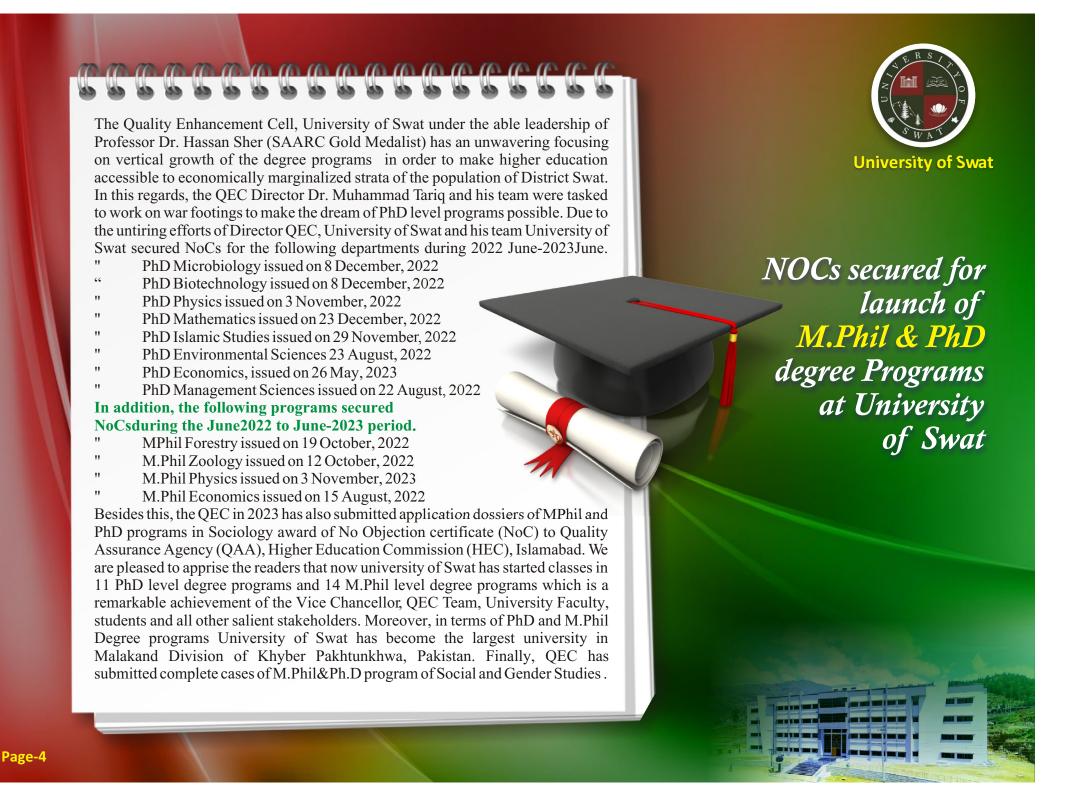




QEC Organizational Structure Organogram and Staff Members The Quality Enhancement Cell are established by Higher Education Commission with a view to monitor. evaluate and improve quality of degree programs offered by universities while keep a closed liaison with Quality Assurance Agency of HEC, Islamabad. In this regard, the year 2022-2023 the Honorable Vice Chancellor University of Swat Prof Dr. Hassan Sher approved the following organogram for the QEC at University of Swat in order to allow external regulators and internal stakeholders a better view of how tasked are grouped and explain the reporting mechanism in a simple organizational structure (organogram).



Organogram of QEC at
University of Swat
(Approved during March, 2023)







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QEC Organized:

Webinar on "Doing thesis at Graduate and Postgraduate Level 12th April 2023

A webinar for Doing Thesis at graduate and postgraduate level was delivered by Dr. Zahid Ullah, Deputy Director QEC, University of Swat on 12th April, 2023. The aim of the webinar was to facilitate faculty of the university of Swat and its affiliated colleges regarding the importance of conducting a rigorous research work in the form of a student thesis or dissertation. The speaker emphasized the importance of thesis statement, articulation of proper research questions and hypothesis and selection of proper literature review supported by a sound research design in order to offer meaningful contribution to processes, products and policy. It was emphasized that at undergraduate level the process of research should be stressed; while, at the post graduate level the novelty and contribution in the form of practical implications should be emphasized. Moreover, supportive material and research resources were shared with participants of the webinar. The webinar concluded with a question-andanswer session.





QEC Organized:

Webinar on "Safeguarding early age (Career) researchers from predatory Journals 22nd May, 2023

As part of the webinar series another seminar on safeguarding early career researchers from predatory researchers was jointly moderated by the QEC personnel including Dr. Suleman Khan Assistant Director QEC, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Director QEC and Dr. Zahid Ullah, Deputy Director QEC, University of Swat. The aim of the webinar was to spread awareness regarding the predatory journals in order to safeguard faculty and students of university of Swat as well as faculty of the affiliated colleges of the University of Swat from predatory journals. In particular, the discourse and methods of approach of predatory journals were discussed in detail. The discussion panel emphasized the diagnostic test of checking through journal citation reports issued by Clarivate Analytics. The importance of Higher Education Journal Recognition Systems (HJRS) as well as its method of operation was discussed in detail.





QEC Organized: Webinar on "SAR and Report Writing and Ats 15th May 2023

A webinar on the process of writing Self-Assessment Reports and Assessment Team (ATs) was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Suleman Khan, Assistant Director QEC, University of Swat as part of capacity building webinar series for year 2022-2023 on 15 May, 2023. The seminars was targeted to improve the capacity of program teams in writing professional self-assessment reports for their respective degree programs. The speaker emphasized adherence to the HEC Manual for Self-Assessment Report Writing Processes. It was emphasized to make the SAR as much realistic as possibles and all the program level academic activities should be carefully document showing a process-oriented approach. In the same vein, the role of Assessment teams (ATs) were discussed with reference to providing qualitative and quantitative feedback to the concerned department. It was recommended to give doable recommendations so that concerned heads of academic units can comply with ATs recommendations within stipulated time. The event ended with a vote of thanks by the Director QEC, who emphasized that quality assurance is a continuous process and achievement of academic excellence.



QEC Director participated in International Seminar organized by HEC and Times Higher Education Islamabad

The Director Quality Enhancement Cell, Dr. Muhammad Tariq participated in a one day seminar on the topic " international Pakistan's Growing Impact: A Data Masterclass by Times Higher Education (THE) on 25th January, 2023 in HEC auditorium, Islamabad. The seminar was jointly organized by Higher Education Commission in collaboration with University of Lahore and Times Higher Education (THE). The speakers of the seminars was Phil Baty, Chief Global Affairs officer at Times Higher Education and HEC chairman Prof Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad. The event was well attended with QEC directors and Vice Chancellors of many universities. The University of Swat participants i.e Director Quality Enhancement Cell, Dr. Muhammad Tariq received among other participants received their certificate of participation in recognition of attending a prestigious international level seminar.





University of Swat secures inclusion in Alper-Doger Scientific Index (AD Scientific ranking 2023).

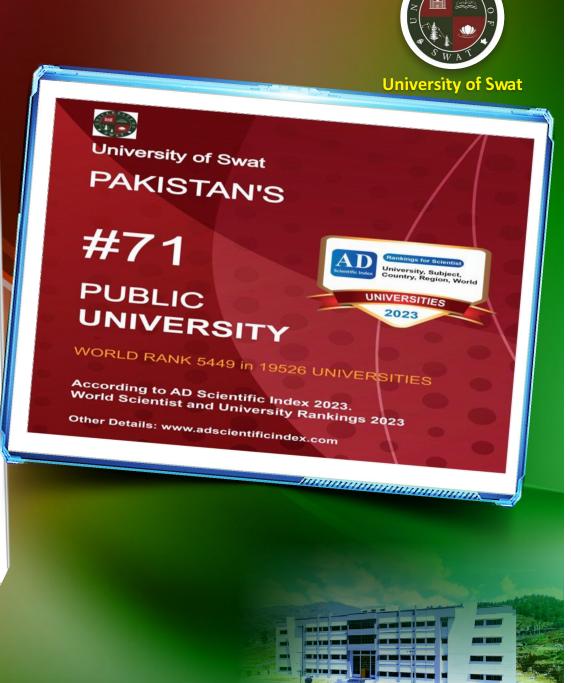
#71 in Pakistan out of 257 Universities in Pakistan

#1917 in Asia out of 10121 Universities

#5449 Worldwide out of 19526 Universities

Due to the relentless efforts of QEC Team at University of Swat, the university was included in the AD Scientific ranking for the first time. The AD scientific index ranking 2023 compares universities on the basis of H-index of its faculty. We are thrilled to announce that university of Swat secured 71th position out of the total 257 public and private sector universities of Pakistan in the year 2023. In terms of H-Index University of Swat moved up 10 places in rankings.

On a global scale, the university of Swat was ranked at 5447 positionsout of total of 19,526 Universities included in the AD Scientific rankings. In Asia out of 10,121 Universities, University of Swat is Ranked at 1916 position. The Director QEC attributed this success to the keen focus, interest and encouragement of the Vice Chancellor, University of Swat in matters pertaining to rankings, quality assurance and accreditations for the welfare of university stakeholders. He further added that university of Swat faculty citations and H-index of faculty have considerably improved and it is expected that next year the university of Swat will be further improved with the support of faculty, staff and students.



University of Swat Secured 70th position in Higher Education (HE RANKING 2023)

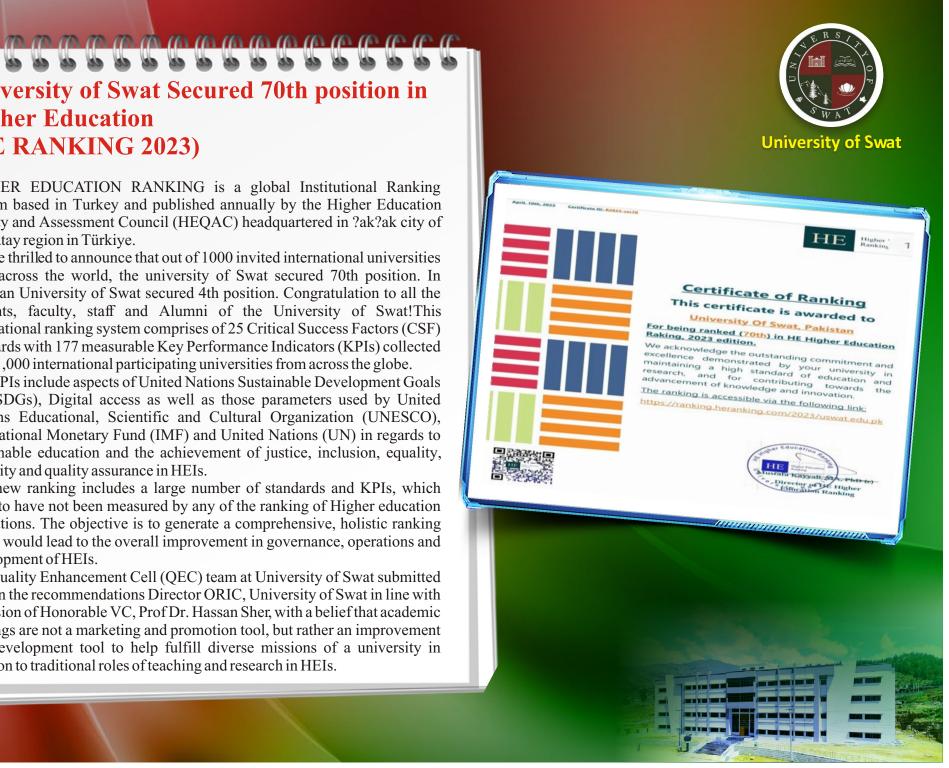
HIGHER EDUCATION RANKING is a global Institutional Ranking System based in Turkey and published annually by the Higher Education Quality and Assessment Council (HEQAC) headquartered in ?ak?ak city of the Hatay region in Türkiye.

We are thrilled to announce that out of 1000 invited international universities from across the world, the university of Swat secured 70th position. In Pakistan University of Swat secured 4th position. Congratulation to all the students, faculty, staff and Alumni of the University of Swat! This international ranking system comprises of 25 Critical Success Factors (CSF) standards with 177 measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) collected from 1,000 international participating universities from across the globe.

The KPIs include aspects of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs), Digital access as well as those parameters used by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and United Nations (UN) in regards to sustainable education and the achievement of justice, inclusion, equality, diversity and quality assurance in HEIs.

This new ranking includes a large number of standards and KPIs, which hitherto have not been measured by any of the ranking of Higher education institutions. The objective is to generate a comprehensive, holistic ranking which would lead to the overall improvement in governance, operations and development of HEIs.

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) team at University of Swat submitted data on the recommendations Director ORIC, University of Swat in line with the vision of Honorable VC, Prof Dr. Hassan Sher, with a belief that academic rankings are not a marketing and promotion tool, but rather an improvement and development tool to help fulfill diverse missions of a university in addition to traditional roles of teaching and research in HEIs.







QEC Director, University of Swat Participation in Deans and Directors Conference organized by National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC), at IM Sciences, Peshawar.

The Director QEC, University of Swat Dr. Muhammad Tariq participated in the inaugural function and welcome dinner of National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC) 10th Deans & Directors Conference on 12th March, 2023. The theme of the strategic level Deans and Directors conference was "Remaining relevant in a changing educational context". The Deans and Directors (D&D) conference was organized for the first time held at any university of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan in which Dr. Muhammad Tariq also contributed as member program committee for the 10th Deans and Directors conference. The OEC Director engaged in fruitful discussions with Program Director NBEAC as well as apprised them of the recent quality assurance related endeavors undertaken at university of Swat our commitment to continuous improvement processes for delivery of standardized educational services to public.



QEC team Participation in online one day Data Statistics Workshop on 3rd March 2023

The QEC team comprising of Director, Deputy Director and Data Analyst attended an online workshop organized by Higher Education Commission, Islamabad on 3rd March, 2023. The Quality Enhancement Cell at university of Swat ensures presence in all activities related to quality assurance and management organized by Higher Education Commission. The participation in online webinars and other meetings is specially paid more attention as 2023 is declared as digital year by the university of Swat syndicate.



QEC Director UoS pictured in online Zoom meeting on 3rd March, 2023

QEC Team participated in online seminar organized by QAA on 11th October 2022

The entire QEC team comprising of Director QEC, Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Deputy Director QEC Dr. Zahid Ullah and Data Analyst Mr. Jawad Hussain participated an online seminar on 10th October, 2022. The seminars was organized by Quality Assurance agency (QAA) of the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. The seminar included speeches by Director General Quality Assurance Agency of HEC Mr, Nasir Shah. Moreover, Engr Shoaib Irshad Deputy Director QAA and Mr. Zulfigar Assistant Director QAA gave valuable guidelines to QEC representatives from all across the Pakistan. The QEC team of University of Swat participated in the Questions and Answer session and asked thought-provoking questions for the benefit of all participants. The seminars concluded with a vote of thanks on the behalf of DG QAAby Engr Shoaib Irshad.

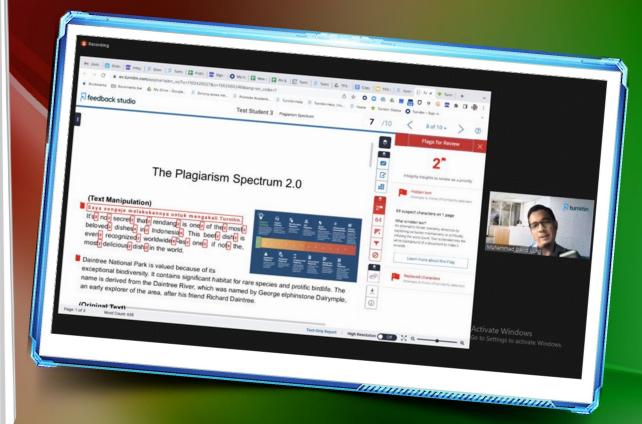




Participation in Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0

The Deputy Director QEC Dr. Zahid Ullah participated in the online seminars organized by the Quality Assurance Agency of the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. The seminar was moderated by international expert Dr Muhammad David Lung who gave detailed orientation on the functions and processes associated with plagiarism detection. He also shed light on the various issues confronted by QEC teams across Pakistan mainly related to technical glitches, misconceptions and shared best practices from his own experiences. The session ended with a questions and answer session wherein Deputy Director QEC Dr. Zahid Ullah asked some technical questions regarding Turnitin administrator accounts maintenance in order to solve recurrent issues faced by end-users.





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QEC Team Inspection visits to colleges affiliated with University of Swat

The Quality Enhancement Cell at university of Swat endeavors to improve public confidence in the academic affairs of both onsite programs as well as those offered in affiliated colleges of University of Swat. In this regard the QEC team mainly Director QEC, Deputy Director QEC and Data Analyst visited 18 of the affiliated colleges as part of inspection team to assess the academic practices in the affiliated colleges of the university of Swat. In this regard, the QEC Director and his team checked the status of course folders, science laboratories, library, computer laboratories and class rooms of all the affiliated colleges. The visits to affiliated colleges is mandated by Quality Assurance Agency to QEC university of Swat in order to assess the academic processes of BS degrees offered at both girls and boys colleges affiliated with university of Swat. Speaking regarding the experience of visiting the colleges, the Director QEC expressed his satisfaction at the prevailing situation of BS level degree in majority of the affiliated colleges of university of Swat. He assured the heads of affiliated colleges that QEC at University of Swat will leave no stone unturned in improving the academic performance of their colleges. In this regard he urged the college level faculty to participate in online webinars organized for their capacity building as well as created Turnitin accounts for QEC focal persons of affiliated colleges. The Director QEC thanked the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Hassan Sher (SAARC gold medalist) for his support in making the QEC inspection visits to all the affiliated colleges (Male and Female) possible. Indeed, this level of monitoring of affiliated colleges was not possible without the kind and generous support of the Vice Chancellor, University of Swat. This activity will be a recurrent phenomenon on annual basis in order to allow for comparison of performance towards attaining the goal of quality education with relevance as envisioned in the university of Swat Strategic plan.





QEC Director Dr. Muhammad Tariq Pictured with Mr. Wafa Muhammad Principal and Controller of Examinations of PG Jahanzeb College Swat

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QEC Director Dr. Muhammad Tariq Pictured with staff members of Government Girls degree college Barikot, Swat on 20th March, 2023



Visit for Inspection to "Government Farooq Khan Shaheed Degree College" Mingora on 14th March 2023





Visit by Director QEC for inspection of "Kabal Education Academy Swat" on 16th March 2023







Visit for Inspection to "Government Degree College Kabal Swat on 16th March 2023



Assistant Director QEC Dr Muhammad
Suleman Visit to GDC Matta 2 May, 2023



Visit of QEC data Analyst Mr. Jawad Hussain to Imperial college Kanju on 4th May, 2023

University of Swat secured Accreditations for Computer Science Department



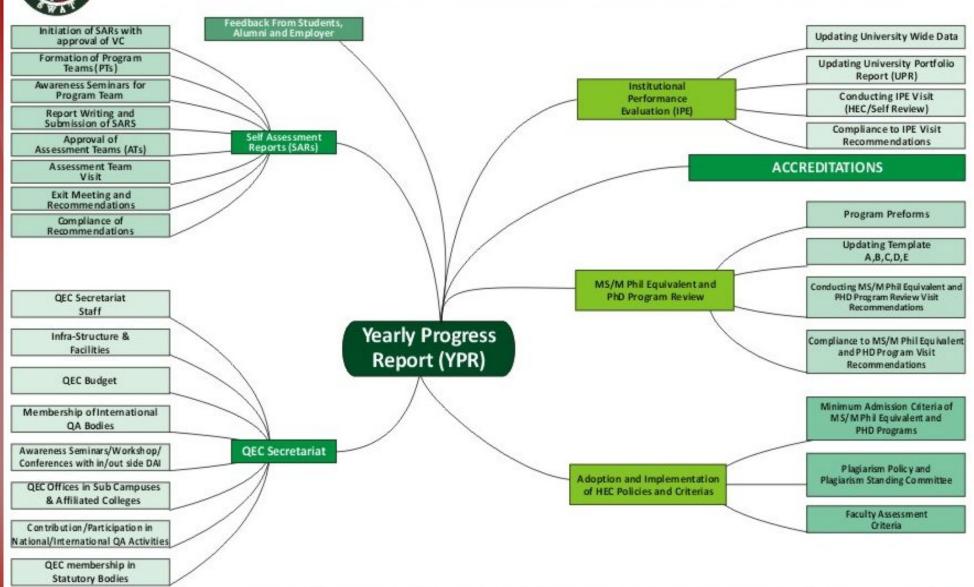


The Department of Computer and Software Technology at University of Swat has secured accreditation from National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), HEC for the batches 2017 and 2018 of Bachelor of Science in Computer Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree programs on 20th March, 2023. These batches have been granted blanket due to Covid 19 pandemic. This achievement places university of Swat at the forefront of universities in KPK public sector universities for having accreditation of all computing related BSdegree programs under the leadership and support of Hon. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher.



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT CELL, UNIVERSITY OF SWAT

MODEL OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE





University of Swat QEC completes SAR process cycle for the Year 2022-2023

The university of Swat under the able leadership of Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Hassan Sher has completed the SAR cycle as per the approved QEC activity calendar in April, 2023. In this regard the Program teams were formed across all the departments of the University. The program teams (PTs) capacity was further developed through conduct of capacity building webinars. Upon timely submission of the SAR by all the university departments the process of Assessment Teams (ATs) was initiated after seeking approval from the competent authority. Overall, 44 departments submitted SAR reports from the University of Swat departments in comparison to 16 SARs of previous SAR cycle. Moreover, in the 2022-23 QEC improvement cycle, Bachelors, Masters, Mphil and PhD level program SARs were also assessed by Assessment Teams

mostly lead by Deans, and senior professors of the University. The ATs submitted both qualitative and quantitative recommendations as per the ATs Rubric of HEC for necessary compliance by concerned departments. The Quality Enhancement Cell, University of Swat submitted 44 Executive Summaries to the Vice Chancellor. As per the recommendations of ATs reports the University of Swat carried out most of the doable compliance. For instance, fresh board of studies in light of their recommendations for more than ten departments in April-May, 2023. Accordingly, action plans and implementations plans were shared which the QEC office verifies from time to time in order to use it a stepping stone for quality assurance and enhancement to a higher degree in the best interest of all university stakeholders.

Participation in HESSA training at NUTECH University 22-24 January 2023





At wo member group of University of Swat comprising of Director QEC, Dr. Muhammad Tariq and Mr. Hamdullah Younas Director IT participated in a three-day training session on teaching and learning for faculty of public universities as part of USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA). Hosted by the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Islamabad, the workshop was attended by 31 faculty members representing 16 partner universities of HESSA. The training was hosted by Hosted by the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Islamabad, the workshop was attended by 31 faculty members representing 16 partner universities of HESSA. The main objective of this said

training was to offer arobust faculty development programme for the Pakistani universities related to teaching and learning and strengthening high-impact practices and soft skills in the teaching. The training was led by Associate Dean for International Programs at the University of Alabama, Dr Lisa Pawloski. During these three days, participants were introduced to the extended raining program, they learned about high-impact practices and the use of collaborative learning, and discussed the concepts of assessment and online learning. Aspecific focus across the sessions was on how the range of instructional practices can increase student learning and awareness of soft skills.

Self Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) and Self Post Graduate Program Review (PGPR) visit conducted by QEC, University of Swat - (June 23rd -27th, 2023)







Directorate of Quality Enhancement Cell organized a Self IPE Visit and Self-Post Graduate Program Review from 23rd to 27th June, 2023 as part of QEC approved activity calendar, University of Swat. Director QEC, Dr. Zunnoorain Khan from City University, Peshawar joined as an external member of SIPE & SPGPR, whereas Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Director, QEC, Registrar Imtiaz Ali, University of Swat, Deputy Director QEC Dr. Zahid Ullah, Dr. Haider Ali, Director (ASR) Advanced studies and research and Dr. Anwar Hussain, Director ORIC, Dr Ghaus Ur Rehman Chairman Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Assistant Director Dr. Muhammad Suleman Khan joined as an internal members of Self IPE Self PGPR Visit. The visit started with the introduction of the university by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Hassan Sher. He highlighted key features of university governance and major initiatives of the university for research and development. He highlighted the quality measures and practices accomplished by the university and explained the success story of University of Swat to the external members. On the second day of self (IPE) visit external reviewer Dr. Zunnoorain along with Dr. Muhammad Tariq Director QEC, UoS and Team Members of QEC visited the Departments and Labs. He admired the efforts of the faculty, administration, and staff of the university by saying that all the things are well managed and UoS is growing rapidly day by day under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher and his team. Afterward, they had a brief meeting with the undergraduate and graduate students in the committee room. Majority of students gave positive remarks by saying that they are satisfied with the standard of education and services provided. The evaluator conducted meetings with faculty members, exam, accounts, Registrar, career services, and sports

offices, library, auditorium, hostel, and playgrounds. The evaluator appreciated the efforts of the Director QEC and all the team members for excellent arrangements.

On the final day the activities related to Self Post graduate Program review (PGPR) were also conducted. The external member showed keen interest in the vertical growth experienced by University of Swat in terms of initiation of several Mphil and PhD programs in a short span of time. He checked the proformas related to the post graduate degree programs such as detailed program information, updated university portfolio, faculty profiles, graduate profiles and graduate student information were examined in detail. He also visited and checked the progress of mainly those departments which has already produced Mphil and PhD scholars. The visitor expressed their satisfaction at the documentation and professional approach University of Swat in regards to attracting, admitted, training and maintaining records throughout the student lifecycle at University of Swat. In the final session of Self IPE and Self PGPR visit, the external expert had an exit meeting with vice chancellor prof. Dr. Hassan Sher, and appreciated the efforts of OEC team in organizing a Self-IPE & PGPR visit in a professional way. The honorable vice chancellor prof. Dr. Hassan Sher, presented a souvenir of appreciation to external expert, Dr. Zunnoorain, Director QEC, City University of Science & IT, Peshawar. The Director QEC, University of Swat, Dr. Muhammad Tarig thanked the external member of the for his insightful review and internal members for their enthusiastic participation which will definitely serve as a stepping stone for furthering quality assurance at University of Swat.

Dr. Muhammad Tariq

Director QEC University of Swat

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Dr Muhammad Tariq Yousafzai joined QEC, University of Swat on 14th September, 2022 as additional responsibility. He has done PhD in entrepreneurship and MPhil in Innovation and Business Creation from Jonkoping International Business School (JIBS-EQUIS, EFMD and

School (JIBS-EQUIS, EFMD and ABS accredited business school),

Jonkoping University Sweden. Dr. Tariq has been in associated with teaching and administrative activities at various seats of higher educations. Prior to joining university of Swat in June, 2019 he was working at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FAST) National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences. He has vast experience of accreditations and remained a member of Accreditation guidance committee for the Khyber Pakhtunkwa based Business Schools. He has also served as peer review members for various leading universities such as Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Dow University of Health Sciences, University of Management and technology and attended many national and international training workshops on quality assurance and accreditations. Other than remaining as Assistant Director QEC and Deputy Director QEC Dr, Muhammad Tariq has a prolific research record with more than 10 paperspublished in high Impact factor journals such as Journal of Cleaner Productions, Frontiers in Psychology, Conservation Sciences and Practice and dozens of research papers in HEC recognized journals as well as indexed conferences proceedings.

QEC Staff Members

Dr. Zahid Ullah Deputy Director (QEC)

Dr. Zahid Ullah joined Quality enhancement Cell, University of Swat during 2022 as an additional responsibility. He has more than a decade of experience of teaching and research at university of Swat. He holds a doctorate in Botany from Quaid I Azam University Islamabad. He is international professional and has studied at visiting scholar at UK based university as part of his PhD Studies. Dr. Zahid Ullah research interests include plant taxonomy and related areas to botany and regularly publishes in high impact factor journals. E-mail: zahidtaxon@uswat.edu.pk



Dr. Muhammad Suleman Assistant Director OEC

Dr. Muhammad Suleman Khan joined Quality Enhancement Cell, University of Swat during March, 2023. Dr. Suleman did his PhD from a Chinese university and has one of the highest track record in terms of research publications. He has a cumulative impact factor of 1000 and has successfully published in leading journals such as Lancet and Nature. The inclusion of Dr Suleman to the QEC has further strengthened the team of QEC as all the office holders of QEC, University of Swat are now foreign qualified and leading researchers as evident from a combined impact of Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director is more than 1240 which is a great achievement and reckoned to be highest for quality professionals in Pakistan and perhaps in the entire Asian subcontinent.



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