



Newsletter

Pakistan Academy of Sciences

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Delegation of Indian National Science Academy visits Pakistan Academy of Sciences

On the invitation of **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), a high level six-member delegation of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) visited Pakistan on 16-19 January, 2012. The delegation comprised of: **Dr. Krishan Lal**, President INSA; **Prof. Narayanasami Sathyamurthy**, Vice President INSA; **Prof. Alok Battacharya**, Vice President INSA; **Dr. M.L. Munjal**, Vice President INSA; **Prof. Bijay Singh**, Member of INSA Council, and **Dr. Alok K. Moitra**, Executive Secretary INSA. The INSA delegation's visit to Pakistan was a follow up of the visit of a high level PAS delegation to India. As science & technology (S&T) has no geographic boundaries and India and Pakistan are faced with similar socio-economic challenges in the face of fast increasing populations, INSA and PAS intend to make joint efforts to address the socio-economic issues by sharing scientific knowledge and complementing each other's efforts in the mutually agreed future S&T endeavours. After elaborate discussions, INSA and PAS have agreed to develop collaborative S&T programs for the benefit of the society.

Souvenirs were exchanged by the two Academies to make this trip a memorable one.



Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, presents PAS Shield to President, INSA



Prof. G. A. Miana, presents PAS Shield to Vice President INSA



The INSA delegation with the PAS Council

On the advice of President PAS, the Secretary General PAS arranged lectures by the INSA delegates at the following institutions:

Speaker	Lecture Title	Venue
Dr. Krishan Lal	Challenges in High Resolution X-ray Diffraction and Reflection	Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad
Prof. N. Sathyamurthy	Playing with the Buckyball	Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
Prof. Alok Battacharya	Phagocytosis in <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> Causative Agent of Amoebiasis	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad
Dr. M.L. Munjal	Automotive Noise Control- Recent Advances in Muffler Acoustics	National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad
Prof. Bijay Singh	Anthropogenic Interventions in Nitrogen Cycle: Implications for Soil Health & Climate Change	National Agricultural Research Center, Islamabad



Dr. Krishan Lal, President, INSA delivering his lecture in the PAS Auditorium, Islamabad

PAS Enhances Funds Allocation for Research Grants

The PAS Council, in its meeting held on 9th December 2011, enhanced the level of research grant to a Fellow from Rs. 2.0 million to Rs. 4.0 million. Now a PAS Fellow can submit one project costing up to Rs. 4.0 million or two projects simultaneously, provided their combined cost does not exceed Rs. 4.0 million.

NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Roadmap of Cutting Edge Technologies

organized by Pakistan Academy of Sciences

Good governance and well trained human resource are the key ingredients for tackling economic problems of the country; this was stated by **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**, the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, in his inaugural address to the **National Science Conference**, organized by **Pakistan Academy of Sciences** and hosted by **PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi** on 10-12 January 2012. In the last decade Pakistan's leap in the field of Science and Higher Education has been recognized internationally, and now India is replicating Pakistan's Higher Education Model, he added. Earlier, **Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan**, Vice President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Vice-Chancellor, Arid Agriculture University, welcomed some 500 participants of the Conference, belonging to the fields of Agriculture, Animal & Veterinary Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Earth & Space Science and Computing Technology. He stated that the Pakistan Academy of Sciences has decided to provide a platform where all stakeholders may interact in the interest of harnessing S&T for the benefit of the society. More than 250 scientists made oral presentations whereas 120 made poster presentations. Many eminent scientists of the country, including Fellows of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, attended the Conference.

The Plenary Speakers and their Topics were:

Name	Institution	Topic
Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi	Higher Education Commission, Islamabad	Engineering Education in Pakistan
Mr. Imran Zia	Pakistan Software Export Board, Islamabad	Status of IT in Pakistan and Future Possibilities
Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig	Quad-i-Azam University, Islamabad	Physics is more Exciting
Prof. Dr. Kauser A. Malik	FC College, Lahore	Potential of Agricultural Biotechnology in Pakistan
Prof. Dr. Iqrar A. Khan	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad	Agriculture and Livestock in 2012 and Beyond
Prof. Dr. M. Waheed Akhter	University of the Punjab, Lahore	Role of Binding Domains in Protein Function
Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha	University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore	Present Status of Livestock of Pakistan and its Future Research Needs



Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman addressing at Inaugural Session of the Conference

A **Science Exhibition** was also organized at the Conference in which SUPPARCO, Monsanto, Qarshi Industries, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Barani Agricultural Research Institute, Chakwal, Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources, Ripple Water Ltd and many others S&T organizations exhibited their innovative products.

Full papers of the Conference will be published in a special issue of **Proceedings of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences**.

International Year of Chemistry celebrated by Pakistan Academy of Sciences

The **International Year of Chemistry** was celebrated by **Pakistan Academy of Sciences**, in collaboration with **Quaid-i-Azam University** and **Chemical Society of Pakistan**, by organizing a one-day seminar on “**Celebrate Chemistry**” on 28th December, 2011 at Department of Chemistry, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. The President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**, was the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker; he narrated many wondrous innovations and developments to elaborate his talk on “Excitement and wonders of chemistry”. The Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, **Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai**, talked about the “Role of chemistry in national development”. The President of Chemical Society of Pakistan, **Dr. Din Muhammad**, elaborated upon “Chemistry in the service of humanity”, and Secretary General of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, **Prof. Dr. G.A. Miana's** topic was “Chemistry in the 21st century”. The seminar was attended by a large number of university professors, senior scientists, and post-graduate students.



President, PAS cutting the cake at the “Celebrate Chemistry” Seminar.

Vice-Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University and Secretary General PAS are also present

Induction of Fellows Elected during the Year 2010

The Following three eminent scientists elected as Fellows of the Academy during the year 2010 were formally inducted and given medallions and certificates by the President, PAS, **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**, during the General Body Meeting held on December 10, 2011. The inducted Fellows signed the Charter Book of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

1. **Prof. Dr. Khalid Muhammad Khan**, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi
2. **Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood**, School of Chemical and Materials Engineering, NUST, Islamabad
3. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sharif**, Department of Mathematics, University of the Punjab, Lahore



Prof. Dr. Khalid Muhammad Khan
receiving his medallions from
the President, PAS



Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood
receiving her medallions from
the President, PAS



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sharif
receiving his medallions from
the President, PAS

The 4th elected Fellow during the year 2010, **Prof. Dr. Wasim Ahmad**, was not able to participate in the General Body Meeting of PAS. Thus, he will be inducted later.

Election of New Fellows during 2011

The following scientists were elected PAS Fellows during the year 2011:

Local Fellows:

Dr. M. Iqbal, Director General, Centre for Applied Molecular Biology, Lahore

Prof. Dr. Rumina Hasan, Professor, Deptt. of Pathology & Microbiology, The Aga Khan University, Karachi.

Foreign Fellows:

Prof. Dr. Chunli Bai, President, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

Dr. G. Sarwar Gilani, Senior Research Scientist, Nutrition Research Division, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award 2011

The Academy conferred the award of Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2011 in the discipline of Zoology upon **Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Shakoori**, School of Biological Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Dr. Shakoori was presented with a Medal, Certificate and a Cash Prize of Rs. 330,000/- by President of PAS, **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**.



PAS President Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, conferring award upon Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Shakoori

PAS Awards Medals, Cash Prizes and Certificates conferred upon the Winner of 2011

The following scientists who were declared winners of the Medals & Prizes during 2011 were awarded **Medals**, Cash Prizes and Certificates by the President PAS, **Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman**, during the General Body Meeting on December 10, 2011:

S. No.	Name & Institution	Field
1.	Dr. Asma Saeed , Senior Scientific Officer, Biotechnology & Food Research Center, PCSIR Labs Complex, Lahore	Biochemistry
2.	Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad , Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad	Botany

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 3. Dr. Haq Nawaz Bhatti , Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad | Chemistry |
| 4. Dr. Nimatullah Khattak , Professor, National Center of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, Peshawar | Earth Sciences |
| 5. Dr. S. F. A. Rafeeqi , Pro-Vice Chancellor, NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi | Engineering & Technology |
| 6. Dr. M. Khaleeq ur Rehman , Chairman/Professor Department of Physics, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore | Physics |

The following Medals / Prizes were also awarded:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Dr. Mubasher Jamil ,
Lecturer, Center of Advanced Mathematics & Physics, NUST, Islamabad | Dr. Raziuddin Siddiqi Gold Medal-2011 in Mathematics |
| 2. Dr Umar Farooq ,
Assistant Professor,
Department of Chemistry,
CIIT, Abbottabad | Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman Prize-2011 in Chemistry |
| 3. Dr. Asifullah Khan ,
Assistant Professor,
PIEAS, Nilore,
Islamabad | PAS-COMSTECH Prize-2011 in Computer Science & IT |

Abdus Salam Prize

The **TWAS Award "Abdus Salam Prize in Basic Sciences 2011"** in the field of **Chemistry** was won by **Dr. Zia-ur-Rehman** of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

Salimuzzaman Siddqui Prize

Dr. Mehboob-ur-Rahman of National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), Faisalabad has won the **TWAS Award " Salimuzzam Siddqui Prize in Applied Sciences-Technology-2011"** in the field of **Agriculture**.

Prof. Dr. M. Ashfaq Earns International Recognitions

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, a Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences has been elected as a **Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS)**, Trieste, Italy. He will be introduced to the Academy during the 23rd General Body Meeting of TWAS in September 2012.

Additionally, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq has been awarded 2nd Prize for 2010 of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), Rabat, Morocco. The PAS congratulates Prof. Dr. Ashfaq on these marvelous recognitions and, thus, bringing laurels to PAS and the country.



Egypt's Richest Library was set on Fire

In Cairo, the 213-year-old Egyptian maps and historical manuscripts -- described as "irreplaceable" were destroyed after the Library of the Egyptian Scientific Institute possessing these valuables was set ablaze during the clashes. The fire started on the lower floors of the building, which is on Qasr al-Aini Street in central Cairo, but later reached the higher floors. The firemen, who arrived very late at the site, could not initially control the fire.

State news agency MENA said that firemen eventually managed to control it, but state TV reported that the fire damaged the whole building and all of its collections.



The building is adjacent to the Shura Council building, and both MENA and state TV accused protesters of throwing a Molotov cocktail at the Institute. Eyewitnesses were reported to have seen protesters throwing a Molotov cocktail at stone-throwing soldiers at the Shura Council building, but the projectile missed the intended target and instead landed in the Egyptian Scientific Institute.

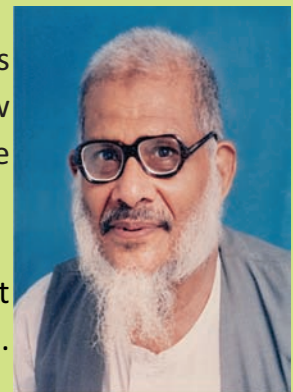
Courtesy: Prof. Dr. M.D. Shami

Obituary: **Professor Dr. Mazhar Mahmood Qurashi**

“Life is a disease with 100% mortality”. We all suffer from this disease and will eventually go back to our Creator. However, those few will be remembered who through their noble deeds to humanity leave behind indelible marks during their short journey in this world.

The PAS reports with deep regret the sad demise of a very eminent scientist, a Fellow and a past Secretary General of PAS, Prof. Dr. M.M. Qurashi, who expired on November 21, 2011 in Islamabad.

Prof. Dr. M. M. Qurashi was not only a highly distinguished scientist but also a man of strong character and gentle disposition. He made numerous outstanding professional contributions. May Allah Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace (Ameen).



The **Fellows** of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences are requested to forward news and views for next issue of the **Newsletter** to: **Editor-in-Chief, Pakistan Academy of Sciences**, Islamabad. **E-mail:** pas.editor@gmail.com

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