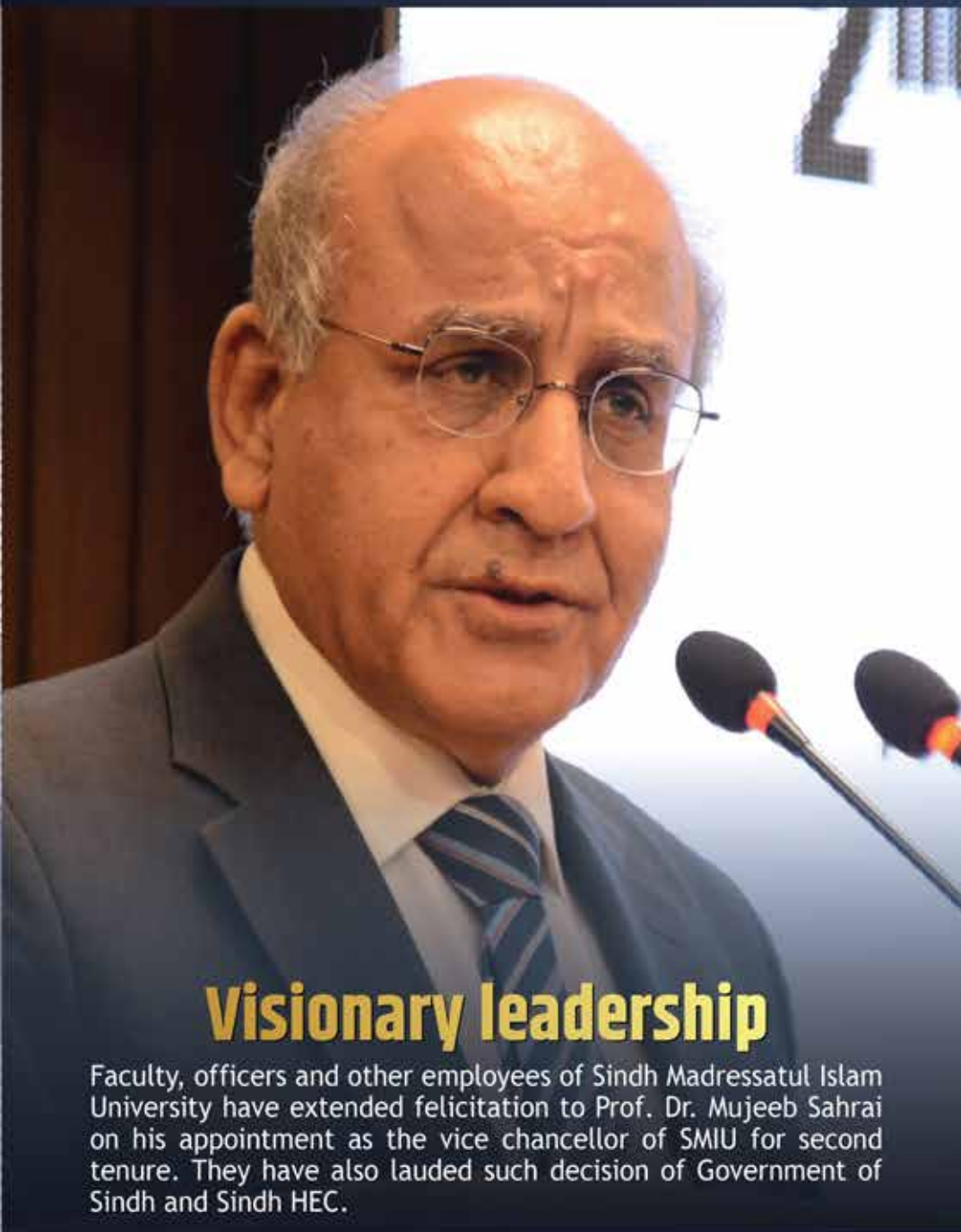


# SMIU

Alma-Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah

# Chronicle

January - June 2024



## Visionary leadership

Faculty, officers and other employees of Sindh Madressatul Islam University have extended felicitation to Prof. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on his appointment as the vice chancellor of SMIU for second tenure. They have also lauded such decision of Government of Sindh and Sindh HEC.



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Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Karachi



## SMIU Chronicle

January-June 2024

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*"I am congratulating to Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on receiving second tenure as Vice Chancellor of SMIU. Dr. Sahrai's continued service was in the best interest of SMIU, an institution closely associated with the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah." -*

**Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed,**  
Chairman HEC Pakistan



The representatives of SMIU's faculty, officers, other employees and teachers of SMIU Model School presenting bouquet to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on his appointment as the Vice Chancellor of SMIU for second tenure.



Governor of Sindh Mr. Muhammad Kamran Tessori, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and Chairman of Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi awarding degree to a student during 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation of SMIU. (Report on page 11)



Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of HEC Pakistan, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor and Mr. Javed Ali Memon, Director/Incharge of HEC Pakistan at SMIU on May 2, 2024. (Report on page 37)



Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, CG China Mr. Yang Yundong, CG Turkiye Mr. Cemal Sangu and other national and international guests are standing in the honour of National Anthem of Pakistan on the occasion of inauguration ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU-GRC-24. (Report on page 41)



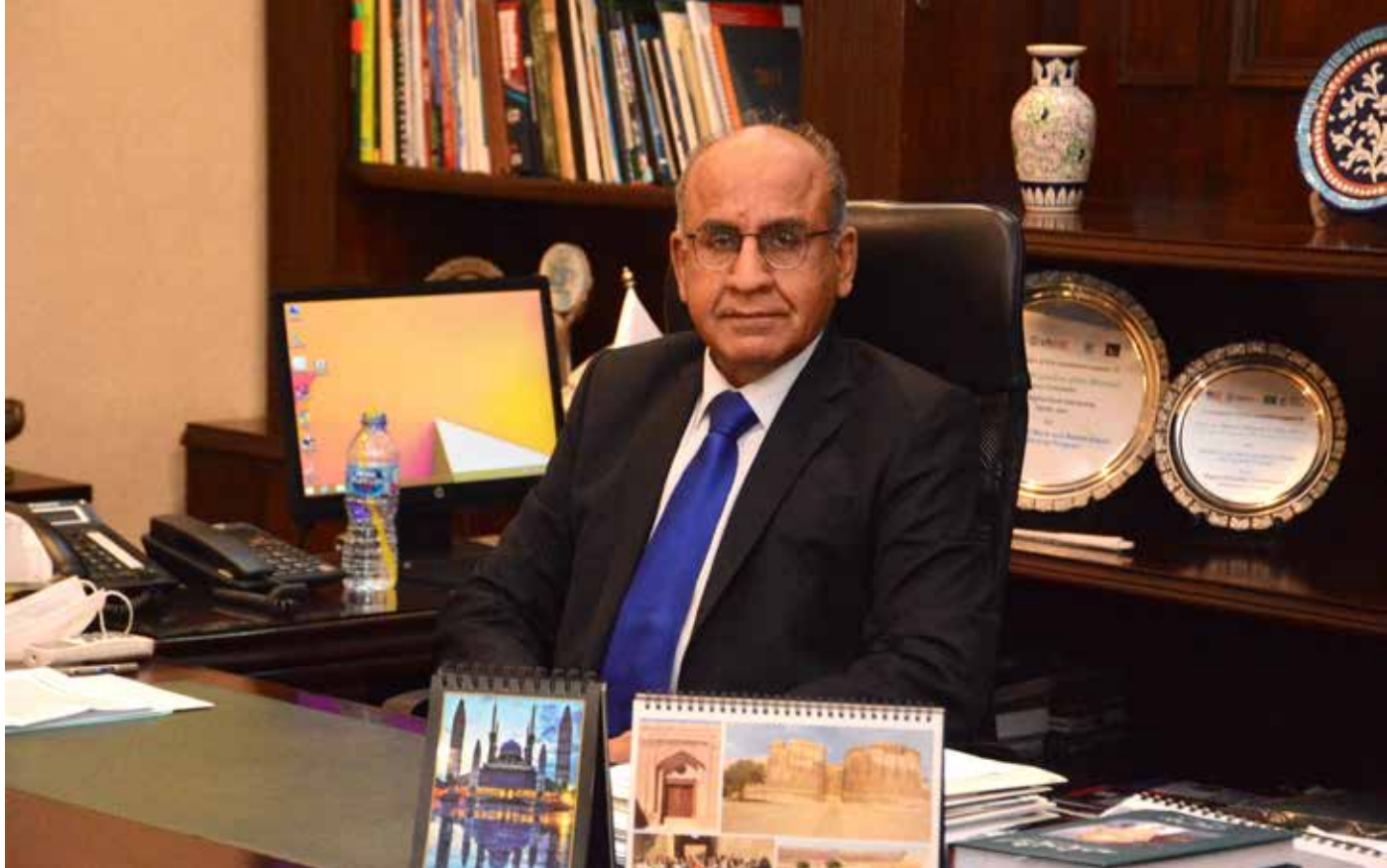
Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai presenting a shield to Professor Emeritus at Washington State University Dr. Mushtaq Memon at SMIU on January 29, 2024. (Report on page 17)



Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai chairing a meeting of the Senate on January 18, 2024, at the Senate Hall of SMIU. (Report on page 4)



The Ombudsman Sindh Mr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput and Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai attending the program held at SMIU on June 28, 2024. (Report on page 34)



## Chief Minister Sindh appoints Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai as Vice Chancellor of SMIU for Second Tenure

The Chief Minister of Sindh, who is also the Chancellor of public sector universities in the province, appointed Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon as Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Karachi, for a further period of four years, effective from August 13, 2024.

According to a notification issued by Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo, Secretary of the Universities and Boards Department, Government of Sindh, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah made this decision while exercising powers vested under Section 13(1) of the Sindh Madressatul Islam University Karachi Act 2011, as amended by the Sindh Universities and Institutes Laws (Amendment) Act 2018. This decision followed a summary moved by the Chairman of the Sindh Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Tariq Rafi. As per the rules, the HEC must submit a summary for the appointment of a vice chancellor for a second term six months before the completion of the current term.

The reappointment of Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon was based on his performance at Sindh Madressatul Islam University from August 17, 2020, to the present. Dr. Sahrai was initially appointed as Vice Chancellor by the Chief Minister of Sindh on the recommendation of the Search Committee on August 13, 2020, and he joined SMIU on August 17, 2020.

During his first term, Dr. Sahrai achieved significant milestones, including increasing the university's own resource contribution from 17% (PKR 50 million, fiscal year 2018-19) to 49% (PKR 268.978 million, fiscal year 2021-22), with further growth to PKR 309.474 million in the fiscal year 2022-23. He also significantly reduced the budget deficit from PKR 66.739 million (fiscal year 2019-20) to PKR 6.055 million (fiscal year 2022-23), a decrease of 1056%. Additionally, a new grant of PKR 90 million was secured for SMIU Model School with the support of the Sindh Higher Education Commission, and the Government of Sindh.

Under Dr. Sahrai's leadership, SMIU made substantial progress. New facilities included a new I.T. Block, the establishment of the University Development Office (UDO), the Allama I.I. Kazi Library at the I.T. Tower, the Ibrahim Mullah Hi-Tech Lab at Talpur House, the National Incubation Center in collaboration with the Punjab I.T. Board at the I.T. Tower, a Youth Development Center near the I.T. Tower, and a new cafeteria near the Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi Library.

Additionally, during his first term, the student population increased from 1,841 to 5,510 (a 199% increase), eight PhD and MS programs were launched under NOC from HEC, 11 new BS programs were introduced, and two Global Research Congresses and 11 International Conferences were organized.

It is also worth noting that during Dr. Sahrai's first term, research projects totaling Rs 39 million were funded by HEC Pakistan. He signed 22 MoUs with national and international organizations/institutes/universities and achieved an international ranking for SMIU (in the 401 to 600 range) on SDG #13 (Climate Action) and SDG #17 (Partnership for the Goals).

The faculty, administrative staff, and other members of Sindh Madressatul Islam University have praised the decision to appoint Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai for a second term as Vice Chancellor. They believe that under his leadership, SMIU has emerged as a prominent institution for higher education in the country and that continuity in his visionary leadership is essential for further development and stability.

The faculty of SMIU hosted dinner at a local restaurant in the honour of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon. Deans, heads of academic departments, directors of administrative departments and faculty members attended the event.



# Meetings, Visits & Events

## SMIU Senate's 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The 7<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting of SMIU was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the Senate Hall. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on behalf of the Chief Minister of Sindh, who had authorized him to do so due to other engagements.

Following a detailed discussion, the Senate approved the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting and the actions taken based on its decisions. The Senate also passed resolutions on the annual budget estimated for the financial year 2023-24, the revised budget for the financial year 2022-23, and the annual statement of accounts for the financial year 2022-23 concerning non-development recurring resources. Additionally, a resolution was passed regarding the annual statement of accounts related to the development projects of the university for the financial year



2022-23, including the expansion of SMIU's city campus and the development of SMIU's Malir Campus in the education city.

During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai stated that SMIU had moved beyond deficit and was now stable in many respects, focusing fully on quality education, research, and development projects. He noted that in today's competitive world, universities must achieve financial stability by generating their own income resources, and SMIU is already working toward this goal.

Dr. Sahrai highlighted that a high-tech lab for researchers had been established at SMIU with a donation of 11 million rupees from alumnus Dr. Ibrahim Mulla. He also mentioned that seven research journals, recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), are being published. Dr. Sahrai informed the Senate that SMIU had established another library at the I.T. Tower, named after alumnus Allama I.I. Kazi, to cater to the needs of students in the Faculty of Information Technology.

He further informed the Senate that SMIU is developing a



ten-year plan to outline its future direction. A committee comprising two SMIU faculty members, Mr. Asif Hussain Samo, Assistant Professor, and Ms. Quratulain Nazir, Assistant Professor, is working on this plan in consultation with Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering





and Technology, Jamshoro.

The Vice Chancellor commended the outgoing Senate members for their contributions to the betterment of SMIU and welcomed the new members. The Senate members appreciated Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai's efforts for SMIU's development over the past three and a half years.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro; Dr. A.Q. Mughal, Research Professor at Greenwich University (Nominee of Sindh HEC); Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi (Nominee of Higher Education Commission, Islamabad); Mr. Noor Ahmed Samo, Secretary of the Universities & Boards Department,



Government of Sindh; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Memon, Ex-Chairman of the Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Hyderabad; Prof. Dr. Tanweer Hussain of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro; Dr. Khalida Ghous, Former Managing Director of the Social Polity & Development Center (SPDC); Haji Muhammad Hanif Tayyab,

Ex-Federal Minister and Aalim; as well as Deans of SMIU—Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, and Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh; Advisor to the Vice Chancellor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan; Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh; chairpersons of various academic departments; and other members. ■

## Vice Chancellor visits SMIU's Plot at Hawksbay



Sindh Madressatul Islam University owned a 10-acre plot of land at Hawksbay, which had been allocated by the Government of Sindh to it. On January 19, 2024, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, along with other officials, visited the plot. The site is situated near Hawksbay Scheme 42, Benazir Town, and Sahafi Colony.

At the site, the Vice Chancellor issued directives to the concerned officials of the Department of Works and Services to immediately construct a boundary wall around the plot. Dr. Mujeeb



Sahrai stated that the SMIU Hawksbay campus would be established there, aiming to provide modern and quality education for the students in the area.

During the visit, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai was accompanied by the Deans of SMIU—Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, and Dr. Zahid Ali Channar—along with Advisor to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Additional Director of Planning & Development Ms. Uzma Batool, Additional Registrar Mr. Qasim Ali, Director of IT Administration Dr. Shah Muhammad Butt, Project Coordinator Mr. Suresh Mal Dodani, Anwar Ali Abro, Additional Director of IT Services Mr. Abdul Waheed Jatoti, In-Charge Director of Works and Services Engineer Mr. Shairan Najeeb, Engineer Mr. Imran Ali, Engineer Mr. Salman Ali, Deputy Registrar (Staff) Mr. Sajid Ali Lashari, Assistant Registrar Mr. Ghulam Ali Ramejo, and Mr. Ghulam Sabir. The Vice Chancellor and the other officials traveled to the site in an SMIU coaster. ■



## Vice Chancellor Visits Examination Centers

Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai visited examination centers at SMIU on 19<sup>th</sup> January, where the End Term Fall 2023 examinations were being conducted. He spoke with both students and invigilators about the papers and related academic matters. Dr. Sahrai encouraged students to dedicate ample time to their studies and to engage in healthy and creative activities organized by various student societies at the university. He also expressed satisfaction with the examination process. He was accompanied by Controller of Examinations Mr. Furqan Iftikhar, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, and Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh.

The Final Term examinations for Fall 2023 started on January 15, 2024 at three academic blocks of the university i.e. Main Building, Talpur House and the I.T. Tower. ■



## Kashmir Day Walk

**5<sup>TH</sup> KASHMIR DAY  
SOLIDARITY  
FEBRUARY**



Sindh Madressatul Islam University observed Kashmir Day to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir who are struggling for their right to self-determination in the occupied region of Kashmir under Indian occupation.

In this regard, a walk was organized on February 2, 2024, on the university premises, involving officials and faculty members. The participants voiced their opposition to the Indian atrocities being committed against the innocent Kashmiri people.

The walk was led by SMIU's Deans—Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh; Advisor to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan; chairpersons of various academic departments; Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh; Controller of Examinations Mr. Furqan Iftikhar; and other attendees. ■



## Dr. Sahrai addresses International Conference

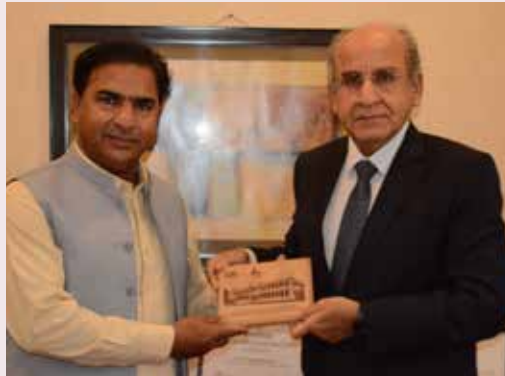


The SZABIST organized an International Conference on April 19 and 20, 2024. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, was invited to speak at the closing ceremony. In his address, he remarked that while Pakistan is an agricultural country and one of the top five producers of milk, cotton, and sugarcane in the world, it is still not self-sufficient in food due to high population growth. This growth presents a significant challenge, putting pressure on resources, including physical infrastructure and energy. He emphasized the need to improve agricultural productivity and manage the population increase effectively.

During the event, Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai received a souvenir from Dr. Ishrat Hussain, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. ■

## SLA delegation Visits SMIU

A delegation from the Sindhi Language Authority, Jamshoro, led by its Chairman Dr. Ishaq Samejo, called on SMIU Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on 22<sup>nd</sup> April at his office. The delegation extended an invitation to Dr. Sahrai to attend the closing ceremony of the 2-Day International Conference on



Sindhi Language, scheduled to be held on May 5, 2024, at the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi. During the meeting, Dr. Sahrai discussed the importance and development of the Sindhi language in the age of Information Technology. Mr. Yasir Kazi, a noted writer, was also a member of the delegation. The Sindhi Language Authority operates under the Department of Culture, Government of Sindh.

Subsequently, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai participated in the International Conference on the specified date and addressed the closing session. ■



## Academicians Call on Vice Chancellor

Noted historians and academicians called on Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai at his office on April 26, 2024. Among these were Prof. Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi, Mr. Mukhtiar Ahmed Mallah, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar and Mr. Qamar Aftab Abro. They shared views on education, history and literature. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai informed them that SMIU is going to pub-



lish translation of biography of founder of SMI Khan Bahadur Hasanally Effendi, which was written by Mirza Qaleech Baig and it is translated by Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, Assistant Professor of SMIU from Sindhi to English. ■



## SMIU and Evolution Sign MoU for U.S. Government-funded Access Program

Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, and Ms. Sidrah Niaz, Chief Executive Officer of Evolution, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 30, 2024 at a ceremony held in the Conference Room of SMIU. Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, the focal person from SMIU for the event, signed the MoU as a witness.

The ceremony was also attended by Ms. Anastasia Kolivas, Public Diplomacy Officer from the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, and Ms. Aisha Zeeshan, English Programs Manager from the same consulate. Additional attendees included Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh Higher Education Commission; Prof. Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dean of SMIU; Prof. Dr. Fateh Marri, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam &



expected to start in June 2024, held three times a week (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) at SMIU Model School. In addition to English language instruction, the program aimed to develop students' digital literacy skills and personal development by fostering balanced

field trips, service-learning projects, UN/U.S. celebrations, and professional development sessions to enhance the student experience.

Before signing the MoU, Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, welcomed the guests and appreciated the efforts of the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi for their contributions to education in Pakistan. Dr. Sahrai thanked Ms. Anastasia Kolivas, Ms. Aisha Zeeshan, Ms. Sidrah Niaz, and other dignitaries for their presence at the ceremony. He highlighted the past and present developments of SMIU and expressed his desire for continued cooperation between U.S. Consulate General-sponsored programs and SMIU.

Ms. Anastasia Kolivas praised the Sindh HEC for their openness and commitment to implementing the Access program at universities in Karachi, Umerkot, and Bhitshah. She discussed various U.S. government-funded opportunities for potential future collaborations aimed at enhancing the higher education sector in Sindh.

Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, appreciated the linkages between the U.S. Consulate General and higher education institutions (HEIs) in Sindh. He emphasized the necessity of programs like Access for the capacity building of students and stressed the need for more in-depth and extended



Umerkot; Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Bhitshah; and Momal Raza, Lecturer at the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Bhitshah.

According to the MoU, 150 bright and economically disadvantaged students from SMIU Model School (75 boys and 75 girls, aged 13-16 and enrolled in grades 7, 8, or 9) will receive English language instruction under the English Access Scholarship Program, funded by the Regional English Language Office (RELO) through the U.S. Mission in Pakistan.

The MoU was set to commence on May 5, 2024, and continue through February 28, 2026. Access classes were



intellectual and emotional capabilities to better prepare them for future academic and professional endeavors.

Under the MoU, the program was to hire four qualified teachers, each responsible for a class of 25 students, and one academic coordinator. The program would provide periodic training on the Access curriculum to ensure effective teaching methods, as well as course materials and additional resources to support students and teachers. The MoU stated that students would receive a daily transport allowance of Rs. 135 (subject to fluctuation due to the dollar rate) to facilitate their attendance.

Additionally, the program planned to organize outdoor events, including opening and closing ceremonies,





linkages between the U.S. Embassy/Consulate and HEIs in Sindh.

Ms. Aisha Zeeshan briefed the dignitaries on U.S. government-funded English programs and their impact on the lives of underprivileged youth by empowering them with English language skills. She mentioned that teachers had been well-trained throughout



the RELO program and expressed gratitude to the Sindh HEC Chairman, SMIU's Vice Chancellor, and all other vice chancellors present. She pledged

continued collaboration in the future.

Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, Assistant Professor in the English Department of SMIU, discussed the partner-

## Additional Charge of Vice Chancellorship of SZABUL to Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai



The honourable Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah through a notification issued on May 13, 2024 assigned additional charge of Vice Chancellorship Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto University of Law, Karachi (SZABUL) to Dr Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University till the appointment of regular Vice Chancellor of the SZABUL. ■

ship between the English Department of SMIU and RELO Pakistan developed over the past few years. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of shields to the esteemed guests by Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon and a group photo.

Dr. Tariq Rafi, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Ms. Anastasia Kolivas, Ms. Sidrah Niaz, Ms. Aisha Zeeshan, Momal Raza, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dr. Fateh Marri, Wafa Mansoor Buriro, and Dr. Arabella Bhutto were photographed during the MoU signing ceremony at SMIU. ■

## SMIU participates in HEC Research and Technology Showcase



exhibition: A Smart Carpool Ridesharing App (Android + iOS), Aaraish - Crochet Home Décor, Intelligent Livestock Behavior Analytics, Local Bus System, Nanomaterial Coated 3D Structured Clay Filter for Photocatalytic Treatment of Water, Stich Vision, and Urdu Spellify.

Dr. Sahrai also commended Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Director of ORIC and Chairperson of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Mathematical Sciences, for his efforts in facilitating SMIU's participation in the Expo.

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, visited the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sindh HEC Research and Technology Showcase 2024, held at the Expo Centre in Karachi on Saturday, June 1. He, along with Dr. Fateh Mohammad Marri, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, toured the stalls of students from various universities, including SMIU.

At the SMIU stall, Dr. Sahrai and Dr. Marri praised the research work of the students and encouraged them to continue their interest in research-based activities.

SMIU's students showcased seven innovative technical projects at the



Additionally, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai lauded the role of Sindh HEC, particularly its Chairman Dr. Tariq Rafi, for providing such a significant opportunity to young researchers from public sector universities. ■

## SMIU to Organize International Conference on Environment



Renowned environmentalist Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar held a meeting with Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, on June 27, 2024, at his office. They exchanged views on the environmental

issues facing the world, including Pakistan. Dr. Sahrai informed Mr. Panhwar that Sindh Madressatul Islam University would soon organize an international conference on the environment, inviting both national and international environmentalists. He expressed concern that, due to climate change, people in Pa-



kistan were experiencing severe problems such as scorching heat, floods, and heavy rains. He recalled the devastating effects of the rains and floods in 2022, which had severely damaged properties, crops, and houses, particularly affecting those living on the right bank of the Indus River.

Mr. Panhwar emphasized the need to raise public awareness about environmental issues and challenges. He advocated for each citizen to plant at least one tree per year.

On this occasion, Mr. Panhwar presented a copy of his latest book, titled *Earthly Matters*, to Dr. Sahrai. ■





# Sindh Madressatul Islam University's **5<sup>th</sup> CONVOCATION 2024** **29<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**367** Graduates of SMIU  
 Receive Degrees

**18 graduates receive Gold,  
 Silver and Bronze Medals**



Sindh Madressatul Islam University held its 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation on May 29, 2024, at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. During the event, degrees were conferred upon 367 graduates from various batches, including Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023. Governor Sindh and Chancellor Mr. Muhammad Kamran Tessori, along with SMIU Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and Chairman of Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi, awarded degrees to students from the Faculty of Management, Business Administration and Commerce, Faculty of Language and Culture the Faculty of Information Technology, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Education.

Eighteen medals were presented to graduates who demonstrated the highest academic performances in their respective faculties. Gold medals were awarded to Ms. Hiba Abdul Naem (Batch of Fall 2018) and Mr. Raheel (Batch of Fall 2019) by Governor Sindh Mr. Muhammad Kamran Tessori, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, and Dr. Tariq Rafi.

Silver medals were presented to Mr. Danish Ul Hassan (Faculty of Information Technology, Fall 2018), Ms. Hiba Abdul Naem (Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Fall 2018), Ms. Mahreen (Faculty of Social Sciences, Fall 2018), Mr. Muhammad Hannan Hassan Ali (Faculty of Information Technology, Fall 2019), Mr. Raheel (Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Fall 2019), Ms. Saba Jalil (Faculty of Social Sciences, Fall 2019),

and Ms. Maham (Faculty of Education, Fall 2019).

Bronze medals were awarded to nine recipients for securing the highest CGPAs in their respective programs: Mr. Danish Ul Hassan (BS Computer Science, Fall 2018), Ms. Areebah Noor (BBA, Fall 2018), Ms. Hiba Abdul Naem (BS Accounting and Finance, Fall 2018), Ms. Mahreen (BS Media Studies, Fall 2018), Mr. Muhammad Hannan Hassan Ali (BS Computer Science, Fall 2019), Mr. Raheel (BBA, Fall 2019), Ms. Afaf Ameer (BS Accounting and Finance, Fall 2019), Ms. Saba Jalil (BS Media Studies, Fall 2019), and Ms. Maham (BS Education, Fall 2019).







## Dignitaries Address the convocation

Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, in his welcome address, expressed gratitude to the Governor of Sindh Mr. Kamran Tessori, Chairman of Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi, Secretary of Universities Mr. Mohammad Abbas Baloch, Turkish Consul General Mr. Cemal Sangu, and other guests who attended the convocation. He expressed his deep satisfaction and pleasure in congratulating the students and their proud parents for their presence at the event.

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai highlighted that SMIU carries a legacy of 140 years, known for producing visionary leaders, educators, sports champions, and notably, the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. However, as a university, SMIU is only 12 years old. Starting with five programs and 129 students, it has now expanded to 16 programs, approximately 6000 students, around 100 faculty members (45% of whom hold PhDs), and 200 supporting staff. SMIU has established its recognition and presence at the provincial, national, and international levels.

He also discussed SMIU's achievements, stating that its development would not have been possible without the continuous support and trust of the Government of Sindh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the patronage of Governor Muhammad Kamran Tessori. He thanked the Chairman of the Federal Higher Education Commission, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and Chairman of Sindh HEC, Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, for their persistent professional support. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Universities and Boards, all sister universities, and the SMIU faculty for their efforts in providing quality education.

Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, congratulated the graduating students, the Vice Chancellor, faculty, and other staff members on organizing the successful convocation. He hoped that the new graduates would contribute to the country's development with their knowledge, wisdom, and skills.

Addressing the convocation, the Governor of Sindh congratulated the graduating students and urged them to contribute

to the development of the country through the education and skills they acquired from this historic institution, which is the alma mater of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The Governor emphasized that the graduates should serve and support their parents, who have made significant contributions to their growth and education through hard work. "Even today, while







you are receiving your degrees, your parents are sitting behind,” the Governor said. He proudly noted that he had also received his education from Sindh Madrasah-ul Islam University. He mentioned that, among today’s graduates, there may be future leaders, including possibly a governor or someone in another prominent position, but they should never forget their parents, their community, or their country.

Mr. Kamran Tessori announced his intention to donate an IT lab to his alma mater, SMIU, funded personally.

The Governor acknowledged that while the youth of Pakistan have great talent and a bright future, they should not be discouraged by initial job setbacks. He emphasized that success requires time, consistency, and patience. He advised the graduates to remain resilient in the face of hurdles and failures.

The Governor also highlighted Pakistan’s great potential, stressing the need for unity. Referring to the female students



present at the convocation, he encouraged them to utilize their education, as no society can develop without the participation of its female population.

During the event, Mr. Waseem Bozdar, a graduate from the class of 2022 in the Department of Media and Communication Studies, delivered the valedictory address, representing the culmination of



hard work, perseverance, and achievement among his peers.

The convocation was attended by members of SMIU’s Senate and Syndicate, vice chancellors of various universities, academicians, heads of different departments of the Government of Sindh, parents of graduating students, and the faculty and officers of SMIU. ■





# Academic Activities

## Students' organise 'Marketing Expo 2024'



The second-year students of the Department of Business Administration organized the "Marketing Expo SMIU 2024" in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at the inner courtyard of SMIU. Prof. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, inaugurated the event. He toured the stalls and inquired about the students' projects. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai also appreciated the students' technical expertise, skills, and products, stating that SMIU would facilitate them in marketing their products.



The products exhibited by the students ranged from handicrafts, including handbags, mobile covers, handmade straw fans, and a variety of perfumes, to decoration pieces, electronic devices, electric items, and other items.

While speaking with the participants of the exhibition, the Vice Chancellor stated that students should not be restricted to classroom learning but should be encouraged in entrepreneurial activities so that in the future, they could not only be job seekers but also create job opportunities for others.

He further mentioned that SMIU would include an extended version of the course on product creation in its syllabus so that students could continue producing their products. He emphasized that the students who created these products would become part of the university's Incubation Center, which aims to provide them with additional support and training for starting their own businesses.

"We are living in a world where busi-



ness dominates all professions, which is why SMIU is also working to produce young businesspersons who could play a major role in the country's future," the Vice Chancellor said.

Deans of SMIU Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Director ORIC Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani, Dr. Muhammad Afzal Chhajro, and the course instructor Mr. Asadullah were also present on the occasion. ■



## 'Start-Up Summit: From Concept to Success'



The students of SMIU's Department of Business Administration organized the "Start-Up Summit: From Concept to Success" on January 11, 2024, at the university premises, where 26 student groups, under the supervision and guidance of Assistant Professor Shahid Obaid, set up stalls displaying a variety of products. These included food items, handicrafts, furniture, decoration pieces, candles and candle holders, thread work, home appliances, abbaya, t-shirts, wedding suits, armaments, and other items. They also offered career counseling, car wash and maintenance services, photography, assistance with hostel accommodation, and services for decorating classrooms in private and public sector schools, as well as other educational institutions.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, along with Deans Dr. Zahid Ali Channar and Dr. Jamshed Halepoto, Advisor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Assistant Professor Shahid Obaid, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, and other officials visited the stalls.

While appreciating the products created and innovated by different student groups, as well as their other business



ventures, the Vice Chancellor remarked that this young business community would enrich the country in the future because they were empowered with new and innovative ideas, vision, and spirit needed for successful entrepreneurship. He stated that universities must produce a strong business community capable of flourishing in accordance with modern business trends and the needs of the country to make the land and the nation prosperous.

He advised universities to encourage students to participate in business activities at a micro level so that after graduation, they could easily run their businesses.

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai expressed his belief that the young generation could gain economic benefits from their business activities and simultaneously serve the

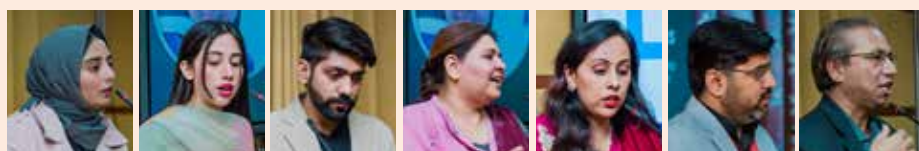


nation. He emphasized to the students that they must focus on low cost but high quality for their products and thoroughly evaluate and research market opportunities. Some female students stated that their main objective was to empower women through business ventures. ■





## Symposium on American Literature



A symposium titled “American Literature: Roots and Revolutions” was organized by the Department of English on January 24, 2024. This extracurricular event aimed to enrich the educational experience of the department’s students through a thought-provoking panel discussion. Distinguished professors from various universities contributed their expertise to the occasion.

The event began with a recitation from the Holy Quran and a welcome address by Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the department. Following this, two final-year students, Dua Hamza and Sadaqat Channa, presented on the topic “American Literature: Roots and Revolutions.”



The symposium featured esteemed panelists: Dr. Sahar Afshan, an expert in International Relations; Dr. Muhammad Asif Ramzani, a seasoned linguist and ELT expert; Ms. Farhana Qadri, Head of the Department and Assistant Professor at BBSU, Lyari Karachi; and Ms. Amber Nasreen Anjum, a specialist linguist with extensive academic and research experience from SZABIST University, Karachi.

Each panelist provided captivating insights into American literature, making the symposium a truly enriching experience. Additionally, Ms. Beenish Chaudhry, a visiting faculty member and accomplished Assistant Professor who is also an Executive Board Member at Evolution - Igniting Potential, presented on the American English website, including a virtual tour of the site.

At the end of the event, Dr. Riaz Ahmed, Head of the English Department, expressed gratitude by presenting souvenirs to the guest speakers, marking the conclusion of a captivating and enlightening occasion for all participants. ■

*Photo Credit: Zohaib Clicks*



## A Session on Secure Horizon held

The Science Society organized an engaging session titled “Secure Horizon: Decoding the Essence of Cybersecurity” on January 25, 2024. The main speaker was Syed Jan Muhammad Zaidi, a Certified Ethical Hacker and Supervisor of Security Assessments at Trillium Information Security Systems. He provided valuable insights into the complex world of cybersecurity, covering both offensive and defensive strategies, modern threats, and career opportunities in the field.



Mr. Syed Muhammad Hassan Zaidi, Patron of the Science Society and Lecturer in the Department of Software Engineering, extended his gratitude to the guest speaker, attendees, and the organizing team. ■



## Washington State University's Professor Dr. Mushtaq Memon delivers Lecture



programs.

"I am thankful to the Vice Chancellor of SMIU, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, for inviting me to this historic institution of Pakistan-SMIU," Dr. Mushtaq Memon said, adding that he felt honored to be there.

In his speech, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, emphasized that for the human development of Pakistan, the youth must avail themselves



Professor Emeritus at Washington State University (WSU) Dr. Mushtaq Memon delivered a lecture on "Fulbright Scholarship & Fellowship Opportunities for Students, Post-Doctorates, and Faculty Members in the United States" at the Senate Hall of SMIU on Monday, January 29, 2024. The lecture was organized by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC).

In his lecture, Dr. Mushtaq Memon mentioned that Pakistan was the largest beneficiary of the Fulbright programs in the world, annually sending 200 faculty members, post-doctorates, PhD students, and others to the USA.

Dr. Memon, a Fulbright specialist with 35 years of teaching experience in the USA, explained that the Fulbright Scholar Program is the largest scholar exchange program in the world. It was started in 1946, just after the end of World War II, by the late US Senator William Fulbright.

"Due to the destruction caused by WWII, Senator William Fulbright thought to bring the world closer together, and he started this program with the help of the US government by selling leftover ammunition from WWII," Dr. Mushtaq Memon said. He added that

students, faculty, and administrative staff of Pakistan can benefit from these multiple academic exchange programs offered by the USA for both long-term and short-term periods.

He further mentioned that 800 US scholars are working in 150 countries for Fulbright and other related academic exchange programs. Similarly, 1,200 scholars come to the USA under the Fulbright Scholar programs. Additionally, Fulbright Commissions operate in 50 countries, helping people who want to study in the USA.

Dr. Memon stated that it is a golden opportunity and a privilege for Pakistan's students, faculty, and administrative staff, especially women and aspiring individuals from rural areas, to study in the USA. He noted that the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan is also helping Pakistani students and faculty members avail themselves of these opportunities. He suggested that university faculty members should prepare their students for Fulbright Scholar Exchange Programs so that students can qualify for them on merit.

He proposed that SMIU establish a research center in collaboration with the USA to prepare students for Fulbright

of the Fulbright Scholar Exchange Programs and, after completing their education abroad, must return to their country because they have a bond with this land. He stressed the need to develop a research culture and expand collaboration with research institutions in the USA and other countries in this digital age.



The Vice Chancellor noted that although Dr. Mushtaq Memon is a US citizen, he is a son of the soil and has never disconnected himself from his own country, Pakistan. Dr. Sahrai mentioned that whenever Dr. Memon visits Pakistan, he travels to various parts, especially Sindh, where he shares information about Fulbright and other opportunities offered by US institutions with students and faculty.





Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani, Director of ORIC, warmly welcomed the guest and introduced him to the audience. Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, also spoke on the occasion. A Question-and-Answer session was held as well. In the end, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai presented a shield to Dr. Mushtaq Memon.



The lecture was attended by Deans Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, and Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, chairpersons of various academic departments Dr. Subhash, Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, and Dr. Hina Shehnaz, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Director of Student Affairs Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, faculty members, officials, and students.



Later on, Dr. Mushtaq Memon visited the Jinnah Museum at the university, where he observed relics and the academic record of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi, and some illustrious alumni with keen interest. ■

## Session held on “From Idea to Impact”



SMIU consistently endeavored to cultivate entrepreneurial skills among its students, empowering them to innovate, create, and succeed in an ever-evolving world. With this vision in mind, the Zindigi Prize SMIU, under the patronage of the DSA, conducted an insightful session titled “From Idea to Impact” on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The distinguished speaker for the occasion was Mr. Bilal Khan Afridi, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Creative 3D Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Afridi shared invaluable insights on entrepreneurship, ideation, and effective pitching strategies.



Mr. Syed Danish Mujtaba, Lecturer in the Department of Business Administration and Faculty Advisor for the Zindigi Prize SMIU, expressed sincere appreciation to the organizing team for their contributions to the success of the session. ■





## Orientation Day for Spring 2024

*Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai calls young persons as a  
'Youth Energy'*

The DSA organized Orientation Day for newly enrolled students for the Spring 2024 session on February 19, 2024, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium.

In his address as the chief guest, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai welcomed the new batch of students to SMIU and encouraged them to keep their minds open and have a vision for achieving multiple goals in their future lives. He emphasized that, in addition to other resources, our country has a youthful energy that must be properly harnessed for the progress of the country and its people.

"With 60 percent of our population being youth, their contributions to the country's development must be utilized according to the demands of the present-day world," the Vice Chancellor elaborated. He added that the newly enrolled students are fortunate to have gained admission to SMIU and should therefore focus entirely on their studies while also actively partici-



pating in the co-curricular activities organized by SMIU's student societies.

The Vice Chancellor stressed that students should take advantage of the facilities provided to them at SMIU. He also highlighted that the university has highly qualified and experienced faculty, ensuring that students receive a quality education.



Earlier, Deans Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh and Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Advisor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, and chairpersons Dr. Hina Shahzad, Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Dr. Riaz Ahmed Mangrio, and Ms. Zonaira Jalali, Manager of Student Affairs, briefed the students about the university's history, departments, and available facilities. ■



## 5<sup>th</sup> Global Power Platform Bootcamp



Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) and the Pakistan User Group proudly collaborated to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Power Platform Bootcamp. The event took place on February 23, 2024, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium.

The initiative, facilitated by the Microsoft Learn Student Community, brought together enthusiasts and professionals from diverse backgrounds with a keen interest in Microsoft's Power Platform. This one-day event, which spanned various locations worldwide, aimed to provide attendees with a comprehensive exploration of Microsoft's Power Platform stack through immersive hands-on sessions and labs.

Mr. Talha Mashkoor delivered a compelling talk on AI and

digital transformation consultancy, while Mr. Mustajab showcased AI Co-pilot and its practical applications. Additionally, Mr. Umair Siddiqui shared valuable insights into navigating the Power Platform universe, and Ms. Komal Rida Malik led an interactive, hands-on session demonstrating the rapid development of power apps using co-piloting technology.

In conclusion, Prof. Dr. Jamshed Adil, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, Management, and Commerce, commended the organizers, particularly Syed Azeem Inam, Faculty Advisor of the Microsoft Learn Student Community at SMIU, and the Pakistan User Group team, for orchestrating a highly successful event. ■



## Beach Cleanliness Drive

The SMIU Ambassadors of "Milkar Pakistan" and the "Green Youth Movement Club," under the umbrella of the Directorate of Students' Affairs and Counselling, organized a Beach Cleanliness Drive on March 4, 2024, at the WWF Wetland Center in Karachi. The aim of the activity was to promote awareness about cleanliness, especially in coastal areas, in alignment with SDG 14 ("Life Below Water") and SDG 15 ("Life on Land").



During the visit, students were briefed about the coastal areas of Sindh and the efforts of the Wetland Center towards achieving the Sustainability Development Goals. Following the presentation, they were given one hour for the beach cleaning activity, during which they received proper guidelines on trash collection. The activity fostered a sense of responsibility and community engagement among the participants. ■





## International Women's Day observed

SMIU observed International Women's Day on March 8 by organizing various activities. The Directorate of Student Affairs and Counseling arranged a female cricket tournament at the university's playground, featuring teams from the Department of Software Engineering, led by Captain Ms. Faryal Khan, and the Department of Business Administration, led by Captain Ms. Iqrar Aziz. The team from the Software Engineering Department won the tournament.

Subsequently, a declamation contest on the topic "Role of Mother in Perception Management" was held at SMIU's auditorium. Students delivered speeches highlighting the various roles of a mother. They were of the view that there is no comparison to the love, care, and sacrifice a mother gives to her children. The bond between a mother and her children transcends all conditions. Therefore, she deserves immense love and honor from her offspring.



Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, and Director of Student Affairs and Counseling, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, praised the students for their speeches and participation in the cricket tournament. They also discussed gender equality and equal rights for women.

Later, Dean Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmad Shaikh, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Vice Chancellor's Adviser on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, and Director of Student Affairs Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed presented certificates to students who participated in both the cricket match and the declamation contest. Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, faculty members, officers, and students attended the event. Manager of Student Affairs Ms. Zonaira Jalali conducted the proceedings. ■



## Governor Sindh Visits SMIU's Stall at Education Expo

SMIU participated in the 2-Day Education Expo organized by the Jang Group, held on March 8 and 9, 2024, at the Expo Centre in Karachi. The event was attended by representatives from SMIU's ORIC and the Department of Admissions and Examinations, led by Director ORIC Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro. SMIU set up a stall at the expo, which attracted a significant number of visitors.



On the first day of the expo, Saturday, March 8, Governor of Sindh Mr. Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori and Regional Director of HEC Pakistan Mr. Javed Ali Memon visited SMIU's stall. Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Director ORIC, Dr. Mohammad Afzal, and other SMIU officials, faculty members, and students warmly welcomed the guests.

In appreciation of their participation, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai praised the efforts and enthusiasm of SMIU's ORIC, its Director, the officials of the Department of Admissions and Examinations, as well as faculty and students for their active and meaningful involvement in the expo. ■



## Young Researchers Exhibit their Business Ideas



On March 12, final-year students from the Department of Business Administration showcased their business ideas and research papers through presentations and posters at the Talpur House of SMIU. They presented their business plans and product details that they intended to launch after graduation. These plans were designed to address societal needs. In addition to detailed reports on their business plans, students displayed posters in the corridors of the Talpur House. Faculty members and experts evaluated their projects and research studies.



The exhibition was supervised by Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Head of the Department, Mr. Shafiq Ahmed, Department Coordinator, and Mr. Muzaffar Ali Shah, Coordinator of the Presentations and Exhibition.

Final-year students from the Department of Accounting, Banking, and Finance also presented their research studies at Quaid-e-Azam Hall of the Talpur House. Their studies were evaluated by both internal and external experts.

On this occasion, Dean Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto remarked that SMIU emphasizes providing market-oriented education to its students, enabling them to actively contribute to the country's development and progress. He noted that, as business and trade activities dominate the world, SMIU aims to prepare its students for entrepreneurship, helping them contribute fresh and innovative ideas and research.

Dr. Zahid Ali Channar added that SMIU is collaborating with the industry through the Department of Business Administration, ORIC, and the Incubation Centre, which is proving beneficial for students' careers. ■

## Awareness Session on Higher Education



The Directorate of Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) of SMIU organized an awareness session on the HEC program: "Pakistan Precepts, Standards & Guidelines for QA in Higher Education-2023" and the "Revamped Quality Assurance Framework for Higher Education Institutions" on

March 12, 2024, at the Senate Hall of the university.

The session was attended by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Deans Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, and Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto,



Advisor on Academic Affairs Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Controller of Examination Mr. Furqan Iftikhar, Director of Finance Mr. Ghulam Ali Surhio, Deputy Director of Finance Mr. Tallal Hassan, and the staff of the QEC.

Director of QEC Dr. Saima Baig presented the Revamped Quality Assurance Framework, which includes domains for the Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE) and Program Review for Effectiveness and Enhancement (PREE) for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) and External Quality Assurance (EQA). She also introduced a third domain for Program Accreditation Reviewing Effectiveness of QA and Accreditation Bodies (REQAAB).

She described the background of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education and its policies, and she informed the participants about the upcoming review mechanism, judgment framework, challenges of effective implementation, and grant allocation for the institute's performance. Meanwhile, participants actively engaged in the session and discussed their observations.

At the end, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai addressed the participants, urging them to submit their feedback and observations on the new QAA framework and to strive towards achieving quality work targets. ■



## We brought deficit from 60 to 06 percent: Vice Chancellor



In an interview published in the Sindhi daily Sobh, Karachi recently Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, announced that the first PhD degree from SMIU would be awarded in the coming months.

In response to a question from the newspaper's reporter, Mr. Waheed Memon, Dr. Sahrai stated that preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Research Congress had begun. This time, very important and selected universities from around the world would be invited to participate in this major research event.



Dr. Sahrai further commented that it was a commendable decision by the Federal Government of Pakistan to allocate 65 billion rupees as a grant for public sector universities in the new budget for 2024-25. He expressed hope that such grants would resolve some of the problems faced by public sector universities.

In response to another question, Dr. Sahrai mentioned that the deficit of SMIU had been reduced from 60 percent to 6 percent during his tenure. He also noted that, previously, SMIU had been covering all expenses for SMIU Model School from its budget. However, a separate budget of 90 million rupees for SMIU Model School had been secured from the Government of Sindh, with support from Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah.

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai pledged to make Sindh Madressatul Islam University one of the leading universities in both the country and the world. ■

## Poetry Recitation and Painting/Poster Making

The DSA, in collaboration with the Character Building Society and the Literary Society, hosted an engaging event at the Activity Hall of the Youth Development Center on March 26, 2024. The event, centered around the theme "Role of Youth in Nation Building for Peace," aimed to empower and inspire students to contribute positively to society through artistic expression.



The event featured two main activities: poetry recitation and painting/poster making. Four talented students from different departments of SMIU captivated the audience with their soulful poetry recitations, each highlighting the importance of youth engagement in fostering peace within the nation. Their words ignited hope and encouraged young people to strive for a harmonious future.

Additionally, nearly 20 artists showcased their creativity through captivating paintings that depicted the theme of peace building. From vibrant colors to thought-provoking imagery, each artwork illustrated unity, resilience, and the power of youth to effect positive change. ■



## Renowned Environmental Journalist Sheema Siddiqui talks on Environmental Threats



The Department of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with the Directorate of Students' Affairs and Counseling at SMIU, organized a session on the hazards of plastic and environmental challenges on April 30, 2024, at the Senate Hall of SMIU. The session was connected with Earth Day, observed on April 22 worldwide. Noted environmental journalist Ms. Sheema Siddiqui was the keynote speaker.

In her presentation, she stated that sea levels are rising daily, threatening the existence of coastal areas and cities like Karachi and Dhaka. She noted that soil erosion by the sea poses a significant threat to agricultural lands and human lives, with the Indus Delta particularly affected. She emphasized the need for sustainable environmental practices. Citing references from global organizations, she mentioned that 3.3 million tons of plastic waste enter the seas annually. As a result, by 2050, there might be no fish in the oceans, only plastic.

Ms. Siddiqui further highlighted that plastic utensils pose a significant threat to human and marine life, advocating for

the use of steel and clay utensils instead. "The use of plastic utensils in food leads to diseases like cancer and tuberculosis (T.B.), with cancer cases notably increasing in our country," she said, adding that plastic particles mix with our food when using plastic plates and bowls, harming our health. She pointed out that this situation affects other South Asian countries as well.

She observed that climate change, particularly after Covid-19, has disrupted the four seasons, with cold weather continuing until April and no visible spring this year. She noted that early rains in the country indicate climate change. Unlike in the past, in 2024, parts of Sindh, Punjab, and other areas experienced rains in April. "Recently, snowfall was observed in Chitral, affecting wheat and other crops," she noted.

Ms. Siddiqui mentioned that environmental changes have altered the ecosystem and the natural lifestyle in rural areas. "We have deviated from nature and are acting against it," she said, commenting on the widespread use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, which also creates health and environmental problems.

She pointed out that heavy floods, particularly in Sindh province, have caused significant damage to food security. She suggested returning to environmentally friendly practices and abandoning the use of plastic utensils that harm our lives. "If we want to save the Earth and human lives, we must promote environmental awareness among the masses," she concluded.

Earlier, Dr. Hina Shehnaz, Incharge Chairperson of the Department of Environmental Sciences, welcomed the guest. Mr. Khalid Hassan, Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Science, SMIU, conducted the proceedings. A large number of students and faculty members attended the seminar. ■





## SMIU MODEL SCHOOL'S PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

SMIU Model School organized a Prize Distribution Ceremony on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium of the University. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU, was the chief guest.

In his speech, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai stated that Karachi offers excellent educational opportunities to students, especially those who live and study in the city. He urged students to take advantage of these opportunities for a brighter future.

The Vice Chancellor further remarked that students in Karachi are more fortunate than those in cities and remote areas such as Larkana, Sukkur, Umerkot, Bhirya, Khuzdar, Qalat, and Gilgit. He noted that Karachi students benefit from better schools, quality education, modern facilities, and healthier activities compared to their counterparts in other regions.

Sharing his own educational experiences with the students of SMIU Model School, Dr. Sahrai said that the education he received from D.J. College and the cultural environment of Karachi played a significant role in his successful career.

"Students of SMIU Model School have many reasons to feel proud, one of which is receiving quality education from the Alma Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who praised his



Alma Mater on numerous occasions," he remarked.

Recalling his school days in Dadu city, Dr. Sahrai said that there was more motivation, dynamics, and activities in his school, which helped him pursue his future goals. However, he observed that today's students, despite being part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, are less equipped with such dynamics.

The Vice Chancellor urged the teachers and management of SMIU Model School to facilitate students' participation in various activities organized by different schools and educational organizations in the city. He emphasized the importance of co-curricular activities for students' growth and encouraged teachers to give equal importance to both curricular and co-curricular activities.



Dr. Sahrai congratulated the winners of gold, silver, and bronze medals who had participated in different competitions held in the city. He urged them to value their time and appreciate their parents, who wish to see them excel in the future.

On this occasion, Dr. Sahrai awarded medals and certificates to the students and certificates to their teachers. He also presented a shield to Ms. Nabeela Kanwal, Principal of SMIU Model School, while the Principal presented a souvenir to him.

The ceremony was attended by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, and the teachers and students of SMIU Model School. ■





## Research Scholar of University of Virginia Delivers Lecture



modern advancements such as increased human lifespan, access to clean water, availability of medicines and treatments, and access to electricity and the internet have all been facilitated by business ventures. However, he also presented the negative aspects of business by citing examples like the Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh.

He argued against the notion that educating the poor and making them en-

ing the positive aspects of social responsibility.

On this occasion, Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Incharge of ORIC, provided concluding remarks, and Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director of Students Affairs, gave a vote of thanks. A large number of faculty members and students attended the program. ■

It is a unique feature of SMIU that its various departments prioritize organizing talks, seminars, workshops, and lecture programs where eminent national and international speakers are invited to address the audience. In keeping with this tradition, the Department of Business Administration, in collaboration with ORIC, arranged a lecture by Dr. Prem S. Menghwar from the University of Virginia, USA. The lecture, titled “The Role of Business Schools in Shaping Society: What Should We Teach and Do Research On?” took place on April 30, 2024, at the



university auditorium.

Dr. Prem S. Menghwar, a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Virginia with a research focus on organizational purpose and the dynamics of Stakeholder Theory in underdeveloped countries, delivered an insightful lecture. He emphasized that, while the primary purpose of business is to generate profit, it also plays a crucial role in addressing societal problems. He asserted that the purpose of business is to create value for all stakeholders, including investors. Additionally, he stressed that while making money is important, it should not be the sole objective of business.

Dr. Menghwar highlighted that

trepreneurs would undermine the power of the elite. He pointed out that, despite having high-quality education and social awareness, the British monarchy remains intact, with the royal family's net worth estimated at \$28 billion. Similarly, the Dutch Royal Family has a net worth of \$1.3 billion.

Dr. Menghwar acknowledged that business firms and corporations do maximize their profits but also address social issues. He cited the example of Bombay Bakery in Hyderabad, which has thrived for a long time due to its commitment to product quality. He urged the students of the Department of Business Administration to engage in business while uphold-

### Blood Donation Drive

The Indus Hospital Karachi, in collaboration with DSA organized a Blood Donation Drive for Thalassemia patients, especially children, who rely on regular blood transfusions to survive, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May within the premises of SMIU. Blood donation is not only life-saving for patients but also beneficial for donors. It can:

- Stimulate red blood cell production
- Reduce risk of iron overload
- Promote good heart health



## Seminar on 'Freelancing 101'

The Techverse Community organized a seminar on "Freelancing 101" on 8<sup>th</sup> May at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium. Mr. Usama Khan gave an in-depth presentation on the subject, while Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director DSA, also addressed the seminar. Students actively participated in the question-and-answer session held after the presentations. The seminar saw significant attendance from both faculty and students. During the event, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed presented a souvenir to the guest speaker. ■



## Orientation of English Access Scholarship Program

An orientation session for the English Access Scholarship Program was organized at SMIU on May 16. The event was managed by Ms. Sidrah Niaz, Syed Atif, and Mr. Danish.

The orientation was attended by prospective students. Admissions to the English Access Scholarship Program at SMIU Model School were also announced during the session.

The Access Program is fully sponsored by the Regional English Language Office at the U.S. Mission in Pakistan. ■



## JIRA for Agile Project Planning



The Faculty of Information Technology at SMIU organized a session on "JIRA for Agile Project Planning" on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Senate Hall. The speakers discussed Agile project management, software development projects, and Agile project management methodologies. Both students and faculty members attended the session.

The Techverse Community organized a seminar on "Freelancing 101" on [insert date] at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhut-



to Auditorium. Mr. Usama Khan gave an in-depth presentation on the subject, while Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director DSA, also addressed the seminar. Students actively participated in the question-and-answer session held after the presentations. The seminar saw significant attendance from both faculty and students. During the event, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed presented a souvenir to the guest speaker. ■





## ELECTION OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The annual elections of students' societies (Students' Council) of SMIU were held on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Main Building of the university under the supervision of the Directorate of Students' Affairs and Counselling (DSA).

According to the results announced by DSA the day after the elections, out of 1,931 registered voters, 804 exercised their right to vote, bringing the voter turnout to 44%.



The eight student societies that form the Students' Council, including the Science Society, Art Society, Debating Society, Character Building Society, Literary Society, Sports Society, Music Society, and Community Service Society, elected their representatives for the term of 2024-25.

The election witnessed remarkable engagement and enthusiasm from the students of SMIU, reflecting the vibrant spirit of democracy within the student community of the university.

The Vice Chancellor of SMIU, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, congratulated the newly elected representatives of the SMIU Students' Council and expressed hope that they would work for the interests of their fellow students and the betterment of the university. He emphasized that while their role in organizing healthy activities at SMIU is important, they must prioritize their education. Dr. Sahrai also congratulated the DSA team for conducting the elections smoothly.

Director DSA, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, also congratulated the new office bearers of the societies. He extended his gratitude to every member of the SMIU student body who exercised their right to vote, thereby shaping the future direction of the student community. ■





## Visiting Botanical Garden



On May 24, the Department of Environmental Sciences organized a study tour for its students to the Botanical Garden of the University of Karachi. This conservation center spans 35 acres and is divided into 13 regions.

The visit was held in connection with the International Day for Biological Diversity and aimed to introduce the students to over 3,000 plant species in the garden.



During the visit, SMIU's students, led by Mr. Khalid Hassan and Mr. Naeem Akhtar Samoon, Lecturers in the Department of Environmental Sciences, explored the Tropical House, which features plants from tropical, temperate, and alpine zones in controlled environments. They also visited the medicinal plant section.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Qaiser provided a brief overview of biodiversity in Pakistan and praised the students and faculty of SMIU for their interest in this important issue.

The visit proved to be highly educational and enjoyable for the students, offering valuable insights into biodiversity and plant conservation.

Additionally, the students and faculty members held a meeting with Dr. Roohi Bano, Incharge Director of the Centre for Plant Conservation at the University of Karachi. Dr. Bano emphasized the critical importance of biodiversity and the need for greater awareness on the subject. ■

## World Environment Day Observed



The Department of Environmental Sciences observed World Environment Day on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, by organizing a seminar at the Senate Hall of the university. The speakers emphasized the importance of the day, highlighting that environmental issues pose a significant threat to all species on Earth, including humans. They stressed

that every individual must contribute to resolving these issues, such as by planting trees and adopting other measures.



Mr. Mujeeb Ur Rehman, President of Cliff Pakistan, shared his invaluable insights, inspiring the students to develop new research ideas focused on environmental challenges. He emphasized this year's critical theme, "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," and urged the need to safeguard the planet's land resources and address the challenges of desertification and drought.



Dr. Hina Shehnaz, In-charge Chairperson of the department, stated that collective efforts are essential to raise awareness and take action toward land restoration and building resilience against environmental threats.

Earlier, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dean of Information Technology, and Dr. Hina Shehnaz warmly welcomed the guest. Ms. Ambreen Aziz, Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Sciences, conducted the proceedings. A large number of students and faculty members attended the seminar. ■





## Session on Special Children



The Department of Media and Communication Studies at SMIU organized an interactive session on “Children with Inclusive Needs” at the university’s auditorium on June 6, 2024. The session was presided over by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, with noted philanthropist and Chairman of

Sindh Madressatul Islam University had incorporated facilities for special persons in its buildings being constructed on the Malir campus.

Dr. Sahrai welcomed Mr. Faisal Edhi, the son of the distinguished philanthropist Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi and chairman of the Edhi Foundation, to Sindh Madressatul Islam University. At the Vice Chancellor’s suggestion, the audience gave a standing ovation to honor the great services of Abdul Sattar Edhi. Dr. Sahrai remarked, “There were few individuals in the world who had no controversy, and Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi was one of them,” and he commended Mr. Faisal Edhi for continuing his father’s noble mission. The Vice Chancellor offered his support for any future needs related to humanitarian service.

Dr. Sahrai also praised the video reports prepared by the students of the Department of Media and Communication Studies, noting that they had fulfilled their social responsibility.

In his address, Mr. Faisal Edhi stated that those special persons engaged in small businesses are the real heroes and deserve support. He emphasized that these individuals strive for a better life and wish to contribute to society, thus requiring our support.

Mr. Edhi highlighted that Karachi had 2 million children enrolled in primary schools, while 2.6 million children were out of school. He called for efforts to provide education to all children in the country.

He shared an anecdote about meeting a Palestinian diplomat in Islamabad a few years’ prior, requesting permission to start work for children in Gaza. The diplomat had responded that while Egypt could grant such permission, despite the war



the Edhi Foundation, Mr. Faisal Edhi, serving as the chief guest. During the event, final-year students from the department presented video reports and short films on the daily lives, activities, and challenges faced by special persons as part of their final-year projects.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai noted that special persons constitute about 16 percent (more than 1 billion) of the world’s population. He highlighted that there are 15 million special persons in Pakistan and stressed that society must treat them as valued individuals, ensuring that necessary facilities are provided in buildings and public transport.

Dr. Sahrai emphasized that for the country’s development, all marginalized communities, including women and special persons, must be included in every field. He mentioned that







imposed by Israel at that time, Gaza had a literacy rate of over 98 percent and was operating three shifts of schools due to a shortage of buildings. Mr. Edhi argued that, given there is no war-like situation in Pakistan, efforts should be made to educate all children, and if necessary, schools should operate in multiple shifts like in Gaza.

Mr. Edhi noted that there are currently no “nuns” in Karachi, who were mainly from Christian and Hindu communities.

This lack of support affects many children’s homes in Karachi, such as Darulsukun. He also pointed out that decreased financial support from European countries due to their engagement in wars has created a crisis for welfare organizations.

He stressed the need for a skilled Pakistan where both normal and special children receive vocational training. Mr. Edhi appreciated Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and the students of the Department of Media and Communication Studies for organizing such an important session.

Special persons including Saba Ghizali, Gold Medalist, PhD Scholar, and visiting faculty at SMIU; Syed Ali Hassan, Sub Editor of Monthly Qaumi Zaban, Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu; Preeti Varodra, receptionist at TDF Magnificence Centre; and Ali Khan Tareen, Co-CEO and Founder of Khas Foodz, shared their success stories. They suggested that the government should provide facilities in workplaces and public places for special persons. Savio M. Pereira, CEO of Darulsukun Welfare Society, also spoke about the needs and problems faced by special persons. At the end of the event, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai presented shields to the guests. ■

## Session held on ‘Self-Assessment for Continuous Quality Improvement’



The Accreditation and Quality Enhancement Cell (AQEC) organized a session on “Self-Assessment for Continuous Quality Improvement” at the Senate Hall of the university on June 14, 2024.

As the guest speaker, former Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili emphasized that self-assessment

allows faculty members to bring about qualitative changes and improvements in teaching processes and methodologies. He also shared

his teaching experiences and various academic theories on self-assessment and the evaluation of academic performance. Earlier, Director AQEC Dr. Saima Baig offered her insights on the topic. Deputy Director AQEC Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed conducted the proceedings. Later, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce Dr. Zahid Ali Channar presented a shield to Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili. Certificates were also awarded to the participants.

Other attendees included Dean of the Faculty of IT Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor on Academic Affairs Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Director ORIC Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, chairpersons of various academic departments, and faculty members. ■



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## SMIU students and faculty visit WWF, Wetland Centre



The students and faculty of the Department of Social and Development Studies visited the Wetland Center at Kiamari, Karachi, on June 14, 2024, in connection with their MS Development Project on “Green Coast and Biodiversity Preservation.” A seminar on Environment and Biodiversity Preservation was held at the



Wetland Center in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). During this seminar, the students from the Department of Social and Development Studies presented their projects and displayed documentaries. Following the seminar, faculty and students participated in a Mangrove Plantation Drive as part of the green coast initiative at the Center. ■

## ‘Start-up Summit: From Concept to Success’



The Department of Business Administration and the Incubation Center of SMIU jointly organized a session for the final-year students on the topic “Start-up Summit: From Concept to Success - Success Stories” on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium of the university. The session was chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, with Mr. Bilal Talib, CEO of California Real Estate and Builders, and Mr. Qazi Nauman Mujahid, Director of Operations at DIA, serving as the main speakers.



In his speech, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai remarked that today’s youth belong to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where they face both numerous opportunities and challenges, especially in the field of business. He noted that SMIU graduates have more business opportuni-





ties in Karachi compared to other parts of the country.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted that SMIU's proximity to I.I. Chundrigar Road, a hub of banks and business activities, provides students with valuable opportunities to benefit from these activities. He urged Business Administration students to connect their projects with the university's Incubation Center.

Dr. Sahrai further emphasized that students should look beyond traditional education during their four-year studies, as the business world is evolving rapidly. He commended Mr. Shahid Obaid, Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Administration, for organizing the successful event and encouraged final-year students to showcase their projects within the university.



Mr. Bilal Talib shared his success story with the students and announced a grant of 10 million rupees to support young entrepreneurs at SMIU in establishing their businesses. He expressed his ongoing support for SMIU students. Recounting his journey, Mr. Talib revealed that he started as a simple villager from Punjab without formal degrees in finance, marketing, or civil engineering but built a successful business through personal experience. He advised students to be clear about their objectives, vision, innovative ideas, and commitment to their chosen field to achieve success.



Mr. Qazi Nauman Mujahid shared his success story and motivated the students by discussing his experiences. He encouraged them to learn from failures and maintain hope, emphasizing that there are numerous opportunities in the country, with only willpower needed. He spoke about his humble beginnings in a poor family in Hyderabad and how he struggled to build a successful IT business nationally and internationally.

Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, delivered the vote of thanks. The session was attended by Dean Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Director of Students Affairs Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, faculty members, and students.

During the event, final-year students from the Department of Business Administration displayed their projects in the inner courtyard of the main building. Mr. Bilal Talib, Assistant Professor Shahid Obaid, and other faculty members visited the student stalls and praised them for their innovative ideas. ■



## SMIU Students Honoured to Become Ambassadors for Ombudsman Sindh



A workshop was held on June 28, 2024, at the auditorium of SMIU, chaired by Mr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh, with Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai serving as the guest of honor. The primary objective of the session was to select SMIU students as Brand Ambassadors for the Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh. These students would be tasked with disseminating information about the Ombudsman's role and functions among their peers and the general public.

In his speech, the Ombudsman highlighted the role of the Ombudsman Office in providing administrative justice and outlined the key features of the Brand Ambassador Program. This initiative, part of the regional subsidy from the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), aimed to disseminate information, promote civic responsibilities, and increase community outreach through students, who are seen as future leaders. He added that the selected Ambassadors would act as a bridge between the Ombudsman's office and the student body, promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability within government departments.

The Ombudsman expressed pride in being at the historic Sindh Madressatul Islam University, which is the alma mater of Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He noted that efforts were underway to establish linkages between the Ombudsman's office and academia, as this culture

had not been well developed in the country. The Ombudsman mentioned that five offices had been opened in different districts of Karachi, with plans to establish more offices in other Sindh cities.

In response to a question, he explained that the Ombudsman's office was also working to reach out to schools and colleges across the province to spread the message of public service through the Brand Ambassadors.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai Memon welcomed the







Ombudsman and his team to SMIU. Dr. Sahrai discussed the university's activities and achievements and its role in producing well-skilled youth for the country. He highlighted that SMIU has ten student societies dedicated to training future leaders.

The Vice Chancellor stated that SMIU and the Ombudsman's office would collaborate to raise awareness about social work and social justice. He assured that the Department of Social and Development Studies at SMIU would fully support the Ombudsman's office.

Ms. Rehana G. Ali Memon, Advisor, and Mr. Masood Ishrat, Registrar, Secretariat of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, briefed the participants about the Brand Ambassador Program and the workings of the Ombudsman's office through a detailed presentation. The services of the selected Ambassador students would be recognized with certificates.

A question-and-answer session followed, where the Ombudsman addressed queries from SMIU students and faculty.

At the end of the event, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai presented souvenirs to the guests. Earlier, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director of Students Affairs and Counseling at SMIU, welcomed the guests and thanked the Ombudsman for selecting SMIU for the Brand Ambassadors Program. Ms. Zonaira Jalali conducted the session.

The session was attended by SMIU deans Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, chairpersons of various academic departments, faculty, and a large number of students.

After the session, the Ombudsman, Vice Chancellor, and other guests visited the Jinnah Museum at SMIU. ■

## Awareness and Training Session on 'How to Deal Heart Attack'



The Department of Social and Development Studies and the Directorate of Students Affairs (DSA), in collaboration with the Pakistan Cardiac Society and Liaquat National Hospital, Karachi, organized an awareness and training session on "How to Deal with Heart Attacks at Home, Office, and Public Places (Family and Friends CPR, Hands-On Session, and Certification Course)" at SMIU, Karachi, on June 29, 2024.

Dr. Subhash, Chairperson of the Department of Social and Development Studies, welcomed the trainers and thanked the Pakistan Cardiac Society and Liaquat National Hospital for their collaboration. He also praised Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director of DSA, and his team for their efforts in organizing the training session.



The event was attended by 25 registered students from various departments at SMIU, along with faculty and administrative staff. At the end of the session, certificates were distributed by Professor Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The training was conducted by Dr. Gulzar Buriro, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist and Associate Professor at NICVD Karachi, and Dr. Imran Sandeelo, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist and Assistant Professor at Liaquat National Hospital, Karachi.

Mr. Muhammad Kamil Lakho, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Development Studies, moderated the session. ■







The selection trials for the Prime Minister's Youth Sports League for Handball teams (Men & Women) in Sindh Province were completed in the Karachi Region in March. These trials were jointly organized by Sindh Madressatul Islam University Karachi and Government College University Hyderabad, in collaboration with HEC Islamabad.



# SPORTS

## Trials held for Prime Minister's Youth Sports League for Handball teams



The trials took place at NED University of Engineering and Technology (NEDUET), Karachi. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Pro Vice Chancellor of NED University Karachi, served as the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony. Other guests of honor included Prof. Dr. Shahnaila Zardari, Chairperson of the Department of Software Engineering, Dr. Ali Mehmood, Controller of Student Affairs, Farkhanda Fasih, Manager of Sports, and Khawaja Hafeez, Sports Officer from NEDUET. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Sheikh, Registrar of SMIU, Mr. Muhammad Naeem

Ahmed, Director of Student Affairs at SMIU, and Mr. Muhammad Shahid Masood, General Secretary of the Sindh Volleyball Association, were also present. Additionally, Mr. Muhammad Kashif, Event Organizer (Men) and Sports Officer of SMIU, Mr. Hussain Imam Qadri, Event Organizer (Women) and Deputy Director of Sports at GC University Hyderabad, members of the selection committee, and Mr. Maqbool Arain, the brand ambassador for the men's event and an international handball player, were in attendance. ■





## SMIU hosts opening ceremony of Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports Provincial League Handball (Men)



uled to take place in Karachi from May 2 to May 6. Dr. Sahrai also emphasized the need for the HEC to promote regional games, which are part of our culture. He highlighted SMIU's achievements over the past three years, including an increase in student enrollment from 1,800 to 5,500,

The DSA organized the inauguration ceremony of the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports Provincial League for Handball (Men) on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at SMIU. The event, held at the inner courtyard of SMIU's Main Building, was inaugurated by Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan; Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC; Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU; Mr. Javed Ali Memon, Director/Incharge of HEC Pakistan; Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director of DSA; and other officials.

During his address at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai expressed

gratitude to the HEC Chairman for attending the event. He praised the HEC's role in higher education and sports, commending their initiative to encourage sports in the country.

Dr. Sahrai noted that 1,500 players had participated in trials across five divisions of

Sindh—Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana, and Sukkur. Out of these, 60 players were selected for the final matches, which were sched-



the creation of income resources, and a reduction in expenditures. Additionally, he mentioned the establishment of the I.T. Tower, Mulla Research Lab, Allama





I.I. Kazi Lab, and Youth Development Center at SMIU. With the support of Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, SMIU's Model School received a separate budget of Rs. 90 million, and faculty projects worth Rs. 39 million were approved. Dr. Sahrai commended the efforts of Chairman HEC Pakistan Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi, and Mr. Javed Memon, Regional Director HEC Pakistan in Sindh, for their contributions to higher education and sports in the country. The Vice Chancellor also praised Director DSA Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Sports Officer Mr. Muhammad Kashif, and their team for organizing the successful inaugural session and related activities.

Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, in his speech, stressed the need for universities to receive separate sports budgets from the HEC to regularly organize sports events. He highlighted that sportsmen contribute to presenting a positive image of the country internationally and should be supported. Dr. Rafi assured that HEC Pakistan and Sindh HEC would work together to promote sports in the country.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed congratulated Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai on receiving a second tenure as Vice Chancellor of SMIU. Dr. Ahmed



expressed his belief that Dr. Sahrai's continued service was in the best interest of SMIU, an institution closely associated with the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He also praised Dr. Sahrai for successfully hosting the opening ceremony of the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports Provincial League at SMIU.

Dr. Ahmed noted that there are currently 262 universities in the country, and all must encourage student participation in sports events. He lamented the loss of playgrounds in many universities, colleges, and schools and emphasized the need for HEC support to ensure that students have access to sports facilities.

He expressed a desire to see Pakistani athletes compete in the Olympics and other international games.

On this occasion, Director DSA Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed welcomed the guests, and Mr. Yahiya Hussaini, a noted sports anchor, conducted the proceedings. Souvenirs were presented to the guests at the end of the ceremony.

The event was attended by Director HEC Pakistan Mr. Javed Ali Memon, players from five sports teams representing different divisions of Sindh, their sports directors, HEC officials, faculty members, heads of various departments, and SMIU students. ■



## Closing Ceremony of Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports League Handball (Male)



deans and other university officials, distributed trophies and medals to the top three teams: Hyderabad, Karachi, and Larkana. The winning teams received cash prizes of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 5,000, and Rs. 3,000, respectively. Dr. Sahrai also presented shields to the organizers of the championship, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director



SMIU, in collaboration with the HEC Pakistan's Regional Directorate of Sindh, successfully organized the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports League for Handball (Men) in the province. The championship took place from May 2 to 6, 2024, in Karachi, with teams from Sindh's five divisions: Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur, and Larkana participated in it. The Hyderabad team secured first place, Karachi came second, and Larkana finished third.

The Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) at SMIU, along with its sports section, played a major role in organizing the events throughout the province. SMIU also hosted the inaugural and closing ceremonies at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium on May 2 and May 6, respectively.

At the closing ceremony on May 6, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai was the chief guest. He, along with

DSA, and Mr. Muhammad Kashif, Sports Officer. A shield was also given to noted sports anchor Mr. Yahiya Hussaini. During the ceremony, the Director DSA presented a shield to Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai.

In his address, Dr. Sahrai emphasized the importance of involving youth in healthy and positive activities to foster their contribution to the national interest and to steer them away from negative activities. He praised the HEC Pakistan for its initiative in providing sports opportunities

through the Prime Minister's

Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, which has helped develop strong handball teams from all five divisions of Sindh.

Congratulating the winning teams, Dr. Sahrai announced that the top two teams Hyderabad and Karachi would advance to the national championship scheduled to be held in Peshawar. He expressed hope that these talented players would compete at national and international levels in the future. He credited the success of the league to







players for their participation and expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and HEC Pakistan for their support throughout the events.

The closing ceremony was attended by SMIU Deans Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Advisor on Academics Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Registrar Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, other officials, faculty members, and students. ■

Chairman HEC Pakistan Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Regional Director of HEC Pakistan in Sindh Mr. Javed Ahmed Memon, and SMIU's organizers Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed and Mr. Muhammad Kashif, for their significant efforts.

Dr. Sahrai mentioned that, following this experience, SMIU would form its own handball team as the university is committed to promoting sports and student-centered activities through its eight student societies.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director DSA, noted that 1,500 players had participated in the trials held across the five divisions of Sindh. Out of these, 60 players from five teams were selected for the final championship in Karachi. He thanked all the





# 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress 2024



*National and International Speakers Highlight Importance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress*

Sindh Madressatul Islam University organized a two-day “2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress-2024” (2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU GRC) and six international conferences on February 28 & 29 at its campus under the theme of “Re-envisioning Society with Nature-Inspired Smart Communities.”

It was a grand event that was attended by a large number of scholars, researchers, and academicians from all parts of the country and abroad. During the two days of the congress, SMIU looked like a research festival as all its historic buildings were decorated with panaflexes and other decorative items.

The SMIU faculty, under the guidance of Vice Chancellor

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, played a major role in this mega event. Officers, other employees, and students fulfilled their assigned responsibilities with dedication. All three academic blocks: Main Building, Talpur House, and the I.T Tower, hosted different international conferences.

Before the commencement of the Congress, a briefing was held for CEC members and heads of departments by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai to review and finalize the arrangements. A brief report on the briefing and other proceedings of the Congress and International Conferences are provided below:

## Briefing by Honourable Vice Chancellor About 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC 2024



A briefing session about the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC was held on February 26, 2024, at the Senate Hall of the university, which was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of SMIU, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai. It was attended by the Central Executive Committee’s (CEC) Convener, Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, and members, including Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dean Faculty of Information Technology, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dean Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Dr. Abdul Hafeez

Khan, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor on Academic Affairs, Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani (who was also Secretary of the CEC), Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Registrar, Mr. Asif Hussain Samo, Assistant Professor, Ms. Quratulain Nazeer, Assistant Professor, Syed Azeem Imam, Assistant Professor, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Memon, Additional Director Finance, Mr. Abdul Waheed Jatoti, Additional Director I.T., Anwar Ali Abro, Director PR Department, and Asif Ghafar, Director Broadcasting and Media Training.

Among other participants of the briefing were chairpersons of different academic departments of the varsity, including Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Dr. Subhash Babu, Dr. Riaz





Ahmed Mangrio, Dr. Stephen John, Dr. Hina Shahzad, Director of Finance Mr. Ghulam Ali Surhio, Director of I.T. Dr. Shah Mohammad Butt, Director of Works and Services Mr. Shairan, Director of the Library Mr. Shahnawaz Mahessar, Incharge of Transport Mr. Ghulam Ali Ramejo, and other officials. Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani, Secretary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU GRC, conducted the proceedings.

During the briefing session, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, announced the final arrangements for the Congress. It was stated that the inaugural session of the Congress would be held on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium, while the six international conferences, organized by the six faculties of the university, would be inaugurated at different venues.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, while addressing the session, said that SMIU was going to organize a unique global research congress along with six international conferences on different subjects from Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

He stated that there would be a strong presence of distinguished scholars from home and abroad, and hence the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC would be more successful than the previous year's GRC. Dr. Sahrai mentioned that SMIU had set high standards by organizing the Global Research Congress, which would ultimately promote research work in the country. "Since 2020, when I assumed the vice-chancellorship of SMIU, I have prioritized research work and preferred to utilize the available resources of the university for this cause. Thus, we discovered the magic of the historic buildings of SMIU and carried out all activities here smoothly. The GRC is also being held within the premises of SMIU," he added.

Providing details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU GRC, its Convener, Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, said that six prominent research scholars from abroad and six from the country's provinces were attending the Congress. Among the scholars are Prof. Dr. Keith Barton, Professor at Indiana University, USA; Ms. Shajara Ul-Durar, Associate Professor at the University of Sunderland, United Kingdom; Dr. Solnyshkina Marina Ivanovna, Professor at Kazan Federal University, Russia; Dr. Ridwan Adetunji Raji of Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Dr. Norsiah Abdul Hamid, Associate Professor at University Utara Malaysia (UUM); Dr. Mohd Sobhi Ishak, Associate Professor at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM); Prof. Dr. Jürgen Hescheler, renowned German physician and researcher; Dr. Shuo Yu, Associate Professor at Dalian University of Technology; Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad; Dr. Jawad Syed of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad, Acting Dean and Professor at Air University, Islamabad; Dr. Nadeem Javaid of COMSATS University, Islamabad; Dr. Shahida Sajjad, Vice Chancellor of Metropolitan University; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Mehran University, Jamshoro; Prof. Dr. Riaz



Ahmed Shaikh, Dean Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, SZABIST, Karachi; Ms. Ambar Shamsi, Director CEJ, IBA, Karachi; senior journalist Mr. Sohail Sangi; Shahzeb Jillani, noted columnist; Dr. Tauseef Ahmed Khan and other speakers are expected to participate in different sessions of the Congress and international conferences.

Dr. Channar further informed that 49 panelists from different fields were participating in nine panel discussion sessions, while there would be 140 technical sessions across the six international conferences organized by different faculties of the university. Thus, around 1,000 research scholars are participating in the two-day Congress. He also mentioned that 30 research scholars would chair different sessions, and similarly, there would be 30 co-chairs. Some online sessions are also scheduled.

The Convener said the technical sessions of the international conferences would be held simultaneously at 19 venues across the three buildings of SMIU, including the Main Building, Talpur House, and I.T. Tower. Different committees were also formed to execute the assigned duties during the two days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU GRC. ■







# DAY ONE

## Inauguration Ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Congress



Quratulain Nazir Ahmed, who played a significant role in organizing the Congress alongside other CEC members and administrative staff, conducted the session.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Consul General of China Yang Yundong, Consul General of Turkiye Cemal Sangu, Secretary of Universities and Boards Noor Ahmed Samo, Russian scholar Dr. Solnyshkina Marian Ivanovna, American scholar Prof. Dr. Keith, UK Scholar Dr. Shajara Ul Durar, and others inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress by lighting a globe.

Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU and host of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC, then delivered a welcome address, expressing his appreciation to the guests who traveled from Russia, the USA, the UK, Vietnam,



The mega event of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Congress and six international conferences began with an inaugural session on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium. The auditorium was filled with national and international scholars, academicians, officers, students, distinguished personalities, and media personnel. The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the playing of the National Anthem, which all participants stood to honor.

Following this, the formal proceedings commenced. Assistant Professor of SMIU and member of the Central Executive Committee of the GRC-24, Ms.







the UAE, and various parts of Pakistan to participate in the Congress.

In his speech, Dr. Sahrai mentioned that the idea of holding the Global Research Congress originated from the young and dynamic faculty of SMIU, who envisioned organizing a Congress with five international conferences last year. Believing in the confidence, innovative ideas, and spirit of youth, they successfully organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Research Congress in 2023. This second edition of the GRC attracted even more scholars from across Pakistan and abroad compared to the previous congress.

Dr. Sahrai emphasized that the Global Research Congress is a hallmark of Sindh Madressatul Islam University in Pakistan, which would yield beneficial outcomes for the nation, the country, and the global community. He also highlighted that SMIU is advancing in research, publishing six research journals recognized by the HEC Pakistan. Additionally, the university's research output by faculty has significantly increased. As a researcher and academic himself, Dr. Sahrai expressed hope that the conference would produce tangible outcomes, especially as it also included six international conferences, with findings to be shared with stakeholders both nationally and internationally.

Subsequently, Chairman of the Higher

Education Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, delivered his speech online. He congratulated Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and his team for organizing the highly valuable Global Research Congress and expressed his honor and delight in participating.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasized the importance of the Congress, noting that the participation of Consul Generals from China and Turkiye, along with other international speakers, underscores the need to find collective solutions to the challenges facing humanity. He remarked that this Congress represents a significant milestone in the life and history of SMIU, providing opportunities for learners, researchers, faculty, and students. He added that participants from different regions and countries could learn from each other's experiences, knowledge, and research. Furthermore, the Congress would

establish a network among participating scholars to collaborate in the future.

The HEC Chairman expressed hope that the Congress would conclude with a roadmap for future collaboration in various areas and advised Dr. Sahrai to share the Congress's roadmap and findings with HEC so that a strategy for developing higher education and society could be formulated.

In his speech, the Consul General of China in Karachi, Mr. Yang Yundong, highlighted the strong brotherly relations







between Pakistan and China. He noted that in 2017, China's first university launched the Pakistan-China Corridor, and today, 16 Chinese universities are affiliated with Pakistani universities, some of which even offer Urdu language courses. He added that China is collaborating with Pakistan in many areas, including global warming, and that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a comprehensive plan for enhancing relations between the two countries, which continues to improve.

The Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi, Mr. Cemal Sangu, spoke of the historic and emotional connection between Turkiye and Sindh Madressatul Islam, noting that Sultan Abdul Hameed of the Ottoman Empire awarded the founder of Sindh Madressatul Islam, Hassanally Effendi, with two of Turkiye's highest civil titles, "Bey" and "Effendi," in recognition of his contributions to modern education in Sindh and his support for Turkiye in its war with Russia. He announced that the Turkish Consulate in Karachi would soon build a mausoleum for Hassanally Effendi in Hyderabad, Sindh. Mr. Sangu also remarked that the Global Research Congress would play a significant role in promoting research in Pakistan and other



countries.

Mr. Noor Ahmed Samo, Secretary of Universities and Boards, Government of Sindh, in his speech, stated that the Global Research Congress was unique in its theme and would undoubtedly provide actionable recommendations to the Government of Sindh for implementation. He congratulated the Vice Chancellor and faculty of SMIU for organizing such a significant event, and as a representative of the Sindh Government, he emphasized that Sindh is the only province in Pakistan that recognizes the value of higher education more than other provinces.

The Secretary mentioned that the Sindh provincial government allocated 23 billion rupees in grants for 29 public sector universities and approximately 12 billion rupees for their development schemes, in contrast to the Punjab government's allocation of only 5 billion rupees for its universities.

The memorable session concluded with the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Majeed Sahrai, presenting souvenirs to the guests.

## International Conferences

Following International Conferences were organized by six faculties of SMIU during the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC-2024 respectively:

- **Faculty of Management, Business Administration & Commerce** organized "3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Management, Business and Leadership (ICMBL-2024)" on the theme of "Biometric Innovations: Framework for Business during VUCA Times." Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Jawad Syed and Dr. Shajara Ul Durar.
- **Faculty of Information Technology**







organized “3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Computing and Related Technologies (ICCRT-2024)” on the theme of “Nature Inspired Computing Technologies and Applications.” Keynote speaker was Prof. Dr. Nadeem Javaid.

- **Faculty of Sciences** organized “2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Green and Sustainable Environment (ICGSE-2024)” on Emerald Horizons: Nurturing Green Development Through Nature-Inspired Smart Communities.” Keynote speaker was Dr. Abdul Sattar Nizami.
- **Faculty of Social Sciences** organized “2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Media and Social Development (ICMSD-2024)” on the theme of “Sustainable Development and Media Communication for Inclusive, Peaceful and Smart Communities.” Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque and Dr. Ridwan Adetunji Raji.
- **Faculty of Education** organized “1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development (ICTESD-2024)” on the theme of “Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice in Education for Sustainable Development by Fostering Creativity and Entrepreneurial Skills Among

Learners and Educators.” Keynote speaker was Prof. Dr. Keith Barton.

• **Faculty of Language and Culture** organized “2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Re-Imagining Applied Linguistics and Language Practices (2<sup>nd</sup> ICRALLP-2024) on the theme of “Re-envisioning Societies through Making Indigenous Languages and Cultures the Focal Point.” Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad and Prof. Dr. Solnyshkina Marina Ivanovna.



## Inauguration Ceremonies of International Conferences

As previously mentioned, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC, six international conferences organized by the six faculties were inaugurated separately at different venues.

At the International Conference organized by the Faculty of Culture, Dr. Solnyshkina Marina Ivanovna, Professor of Linguistics at Kazan Federal University, Russia, spoke about text complexity, while Dr. Wasima Shahzad, Professor of Linguistics at Air University, Islamabad, discussed corpus linguistics.

During the two-day International Conference organized by the Department of English, 10 parallel sessions were held each day, where nearly 40 research papers were presented. The sessions were chaired by esteemed international and national scholars. ■





## Panel discussion on ‘Sustainable Energy Narratives and Local Communities in Sindh’



The Faculty of Social Sciences organized a panel discussion on “Sustainable Energy Narratives and Local Communities in Sindh” on Wednesday, February 28, at the Senate Hall of SMIU. Mr. Sohail Sangi, Senior Journalist and Faculty Member at the Federal Urdu University, Karachi; Ms. Mehwish, Program Manager at the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED); and Mr. Yasir Darya of the Climate Action Centre were among the panelists. The session was moderated by Ms. Zeenia Shaukat, Director of The Knowledge Forum, Karachi.



The speakers highlighted the plight of local communities affected by development projects, noting that these communities often suffered more than they benefited from such initiatives. Using the example

of Thar, they pointed out that local communities had not been granted their rightful entitlements and were even deprived of clean drinking water by the authorities. They added that similar situations existed in other parts of the province. The panelists suggested that the government should prioritize the welfare of local communities when initiating development projects.

Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Convener of the GRC, and Dr. Sana Shahid, Assistant Professor at SMIU, also shared their views. At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Zahid Ali Channar presented shields to the guests. ■





## Panel Discussion on Integrating Sustainable Across Teacher Curricula: Challenges, Opportunities and Practices



This session was organized by the Faculty of Education at SMIU on Wednesday, February 28. The panelists included Mr. Keith Casey Barton from the USA, Secretary of Education for the Government of Sindh Dr. Shireen Mustafa Narejo, Dr. Sajid Ali, Mrs. Salma, Dr. Abdul Sattar Almani, Dr. Hina Kazmi, Dr. Anjum Bano, and Dr. Shahida Sajid. Mr. Hassan Raza moderated the session.

The panelists stressed that teachers must be well-versed in the curriculum and modern sciences to educate and train students effectively. They suggested that the Sindh government should foster public-private partnerships in the education and health sectors to enhance public services. They argued that without the cooperation of the private sector, it would be challenging to provide modern facilities in these areas. Additionally, they pointed



During the discussion, Dr. Shireen Mustafa Narejo emphasized that to advance society in the right direction, there is a need for better teacher training alongside the development of a modern curriculum.

Other panelists expressed the view that the educational curriculum must be aligned with contemporary needs. They also noted that educated parents are essential for the proper upbringing of children, but unfortunately, the required number of educated parents is still lacking in rural areas.

out that the existence of separate curricula in private and public sector educational institutions in Sindh creates feelings of inferiority or superiority among students, which negatively impacts their lives and society as a whole.

The session concluded with a question-and-answer segment. In the end Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Convener of the GRC presented shields to the participants of the panel discussion. ■





## Panel Discussion on 'Linguistics in Pakistan: Past, Present and Future'



This panel discussion session was held on February 28 at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium. The panelists included Prof. Dr. Asadullah Larik, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Sciences at Hamdard University, Karachi; Prof. Dr. Ghulam Ali Buriro, Professor at the Institute of English Language and Literature (IELL), University of Sindh, Jamshoro; Prof. Dr. Sajida Zaki, Professor and Head of the Department of English Linguistics and Allied Subjects at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi; Prof. Dr.



Shumaila Memon, Professor and Director of CELL at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro; Prof. Dr. Tariq Hassan Umrani, Professor at IELL, University of Sindh, Jamshoro; and Dr. Niaz Hussain Soomro, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English at Government College University, Hyderabad. Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, Assistant Professor in the English Department, moderated the session.

The panelists commended the evolution of English departments across universities in Sindh and discussed the paradigm shift from exonormative tendencies to endonormative approaches in linguistic research. They emphasized the importance of preserving indigenous



languages and cultures while cautioning against neglecting the global significance of the English language.

Bachelor's and Master's students from the department also engaged with the esteemed panelists during the question-and-answer session. On this occasion Dr. Riaz Ahmed Mangrio, Incharge Chairperson of the English Department presented souvenirs to the participants of the panel discussion. ■







## DAY TWO

### Panel Discussion on

### ‘Population Challenges and Social Inclusion: Role of Media in Shaping Peaceful and Smart Communities’



The Faculty of Social Sciences organized a panel discussion on “Population Challenges and Social Inclusion: Role of Media in Shaping Peaceful and Smart Communities” on Thursday, February 29.

Prominent academicians and media professionals were among the panelists. They expressed the view that society must control population growth, as our limited resources cannot meet the needs of an expanding population. What is considered a blessing can easily turn into a curse.

Dr. Tauseef Ahmed Khan, former Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication at Federal Urdu University, Karachi, and a noted columnist, stated that the media has played a pivotal role in transforming society and educating the public. He emphasized that the media could play a major role in spreading awareness about family planning



Dr. Riaz Ahmed Shaikh, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Sciences at SZABIST, Karachi, argued that we need to openly discuss population issues and family planning to create a sustainable society. Without addressing these issues, we cannot control the problems that arise from unchecked population growth. He pointed out that the lack of direction in population control is a significant reason why we face multiple problems.

Senior journalist Shahzeb Jillani ob-

served that family planning has not been taken seriously as a major social issue. He also noted that both traditional and social media have the potential to raise awareness about population issues, which are a core problem in our society.

served that family planning has not been taken seriously as a major social issue. He remarked that in our society, male members typically have the final say in deciding how many children to have, while women are often denied the right to make decisions about family planning. He also noted that even within the elite class in cities, there is a reluctance to discuss family planning, making it even more challenging to address these issues in rural areas. “Even female doctors are hesitant to guide people about family planning,” Jillani said, adding that women in the country must be empowered to make their own decisions. He stressed that there are many societal taboos that must be overcome.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar, a noted intellectual and Professor at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, pointed out that our livelihood resources, such as agriculture and fisheries, have not increased, while the population continues to grow rapidly. He mentioned that we lack accurate data on the population and informal labor, including peasants, domestic workers, and other





daily wage earners. He also highlighted that 80 percent of our groundwater is not drinkable, leading to widespread health problems. Pollution and environmental issues are major concerns in our country, with many other problems arising as their byproducts.

The session concluded with a question-and-answer segment. It was moderated by Dr. Subhash Babu, Chairperson of the Department of Social and Development Studies at SMIU. In the end Dr. Zahid Ali Channar along with Dr. Subhash Babu presented shields to the guests. ■

## Penal Discussion on 'Artificial intelligence: Future Trends in Research, Diagnosis, Ethical Considerations and Job Market Implications'



jobs would become increasingly prevalent, highlighting the need to focus on this sector. They emphasized the necessity for further research in medicine, pointing out that while medicines are developed after extensive research, new bacteria, such as the coronavirus, continue to emerge, reducing the effectiveness of antibiotics.

The session concluded with a question-and-answer segment, which



The Faculty of Information Technology organized a panel discussion on "Artificial Intelligence: Future Trends in Research, Diagnosis, Ethical Considerations, and Job Market Implications" on Thursday, February 29, at the university auditorium.

Distinguished experts in IT and artificial intelligence from Pakistan, including Dr. Mehtab Alam, Professor at the University of Karachi; Dr. Muhammad Hassan, Professor at JPMC; Dr. Imtiaz Hussain; Dr. Danish Jameel; and Dr. Nauman Ali Khan, shared their insights on various aspects of AI. The experts noted that AI technology essentially involves a form of facial recognition



that relies heavily on intuition. They observed that this knowledge was present among our ancestors. According to them, AI has exposed everything in the world, leaving no secrets hidden. Every action we take is recorded and transmitted to the cloud, where it is utilized. The experts predicted that data collection



was moderated by Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Assistant Professor in the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Mathematical Sciences. In the end Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dean Faculty of Information Technology presented shields to the guests of the session. ■



## Panel Discussion on ‘Integrating Sustainability into Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities from the Perspective of Academicians’



A highly significant session titled “Integrating Sustainability into Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities from the Perspective of Academicians” was held on February 29 at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium. Distinguished academicians from Pakistan, Russia, the USA, and the UK participated in the discussion. They expressed concerns about the decreasing natural resources and the increasing consumption of resources such as natural gas and water, and they also highlighted the alarming rate of population growth.

The panelists emphasized the urgent need for sustainability in development at all levels. They suggested that everyone should contribute to sustainability within their respective fields, both individually and collectively, and that sustainability should be incorporated into higher education curricula.

Dr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili, former Vice Chancellor and current Pro-

Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, stated that the natural resources we use are no longer sustainable and are being depleted at the expense of future generations. He pointed out that development comes with costs and that sustainability is often overlooked in developing countries. Dr. Uqaili noted that energy resources have been overused, leading to shortages even in Karachi, and highlighted that while there is a push for recycling, countries like Germany have achieved zero waste. He stressed the need for capacity-building training for youth to promote sustainability.

Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro of the ECO Science Foundation emphasized the importance of educating people about sustainability, the factors affecting the environment, and the skills and technologies required to achieve sustainability without focusing solely on SDGs and targets. He argued that education, including



SDGs 4 and 5, should be comprehensive and accessible to all. To meet these targets, he suggested starting with early childhood education, building upon it through tertiary education, and then higher education. He proposed engaging the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to involve school children, university students, faculty, industry, media, and other stakeholders on a unified platform. ■







Dr. Keith Casey Barton, Professor at Indiana University, USA, mentioned that American universities centralize their efforts, and no one, including government officials or university leaders, can mandate specific goals. He viewed sustainability as a long and gradual process but emphasized its importance for ensuring a secure future.

Dr. Fateh Mohammad Marri, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, discussed food sustainability. He noted that while natural resources such as land, water, and forest reservoirs are limited, the population continues to grow, increasing the demand for food. He pointed out that changes in consumption patterns and urbanization exert significant pressure on natural resources. Dr. Marri stressed the need to meet current demands without compromising future needs or the interests of future generations. He also emphasized the importance of integrating sustainability into higher education and improving production and productivity. He highlighted that only about 3 percent of the eligible cohort accesses higher education, leaving 90 percent still outside it. He called for making education sustainable for all children.



Dr. Jawad Syed, Professor at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), underscored the need for universities to reassess their priorities, as students are not responsible for these issues; rather, they are the products of the education system. He suggested evaluating key performance indicators (KPIs) to determine how many courses incorporate sustainability.

Ms. Shajara Ul Durar, Associate Professor at the University of Sunderland, UK, emphasized the need to empower students through projects and to hold educational leadership accountable. She noted that over 50 percent of students in UK universities are female, and efforts are ongoing to increase this number and address gender equality. She suggested that educational institutions should publish social impact reports and integrate them into academia.

Dr. Solnyshkina Marina Ivanovna, Professor of Linguistics at Kazan University, Russia, shared her success story and discussed the social and educational conditions during the Soviet Union era and in the present day. She explained how she received education in German and then English, which broadened her perspective. She noted that Russian edu-



cational institutions offer mixed courses and emphasized the need to contribute to society and sustainability without gender discrimination. She highlighted that Russia, rich in natural resources, has achieved sustainability in various areas.

Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce at SMIU, moderated the session.



The session was attended by Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of the Sindh HEC; Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of SMIU; national and international scholars; SMIU faculty; heads of various academic and administrative departments; and students. At the end of the session, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai presented souvenirs to the guests. ■





## Prof. Jawad Syed's Special Session on 'Biomimetic Innovation and Entrepreneurship'

The Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce organized a special session with Prof. Dr. Jawad Syed of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on "Biomimetic Innovation and Entrepreneurship" during the 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC-2024.

In his talk, Dr. Jawad Syed explained that we could enhance our lives and businesses by learning from the environment and natural systems around us. He suggested that this approach could significantly reduce energy expenditures and provide high-quality, cost-effective services and products to customers.

He further noted that while architects in European countries have begun con-

structing buildings in harmony with nature, this environmentally friendly trend has not gained much traction in our country. Dr. Syed provided the example of Japan, where the design of high-speed bul-

let trains was inspired by the kingfisher bird. By modifying the train's design based on this inspiration, Japan increased the train's speed by 20% and reduced the noise generated during acceleration.

Dr. Syed also discussed research on biomimetic and nature-friendly innovations, citing the example of termite mounds in forests. He explained that these mounds allow fresh air to circulate, which is essential for the termites' survival. This natural ventilation method has inspired architects worldwide to design buildings that mimic this model. Such buildings maintain lower temperatures, protect against extreme heat, and reduce the need

for air conditioning, thereby decreasing environmental pollution.

Dr. Syed opined that many countries are adopting nature-friendly ideas to improve current living conditions and create a sustainable environment for future generations. He emphasized the importance of learning from these models to advance our country and improve the lives of ordinary people.

On this occasion, Mr. Zaki Rashidi of Iqra University Karachi emphasized the need to return to environmentally friendly practices and reconnect with nature.

Dean of the Faculty of Management, Business Administration, and Commerce, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, thanked the participants for their contributions and for sharing their valuable insights with the faculty and students of SMIU.

Ms. Quratulain Nazeer, Assistant Professor at SMIU, delivered the vote of thanks, while Mr. Asif Hussain Samo, Assistant Professor at SMIU, conducted the session. ■



Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai invited the members of Central Executive Committee at stage and introduced them with the audience. He praised their role in organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Congress along with the secretaries of the international conferences. The Vice Chancellor also praised the role of officers of SMIU and other employees who worked with great dedication to accomplish their assignments. His same praise was for students who voluntarily fulfilled their responsibilities bestowed upon them by the CEC. ■



# TECHNICAL SESSIONS

During the two days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Congress six international conferences were organized, where about 140 technical sessions were held on various topics. A brief of a few technical sessions is given below.

## Teachers' Role for Sustainable Development

This technical session was chaired by Syeda Rakhshanda while Dr. Rabia Aslam was co- chair. The program was moderated by Amara Shams.

Addressing the session, the speakers said research was not just a paper work but it played a role of backbone for sustainable development of the society.

## Academic Librarianship Trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

This session was chaired by Dr. Mahboob Ali Dahraj. The speakers highlighted the importance of libraries and no society can ignore importance of libraries. They were of the opinion that the power of information and knowledge helped people to move forward. They said nations that were far from libraries could not climb the ladder of sustainable development. Dr. Danish moderated the program.

## The role of leadership and management during turmoil

The session was chaired by Dr. Amir Manzoor, with Dr. Adnan Khurshid serving as the co-chair. Addressing the ses-

sion, the speakers highlighted that the war situation affecting domestic and working women reflects their mental health status. They explained that women manage both homes and institutions, and it is natural for them to express frustration if they experience fatigue and other problems.

## Finance

This is session was chaired by Dr. Irfan Haider Shakri and Dr. Sarah Wali Qazi was co-chair and Shafiq Ahmed hosted it. The speakers said experiences and knowledge reduce financial risk of people. They were of the view that improving finances requires better future planning.

Some pictures of the technical sessions are given as under:





## TECHNICAL SESSIONS IN PICTURES

Photos By SMIU Students





## TECHNICAL SESSIONS IN PICTURES





## TECHNICAL SESSIONS IN PICTURES







During the 2nd GRC of SMIU, an informal meeting of the Consul General of China in Karachi Mr. Yang Yundong, Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi Mr. Cemal Sangu and Vice Chancellor of SMIU Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai was held on February 28, 2024 at the Vice Chancellor's office. They exchanged views on mutual cooperation in the field of higher education.

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS IN PICTURES







## Concluding Ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC-24



In his speech, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University and host of the Global Research Congress and the six international conferences, stated that the congress was a significant initiative of SMIU's faculty with an international impact. Dr. Sahrai emphasized that SMIU believes in advancing the country through research and is committed to investing its energies in this field.



The two-day 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress, organized by Sindh Madressatul Islam University, concluded on a highly positive note. The speakers agreed that it was a highly successful global event, providing a platform for scholars from six foreign countries and about one thousand participants from various parts of the country. These participants contributed to the congress and the six international conferences in various ways. Such global events are essential for exchanging views, ideas, and experiences, ultimately benefiting the country.



He thanked the national and international scholars who contributed to the success of the congress and conferences with their presence. He also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister of Sindh,







Honorable Syed Murad Ali Shah, for his support of SMIU and other public sector universities in Sindh during his previous tenure. Under his leadership, the grant for universities was increased from 6 billion rupees to 23 billion rupees, enhancing their sustainability. Dr. Sahrai also acknowledged the supportive role



of Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, who provided financial support for the congress and commended SMIU for organizing the international event. Additionally, he thanked the Department of Universities and Boards of Sindh for their support and appreciated the organizers and students of the congress for their dedication and hard work.

In his speech, Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, congratulated Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and his team for organizing the successful event. He viewed the congress as a positive step forward and recommended that SMIU establish collaborative linkages with the international faculty who participated. Dr. Rafi



also suggested that the recommendations from the congress and international conferences be sent to policymakers and Sindh HEC, while noting that individual universities could implement these recommendations. American scholar Prof. Dr. Keith also shared his views on the congress. ■







Organisers of the 2nd GRC with Vice Chancellor of SMIU, Chairman Sindh HEC and national and international guests.

## CONVENERS' REPORT of Two-Day GRC

*57 panelists participated in the panel discussions, 204 scholars were chair and co-chair in 120 technical sessions and 22 were keynote speakers.*



Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, the convener of the Congress, presented the report on the two-day Global Research Congress. He noted that over the course of the congress and the international conferences, 57 panelists participated in panel discussions. Additionally, 204 scholars served as chairs and co-chairs in 120 technical sessions, and 22 were keynote speakers, including four foreign scholars who delivered speeches and presentations. At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani, Secretary of the Congress, presented the vote of thanks, while Mr. Wafa Mansoor Buriro, Assistant Professor at SMIU, conducted the proceedings.

During the event, Dr. Tariq Rafi and Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai awarded shields to the organizers of the congress and conferences. ■

## AWARDS FOR ORGANIZERS

During the concluding session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress 2024, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai and Chairman of Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi recognized the innovative ideas, managerial skills, leadership qualities, and sincere efforts of the members of the Central Executive Committee and the secretaries of the various international conferences. They presented shields to these individuals in appreciation of their contributions. ■

### CEC MEMBERS

Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dr. Jamshed Adil Halepoto, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Mr. Asif Hussain Samo, Dr. Aamir Iqbal Umrani, Ms. Quratulain Nazeer, Anwer Ali Abro, Mr. Abdul Waheed Jatoti, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Memon, Syed Azeem Inam and Mr. Asif Ghafar. ■







## SECRETARIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Mr. Shahid Obaid, Assistant Professor at the Department of Business Administration, Dr. Hina Shehzad, Chairperson of the Department Environmental Sciences, Dr. Riaz Ahmed Mangrio, Chairperson of the Department of English, Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khuhro, Chairperson of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Subhash Babu, Chairperson of the Department of Social and Development Studies and Dr. Stephen John, Chairperson of the Department of Education. ■





## Recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Congress and Six International Conferences

During the concluding ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Research Conference and its six international conferences organized by Sindh Madressatul Islam University, recommendations were presented to policymakers for implementation. The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi, Vice Chancellor of SMIU Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, vice chancellors of various universities, national and international scholars, faculty, heads of different sections, and students.

Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, convener of the congress and international conferences, presented the following recommendations during the concluding session:

- **Department of Environment:** It was recommended that higher education institutions establish a Nature-Inspired Innovation Hub as a collaborative space where academia, industry experts, and the global community can engage in practices, discuss, and develop sustainable solutions inspired by nature. There is also a need for projects and research on nature-inspired smart communities, with findings shared with global research and academic communities through open educational practices.
- **Department of Education:** It emphasized the importance of cultivating interdisciplinary dialogues among educators, researchers, and policymakers on policy and curriculum issues in teacher education to shape a sustainable future. It was further recommended that teachers work closely with learners and conduct field analyses before designing courses. Collaboration between educators, industry experts, and students should be fostered to ensure relevance, adaptability, and a commitment to sustainable educational practices. Integrating mental health education into various disciplines was also highlighted as crucial for creating an inclusive and empathetic learning environment.
- **Department of Media and Communication Studies:** It was suggested that media personnel receive training to report ethically on human rights, justice, and social issues. Media professionals should work collaboratively with authorities to provide accurate information and use various media platforms to educate communities on safety and awareness.

The establishment of research centers dedicated to conducting studies, providing policy recommendations, and engaging in advocacy to address societal issues was also recommended.

- **Department of Business Administration:** It was recommended that businesses assume greater responsibility for economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Promoting entrepreneurship and social innovation among higher education learners was emphasized. The practice of publishing sustainability reports has become widespread globally, and companies must act to reduce their environmental and societal impact. Strategies to enhance business students' understanding of circular economy issues, waste management, and business models were deemed necessary.
- **Department of Computer Science:** It was recommended that research projects and collaboration on innovative intelligence computing systems be encouraged. Addressing cybersecurity challenges in Pakistan was highlighted, including the need for resources and expertise. New courses, such as Computer Forensics and Advanced Cybersecurity, should be introduced. The implementation of block-chain technology across industries to improve data security, reduce fraud, and enhance record accuracy was also suggested. Additionally, students should enhance their knowledge in related fields such as Robotics, AI, and Big Data analytics.
- **Department of Language and Culture:** It was recommended that culture and languages be integrated into curricula to enable learners to express and share their ideas with confidence. Promoting these languages on global platforms to support diversity,

pluralism, and cultural openness was emphasized. To preserve cultural heritage, cultural departments should be established across higher education institutions to train teachers and learners about cultural integrity through academic activities. ■





## 2<sup>ND</sup> SMIU GRC AT GLANCE

Sindh Madressatul Islam University took on a festive appearance during the two days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMIU Global Research Congress, held on February 28 and 29, 2024, at SMIU. The entire campus, including its walls, windows, corners, open spaces, and session venues, was adorned with artistic work created by the GRC team, particularly the students. ■



These are some glimpses of refreshment that was served to the guests by the organisers of SMIU on the occasion of 2<sup>nd</sup> GRC, at the inner courtyard of the Main Building. The national and international guests along with the Vice Chancellor of SMIU, consul general of China and Turkiye are seen in the pictures.





# SMIU

Alma-Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah

# Chronicle

January to June 2024



Alma-Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah

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