



## IBA Karachi Awards 1,353 Degrees at Convocation 2024



IBA Karachi held its Convocation for the Class of 2024 at the Main Campus. It marked a momentous occasion as 1,353 graduates were conferred degrees in several disciplines. The graduating batch included 990 graduates from 6 undergraduate programs, 362 graduates from 11 postgraduate programs, and 1 PhD graduate.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was the Honorable Chief Minister of Sindh and Patron IBA, Syed Murad Ali Shah. Ms. Sultana Siddiqui, President of Hum Network & Founder of Moomal Productions attended as a Guest of Honor.

Patron IBA, Mr. Shah, praised IBA for building a legacy of leadership, excellence, and impact, supported by world-class faculty, 70% of whom hold PhD degrees from leading global institutions and serve as an inspiration to all. He stated, "This Convocation holds special significance as IBA prepares to celebrate its 70th Anniversary next year — a Legacy of Leadership, Excellence & Impact".

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, applauded the graduating students on achieving this remarkable milestone which is a testament to their dedication and perseverance. Dr. Zaidi stated, "Today is particularly special as we celebrate the largest graduating class in IBA's history". He added, "This day also marks the beginning of a momentous year as we look forward to celebrating IBA's 70th Anniversary—a testament to our legacy of excellence and transformation."

Ms. Siddiqui applauded the graduates and recognized IBA for its academic excellence & societal impact and the remarkable achievements of its graduates who continue to make their alma mater proud. She stated, "IBA graduates should believe in their abilities, dream big, and hold firmly to the values of integrity and honesty as true success goes beyond personal achievements."

The Convocation Ceremony featured the position holders in various degree programs who were awarded Medals, Shields, and Merit Certificates. Rowing Champion, Syeda Manahil Hussain (Class of 2024), was awarded the 'Excellence in Sports Award'.

## IBA Karachi and Stanford Life Design Lab Join Hands with the Sindh Government to Reimagine Karachi's Future

In a groundbreaking initiative, IBA leadership and faculty from Stanford University's Life Design Lab met with the Sindh government, led by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, for a high-stakes strategy meeting. This collaboration, which began in California earlier this year, has now gained extraordinary momentum with the Stanford team stationed in Karachi to tackle the city's most pressing challenges from within.

The recent strategy meeting brought together key members of the Sindh cabinet, senior bureaucrats, and Stanford experts, focusing on how design thinking can address the critical issues faced by Karachi's 20+ million residents. From easing the traffic crisis to improving public safety and creating accessible open spaces for families, the discussions revolved around delivering swift, meaningful, and sustainable solutions.



The partnership's broader vision goes beyond Karachi's immediate challenges. Over the next three years, IBA team led by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Professor Azam Ali, Assistant Professor, IBA-SBS & Faculty Lead- Stanford & IBA Collaboration; Bill Burnett, Executive Director, Stanford Life Design Lab and Junaid Aziz, an IBA alumnus, Fellow and Faculty Member at Stanford's Life Design Lab, will work closely with the Sindh government to establish a new culture of problem-solving, training ministers, bureaucrats, and students to think differently and act decisively. The Chief Minister has tasked these committees with ensuring that no challenge—be it urban planning, environmental sustainability, or public welfare—is met with outdated approaches.

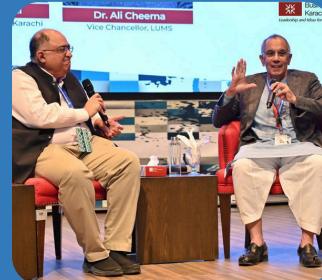
Under Junaid's guidance, Stanford's team and IBA's brightest students will begin working with ministers and provincial action committees formed specifically for this initiative. These teams aim to embed human-centered design practices within government processes, accelerating how solutions can be identified and implemented. Early prototypes include innovative ideas for traffic flow optimization, enhanced public spaces, and community-driven security measures designed to provide immediate relief and long-term benefits to Karachi's hardworking families.



## Fourth Annual International Conference on "Rethinking Economics"

IBA proudly hosted the 4th Annual International Conference on "Rethinking Economics", which was organized in collaboration with IBA-SESS and IBA-CBER.

In his opening remarks, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, emphasized the need for interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to economic challenges, inspiring academics and policymaking, and for students to envision sustainable and inclusive solutions for the future. Kiyoshi Taniguchi, Regional Lead Economist and Marcel Schröder, Country Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), shared insights from the Asian Development Outlook, forecasting 5% growth for developing Asia in 2024. The priorities for Strategy 2030, focusing on climate action, private sector growth, and digital transformation, were highlighted as the country's pressing challenges.



Dr. Lubna Naz, Director, IBA-CBER, delivered the welcome address. She presented the conference's vision and emphasized the significance of expanding on traditional economic thinking. She highlighted that IBA-CBER received a huge response to the call for papers and received 300 research papers while only 40 were selected after a rigorous review. This year, 25% of the panellists and presenters comprised women, reflecting on IBA's commitment to promoting gender equality in economic research and thinking. Participants from 11 countries participated in the conference, and 50 presenters and panellists from within the country, including highly marginalized areas of Pakistan.

The panel discussion "Rethinking International Trade in a Digitalized World" emphasized digitalization in trade, export competitiveness, reduced costs, and seamless operations. Key challenges included weak digital infrastructure, limited cross-border interoperability, and governance gaps. Economic experts in the parallel sessions emphasized innovation and reforms for Pakistan's sustainable growth, spotlighting initiatives like Pakistan Single Window to modernize trade. Dr. Zaidi and Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, discussed higher education challenges in Pakistan, highlighting issues like funding, talent retention, and quality control. They emphasized the role of economists as university leaders, institutional reforms, and nurturing critical thinking and innovation. The session explored globalization's impact and fostering community engagement.

Day 2 featured a panel discussion, "Institutions, Laws, and Development". The panellists included Adeel Malik, Associate Professor, Oxford Department of International Development; Asad Khan, Partner, Ashtar Ali LLP; Sultan Mehmood, Professor, New Economic School, and Laila Farooq, Assistant Professor, IBA-SESS. The experts discussed the perspectives of the laws and institutional development in Pakistan and other countries and the role of laws in building societies. Technical sessions on inflation, growth, digitalization, innovation, and a roundtable on global academic partnerships with foreign faculty and the HEC Sindh Chairman were held.

## Winter Immersion Program 2024: Redefining Entrepreneurship in Academia

IBA proudly conducted the 'Winter Immersion Program (WIP) 2024' at the City Campus, which was organized in collaboration with the IBA-CED. The program brought together renowned international trainers to shed light on the importance of entrepreneurship education, research, and incubation management in academia.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, delivered the keynote address. He highlighted that there needs to be an overhaul of the curriculum taught to students to consider the ever-evolving realm of entrepreneurship.

Dr. Sanna Ilonen, University Teacher and Mr. Joachim Ramstrom, Education Expert on Entrepreneurship & Innovation Education, School of Economics, University of Turku, and Mr. Islam Mohamed, Chief Investment Officer, Arweqah Al Reyadah, Saudi Arabia, were the trainers for the two workshops held over four days.

The first workshop, "Fostering Entrepreneurship in Academia", was led by Dr. Ilonen and Mr. Ramstrom, who have over two decades of combined experience in Entrepreneurship. They allowed participants to develop a robust understanding of the tools and resources needed to create and deliver engaging entrepreneurship modules or courses. The participants included university faculty, incubation centre staff and media professionals in attendance.

The second workshop, led by Mr. Mohamed, one of the brightest minds in the innovation ecosystem, on "Elevating Innovators and Incubators", underscored the necessary hands-on knowledge and skills to design and manage a thriving university-based business incubator program.

Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED, gave the closing remarks. She highlighted that there was a dire need for universities and incubators to engage in such activities and workshops where knowledge exchange and structured discourse took place.

A combination of lectures, interactive discussions, and case studies ensured that the WIP 2024 was a truly immersive learning experience for participants. The event exemplified IBA's dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through impactful collaboration and knowledge exchange.



## Learning from Habib University



Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, warmly welcomed Mr. Wasif A Rizvi, President, Habib University, for an insightful conversation on 'Learning from Habib University.'

The discussion explored Habib University's remarkable journey, its emphasis on undergraduate education, innovative governance, and holistic academic programs. This dialogue also opened exciting opportunities for future collaborations between IBA and HU, including course exchanges, faculty visits, and joint academic initiatives – creating enriching experiences for faculty and students.

## IBA Delegation Engages in Key Discussions on Economic Reform and Sustainability



IBA delegation led by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, engaged in high-level meetings at the World Bank and IFC Headquarters in Islamabad. At the World Bank, discussions with distinguished experts, including Mr. Umer Baloch, Economist at the World Bank; Sir Alaister Norris, former UK High Court Judge and INSOL advisor; and Mr. Sergio Muro, Global Insolvency Lead at the World Bank, focused on advancing Pakistan's insolvency frameworks, aligning with Global Standards, and enhancing economic stability. IBA-CEE's research project, led by Dr. Hilal Anwar Butt, Chairperson, Finance Department, IBA-SBS, commissioned by SECP, aims to modernize corporate restructuring practices in Pakistan.

At the IFC, the team collaborated on Climate Governance and Leadership programs to equip Leaders with ESG skills for tackling climate challenges and fostering sustainable practices in line with Global Standards.

Through these initiatives, IBA continues to lead impactful efforts to drive economic reform, corporate sustainability, and leadership development in Pakistan.

## World Islamic Finance Forum (WIFF) 2024: Bringing Together Global Leaders & Experts to Explore the Future of Islamic Finance



IBA Karachi hosted a two-day conference, World Islamic Finance Forum (WIFF) 2024, with the theme 'Islamic Finance: Innovation, Climate Finance & Sustainable Growth' organized by the IBA-CEIF. The forum was inaugurated at Movenpick Hotel, Karachi, to discuss policy guidelines and academic footprints in Islamic Finance. The conference brought together Regulatory Authorities, Researchers, Policymakers, renowned Academicians, leading Islamic bankers, Shariah Scholars, and prominent personalities from local and global Islamic financial Institutions.

The highlight of the conference was the addresses by the Chief Guest, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi; Dr. Ishrat Husain, Professor Emeritus & Chairman, IBA-CEIF; Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman, SECP; Mr. Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor, SBP, and Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Director, IBA-CEIF.

Dr. Zaidi, in his welcome note, highlighted the significant challenges ahead as Pakistan embarks on a transformative journey to align its economic system with the Islamic principles under the constitutional mandate. The Chief Guest, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, underscored the critical role of quality education in shaping future leaders who can guide the country and world toward progress and prosperity. Addressing a diverse audience, the Federal Minister highlighted the importance of education in imparting knowledge and fostering Innovation, critical thinking, and a sense of ethical responsibility.

Dr. Husain highlighted the stark disparities in poverty levels between urban centres and smaller towns in Pakistan. He explained that targeted innovations in education, infrastructure, and technology can uplift marginalized communities, fostering economic inclusion and resilience.

### Powering the Future with Green



IBA is leading the charge toward a sustainable future with its ambitious green initiatives. As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, IBA has introduced several groundbreaking projects to reduce its carbon footprint and promote renewable energy across its campuses and hostels.

One of the key highlights is the launch of electric-powered shuttles at the IBA Main Campus. These eco-friendly vehicles, powered by the solar plant at the campus, offer a green transportation solution for the campus community. This initiative aligns with IBA's sustainability goals and represents a significant step towards minimizing dependency on fossil fuels, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment.

Additionally, IBA has installed a total solar capacity of 926 kWp across its campuses. The solar infrastructure includes an 826 kWp system at the Main Campus and newly commissioned projects of 200 kWp at the Boys Hostel and 100 kWp at the Girls Hostel. Together, these installations generate an impressive 1.235 million kWh of clean energy annually, resulting in a 33% reduction in energy costs and significant cuts in carbon emissions. The savings from these projects are further being reinvested into student scholarships, demonstrating IBA's dedication to sustainability and community impact.

## 25th Annual Population Research Conference Focusing on Pathways to Sustainable Development

IBA Karachi proudly hosted the 25th Annual Population Research Conference, focusing on the Pathways to Sustainable Development, which was organized in collaboration with the Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) and the Population Research Centre (PRC) at IBA-SESS. The partnership with PAP highlights IBA's dedication to fostering collaboration among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to address Pakistan's evolving demographic challenges.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, delivered the welcome remarks at the engaging inaugural session. Senator (R) Javed Jabbar, Director, Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Nasra Shah, President Executive Council, PAP, highlighted PAP's 25-year journey, reflecting on its contributions to population research.

The first panel, "Pakistan @ 2050," moderated by Dr. Asma Hyder, Dean, IBA-SESS, focused on the country's future challenges, including poverty, urbanization, and climate change. Experts like Dr. Zeba Sathar, Senior Associate and Pakistan Country Director, Population Council; Dr. Heman Das Lohano, Professor of Economics, IBA, Karachi, and Dr. G.M. Arif, Former Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and President Executive Council, PAP, delved into Pakistan's demographic trajectory, examining how rapid urbanization—projected to see over half of the population living in cities by 2050—will impact the nation's social and economic landscape. With 40% of urban residents currently living in slums, the discussion emphasized the urgent need for policies to address the opportunities and risks posed by urban growth and climate change, particularly in relation to migration and demographic shifts.

The spotlight session, "Data for Development" brought together the heads of regional PRCs, including Dr. Khadija Malik Bari, Director, IBA-PRC to discuss their ongoing initiatives, challenges, and opportunities in utilizing data for sustainable development. Dr. Bari highlighted key programs led by IBA-PRC, such as the Young Researchers Workshop Series, which engages emerging scholars to share research tools and methodologies with students, encouraging engagement and collaboration. Additionally, the IBA-PRC hosts a webinar series featuring international scholars, facilitating a global exchange of ideas on how data can be harnessed to address pressing development challenges.

The second day of the conference featured technical sessions and poster presentations on Migration, Brain Drain, Gender, Health Systems, And Data-Driven Decision-Making. The conference's final panel, "Private Sector Contribution in Family Planning", examined the role of the private sector in family planning and the utilization of data to measure impact.



## Silver Jubilee Reunion – Celebrating 25 Years of the EMBA, Class of 1999



The EMBA, Class of 1999, came together at their alma mater to celebrate 25 years of treasured memories and lasting friendships. The reunion was a beautiful blend of laughter, nostalgia, and the strong bonds that continue to unite the IBA family. To mark this milestone, a special memorabilia coin was created as a symbol of the camaraderie and gratitude shared by the class for their time at IBA.

## Celebrating Partnership: Central Depository Company Supports IBA's Mission of Academic Excellence and Inclusivity

IBA Karachi extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Central Depository Company (CDC) for their generous contribution toward supporting deserving students.

This impactful collaboration was marked by a cheque-signing ceremony attended by CDC representatives, including Ms. Sanam Ali Fadu, Head of Human Resources, and Ms. Sana Abbas, Section Head Marketing. Representing IBA were Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Ms. Malahat Awan, Director, Alumni Affairs, Resource Mobilization and Corporate Affairs; Mr. Fuad A. Mehdi, Head of Marketing & Communications; and Ms. Rabeea Yousuf, Resource Mobilization Advancement Specialist.

CDC's commitment to empowering young minds and shaping brighter futures is commendable. IBA deeply appreciates their support in advancing its mission of academic excellence and inclusivity.



## Soch Phir Post: Exploring Misinformation, Privacy, and Climate Narratives

IBA-CEJ, in collaboration with UNDP Pakistan, presents the latest episodes of 'Soch Phir Post,' a podcast series tackling the pressing challenges in today's media landscape.

In Episode 3, host Shahzeb Ahmed speaks with IBA alumna Sana Bari about her research on the profound impact of misinformation and privacy breaches on women's online participation in countries like Pakistan. [Watch here](#).

Episode 4 features an engaging discussion with environmental journalist Afia Salam, who delves into the evolution of climate change narratives and the essential role of accurate reporting in addressing this global crisis. [Watch the full episode here](#).



## Honouring a Legend: Khaled Ahmed's Life and Legacy

IBA-CEJ hosted a poignant online memorial to celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of Khaled Ahmed, one of Pakistan's most esteemed journalists and intellectuals.

Moderated by Raza Rumi, the session brought together a distinguished panel featuring Najam Sethi, Syeda Jugnu Mohsin, and Mubasher Bukhari. Panelists shared heartfelt anecdotes and professional insights, reflecting on Khaled Ahmed's profound impact on Pakistan's journalistic landscape and his role as a mentor and thought leader.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Umber Khairi, who underscored the enduring relevance of his work and the values he championed. [Watch the full session here](#).



## IBA Karachi Triumphs in the Climate Tank Accelerator!

IBA Karachi's team won the prestigious Climate Tank Accelerator! The innovative project, 'Floating Wetlands in Korangi', led by Aleezeh Azmat, Areesha Aslam, Amna Lakha, and Nazish Abro, addresses water pollution while benefiting local communities and ecosystems. Their remarkable achievement includes securing \$1,000 to expand their project and an opportunity to represent Pakistan at a fully funded fellowship in the USA this February.



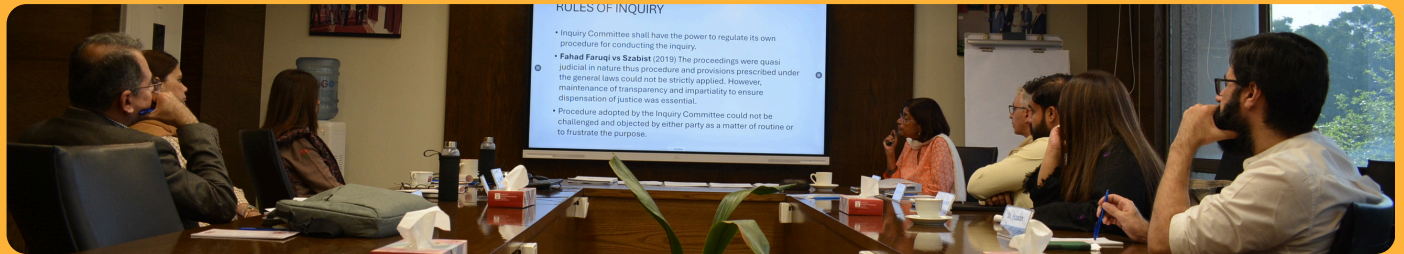


## IBA HR Hosts a Joyful Christmas Celebration

The IBA HR department hosted a heartwarming Christmas celebration to honour the joyous occasion and spread the spirit of togetherness. The event featured a delightful Christmas Tree Decoration activity, organized especially for the Christian staff. Teams showcased their creativity and festive cheer by decorating the Christmas trees with ornaments, lights, and garlands.

Mr. Irfan Qamar, Director, HR, extended warm Christmas greetings on behalf of the Executive Director Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, emphasizing IBA's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates all communities. The HR department distributed festive cakes, symbolizing the joy and happiness that Christmas brings.

The celebration brought smiles to everyone's faces and served as a reminder of the importance of unity and harmony within the IBA family.



## Training on Effective Inquiry Management under the Workplace Act 2010

Ms. Nausheen Ahmad, a seasoned barrister with over 30 years of experience in law and corporate counsel, conducted a specialized training session for seven faculty and staff members of the IBA Anti-Harassment Committee on Effective Inquiry Management under the Workplace Act 2010.

The session provided an in-depth understanding of the Act, emphasizing its provisions for preventing and addressing harassment in the workplace, ensuring procedural fairness, and maintaining confidentiality during investigations.

The training empowered attendees with the tools and knowledge to conduct impartial, thorough, and legally compliant investigations in line with the Act's requirements.

## Leveraging ChatGPT AI for Corporate Success

The IBA HR Department, in collaboration with IBA-CICT, successfully organized its final training session of 2024 on 'Leveraging ChatGPT AI for Corporate Success,' conducted by Dr. Tarik Emre Yildirim, Associate Professor, IBA-SESS and a distinguished academic and AI expert with over 20 years of experience, the session provided insights into integrating ChatGPT into business processes to boost productivity, enhance communication, and drive innovation.

The comprehensive training covered key modules such as streamlining office communication, creating documents and presentations, analyzing complex documents, building personalized AI models, ethical AI practices, exploring DALL-E for creative projects, and a hands-on wrap-up session. Interactive demonstrations and collaborative exercises ensured practical learning for all participants. Participants praised the session for its relevance and effectiveness, making it a fitting and impactful conclusion to IBA's annual training initiatives.



## Trainings @ IBA – December 2024

The training calendar for the month of December 2024 was successfully executed by training 40 participants of IBA Staff in programs as per their training needs.

| Courses   | Participants | Trainers                |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| Effective Inquiry Management under the Workplace Act 2010 | 7            | Ms. Nausheen Ahmad      |
| Leveraging ChatGPT AI for Corporate Success               | 33           | Dr. Tarik Emre Yildirim |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>40</b>    |                         |



## Advancing Research Excellence



IBA faculty, along with a member of the IBA-ORIC team, participated in a four-day training session on 'Proposal Writing and Grant Management for Public-Sector Universities in Pakistan' organized by USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA) in Islamabad. The workshop aimed to enhance research capabilities, refine grant proposal development, and promote innovation within Pakistani universities. Representatives from 16 universities across Pakistan attended the training, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing to support research excellence. This initiative underscores IBA's commitment to advancing research impact and contributing to the broader academic landscape in Pakistan.

## Annual Quality Dialogue Fostering Effective Student Participation in Decision-Making

IBA-QEC successfully hosted its Annual Quality Dialogue, centring on 'The Missing Voice: Addressing Impact and Barriers to Effective Student Participation in Decision-Making'.

The event featured a distinguished panel, including Ms. Maheen Ghauri, Dean, Student Affairs, IBA, Dr. Khairulnissa Ajani, Director, Network of Quality Teaching and Learning, Aga Khan University, and Dr. Mohammad Shahid Shaikh, Interim Associate Dean, Habib University, moderated by Dr. Sana Tauseef, Associate Professor and Director, IBA-QEC.

Representatives from universities across Karachi, including IoBM, NUST, SZABIST, FAST, Karachi University, Indus University, Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Sohail University, Textile Institute of Pakistan, Karachi American School of Business and Information Technology, and Greenwich University participated actively.

Discussions concerned the advantages, challenges, and actionable strategies for fostering meaningful student participation. This vibrant dialogue emphasized the need for inclusive educational practices, inspiring participants to implement change within their institutions.



## Fostering Collaboration and Excellence: IBA-SBS Faculty Engagement Session



IBA-SBS organized a dynamic Faculty Engagement Session, promoting thoughtful discussions and shared understanding.

The first half of the session aimed to enhance faculty engagement with the school's policies, promoting greater awareness and shared understanding. The policies were thoughtfully presented by Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, IBA-SBS and faculty members Dr. Waliullah, Dr. Wajid Rizvi, and Dr. Yasir Mansoor Kundi.

Following this, Dr. Sana Tauseef and Ms. Tahira Jaffery shared an insightful update on the School's faculty resources and research progress. Their presentation spotlighted notable achievements, identified areas for improvement, and charted future directions. Faculty members actively contributed by offering feedback and posing insightful questions, enriching the dialogue further.

Adding a lively twist to the event, Mr. Atif Murtaza led an engaging activity that inspired participation and strengthened camaraderie among the attendees.

The session also marked a heartfelt farewell to two esteemed faculty members. Dr. Huma Amir, a long-serving member of the Marketing Department, was celebrated for her years of dedicated service, mentorship, and inspiration to countless students and colleagues. Similarly, Dr. Abdul Kaium Masud was honoured for his impactful contributions to the Accounting Department and his unwavering dedication to the School.

IBA-SBS continues to reaffirm its commitment to fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and forward-looking environment through initiatives like these. The session underscored the pivotal role of faculty in driving the school's mission, vision, and strategic priorities toward excellence and global recognition.

## 32nd Academic Council Meeting by SPC Sets the Foundation for IBA's Prosperous Future



The 32nd Academic Council Meeting at IBA Karachi, was held in conjunction with the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and the Strategic Area Teams (SATs) as part of the development process for the Strategic Plan 2030 (SP-30).

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, and over 40 faculty and departmental representatives participated in this significant event. The meeting marked an essential milestone in gathering inclusive input from the seven SATs chaired by Dr. Zaidi, Dr. Asad Ilyas, Ms. Maheen Ghauri, Dr. Ashar Saleem, Dr. Sajjad Haider and Mr. Moeid Sultan, who presented draft strategies, objectives, and key performance indicators (KPIs) for the refinement and advancement of IBA's strategic planning process.

This collaborative approach facilitated a formal yet candid exchange of ideas, with participants sharing valuable insights and perspectives. The feedback on the presentations was instrumental in fostering a productive dialogue. The SPC will integrate these suggestions into SP-30, paving the way for a prosperous future for IBA.

## IBA Student Affairs honoured with Academic Excellence & Innovation Award at the Youth Excellence Awards 2024



IBA Karachi's Student Affairs has been proudly recognized with the Academic Excellence and Innovation Award at the Youth Excellence Awards 2024 by Youth Impact.

This prestigious accolade celebrates IBA's unwavering commitment to quality education and holistic student development. From transformative programs like Chasing Snow Leopard to the Markhor Leadership Retreats, IBA has championed leadership, resilience, and teamwork by immersing students in outdoor wilderness experiences. These initiatives have connected students with mentors and corporate leaders, paving the way for a brighter, empowered future.

## HBL x IBA Alumni Mixer Sparks Connections

IBA Karachi hosted the HBL X IBA Alumni Mixer at the G&T Auditorium under the HBL University Alliance Program, fostering meaningful connections between Alumni, Students, and Faculty.

Senior HBL leaders, including Mr. Faisal Lalani, Head, Financial Institutions, and Mr. Ali Habib, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, delivered insightful talks on leadership, the impact of evolving technologies, and strategies to engage youth in meaningful and transformative ways. Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, IBA-SBS, opened the event with a warm welcome, emphasizing IBA's academic advancements and the pivotal role of alumni support in driving the institution forward.

Highlights included a Financial Literacy Skit, an engaging Panel Discussion on Saving and Investing, and a fun PSL Quiz competition.



## ISMCS and Fortinet Join Hands to Advance Cybersecurity Education Nationwide

IBA-SMCS signed an agreement with Fortinet, a global leader in cybersecurity. This agreement officially welcomes IBA as the first member of Fortinet's prestigious Academic Partner Program in Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in advancing cybersecurity education nationwide. The partnership was facilitated by the National CERT-Pakistan.

The event was attended by senior representatives from both organizations, including Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean, SMCS; and Mr. Saqib Ishfaq, Fortinet's Country Manager, Pakistan.

Dr. Zaidi welcomed the Fortinet team and commended the collaboration between IBA-SMCS and Fortinet. He emphasized the benefits this agreement would bring to IBA students and encouraged the School to integrate Fortinet's resources into the curriculum while organizing specialized sessions to maximize its impact. Dr. Khoja highlighted IBA-SMCS's rapid growth and commitment to offering innovative and diverse academic programs. Mr. Ishfaq remarked, "With the rapid expansion of our footprint in Pakistan, Fortinet is proud to play a key role in fostering a digitally secure future for the country. Our Academic Partner Program reflects Fortinet's commitment to empowering local talent and building a stronger foundation for Digital Pakistan. This initiative offers SMCS students a unique opportunity to gain industry-leading training and certifications through Fortinet's renowned programs".



## Perennial College Tales: A Captivating Sequel by Dr. Nadya Chishty-Mujahid

IBA Karachi proudly announces the release of Perennial College Tales, the much-anticipated sequel to Timeless College Tales, by Dr. Nadya Chishty-Mujahid, Associate Professor at IBA-SESS.

This stand-alone sequel invites readers into the gritty yet romantic world of the elite Saeed School of Business (SSB), weaving together tales of young love, political drama, and unforgettable characters. From the shrewd Abdul Karim Rumi to the gutsy twin sister of Professor Madeeha Sulaiman, Perennial College Tales delivers an engrossing narrative that resonates with the dreams and struggles of college life in Pakistan.

Step into the SSB world and dare to dream. Now available for all avid readers!



## IBA Alumnus Completes Historic 1,600 km Run Across Pakistan

Tabarak Rehman, an inspiring IBA alumnus, made history by completing an incredible 1,600 km run across Pakistan. This remarkable journey showcased his courage, endurance, and passion for education as he raised funds for The Citizens Foundation (TCF).

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Team MarComms welcomed Tabarak as he completed the final leg of his journey, running from Bin Qasim Port to IBA Karachi. The IBA community celebrated his extraordinary achievement and support for this noble cause.

Congratulations, Tabarak, on this historic accomplishment and your unwavering dedication to making a difference!



## IBA-THP Team Partners with AKESP for EduConnect Expo 2024

The IBA-THP team collaborated with Aga Khan Education Services, Pakistan (AKESP), to participate in the two-day EduConnect Expo 2024, a platform designed to inspire and connect students with diverse educational opportunities. The event saw enthusiastic participation and fostering insightful discussions. Representatives from Aga Khan schools in Gilgit, Chitral, Hunza, and other regions also attended, adding a regional richness to the gathering. The event was graced by Ms. Rafia Mallah, Additional Director of Sindh Directorate of Private Schools, who was presented with a souvenir by the IBA team.

One of the key highlights of the expo was an exclusive session organized for IBA Karachi, where students and parents engaged directly with the IBA representatives. This session provided a valuable opportunity to discuss academic programs and career prospects and resolve any queries, strengthening IBA's commitment to supporting educational growth.

The expo also featured over 50 national and international universities, offering a rich blend of academic diversity and global perspectives. This created a dynamic environment for learning and exploration, enabling students to make informed choices about their futures. In recognition of IBA's efforts and dedication, Dr. Junaid Alam Khan, Associate Professor and Director of the Talent Hunt Program, was honoured with a token of appreciation and remembrance by the AKESP team. The EduConnect Expo 2024 was a remarkable platform for fostering collaboration and empowering students toward academic excellence.





## IBA Karachi Wins the Inaugural IoBM Super League 2024

IBA Karachi triumphed in a thrilling final, defeating IoBM by 6 runs to claim the first-ever ISL Champions Trophy. A stellar display of skill, determination and sportsmanship secured this historic win for the IBA team.

Congratulations to the Champions!

### Career Meet 2024



The IBA-THP team participated in the Career Meet 2024, an event organized by the Aga Khan Education Board. Held at the historic Darkhana Jamatkhana, the event brought together students and their parents to explore academic and career opportunities. The setup allowed attendees to engage directly with representatives from various universities, including IBA, fostering meaningful discussions about educational programs, admissions processes, and career prospects. The Career Meet served as a valuable platform to guide students in making informed decisions about their future while strengthening community ties through education-focused initiatives.

### Exploring Urban Landscapes: Final Jury for "Urban Studio" Course



Students from the "Urban Studio" course presented their work in a final jury held at the City Campus.

This jury was the culmination of a semester-long project conducted by the students: documenting, mapping and analyzing an urban area: Paper Market, Karachi. The studio enhanced their ability to communicate ideas and information on the urban through visual methods. IBA faculty, including Dr. Arslan Waheed, Mr. Mohammad Toheed and Ms. Irum Iqbal, attended the jury and provided valuable suggestions and feedback to the students.

The Urban Studio, taught by Ms. Soha Macktoom and part of the Urban Minor offered under the SSLA Department, enables students to develop hands-on data collection and research skills to propose policy recommendations that are contextually grounded.

## Creating an Impactful Resume and LinkedIn Profile

IBA-CDC organized an engaging session titled 'Creating an Impactful Resume and LinkedIn Profile', featuring Ms. Azmeena Khawaja, Deputy Manager - Training at K-Electric, and Mr. Shehroze Shahid, Founder and Member of Autom8.

Ms. Khawaja highlighted the importance of crafting achievement-focused resumes to quickly capture attention, while Mr. Shahid shared expert tips on optimizing LinkedIn profiles, emphasizing professionalism and creating an engaging online presence.



## Exploring Higher Education Opportunities in Turkey

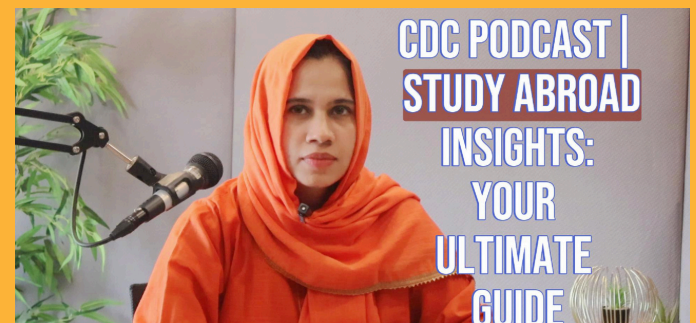
In partnership with Turkish institutions, the IBA-CDC organized an engaging and informative session for students. Featuring an expert on Turkish universities, the session offered valuable insights into the application process, scholarship opportunities, and campus life in Turkey. This comprehensive session aimed to guide high school students aspiring to pursue higher education in Turkey, equipping them with the knowledge to explore new academic horizons.



## Mastering the Art of Interviews



IBA-CDC successfully hosted the 'Mock Interview Power Hour,' providing students with a unique opportunity to engage in mock interviews with seasoned industry professionals. The session aimed to enhance students' interview skills, build their confidence, and prepare them for future career opportunities.



## The CDC Podcast: Study Abroad Insights

Episode 1 featured Dr. Ismat Abbas, Assistant Professor at IBA-SESS. Having recently completed her PhD in the U.S., she shared expert insights and practical advice on navigating the application process for U.S. universities.

## Celebrating 70 Years of Leadership, Excellence, and Impact: A Milestone Marked by a New Logo

IBA Karachi is proud to commemorate 70 years of its remarkable legacy of leadership, excellence, and impact. To celebrate this milestone, Team MarComms took the initiative to design a special "70 Years Logo", officially approved by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA and the Deans Council. This commemorative logo will accompany IBA's corporate insignia until the 75-year milestone, offering a unique opportunity to strengthen IBA's brand identity and recall.

The 70 years logo will feature prominently across all internal and external communications, digital platforms, and marketing collaterals as we celebrate IBA's inspiring journey and its contributions to education and society.

Let's proudly embrace this new emblem as we collectively uphold the values that define IBA Karachi and its enduring legacy.



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