

Book launch of 'The State of Pakistan's Economy: During the Pandemic and Beyond 2021-22'



September 15, 2021: The faculty members at the Department of Economics, SESS, and the CBER launched a book titled, 'The State of Pakistan's Economy: During the Pandemic and Beyond 2021-22'. Following its tradition of the last two years, the faculty members analyzed the state of Pakistan's economy in the backdrop of the federal budget 2021-22. The analyses culminated into a book which was launched at the main campus.

The book was launched through a panel discussion featuring, Technical Specialist in Agricultural Policies, Dr. Mubarak Ahmed; former Advisor to the Prime Minister on Revenue, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan; and Director, Applied Economics Research Centre, University of Karachi, Dr. Samina Khalil. The panel discussion was moderated by the ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi and Dean, SESS, Dr. Asma Hyder.

The purpose of this publication is to provide scholarly input to various stakeholders, including but not limited to, policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and the business community.

'Industry-Academia Linkages – Why and How?' Experts shed light on the challenges and way forward for thriving connections between the two

September 16, 2021: 'Industry-Academia Linkages – Why and How?' was the second session conducted under the dialogue series 'CEO Forum' which was moderated by the ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi. The panelists included Founder and CEO, Katalyst Labs, Ms. Jehan Ara, and CEO, KFC Pakistan, Mr. Raza Pirbhai. The speakers delved into a conversation around how to bridge the gap between the academia and the industry, and how the academia can provide solutions to the industry and the challenges associated with it.

The conversation culminated with an emphasis on the academia and industry to collaborate to overcome the divide between the two.

Watch the recording of the complete session here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8_BYojAE70



Microsoft Dynamics365 completes first stage of Digital IBA

September 1, 2021: The successful completion of the first stage of the 'Digital IBA' initiative through the implementation of ERP, Microsoft Dynamics365 (Phase I), is a step further towards digitalization. A ceremony was held to mark this occasion which was attended by the ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi and Registrar, Dr. Mohammad Asad Ilyas along with other departmental heads. This implementation has been executed in a record six-month period, despite the closure due to the pandemic. The project covers most of the Financials and HR-related modules that are integrated together to maximize the business and operational efficiency.



Campus life is back – IBA reopens for students

September 7, 2021: The IBA reopened for physical classes after a period of 18 months. The IBA management was ecstatic to welcome the students back on campus after a period of online learning. The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, was elated to see the campus buzzing with students. Sharing his thoughts on welcoming students back on campus, he mentioned, "The first day of the IBA reopening, in person after such a long time, has been one of the most fantastic experiences, not just for me personally but for the entire IBA faculty."

The Registrar, IBA, Dr. Mohammad Asad Ilyas, shed light on the thought process of the IBA leadership on the campus reopening for students. "Everybody on the team was on the same page when the talk was about taking a risk for the betterment of education. We took measures where we ensured that vaccinations were in place. Apart from that we carried out upgradations in teaching modalities. The aim was to facilitate our community - one such measure being, making the transport service free for the students for the entire semester."

Director, Program Offices, IBA, Dr. Abbas Ali Gillani, explained the challenges that were countered in trying to return to some sort of academic 'normalcy'. He shared details about the additional classroom structures, sharing, "We have included open air classrooms, mega-classes, and are conducting physical classes in alternate sessions. In all of these structures we are ensuring that the enrolment remains less than 50 per cent of the classroom capacity, with our topmost priority being to follow the SOPs".

IBA Alumna, flagbearer for Pakistan at the Tokyo Olympics 2020



July 23, 2021: It is a matter of immense pride for the IBA Karachi that Mahoor Shahzad, Class of 2018, was the flagbearer for Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Mahoor is the first Pakistani badminton player to qualify for the Olympics, and has indeed made the nation and the IBA proud by raising the Pakistani flag high. She is the National Badminton Champion of Pakistan since five consecutive years.

She is a trailblazer who has set a mark for young women to follow. We cannot wait to see what else she achieves in the future.

In the News

SBS signs MoU with Alfa Adhi Securities

July 8, 2021: School of Business Studies (SBS) signed an MoU with Alfa Adhi Securities which will provide an experiential learning opportunity to the students through a Finance Lab at IBA. The Lab is being designed to inculcate financial literacy among the students, which is a component of the academic curriculum, and will provide the students exposure to securities and investment analysis and portfolio management through real-time market data.



SBS Workshops

Assurance of Learning: SBS organized an online workshop for full-time faculty members to learn and re-enforce the process of Assurance of Learning, review the Program Learning Competencies and the challenges of assessment and standardization. Chairperson, Department of Accounting and Law, Mr. Haroon Tabraze, and Chairperson, Department of Finance, Dr. Sana Tauseef, were the trainers of the workshop.

Course Outlines Standardization and AOL Assessment: An interactive workshop was conducted by SBS which started with a welcome note by Dean, SBS, Dr. Wajid Rizvi. The trainers discussed the template for Standardized Course Outline, Curriculum Mapping and planning standardized assessment for Assurance of Learning, aligning them with AACSB guidelines. The workshop was designed by the AACSB Review and Execution Committee (AREC) members.



Faculty Retreat at Bhurban

August 27-29, 2021: SBS organized a three-day faculty retreat at Bhurban to deliberate on the School's vision and mission, discuss current and upcoming initiatives at SBS, and to provide an opportunity for the faculty to have informal discussions related to improving the overall quality of education and research at the School and IBA. Dean, SBS, Dr. Wajid Rizvi appreciated the enthusiastic participation of faculty in the retreat and emphasized on the need of such events for faculty to engage and collaborate. The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Dean, SMCS, Dr. Shakeel Khoja, and Dean, SESS, Dr. Asma Hyder also participated in the retreat.



NBEAC Workshop

June 29-30, 2021: Three faculty members from the School of Business Studies, Assistant Professor and Chairperson Department of Finance, Dr. Sana Tauseef; Assistant Professor, Program Lead (MBA Executive) and Academic Director PGD (HRM), Dr. Nyla Aleem Ansari; and Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator BBA & BS (ACF), Dr. Asif Jaffer, participated in a National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC) workshop on "Challenging role of Business School Faculty in the New Normal" held at the Karakoram International University, Gilgit.

What poets want featuring Dr. Azra Raza

July 31, 2021: The School of Economics and Social Sciences held a literary conversation titled, 'What poets want', featuring Dr. Azra Raza, a Professor of Medicine and Director of the MDS Center at Columbia University, USA. Her latest book, 'The First Cell: And The Human Costs Of Pursuing Cancer To The Last' was published in October 2019.

Dr. Raza's talk revolved around the extraordinary power of poetry in connecting humans and building a human touch. She discussed the roles of maestros like Mirza Ghalib, Ahmed Faraz and Mir Taqi Mir and how they connected with the society through their poetry.

The hour-long session was joined by literary enthusiasts from around the world.

Watch the complete session here and be enthralled: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfUwvLizkS8>

Sports and Community Engagement

7th IBA Staff and Faculty Cricket Tournament 2021-22

September 13, 2021: The 7th edition of the annual cricket tournament for the staff and faculty members kicked off at the IBA-UBL Sports Complex. For the first time, 10 teams will be participating in the tournament organized by the Department of Sports and Community Engagement. The ED IBA inaugurated the event which will feature 24 matches. The teams have been divided in 2 pools where the top 2 teams from each pool will qualify for the semis. The opening match was played between last year's runners up Registrar XI and the newly formed CEE Legends. The Registrar XI won the match by 36 runs. The IBA Faculty team will defend their title.



Trials for 8th IBA Olympics 2021-22

September 13-25, 2021: In the run up to the biggest sporting event of the institute, the IBA Olympics, trials for students were conducted during the month of September. The 8th IBA Olympic Games 2021-22 will feature 14 different sports in the Male and Female categories. More than 700 male and 300 female students participated in the trials. The athletics trials were carried out at the National Coaching Centre, Karachi, while trials for badminton took place at the Physical College Badminton Club, near Sheikh Zayed Islamic Center, KU. The IBA Olympics will take place in October, and the top performers will be shortlisted to represent the IBA in HEC and various inter-university events.



Workshop on Heat and Rain Emergency

July 5, 2021: The Karachi Urban Lab (KUL) at IBA hosted a workshop engaging with the first responders on heatwave and rain emergencies. In the two-hour workshop, KUL's objective was to gain an understanding of the role of key state and non-state actors (NGOs, local government) involved in the heat space; to ascertain the types of materials they have developed in the context of heatwaves; the scale at which they work; if they engage directly or indirectly with heat; and the specific types of actions they deploy on ground to mitigate heat risk. This workshop was a follow up of KUL's earlier workshop held in January 2021, titled 'Disaster Management, Risks and the City' in which three organizations: Caritas Pakistan, Al-Khidmat and Edhi Foundation presented their work on disasters, including heatwaves. In the second workshop, representatives from two organizations, FGFR and Deliver Karachi Forum presented further information on the disaster risk mitigation plans.

Signing of MoU with Deputy Commissioner South Karachi

September 15, 2021: As part of KUL's interdisciplinary collaborative efforts, an MoU was signed with the Deputy Commissioner South Karachi. It will help establish longstanding relationships with government and bureaucratic representatives as their insights and cooperation are essential for meaningful research, particularly when it comes to planning futures in hotter cities.

11th Annual Public Health Conference, NIH, Islamabad

September 23, 2021: KUL Research Associates, Adam Abdullah, Soha Macktoom, and Aqdas Fatima presented at the 11th Annual Public Health Conference conducted by the Health Services Academy at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad. Titled "Ambulance me hi mar jayenge": Understanding (lack of) access to public health for marginalized urban populations", they shared preliminary findings from the Heat-Covid GeoPoll survey and recounts from the Land Displacement Project. Their presentation tackled crucial issues related to healthcare facilitation focusing on emergency response services in the increasingly heated city.

Marketing Activities

Marketing team conducts virtual information sessions for recently launched MS programs

July, 2021: The IBA Marketing Department conducted a series of virtual information sessions prior to the admission application deadlines for Fall semester 2021. The purpose of these virtual information sessions was to clear any doubts that potential applicants had regarding the graduate programs offered at the Institute. Sessions were conducted for the MS Islamic Banking and Finance, MS Finance, MS Data Science and the newly launched, MS Development Studies.

EdTour Virtual Edition for Undergraduate programs

September 16, 2021: IBA's Marketing team participated in the EdTour Virtual Edition for undergraduate programs. The team delivered a presentation that encompassed every aspect of the undergraduate experience at the IBA. The webinar provided information to potential students from Pakistan and around the world about the aptitude test preparation and exemption criteria, foreign exchange program, UG course rigour, financial assistance and future employability prospects.

450+ students engaged in various undergraduate information sessions for Fall 2022 admissions

September, 2021: The Marketing team engaged with A'Levels students from Nixor College, Lyceum School, Highbrow College, Alpha College, Whales College and St. Michael's Convent School. The sessions encompassed various aspects of IBA, including in-depth discussions of all six undergraduate programs, extracurricular activities, foreign exchange programs and financial assistance. The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Dean, SMCS, Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Head of Testing Services, Dr. Sharjeel Hasnie, Lecturer, Department of SSLA, Ms. Nudrat Kamal and Lecturer, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Mr. Gautam Luhana participated in these sessions and provided some much-needed information to the interested students.

Irrespective of the mode of communication, the students displayed an eagerness to know more about the Institute and were highly enthusiastic during the Q&A sessions that followed the presentation. While students deemed these sessions as highly informative, the counsellors appreciated the efforts of the IBA Karachi for helping students make an informed decision about their further studies.



Getz Pharma Endowment Fund set up at IBA

September 17, 2021: The IBA and Getz Pharma (Pvt) Ltd have partnered to establish Getz Pharma Endowment Fund. The initiative aims to advance the Institute's financial assistance program for its deserving students selected from across the country. Through this partnership, Getz Pharma will financially support students chosen from the NTHP. The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi and Managing Director and CEO Getz Pharma, Mr. Khalid Mahmood signed the MoU at the Institute.



Launch of Maersk Future Leaders' Scholarship

August 26, 2021: Maersk Future Leaders' Scholarship was launched by the IBA and Maersk Pakistan to advance the Institute's financial assistance program for its students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi and Managing Director, Maersk Pakistan, Ms. Aruna Hussain signed an MoU at the city campus. Under this MoU, Maersk will set up an annual scholarship fund of around PKR 2.25 million at the Institute, to support a meritorious, undergraduate student from the NTHP for a period of four years.



China Study Center aims to increase cultural exchanges for students

July 7, 2021: The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Mr. Li Bijian held a video conference with Assistant Professor, IBA, Dr. Nasir Afghan, where the two discussed deepening of cultural exchanges between students of both countries.

The China Study Center, to be established at the IBA, will undertake a series of activities including, hosting Chinese cultural festivals, teaching Chinese studies as a university course, translating notable Chinese books into regional languages, a transfer of agricultural technology, and a boost in exchange programs pertaining to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Several other Chinese diplomats including President Zhang Xiaoping, Dean Confucius Institute, Karachi University, Mr. Guo Chunshui, Economic and Commercial Counselor, and Mr. Deng Haixiao, Deputy Consul also joined the video conference, reaffirming the promise of maintaining a strong bilateral relationship between the people of both countries.

Book talk on 'Before the Storm'

September 16, 2021: A book talk on 'Before the Storm' was organized by the Library team featuring the translator of the book, Mrs. Rehana Alam, at the main campus. The author of the book is Syed Asad Ali Anvery (1907-1960), an officer of the Indian Forest Service. The original diary, handwritten in Urdu, is archived at Stanford University.

The translator of the diary, Mrs. Alam, is the daughter of the writer who is a published author, and her articles have been published in Pakistan, US, Turkey, Kenya, and Indonesia. As elaborated by her, the diary is an important historical document that helps us understand the making of a middle class educated Muslim male in South Asia. The book comprises of the author's diary entries, in Urdu and English, penned during his travels to Europe in the summer of 1939 when he was sent to the University of Oxford.

Obituary

July 14, 2021: The IBA Karachi mourns the sad demise of the Former President of Pakistan and IBA Alumnus, Class of 1965, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain. He also served as Governor Sindh and Patron, IBA. To acknowledge his unparalleled services to the community, Mr. Hussain was awarded an honorary Doctorate degree by the IBA. His services to the country and fellow-citizens will always be remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Alumni community to bear this irreparable loss.



ED engagements

Agri webinar on 'Rethinking Pakistan's approach to managing food inflation and strategic reserves'

July 15, 2021: The ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, participated as a guest speaker in an agri webinar on 'Rethinking Pakistan's approach to managing food inflation and strategic reserves' organized by Engro Fertilizers in partnership with Pakistan Agricultural Coalition. Dr. Zaidi shed light on the multiple factors that are contributing towards food inflation in Pakistan. The hybrid event brought together esteemed panellists affiliated with public policy in the agriculture sector.

Highlights of his comments can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/engro.corporation/videos/157671096438780>

Complete session can be accessed here: <https://fb.watch/7lj257MjIE/>

Meeting with Executive Director Bank Al Habib to facilitate provision of quality education

September 1, 2021: In a recent visit to the IBA Karachi, Executive Director, Bank Al Habib Limited, Mr. Qumail R. Habib and GM Corporate Affairs, Mr. Syed Siddiqui met the ED, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi. The IBA team included, Dean, SBS, Dr. Wajid Rizvi; Dean, SESS, Dr. Asma Hyder; Dean, SMCS, Dr. Shakeel Khoja; Director, Finance, Mr. Moeid Sultan; Registrar, Dr. Mohammad Asad Ilyas; Director, MBA program, Dr. Asim Shabir; and Director, Corporate Relations, Ms. Malahat Awan. Dr. Zaidi gave a presentation to Mr. Habib on how the IBA has evolved into an inter-disciplinary university offering more than 20 programs. Moreover, Dr. Zaidi and Mr. Habib both expressed a desire to set up a chair soon to facilitate the provision of quality education.

Faculty member presents research on AI Regulations at the Asia Pacific Research Initiative

September 10, 2021: Assistant Professor, Department of SSLA, SESS, Dr. Amana Raquib, presented an insightful research on 'Culturally informed pro-social AI regulation and persuasion framework' and 'Ethical technology assessment on AI and internet of things' at the Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Initiative for the Asia Pacific Roundtable. The conference was hosted by Facebook and the Centre for Civil Society and Governance (CCSG) at the University of Hong Kong and was attended by over 100 AI experts and practitioners.

Details can be accessed here: <https://ccsg.hku.hk/ethics-in-artificial-intelligence-ai-research-for-the-asia-pacific-roundtable/>

Student, faculty, and alumni achievements

The IBA takes great pride in the achievements of its students, faculty and alumni. Read on the links below about how the IBA community is excelling and contributing to the society.



CED journal

E-Summer Entrepreneurship Camp for Kids

July 12-17, 2021: The IBA Online Summer Entrepreneurship Camp for kids was based on online experiential learning, compelling young participants to unleash their creative potential. The program was designed to act as a catalyst for the participants to initiate and manage their own ventures. The camp brought together local and global children aged 8-13. Along with fun-filled online activities and effectual learning, the program offered participants the opportunity to explore entrepreneurial ideas and develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

Certificate in Entrepreneurship Program

July 9, 2021: CED initiated a Certificate in Entrepreneurship Program in collaboration with Oxfam in Pakistan and Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad. This is the flagship program of CED and aims to foster Effectual Entrepreneurial Mindset. Under this program, the students of QAU are rigorously trained so that they can successfully initiate their business with the minimum resources available. The candidates selected in this program belong to diverse educational and demographic backgrounds. From undergrad to postgraduate qualification, this cohort holds a diverse mix of candidates' profile. Dr. Shahid Qureshi welcomed the participants and other guests. Chief Guest of the orientation was VC QAU, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali.

6th IBA International Entrepreneurship Summer School 2021

August 4-15, 2021: The 10-day program for the virtual summer school was designed to impart entrepreneurial knowledge from a South Asian perspective, while submerging into the cultural richness of Pakistan through lectures and hands-on experiential pedagogy. The course was attended by more than 90 local and international participants, and aimed to provide the youth with opportunities to acquire entrepreneurial skills, develop their mindset, and start their own businesses. Course facilitator and guest speakers included national and international faculty.

Donate books to IBA



Bootcamp for entrepreneurs

September 10-11, 2021: CED in collaboration with Oxfam has been working nationwide for the promotion of entrepreneurial mindset among Pakistani youth for the past 2 years. As a part of the project, the Center invited around 50 entrepreneurs from Karachi, Jamshoro, Lahore, Islamabad and Layyah for a two-day bootcamp, during which the SMEs were given exposure related to challenges faced by the young entrepreneurs and microfinance opportunities available for SMEs and start-ups.



MoU inked to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship

September 9, 2021: Program Director, CED, Dr. Shahid Qureshi signed an MoU with Mohamed Jaffer, Trustee, JFF-UGI along with Muslim Raza Rawjani and Ali Asad Hemani, Trustees, Karachi Needy Orphans and Women (KNOW). The main purpose of the MOU is to establish collaboration between all parties for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship through a three-month Certificate in Entrepreneurship named as Community Youth Development Initiative. Through this partnership, a sponsorship of PKR 1.25 million will be provided to 50 participants who will be trained under CED's flagship Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).



Training Needs Analysis for faculty members of Balochistan

September 13-14, 2021: CED conducted a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) for the CED Entrepreneurship Fellows Program for the faculty of Balochistan. Program Director, CED, Dr. Shahid Qureshi met with Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors and faculty members of different universities and organizations in Quetta. The purpose of these meetings was to understand the current dynamics and challenges faced in teaching and how this workshop would enable faculty members to better understand the entrepreneurial landscape locally and globally. The faculty members were invited to join the upcoming workshop which will be conducted in October.

CEE roundup

Workshops and Trainings

Customized Directors' Training Program for Balochistan Education Endowment Fund: CEE hosted a customized, five-day Directors' Training Program (DTP) at the city campus. The program, approved by the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), is designed to keep directors of listed companies abreast of leading trends and practices that promote good governance, protect competitive advantages, and prepare for regulatory change.



Art of Managing Inventories (Batch 2): Skills Development Program (SDP) at the CEE conducted an online training. It was a 10 hours' online program with a 2 hours on-campus complimentary session. 15 executives participated from various organizations like Artistic Milliners, Novatex Ltd., HBL, and MAL (Pakistan) Ltd. The participants discussed real-time inventory related matters with the trainer and presented their projects in the last session.

Transitional Managers Toolkit (Batch 2): SDP organized an online training program for its second batch. The program comprises of modules exclusively designed for new managers and technical executives that are aspiring to step into management roles. The training was highly interactive with loads of activities, discussions, and real-life examples. The trainer of the program was Mr. Mohsin Ahmed Bhatti.

Cost Analysis Tools: SDP designed and conducted a real-time, 12-hour online program comprising of lectures, discussions and insights on actual cost sheets and calculations on MS Excel. The program aims to help project teams to organize, interpret and communicate organizational information so that informed and timely decisions can be executed, that in turn will assist in value creation of the firm with external stakeholders. The program was facilitated by IBA Visiting Faculty, Mr. Mohsin Adhi.

Directors' Training Program (DTP): CEE hosted a five-day training at the city campus. The DTP is recognized by the Chartered Management Institute, UK, and consists of 2 modules and is approved by the SECP. DTP provides guidance on targeted areas to ensure that Directors of listed companies with specific requirements remain up to date. Guest speakers included CEO & MD, AGP Ltd, Ms. Nusrat Munchi and Director, PWC, Syed Abdul Qadir, with the chief guest being, President, SindhBank, Mr. Imran Samad.

Advance Leadership Development Program: A 10-day customized program was organized for Qism al Tahfeez Program, Mahad al Zahra Aljamia tus Saifyah for the Bohra Community. The participants were from different parts of the world including the U.S., Africa, Middle East, India and the UAE, with many of them in leadership positions running non-profit Bohra institutions or departments. The program focused on different aspects of leadership, finance, emotional intelligence and strategy development.

Project Management - Framework and Tools: A four-day customized virtual training was conducted for HBL employees. Thirty participants from various departments of HBL attended the virtual training program. This program was exclusively customized according to HBL's needs, focusing on different aspects of Project Management. The training was conducted by Director, CEE, Dr. Rameez Khalid.

Project Preparation and Project Management: A five-day customized training program was hosted in Islamabad for the Planning and Development Department, Ex-FATA, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The program was focused on the different aspects of project management and preparation in the public sector. Officers from Grades 17-18 attended the training, belonging to different departments of merged areas. The major goal of this training was to comprehend strategic implications of various project decisions and propose strategies that professionals can implement in their job-positions.



Public Financial Management: A customized training program was organized for the Department of Finance, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in Peshawar. The same training was held in Karachi in September. Secretaries and Heads of different departments of the KP Government participated in this program. This program was structured to involve finance professionals in a multiple-session, cross-functional training format in which they acquired substantial awareness about related contents and issues.

Directors' Orientation Program: A customized half-day virtual program was conducted for Central Power Generation Company Limited (GENCO-II, Guddo Thermal Power Station). The trainer was IBA Visiting Faculty, Mr. Abdul Rahim Suriya.

Successful Business Communication: Skills Development Program (SDP) at the CEE is conducting a well-thought-out course that provides a comprehensive solution for a flawless and effective communication. The program is being conducted by SDP's senior trainers Mr. Farhan Uddin Raja and Syed Sajid Siraj.

Business Writing Skills: The training aims to make business writing as clear and effective as possible. Participants are provided with the right tools required to sharpen their communication skills, build confidence, and gain an advantage in their respective workplaces.

Supply Chain Management as a Career Path: SDP designed and conducted a 12 hours' online program with 2 hours on-campus complimentary session. The program was facilitated by Mr. Mudasser Ali Khan, a Certified Supply Chain Professional from APICS (USA), Certified Supply Chain Analyst from ISCEA (USA), and a holder of postgraduate diploma in Supply Chain from the IBA. The workshop provided tools and techniques to supply chain executives, equipping them with the basic functions of related areas of supply chain.

Managerial Communication Skills for Impact: A two-day workshop for senior managers of 1LINK was held at the city campus. Sixteen nominated participants from the department of CIO, Risk Management & Corporate Affairs, and Shared Services attended the training. The workshop aimed to establish the importance of the "self" and its impact on organizational communication and strategies, and link personal skills to organizational needs and professional goals. The workshop trainer was IBA Visiting Faculty, Ms. Nadia Sayeed.

Excellence in Customer Services for Front Liners: SDP conducted a two-day workshop for 19 participants from 1LINK. The workshop focused on promotion of customer retention and loyalty, practices of world-class customer service providers, engaging customers of different personalities, managing emotions, interpersonal skills, feedback process, continuous improvement, conflict resolution, customer and process recovery, etc.

Certificate in Early Childhood Care & Education

July 3-August 15, 2021: SDP welcomed a new batch of participants in a certificate course titled, 'Early Childhood Care and Education' (ECE). ECE is a comprehensive 50-hour program facilitated by highly experienced and talented trainers. This program aims to provide an alternative learning pathway for early childhood workers, preschool teachers, and others who wish to pursue professional certification in early childhood education.

IBA and BUITEMS Quetta ink an MoU

September 17, 2021: CEE signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta. The purpose of this MoC is to establish mutual collaboration and strengthen academic cooperation between BUITEMS and IBA. Under this MoC, CEE will be developing and conducting open enrolment and customized workshops, consultancies, and research programs. BUITEMS was represented by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Faisal Khan; Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Dr. Syed Munawar Shah; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ms. Musarat Karamat Ali; while IBA was represented by the Director, CEE, Dr. Rameez Khalid along with Executive, CEE, Mirza Irshad Baig.



CEIF: Promoting Islamic Finance

Training Sessions

Islamic Finance for Ulama & Shari'ah Scholars: CEIF conducted online courses for the second and third batches of this course to provide in-depth understanding of Shari'ah principles governing Islamic Finance. The course was uniquely designed to provide participants' insights to various elements of Islamic Finance, together with the latest practices adopted by the industry. Approximately 350 participants from various parts of the country as well as international participants from the UAE, India, Ghana, USA, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Australia, Saudi Arabia, UK, Japan and Canada were enrolled in the course, including a large number of Aalima (female religious scholars). This course was offered free of cost to create awareness of Islamic Banking & Finance.

Money 101 - the Financial Literacy Summer Camp: CEIF conducted online summer camps for children aged 7-12 years. The takeaways from the camp included: good saving and spending habits; using money to help others; and how do banks and bank accounts operate. The participants were engaged in fun projects to give them an understanding of finance in an easily understandable manner. The second Camp, currently underway, is a month-long online course which is being conducted in collaboration with Meezan Bank Ltd.

Options to get funding for higher education in Pakistan and how to get interest free loans for higher education in Pakistan in a Shariah Compliant manner: In collaboration with Ihsan Trust, CEIF conducted an online interactive session.

Webinars

Riba Free Pakistan - How the dream can be achieved: CEIF in collaboration with Meezan Bank Ltd. conducted the webinar. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan was the Chief Guest of the session, while the moderator was Director, CEIF, Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui.

The speakers included:

- Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, President & CEO, Meezan Bank Ltd.
- Mr. Mufti Irshad Ahmed Aijaz, Chairman, Shari'ah Advisory Committee, State Bank of Pakistan
- Dr. Imran Ashraf Usmani, Vice Chairman, Shari'ah Board, Meezan Bank Ltd.

Roshan Apna Ghar through Islamic Finance: The webinar was moderated by M. Jehanzeb Saeed, Head Home and Business Finance Products, Dubai Islamic Bank. Following were the speakers:

- Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Director, IBA CEIF
- Mr. Naveed Malik, Head of Consumer Banking, Dubai Islamic Bank
- Mr. Saleemullah, Executive Director, Financial Resource Management, State Bank of Pakistan
- Mr. Mujtaba Qamar, IBA Alumni Representative in UAE (NRP)
- Mr. Ali Allahwala, Head Islamic Banking - Consumer, Private, and Business Banking, SCB Saadiq

Leadership in the light of Seerah: CEIF in collaboration with Al-Qadir University Project Trust held a webinar by Dean, Al-Qadir University Project Trust, Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed. The session was moderated by Director, CEIF, Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui.

Effective Resume Writing: CEIF in collaboration with Ihsan Trust conducted a virtual webinar by Mr. Arsalan Ahmed Khan, Head - Talent Resourcing, Employee Engagement, Organizational Development and HR Systems. The session was moderated by Mr. Fayyaz Ur Rehman Khan, General Manager - Ihsan Trust and Senior Vice President, Shariah Compliance Department (SCD), Meezan Bank limited.

Training workshops

The City Beat: CEJ, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized a three-day workshop. The workshop was led by former Director News Aaj TV, Mr. Aamer Ahmed Khan. The workshop was attended by journalists from various media houses across the country. The workshop focused on building the participants' understanding of the cities or towns they live in and to be able to identify key sources of information in an urban area and discuss where and why they overlap in an emergency response situation. Participants were also taught how to efficiently use maps, social media, infographics and understand the emergency response of the cities. Former Consultant Editor of Independent Urdu, Mr. Raza Hamdani, and Director CEJ, Kamal Siddiqi, delivered guest speaker sessions.



Journalism Training Program – Phase 2: CEJ organized the second phase of its Journalism Training Program. A total of 56 participants were trained in four batches over three-days each. Following the theoretical training which took place in June, the second phase aimed at developing the participants' technical skills. First two days of the training focused on filming video content and podcast using smartphones. On the third day, participants were taught how to make multimedia stories. The trainers were journalist and documentary filmmaker, Ms. Hina Ali, and Social Media Editor, Independent Urdu, Mr. Saqib Tanveer.



Media Capacity Building in a Digital World: For the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority's communications team, CEJ organized a 5-day media capacity building training. Trainers for this training were Associate Director (Digital Products), Geo, Mr. Touseef Ikram; Lecturer, CEJ, Mr. Shahzeb Ahmed Hashim; journalist and documentary filmmaker, Ms. Hina Ali; and Director, CEJ, Mr. Kamal Siddiqi. The workshop aimed to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills to design a social media policy and content for online platforms, increase their outreach and impact, and using media efficiently to deliver the department's message. The training included sessions on audience development strategy, content development strategy, social media strategy, using data effectively, data visualization, making and editing videos, podcasts and understanding the media landscape of Pakistan.

Voice & Ethics: Negotiating Conversations in Media

July 24, 2021: CEJ organized a webinar on the conversations held in the media and their limitations. The session was moderated by senior multimedia journalist and Head of Communications, Tabad Lab, Ms. Amber Rahim Shamsi. Panelists included founder & editor, Naya Daur media, Mr. Raza Rumi, anchor ARY News, Ms. Maria Memon, and senior journalist and analyst, Mr. Owais Tohid. The discussion focused on the topics that journalists can and cannot cover, and the limitations they face. The session also included a discussion around gender and how that influences the kind of stories journalists do and the backlash and harassment they face.

July, 2021: The Online Mock Interviews program was continued on high demand for the graduating apprentices. Around 65 students were catered through this segment, whereas 10 professionals served as interviewers. Each candidate was scheduled for 15-20 minutes of formal online screening interview followed by 5-10 minutes of feedback on their performance.

July-September, 2021: A number of students and graduates were successfully placed on internship and management trainee positions through the Center's recruitment facilitation. Some of the top employers include PWC, Unilever, Adamjee Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Bayer Pakistan (Pvt) Limited, and Oxford University Press.

September, 2021: With the start of the Fall semester, the CDC has initiated the Corporate Connect Series through which a number of guest speaker sessions are conducted. CDC collaborated with Associate Professor, Department of Finance, SBS, Dr. Saqib Sharif, and invited CEO, Craft Solution, Ms. Maimoona Shafaat to deliver a talk for the MBA Executive students on Business Research.

IRC digest

Research webinar with La Rochelle Université, France

July 5, 2021: The first research webinar of the series was conducted with IBA's prospective partner La Rochelle Université, France. Academic staff from both the institutions participated and presented their papers. Four faculty members from IBA's School of Economics and Social Sciences delivered the presentations followed by a Q&A session. The aim of conducting this research webinar was to identify and initiate areas of mutual interest for potential collaboration.

CFA Scholarship for bright minds

July 20, 2021: Being affiliated with the CFA Institute, the IBA provides scholarships to the deserving students every year. Scholarships are awarded after a fair assessment of the students' academic performance and financial background. The selected students are awarded with a waived off program enrollment fee and reduction in the CFA exam registration amount.

MoU with Population Council Islamabad

August 24, 2021: The IBA signed an MoU with the Population Council (PC) Islamabad for establishing a Population Research Center (PRC) at the Institute. The collaboration between the two parties will aim for strengthening demographic research at IBA with an interdisciplinary approach to research.

Introductory session on exchange and summer programs

September 17, 2021: The IRC arranged an interactive welcoming session in which the exchange programs, summer programs and international scholarships were discussed with the students who wish to pursue their education abroad.



Learning for Earning

September 17, 2021: The IRC has arranged on-campus freelancing sessions for the students who aim to learn new skills and utilize them for making money online. The very first freelancing session was conducted by Saffan Suleman, a final year IBA student. The Learning for Earning is a freelancing training series which would be conducted throughout the semester

Enhancing relations between IBA and Macquarie University, Australia

September 13, 2021: Ms. Rumla Tahir from IBA's key partner institution, Macquarie University Australia, visited the IRC for discussing further collaboration aspects. The purpose of the meeting was to promote mutually beneficial cooperation and enhance relations between the two institutions by facilitating exchange of academic materials and information, study tour for students and staff, study abroad programs and exploring articulation arrangements.

