



BUITEMS

Quality & Excellence in Education



New Day
New Thoughts
New Possibilities

Newsletter

Vol. 94



Our Vision

To be among the leading universities of the world - accessible to all, imparting quality education and promoting cutting edge research.

Mission Statement

At **BUITEMS**, we are committed to providing quality education with focus on research and to equip students with the art of living as productive members of society, contributing to the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan in general, and Balochistan in particular.

Our Goals

- ♦ To provide outstanding academic programs that further strengthen our performance, pre-eminence and efficiency.
- ♦ To provide an excellent teaching and learning environment to students to reach a level that matches the atmosphere prevailing at best universities in the world.
- ♦ To raise revenues from partnerships, research grants and technology transfer while strengthening our ability to more effectively invest and allocate resources for education.

Our Core Values

Accountability: We are committed stewards of the human, fiscal and physical resources entrusted to us.

Diversity : We recognize that diversity leads to excellence, enhancing our teaching, scholarship and service as well as our ability to respect and interact with people.

Integrity : We practice honesty, truth and integrity in all that we do.

Respect: We treat each other with civility, dignity and respect.

Social responsibility: We contribute to intellectual, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being of the society.

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Editorial

The year 2020 brought a global pandemic that challenged every field, strata, and section of life worldwide. This unprecedented scenario knocked us all at multiple levels i.e. emotional, social, professional, spiritual, and financial. We were confronted by something unaddressed before in human history, the contagion did bring some extremely essential elements of life back to light. The global community joined together by the impact of the novel virus, realized that health, relationships and spiritual wellbeing are of prime importance and that as a community we need to support, cooperate and encourage each other to defeat the pandemic.

Universities are the very centre of equipping the youth with life skills and making them learn the art of living. During these uncertain times and unforeseen challenges, the one thing that came to aid was the emotional intelligence BUIITEMS leadership exhibited. Emotional intelligence isn't only the understanding of one's feelings it's also managing feelings of people around. BUIITEMS is fortunate to have a leadership that can foresee the challenges of the future and courageous enough to take necessary measures and find innovative solutions.

'It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are' said, Roy Disney. The leadership at BUIITEMS knew that restoring hope and the socio-economic uplift of the country, especially in times of uncertainty is very crucial so in a quick response to the pandemic all academic activities were being suspended on all campuses. As life and wellbeing of the youth and the human resource of the country are of utmost importance. The intelligentsia at the university started working on several projects that could help the government and health sector in combating the novel virus, COVID-19.

The Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, already working with snake-like robots for Disaster Management, managed to create an indigenously built ventilator named BUIITEMS Vent-1.

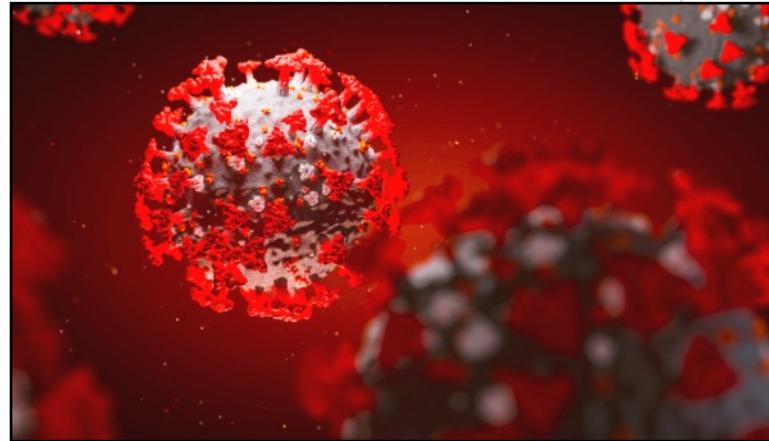
The trying times made our transition from real-life classrooms to virtual classrooms. All the deans and the chairpersons were trained on MS teams who further arranged sessions for faculty members to introduce synchronous and asynchronous modes of teachings. The academic activities resumed partially during the first phase, however gaining momentum and by June, each semester of every department is engaged via online classes.

This pandemic with all the damage that it has brought to mankind has also brought along an opportunity to revisit, review, and rethink the most important factors for life. Health, family, spiritual wellbeing, and social interaction are inevitably important. By engaging our students in virtual learning in these uncertain and bleak times, we are inculcating optimism and motivation with the faith that 'this too shall pass'.

BUITEMS Response to Pandemic Covid-19

By Mohammad Ahsan Achakzai

challenging 21st Century lifestyle and work place practices thus impacting the conventional institutional arrangements. BUITEMS is being affected likewise; however, the farsighted leadership along with the BUITEMS family immediately realized the challenge thrown at them and as an essential pillar of the society it adopted effective counter strategies and planning in coordination regional, local, and national authorities. As an immediate response to the pandemic understanding the gravity of the situation and its consequences; BUITEMS leadership started with closure of all its facilities for faculty, students and staff, however ensuring that the learning process and research activities continue; BUITEMS stands together with global community to fight Covid-19 and plays its role in continuing the learning processes and research; supporting government with policy frameworks; encourage other educational institutions to continue online education and support them in the process; collaborate with national, regional and international educational institutions. BUITEMS has managed to mitigate the academic loss and psychological burden of students and employees in these difficult times. Initially, to handle uncertainty and mitigate the psychological impact upon students and employees only two weeks closure was announced—during this time employees received salaries ensure job security for the employees.

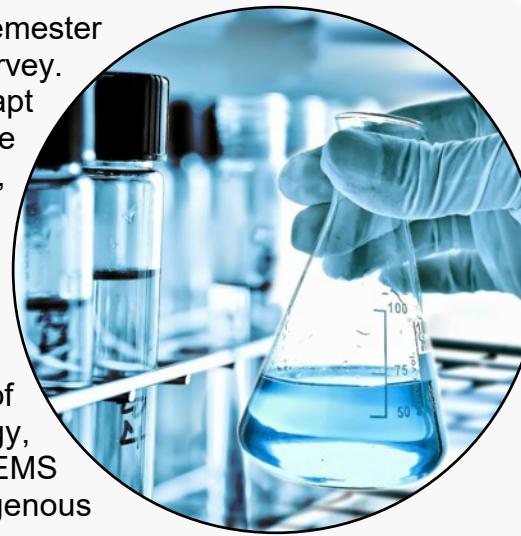


Meanwhile, in order to create a virtual work space BUITEMS signed an agreement with Microsoft and issued accounts to all students and employees. Microsoft Office 365 (O365) accounts were acquired and training on the effective use of Microsoft Teams (MT) for online classes was imparted to all Deans and Department Chairs. The Department Chairs then extended the training to all their faculty members and students. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were developed on developing classes in Microsoft Teams, assigning course titles, course description, assignments, quizzes, exams and attendance. Simultaneously, Classes in Microsoft Teams were synchronized with the previously operational Campus Management System (CMS).

BUITEMS realized that internet connectivity, cost and adaptability to the new working environment will be a challenge and would require a resolve for successful conduct of online classes—especially when such arrangements were never practiced. Prior to announcing online classes BUITEMS convinced its undergraduate final year students to opt for online classes—as it will save them precious time. Simultaneously, a survey was conducted to identify students' connectivity, cost, mental health and adaptability issues. Survey revealed that 25 percent students moved to far flung areas of the province and had limited internet connectivity (2G—which could not be used for online classes) and 20 percent students had marginalized background and could not afford the cost of internet for an extended period (BUITEMS realized the hardship of people in this difficult hour and did not ask students for Spring 2020 fee).

BUITEMS cautiously started the online classes for its 8th semester students and after 10 working days conducted a feedback survey. Moreover, students were given ample time to adjust and adapt the new working environment. Thereafter, each week one more semester is added to the online classes. At present, 7th, 6th 5th and 4th Semester classes are underway. In the week of June 1, BUITEMS expects online classes progression for all its undergraduate students.

Research yields solutions. Currently, nine different teams of researchers from BUITEMS are collaborating with local, regional, national and international researches in areas of biotechnology, microbiology, Information technology, electronic engineering, economics and sociology. BUITEMS researcher are working on contact tracer app and indigenous ventilator—which is in its testing phase.



As part of the community, BUITEMS is working with local authorities/ Government of Balochistan on the establishment of COVID-19 Diagnostic Lab in Quetta. Moreover, BUITEMS experts sit on the Balochistan Command & Operation Center (BCOC) Forecasting Unit for Covid-19—engaged with projections of Covid-19. BUITEMS continues to assist the education department with the establishment of online classes and advise policy makers on BUITEMS plans to continue online teaching/ learning and improve its existing online work practices with continuous feedback from all stakeholders. Some of the issues BUITEMS wants to resolve but have limited resources includes: Connectivity Issue as 25 percent students belong to far flung areas of the province, with limited or no internet connectivity; 20 Percent students who have internet connectivity cannot afford internet expense due to marginalized financial background; approximately 40 percent students do not own a personal computer—BUITEMS is looking for donors/ partners who can support BUITEMS students in this hour of difficulty.

BUITEMS realizes that COVID-19 will disappear, however; online teaching will not—the pandemic has changed the way student study and the way teachers teach. Therefore, BUITEMS focus is on the adaptability of the new best working practices with emphases on creating online classes that accommodate for learners' requirements and needs —thus improving the working experience for its employees as well as learning experience for its students. Additionally, smart strategies have helped BUITEMS continue with its academic and research activities.



PEC OBE Based Re-Accreditation Visit of Department of Civil Engineering

Reported by: Engr. Shiva Nath

An Outcome Based Education

ion (OBE) based accreditation team of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), visited Department of Civil Engineering, BUITEMS, on January 2-3, 2020. The team included: Engr. Prof. Dr. Abdul Jabbar Sangi, NED UET Karachi, Engr. Prof. Dr. Imran Hafeez, UET Taxila and Engr. Muhammad Haroon, Representative PEC, Islamabad. The visit included introductory meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean FOE & A, Dr. Kamran Sami. The PEC team was briefed about the role and achievements of BUITEMS as well as the progress and future plans of the civil engineering department by the department Chairperson Dr. Saeedullah Jan Mandokhail.



The members evaluated the study program according to the outcome-based assessment as per PEC manual accreditation- 2014. Later, PEC team visited the class rooms, departmental laboratories and library, and other university infrastructure and facilities. They appreciated the efforts of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Mr. Ahmed Farooq Bazai for his leadership qualities in bringing BUITEMS in-line with Higher Education Institutions and international standards. PEC team members participated in Interactive sessions with faculty members and students.

BUITEMS in collaboration with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) as the funding agency, BORDA (Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association) as the technical team and BRSP (Balochistan Rural Support Programme) as financial partner, established a "Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System" at BUITEMS Takatu Campus. A meeting held on February 27, 2020 chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Shahwani, Director ORIC, was held regarding the initiation of the project activities by members from BUITEMS, GIZ, BORDA and BRSP to discuss BUITEMS site plan and some technical issues in order to set up the DEWATS module.

Mr. Tobias Ulbrich, Regional Coordinator Engineering from BORDA Germany, shared his ideas via Skype call and Mr. Abdul Qayoum, Senior

Establishment of a Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Plant at BUITEMS

Reported by: Sahar Munir



Project Engineer from BORDA Afghanistan, informed about the DEWATS in Afghanistan and its advantages in detail.

Mr. Qaher Agha, in charge from BRSP along with other members attended the meeting. Mr. Muhammad Jaffar, Technical Advisor GIZ, Sanitation for Millions, and Ms Rabia Baloch were the members from GIZ Pakistan in the meeting.

The Technical Team members for DEWATS also participated in the meeting including Mr. Mamoon Ur Rasheed, Director P&P BUITEMS, Dr. Zafar Baloch, Chairperson Geological Engineering BUITEMS, Dr. Najam Malghani, Associate Professor BUITEMS and Dr. Muhammad Amin, Chairperson Chemical Engineering BUITEMS.

The following points were discussed during the meeting:

- DEWATS design, detailed drawings and bill of quantities were reflected during the meeting.
- For the final review of the DEWATS plan, a presentation was articulated by BORDA explaining all the activities to BUITEMS, GIZ and BRSP that will be taking place once the construction begins.
- Opening tendering with BRSP from 15th March.
- Based on discussion with BUITEMS the “DEWATS Engineers’ Training” would be conducted on a date suitable to BUITEMS as a completed DEWATS to showcase training.
- A first draft of the DEWATS course seminar agenda for BUITEMS will be shared in March 2020.
- BUITEMS and GIZ will review and share comments in joint call till end of March, 2020. Integration of the course into curriculum and course content may be adapted accordingly.



DICE TEXTILES Exhibition 2020

Reported by: Maleeha khan Tareen

A group of BUIITEMS 4th semester fashion & textiles design students under the supervision of Ms. Maleeha Khan Tareen and Mr. Karar Hussain

participated in the 5th All Pakistan NED DICE Textile Innovation Event 2020, held at NEDUET Karachi on March 2-3, 2020. The theme of the competition was holistic theme of Innovation, Sustainability and Value Creation. DICE Textile is a strategic initiative of DICE Foundation USA, led by the National Textile University, Faisalabad in close collaboration with consortium universities, textile industry and the government. The major objective of this platform is to foster the culture of innovation and to promote commercialization of those innovative processes or products, for both the indigenous and the international.

The team members were; Meisam, Usman, Manahil Assad, Munnaza, Mehak and Haleema who presented a project of apparel and home textiles based on the theme, "Fusion of contemporary and traditions" using recycling technique of denim and traditional stuff of Balochistan.

The team followed the whole design process including the extensive research on both contemporary apparel fashion and home ending with the final end products like creating traditional spats, classic oxford shoes, Jacket, garments and lowers depicting the fusion and on the other hand the lamp portraying the local craftsmanship, the traditional separator and sofa case illustrating the culture of Balochistan. The products were highly appreciated by the foreigners, bringing out the colors of Balochistan through a modern and contemporary minimalistic approach.



The CLDP - IP licensing workshop at IBA Karachi

Reported by: Syed Usman

Patent document is a technology-legal document which gives valuable insight in the technical, legal and commercial aspects of patented technologies. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan organized a two days' workshop on, "Commercial Law Development Program - Intellectual Property Licensing" at institute of Business Administration, Karachi on March 3-4, 2020 with the technical support of United States Department of Commerce and Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP). The workshop enhanced the understanding of the focal persons and officials of BUITEMS, Quetta and other southern Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on Intellectual Property (IP) Licensing. This workshop enhanced the knowledge of participants to strengthen the role in technology based economic development of the country. From BUITEMS, Director ORIC and Deputy Director ORIC attended the workshop. The two main mentors from the US were; Stephen Coheler, Technology Transfer officer of Michigan University and John Dickerson, Senior Attorney from Commerce Law Department. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- Usefulness and promotion of patent information and World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO's Project on the Establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)
- Intellectual property licensing procedure by using Commercial Law Development Program
- Building Innovation on Patent Information: Research and Patent Filing Experience in Pakistan
- Search Tools and Strategies, including use of the International Patent Classification (IPC)
- Reading and Understanding Patent Documents



Meeting between ORIC-BUITEMS and SSGCL Karachi

Reported by: Sahar Munir

Under the mandate of University Industry Linkages, the officials of ORIC, BUITEMS held a meeting with the DGM Engr. Jameel ur Rehman of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) Infrastructure and Support Information Technology Department. From BUITEMS Director ORIC, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Shahwani and Deputy Director Engr. Syed Usman, met with DGM SSGCL on March 05, 2020 at SSGCL Karachi. Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGCL) is Pakistan's leading publicly listed integrated gas company. Few agendas were discussed and agreed with following details:

1. As per Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of SSGCL, the retired Information Technology (IT) equipment including: heavy servers, systems, laptops and other related IT products will be provided to BUITEMS.
2. The final year research projects of graduating students and prototypes which are related to gas industry will be commercialized, in collaboration with SSGCL, e.g.; gas leakage detection and remotely indicate and access of gas devices before any mishaps.
3. SSGCL will involve graduates as internees with adequate pay from BUITEMS after completion of studies for a minimum of two years, in order to achieve the goals set by the company and after successful completion of the internship, the graduates of BUITEMS would be eligible to be inducted in the company according to the HR policy by SSGCL.
4. SSGCL shall support the research work by BUITEMS students in terms of research grants that stresses on gas industry and incentives would be given.

In conclusion the SSGCL officer admired BUITEMS' efforts in shaping the youth for becoming instructive models for industries.



DICE-IET 2020 at COMSATS Lahore Campus

Reported by: Syed Usman

COMSATS (CUI) Lahore Campus invited BUITEMS Quetta to participate in DICE-IET Innovation event held on March 6-7, 2020 in collaboration with Distinguished, Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship (DICE) Foundation, USA. BUITEMS exhibited 4 projects in this competition. The purpose of this event was to conduit the resources of academia and industry on innovative concepts and ideas for progress in every industrial field, and to transform it into tangible high value products and services. The event entailed exhibitions of selected innovative projects from different universities and engaged prominent industries to boost up the confidence of the young innovators.

The event invited prominent guests that included politicians, policy makers, and industrialists from Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as local, national and foreign personalities. The event also involved talks by practitioners from industry and researchers/academicians to elucidate technical advancements of practical relevance. It was a splendid opportunity to exhibit the great efforts of students of BUITEMS Quetta to promote applied research and academia among the people of Punjab. During the contest, Director ORIC and Deputy Director ORIC (University Industry Linkages and Technology Transfer) met with several industrialists and DICE higher management to develop linkages for commercialization of the projects of BUITEMS scholars and discussed the possibility of holding DICE competitions at BUITEMS in 2020.



Meeting between ORIC-BUITEMS and HEC Research and Development Division

Reported by: Syed Usman

Development HEC, Dr. Zainul Abdin on March 9, 2020 at HEC office Islamabad to discuss the issue of non-inclusion of BUITEMS name in the list of Research Intensive Universities of Pakistan. Prof. Shahwani highlighted the research achievements of BUITEMS and showed his deep concern for ignoring BUITEMS due to which so many potential research proposals prepared by BUITEMS faculty were not submitted under the call of Grand Challenge Fund (GCF).

Director ORIC BUITEMS, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Shahwani met with Director General Research and

(GCF). DG R&D HEC highly appreciated the stance taken by BUITEMS administration and ORIC. DG R&D briefed the Director ORIC BUITEMS about the opportunity of Local Challenge Fund (LCF). He stated that LCF is a competitive research grant that supports cross-disciplinary research projects that address any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at district level. BUITEMS will be nominated for LCF as per discussion in meeting.



Lahore Study Tour

Reported by: Fida ur Rehman

A 3-days Lahore Study Tour from February 19-21, 2020 was organized for students of University College of Zhob, BUITEMS. The purpose of the tour was to let the students interact with the academia, scholars and students and have an exposure of a more mature, inclusive and diverse environment of teaching and learning by visiting reputed educational institutions located in Lahore.

On the first day, they had an interactive session with the renowned motivational speaker, Qasim Ali Shah. He reiterated that strong commitment and enthusiasm

coupled with hardwork are the primary requirements of a successful life. The development of Balochistan can only be realized if the youth of Balochistan is engaged in positive and productive learning activities and they have an inclusive approach to development and nation-building. While sharing his feeling and attachment for the people of Balochistan, he added that we consider people of Balochistan as an inseparable part of our body and we love them.

On the second day, the students had an inspiring, knowledgeable and motivating interactive session with the Vice Chancellor, Govt College University (GCU) Lahore. He insisted on learning through the strong and living sense of curiosity and creativity. He advised the students to develop a strong sense of curiosity encompassing dynamism and creativity.

After GCU Lahore, students visited the University of Central Punjab (UCP), Lahore, where they saw the business incubation center "Takhleeq" that is meant to support and finance business startups. They also had interaction with the staff of UCP Media house and library staff. In the evening, the students were taken to Wagha Border and observed the lowering of the flag ceremony with national pride and zeal. On the third day, the students visited historical sites like Minar-e-Pakistan, Badshahi mosque, Shahi Fort, Tomb of Iqbal and Old Anarkali. The architecture was very fascinating for them. The students shared their interest in the architectural work of the historical buildings constructed by the Mughal kings. The tour successfully culminated with a delicious dinner at Old Anarkali Food Street.



Quality Policy

BUITEMS contributes in defining standards and systems for the uplift of socio-economic order through quality education and services by:

- Providing an environment conducive to learning, teaching, academic inquiry and innovation
- Maintaining academic excellence and professionalism
- Adhering to established systems for ensuring good governance for management and transfer of knowledge
- Benchmarking with other leading institutions of higher education for improvement
- Enhancing efficient and effective operations by encouraging participation of stakeholders
- Pursuing continuous improvement through creativity, team work and adaptation to change

for

Playing a catalytic role to achieve the national, regional and global harmony.



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