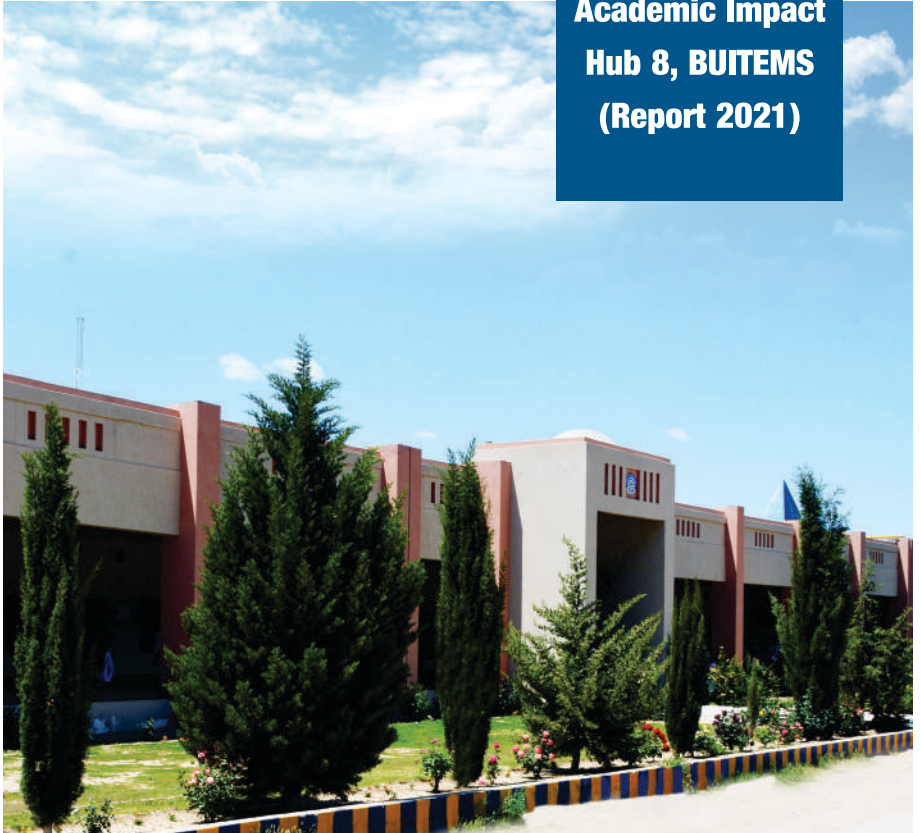




BUITEMS
QUALITY & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**United Nations
Academic Impact
Hub 8, BUITEMS
(Report 2021)**



<https://www.buitem.edu.pk/sdg8/>



Global Hub for SDG8 (2018 - 2023)
United Nations Academic Impact



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Preface

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The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Pakistan serves as the Global Hub for United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), SDG Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. BUITEMS is considered to be one of the core centers of innovation to foster the targets of Goal-8. In recognition of the research, innovation and scholarship undertaken in support of SDGs, UNAI extended the three year term for BUITEMS as the global SDG8 hub from 2021 to 2024 (previously termed for 2018 to 2021).

In view of this, several activities and initiatives had been launched in the year 2021. The activities included seminars, competitions and outreach programs. Alongside, the students and faculty members of BUITEMS also participated in the video showcase of the UN 76th anniversary celebration, providing their perspective regarding the advocacy for the principles of the United Nations Charter through higher education.

To sustain the requirements of UNAI Hub at BUITEMS, the SDGs committee ensured that all expenses incurred for the SDG-8 hub events were covered through external sponsorships. Some of the key events held in the year of 2021 have been detailed in this report.



Events

World Tourism Day 2021

World Tourism Day 2021 was celebrated as a one-day mega event on 27th September 2021, with the theme of Sustainable Tourism for Inclusive Growth. This one day mega event was the ice breaker physical activity after a long a gap subjected by the pandemic. According to some sources, during the pandemic, 90 percent of world heritage sites were closed and millions, who were dependent on tourism for their livelihoods were left unemployed. The purpose of World Tourism Day was to highlight the importance that tourism sector plays in our lives and to focus on inclusive growth in the sector. An exhibit was arranged in parallel to seminar which included interesting talks from various stakeholders of tourism in Balochistan. The session started with a few verses from the Holy Quran and opening remarks by Dr. Bushra Naeem, Coordinator SDG-8 Goal BUIITEMS. Thereafter, Mr. Mayen Khan showcased interesting presentation on unveiling “the hidden tourism potential in Balochistan” following which Mr. Arshad Ashraf, a renowned photographer delivered a brief demonstration on Branding up tourism through photography. Among the notable guests of the event were the Secretary department of tourism, culture and archives, Mr. Muhammad Asghar Harifal and Mr. Zia Ur Rehman, director from the department of tourism, culture and archives, Government of Balochistan. The secretary tourism delivered his speech assuring that the government is focusing on inclusive tourism for Balochistan which had been neglected for a long. He also urged that the Directorate of Tourism, Culture and Archives, and BUIITEMS will work together to make their current projects more successful and beneficial for people. During the closing ceremony, the department of tourism, culture and archives, announced a prize money of Rs. 10,000/- for three of the displayed projects which depicted tourism and its role in the economic capability at the best.





World Youth Skills Day 2021

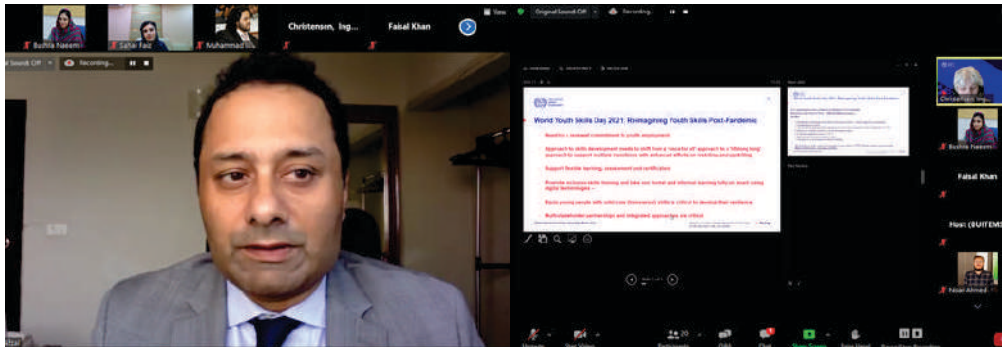
World Youth Skills Day was commemorated on 15th July 2021, with a virtual seminar on the theme of “Bridging the Skills Gap for Youth”. Among the key speakers were Ms. Ingrid Christensen (Country Director for ILO Pakistan), Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan (Pro - Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS), Dr. Aqdas Afzal (Program director social development and policy, HU) Mr. Muhammad Jawad (Fulbright scholar, assistant professor BUIITEMS) and Mr. Nisar Ahmed (Executive Manager NIC Quetta). The event was attended by about 50 participants including students, graduates and faculty members.

This event was intended to bridge the skills gap by exploring the factors that obstruct youth skill transfer. Over the past few years, there has been a structural change in youth skills. While

the degree and impact of falling youth employment have been frequently reported, there had been less focus on understanding the gap in preparing a skilled youth for the future. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a huge impact on the prospects of employment and decent work. The closures of physical training, education and businesses have instigated an obvious reduction in the skill development and job placements. The instigating discussion by learned panelists provided insights and emphasis on various ways which can support the skill transfer among the youth and empower them with greater employment opportunities.

On the world Youth Skills Day, United Nations Academic Impact also published an article that reflected contributions of BUIITEMS for Goal-8, in particular, target 8.6: Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training. In this article, experts from BUIITEMS explore this issue from various angles and perspectives. The article was published with the title of “Developing Youth Skills for the Future: A Vision from Pakistan” and can be accessed at:

<https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/developing-youth-skills-future-vision-pakistan>



World Science Day 2021

A seminar and poster competition was organized on the World Science Day, under the theme of “Role of Basic Sciences in the Economic Growth of the Society”, on 15th December 2021.

Faculty of Basic Sciences (BUIEMS) organized a seminar and poster competition in connection to the World Science Day. The main theme of this activity was to highlight the significant roles of core sciences in the economic uplift of the country. In addition to this, it was a great opportunity to bring out the awareness among youngsters through this platform of BUIEMS, as the HUB for the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal - 8, i.e., “Economic Growth and Decent Work”. The session was attended by the Pro Vice Chancellor (BUIEMS) Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan, Deans, Associate Deans, Chairpersons, Students and Faculty members with about a 100 participants. Eminent speakers from different universities of Balochistan including BUIEMS and The University of Balochistan delivered lectures through informative presentations.



International Conference on Computing, Electronic and Electrical Engineering ICE CUBE Conference 2021 (Sustainable Development & Society Track)



The 3rd International Conference on Computing, Electronic and Electrical Engineering (ICE Cube 2021) was held with a focus on sustainable technologies on 26th and 27th Oct 2021 at BUITEMS Quetta. The two-day conference was focused on the promotion of digitization and technologies and attended by a several notables, researchers, and academicians from all over Pakistan with 400+ participants. One of the most important features of the conference was the exploration of

research and solutions towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The track targeted towards Sustainable Development and Society was sponsored by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Sub-office Quetta. The track involved invited talk by Mr. Habibullah Khan Nasar who serves as the Social Policy Analyst at UNDP's Development Policy Unit's flagship initiative of National SDGs Initiative. His very thought-provoking talk was themed at the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support for SDGs in Balochistan. The Track was also chaired by Mr. Habibullah Khan Nasar where five international papers were (Virtually and Physically).

The papers presented during the session were linked to various SDGs involving 3,7,8,12 and 13. The presented research papers included “IoT Based Tap-Water Supply Alert System – An Application of Machine-toMachine (M2M) Communication” , “Smart Baby Incubator” , “Design and Development of IoT Based Aeroponics Growbox” , “An Effective MPPT Controller for Power Optimization of PMSG Based Wind Turbine” , “Two-step Feature Selection for Predicting Mortality Risk in COVID-19 Patients”



Adapting to the needs of the world, the conference offered physical and virtual participation to the speakers, authors and attendees. Having participants from over 18 countries, the conference was dedicated to recent research trends alongside sustainable technologies. The conference was streamed live on social media reaching thousands of the research community online. The forum was encompassed around multiple research streams pertaining to the computing, electronic and electrical engineering which included Security and Privacy, Information Systems and Services, Communication Theory and Systems, Network and Distributed Systems, Computing and Intelligent Systems, Digital Signal Processing, Engineering and Technology Management, Electrical Engineering, Electronic Devices, Circuit Design and Applications and Sustainable Development & Society.

Mental Health Day 2021

Mental Health Day 2021 was held at BUIITEMS on 8th October 2021. BUIITEMS conducted an event including a seminar and exhibit with the relevance to the World Mental Health Day .

The event focused highlighting why mental health is important and how it should be given equal importance just the way physical health is emphasized. The first talk was delivered by Ms.Anqa Gharshin, lecturer Psychology Department, BUIITEMS. The theme of her talk was psycho-education. Further, sessions included a panel discussion with a senior psychiatrist Dr. Ghulam Rasool and a psychologist Miss Yasmeen Jomezai on Myths and Stigma related with Psychiatric and Psychological Treatment. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Lecturer, Psychology Department, BUIITEMS. The audience participated by asking their concerns regarding the use of medicines and psychotherapy for psychological issues. The panellists answered covering a broad range of concerns from heredity to

the role of environment and the role of the individual himself in making the psychiatric and psychological treatment a success. The panel discussion was followed by a poster exhibition by the students of the Psychology and Fine Arts departments on the theme of 'mental health in an unequal world'.



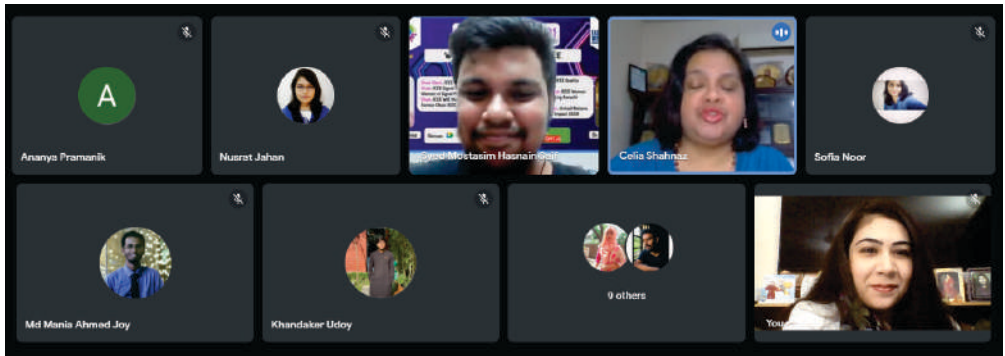
Webinar on engaging universities for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) in higher education



Background-United nation academic impact hub (2018-2021)

- The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realization of United Nations goals and mandates.
- In October 2018, the UN identified 17 universities around the world to serve as 'Academic Impact' Hubs for each of the 17 SDGs.
- The partnerships are managed through the UN Department of Public Information's (DPI) project on UN Academic Impact (UNAI).

A webinar was held on 17th October 2021 to promote and streamline SDGs in higher education in the region. The webinar was conducted to raise awareness among the audience of IEEE Bangladesh section and East West University, Bangladesh to help Engaging universities for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

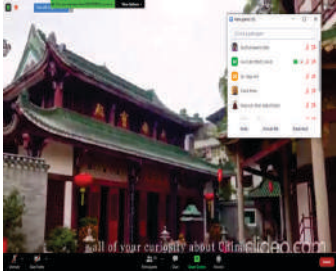


UN Chinese Language Day 2021

The United Nations Chinese Language Day Celebration was held virtually and hosted by the BUIITEMS in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on 21st April, 2021 Wednesday at 4:15 PM. The session was moderated by Dr. Bushra Naeem, Chairperson Department of IT, BUIITEMS and Zain Nadeem, research associate (CARL). The event was initiated by the opening remarks from Dr. Faisal Khan Pro - Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS. The event speakers included Dr. Shahjahan Shabbir Associate Professor/Chairperson FLS&I, and Dr. Raja Asif Wagan, Associate Professor (Department of IT). The interesting event of Chinese Language Day provided a platform where students and faculty learned about interesting facts related to the Chinese language, some of the highlights are as follows:



Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)



- Significance of Chinese language as 1.2 billion population speak Chinese.
- Awareness about CPEC and job opportunities for those who know the Chinese language.
- A brief history of the Chinese Language.
- The tones used in the Chinese language and their meanings



- Almost 50 Million Chinese are settled in various countries to make their future.
- The United Nations has 6 Official Languages and Chinese is one of the 6 languages.

The Chinese Language Day Celebration was attended by more than 50 participants. The Chinese Language Day Celebration was concluded after a question answer session and a note of thanks was given to the speakers.



The Team

The Team



Dr. Bushra Naeem

Chair, United Nations Academic Impact hub (SDG 8) committee BUITEMS
Associate Professor/Chairperson Department of Information Technology



Ms. Fakhra Ramzan

Secretary, United Nations Academic Impact hub (SDG 8) committee BUITEMS
Additional Director, Directorate of Graduate Studies



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Member, United Nations Academic Impact hub (SDG 8) committee BUITEMS
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Gallery



