



Newsletter

PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-economic Development

October 2018

Volume 13, No. 4

President

Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan
HI, SI, TI

Secretary General

Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig
HI, SI, TI

Treasurer

Prof. Dr. G. A. Miana
SI

Editor

Irum Iqar

Composer

Ashia Alam

**Fellows of PAS
may submit
news and views to:**

Editor

**Pakistan Academy of
Sciences**

**3-Constitution Avenue,
G-5/2, Islamabad,
Pakistan**

Email: editor@paspk.org

Tel: (+92 51) 920-7140

Web: www.paspk.org

The Pakistan Academy of Sciences Resolution: PAS condemns the handcuffing of University Professors



On October 18, 2018, an emergent meeting of the Islamabad based Fellows of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) was held at the PAS secretariat, Islamabad to discuss the way, Dr. Mujahid Kamran, the Ex- Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab along with four Professors were arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and shown in handcuffs on different TV channels. This was not the first incident, previously the Vice Chancellors of Sargodha and Bahauddin Zakariya Universities faced a similar humiliating treatment. The following resolution was adopted in the meeting:

Dr. Mujahid Kamran is a celebrated and eminent Physicist of Pakistan who is recipient of the prestigious Salam Prize, which the Pakistani Nobel Laureate had instituted to encourage eminent young Physicists of Pakistan. He served the University of the Punjab for a very long time, as a Physics Faculty and as Vice Chancellor for two terms.

The Fellows of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences are disturbed on this inordinate insult, which they consider a disgrace to the community of academicians who have spent their lives in producing highly educated individuals engaged in serving the country at all levels and in all sectors, including education, health, defense, judiciary and bureaucracy and many other disciplines.

“The Fellows of PAS condemn the handcuffing and public humiliation of the honorable University Professors. They also condemn strongly the media trial of these respectable personalities without completing the legal procedure. We appreciate the *suo moto* action taken by the honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Chairman NAB for the prompt action. The Fellows also appreciate the serious concern shown by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The PAS stands with the HEC in enhancing the higher education sector in the country. The Government of Pakistan is urged to ensure and safeguard the dignity of the University faculty as well as other teachers and scientists in the country.”

AASSA FEB RAS International Workshop October 1-5, 2018

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), and Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (FEB RAS) jointly organized an international workshop on “Climate change adaptation and mitigation: Sustainable agriculture and health security”, with support of Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) in Birobidzhan, Russia. Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, President PAS attended, chaired a session, and gave a talk in the international workshop.



Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman (FRS) Setting-up 5 Centers of Excellence in Pakistan

Prof. Atta-ur-Rehman (FRS) is chairing a committee to establish several Centers of Excellence in Pakistan in collaboration with Chinese Institutions. Seven Chinese Institutions have agreed to help in the establishment of these centers in Pakistan. The centers to be established and Chinese Universities involved are as following:

Railway Engineering

Beijing Jiaotong University
South West Jiaotong University

Agriculture Food Technologies

Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
Zhejiang University

Mineral Resources Engineering

University of Science and Technology, Beijing
China University of Mining and Technology

The Center of Excellence in Virology is being

established in close collaboration with the Institute of Virology, Wuhan, China. The Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics is being established in partnership with several Chinese and Austrian institutions at Pakistan Austrian Fachhochschule in Haripur, Hazara.

These will be post graduate Centers of Excellence and will be established in the Pakistan-Austrian University of Applied Science & Technology in Haripur, Hazara, in International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at Karachi University and in the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. They will help Pakistan to enhance skilled manpower so that we can migrate to a Knowledge Economy through the required expertise in Science and Technology.

Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari Elected as Treasurer of AASSA

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) launched on January 1, 2012, as a consequence of the merger of AASA (The Associations of Academies of Sciences in Asia) and FASAS (The Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies) is a non-profit international organization with interests in the fields of science and technology. It is made up of 34 scientific and technological academies and science societies in Asia and Australasia, including the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). The principal objective of AASSA is to achieve a society in Asia and Australasia in which science and technology play a major role in the development of the region.

AASSA is a forum for scientists and technologists to discuss and provide advice on issues related to science and technology, research and development, and the application of technology for socio-economic development. The Executive Board shall consist of the

President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, four Members at Large. Recognising the scientific achievements of Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari, he was elected as treasurer in 2016 and was reelected in 2018 for another term.



Elsevier Publishes Two Books of Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman (FRS)

Two volumes of “Studies in Natural Product Chemistry” have been published by Elsevier Science Publishers, Netherlands. These are Volumes 57 and 58 of this long standing series of books which commenced publication under the editorship of Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman thirty (30) years ago that represents the most comprehensive encyclopedic series of volumes covering various aspects of Terrestrial and Marine Natural Products. Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman now has 253 books to his credit largely published in US and Europe. He has 1142 international publications, including 43 patents.



Professor Jinde Cao, Foreign FPAS, entitled 2018 Excellent Author for Science China and Science Bulletin

Professor Jinde Cao (Fellow of IEEE, Member of Academia European and Foreign Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences) from Southeast University received 2018 excellent author award of two journals in the 4th meeting of the 2nd council of SCIENCE CHINA and SCIENCE BULLETIN on October 29, 2018.

The excellent authors of the two journals are recommended by each journal's editorial board. The editorial board of each journal chooses one excellent author for approval of the council. Since 2016, the two journals are organizing such activities every year to show gratitude and recognition to the contributing scientists.



Forthcoming Scientific Events at/ in Collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences

1. Tribute to Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad jointly organized by Pakistan Nuclear Society & Pakistan Academy of Sciences at Pakistan Academy of Sciences (January 29, 2019)
2. 1st PUICGC at Department of Mathematics, University of the Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Lahore-Pakistan by Dr. Sharif (January 27-31, 2019)
3. AASSA-PAS Regional Workshop 2019 on “Complementary Medicine as an Answer to Challenges Faced in Achieving Sustainable Goals in Health” will be jointly organized by Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) in collaboration with The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), in Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad (March 4-5, 2019) (Coordinator: Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari)
4. International Conference on Microbes for Sustainable Agriculture to be held at Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan by Dr. Kausar A. Malik (March 25-28, 2019)
5. Three days Conference on Water Problems in Pakistan and their Solutions will be jointly organized by Pakistan Nuclear Society and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (April 15-17, 2019)

Earth Sciences Centre for Advanced Studies and Research

The Chinese Academy of Sciences and Government of Pakistan have agreed to establish a Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Islamabad. The Centre would cover broader aspects of Earth and Environmental Sciences and shall be linked to relevant academic institutions and research organizations in Pakistan. The initial idea of the Centre was proposed by the

Pakistan Academy of Sciences to the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The two academies have an active collaboration for many years now.

The 2018 Nobel Laureates

Nobel Prize in Physics

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2018 was awarded "for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics" with one half to Arthur Ashkin "for the optical tweezers and their application to biological systems" and the other half jointly to Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland "for their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses".



Donna Strickland Gérard Mourou Arthur Ashkin

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 was awarded with one half to Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes" and the other half jointly to George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies."



Frances H. Arnold George P. Smith Sir Gregory P. Winter

Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018 was awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation." The Laureates have shown how different strategies for inhibiting the brakes on the immune system can be used in the treatment of cancer. Their discoveries are a landmark in our fight against cancer.



James P. Allison Tasuku Honjo

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics".



Paul M. Romer William D. Nordhaus