

ISSUE NO: 12

# IBA NEWS

## RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

### IBA x STANFORD LIFE DESIGN LAB

From Silicon Valley to Karachi, IBA's collaboration with the Stanford Life Design Lab transformed how we teach, learn, and solve problems. Through immersive design-thinking initiatives across academics and administration, the partnership equips the IBA community to design lives and careers filled with creativity, purpose, and impact.



### SAQAFAT KAY RANG

IBA hosted the vibrant cultural carnival "Saqafat Kay Rang", organized by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) in collaboration with OSA Committees and the IBA Student Government, celebrating Pakistan's rich cultural diversity. Five provincial pavilions—Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan — showcased traditional food, handicrafts, and performances. Artists including Balo Baloch, Jimmy Sanam, Shams Rubabi, and Babar Mangi entertained the audience, along with the Hareep-Tamasha dance from Gilgit-Baltistan. The event drew an enthusiastic turnout of over 3,000 attendees, making it a resounding success.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## IBA ALUMNI RECONNECT AT CS BAITHAK 2025 FOR A NIGHT OF REFLECTION AND NETWORKING

IBA hosted the highly anticipated CS Baithak 2025 at the Main Campus, organized by the School of Mathematics and Computer Science. Distinguished alumni, including Data & MLOps Engineer at AstraZeneca, Mr. Omar Farooq Ahmed, and Co-founder of EfroTech, Mr. Nadir Khan Feroz shared inspiring success stories, encouraging younger alumni to stay focused, goal-oriented, and committed to continuous skill development.

The event, attended by over 200 alumni and faculty, brought together graduates from IBA's BS(cs), MS(cs), MS(DS), PhD(cs), and MBA(MIS) programs, spanning batches from 1996 to 2024. It was a vibrant evening filled with celebration, music, and networking, fostering meaningful personal and professional connections.



## IBA ORGANIZED ANNUAL CAREER FAIR 2025



IBA hosted its Annual Career Fair 2025, organized by the IBA Career Development Center (CDC). The fair witnessed an impressive turnout, with over 170 companies and seasoned professionals serving as mentors. Representatives from various sectors, including banking and financial institutions, information technology, manufacturing, food and beverages, retail energy and resources, service sector, textiles, and pharmaceuticals, engaged with the diverse and talented IBA students.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## IBA HOSTED THE CURTAIN RAISER FOR ITS EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM – LEARN TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

IBA hosted a curtain raiser for its Executive MBA Program – Learn to Build a Sustainable World – highlighting its block-teaching model, corporate mentorship, and Silicon Valley immersion. The event drew strong participation from industry, with representatives of over 170 leading companies.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, emphasized the EMBA program's renewed focus on flexibility and global exposure, while Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean SBS, shared insights on its curriculum and international faculty. Speakers, including Dr. Muhammad Shafique, Program Director, MBA & EMBA; Dr. Azam Ali, Faculty Lead, Stanford-IBA Collaboration; and Junaid Aziz, Co-founder, Designing Your Life, Stanford Life Design Lab, discussed leadership, innovation, and career development.



## IBA HOSTED AN INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE NEW NET PRACTICE CRICKET PITCHES

IBA held an inaugural ceremony for the newly curated net practice cricket pitches at the IBA Cricket Ground, Main Campus. The event was graced by Test Cricketer and Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Selection Committee member, Mr. Asad Shafiq, who officially inaugurated the facility. Mr. Shafiq engaged with IBA's official student cricket team, playing a few deliveries and sharing valuable insights. The ceremony provided students with the opportunity to interact with the cricketing icon and draw inspiration from his life journey.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## IBA-CEE AND PAA-CATI LAUNCH AVIATION LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA

CEE and the Pakistan Airports Authority's Civil Aviation Training Institute (CATI) signed an MoU to introduce a Diploma in Aviation Leadership and Management. The MoU was signed by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, and AVM Zeeshan Saeed, Director General, PAA. This partnership marks a significant milestone in advancing aviation education and professional training across Pakistan.



## IBA BECOMES AACSB ACCREDITED



IBA Karachi achieved the prestigious AACSB Accreditation, marking a historic milestone in its journey of academic excellence. This global recognition positioned IBA among the world's top 6% of business schools, celebrating its commitment to quality education, innovation, and diversity – uniting students, faculty, and staff under the shared values of leadership and impact.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## SMCS ORGANIZED HEALTHCARE & DATA SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

SMCS organized the "Transforming Healthcare Through Data Science" Symposium, bringing together 300 healthcare professionals, data scientists, and AI experts. The event highlighted the growing role of data-driven innovation in improving patient care, diagnosis, and treatment. Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, and Dr. Sajjad Haider, Professor, SMCS, opened the symposium, emphasizing the urgent need to integrate data science into Pakistan's healthcare ecosystem and strengthen collaboration between the technology and healthcare sectors.



## IBA HOSTED ALL-PAKISTAN INTER-VARSITY ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP



IBA hosted the All-Pakistan Inter-Varsity Archery Championship, welcoming nine universities from across Pakistan. After three days of competitive events, the University of Punjab won gold, IBA secured silver, and the University of Lahore took bronze.

The championship was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman, HEC. Key attendees included Javed Ali Memon, Director Sports, HEC; Nazir Ahmed, Regional Head, HEC; and Ahmad Ali Rajpoot, Secretary General, Sindh Olympic Association. The event highlighted IBA's commitment to fostering sportsmanship, athletic excellence, and student engagement.

# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## SBS ORGANIZED 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025 "TRANSFORMING BUSINESS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET"



SBS hosted its 4th International Conference on "Transforming Business for People and Planet," uniting global thought leaders to discuss sustainable business and climate challenges. Speakers, including Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, SBS & Conference Chair; and Dr. Aitzaz Ahsan Alias, Conference Convener, emphasized responsible corporate action, people-centered leadership, and IBA's global alumni impact.



## IBA-ORIC HOSTED BOOK LAUNCH ON FAMILY BUSINESS TRANSITION

ORIC hosted the launch of Family Business Transition: Advice & Cases on Transition, Succession & Split, co-authored by Dr. Rameez Khalid, Associate Professor, SBS, and Dr. Arif Iqbal Rana, Pro-Rector, Faculty Development, University of Lahore. The book offers practical insights and case studies on succession, governance, and transition in family enterprises.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF IBA-CEJ

The Center for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) marked its 10-year anniversary, celebrating a decade of strengthening Pakistan's media landscape. The event honored CEJ's contributions to quality journalism, training, and research, bringing together alumni, industry leaders, and faculty while reaffirming its commitment to ethical reporting and media development.



## IBA WELCOMED NEW STUDENTS WITH OGALA 2025



IBA organized a 3-day IBA Orientation Gala to warmly welcome the newly enrolled students of School of Business Studies (SBS), School of Mathematics & Computer Science (SMCS), and School of Economics & Social Sciences (SESS). The event featured orientation sessions, engaging campus tours, and interactive ice-breaking activities. Freshmen had the opportunity to meet various support offices and learn about the resources available throughout their academic journey.

# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## IBA CELEBRATED PAKISTAN'S 78TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

IBA marked Pakistan's 78th Independence Day with a two-week series of engaging activities. Under the theme, 'Hum Zinda Qaum Hain – The Legacy of Bunyan-al-Marsoos & Marka-e-Haq,' faculty, staff, and students united to honor the nation's history, culture, and identity through creative and educational events.



## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



Executive Director, IBA Karachi, was honored with the prestigious CEO Award at the CEO Summit in Islamabad, recognizing the institution's strong leadership and national impact. IBA was also ranked among the top 40 organizations in Pakistan's Best Place to Work 2025, reaffirming its commitment to excellence and a people-centered culture.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARDS

IBA hosted the Alumni Excellence Awards 2024 to honor graduates who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in their fields. The event celebrated visionary leadership, innovation, and sustainable community impact across diverse industries. It brought together distinguished alumni highlighting the strength of IBA network and its legacy of inspiring professional excellence.



## IBA GAME JAM 2025 SEASON 4 INSPIRED CS FRESHMAN

SMCS, in collaboration with The Games Collective and Takhleeq Business Incubator, successfully hosted Season 4 of "Out of Thin Air: IBA Game Jam", a three-day creative challenge designed exclusively for first-year Computer Science students. Freshmen explored game development through rapid ideation, design thinking, and hands-on innovation. They created and showcased products within 72 hours, integrated real-time feedback, and engaged directly with industry experts and mentors.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR **2025!**

## IBA LAUNCHED THE BOOK: STATE OF PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY 2025-2026



CBER unveiled its flagship report titled "State of Pakistan's Economy 2025-26 - Missed Opportunity: Revisiting Pakistan's Choices", authored by esteemed faculty & researchers from SESS. The launch brought together researchers, economists, and students to discuss and reflect upon Pakistan's economic trajectory amid pressing challenges in governance and climate change.

## SESS AND IBA-CBER ORGANIZED THE FIFTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - "A NEW GLOBAL ORDER, YET AGAIN"

SESS and IBA-CBER organized the Fifth Annual International Conference on "A New Global Order, Yet Again," bringing together leading global and national experts to explore shifting geopolitical dynamics, economic uncertainty, climate vulnerability, and development challenges shaping the emerging world order.

Notable speakers included Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Hina Rabbani Khar, Chair, National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee and Former Foreign Minister; Bolorma Amgaabazar, Country Director Pakistan, World Bank; Mahir Binici, Resident Representative Pakistan, IMF; Farzana Noshab, Lead Economist, ADB; and Professor Adnan Qadir Khan, LSE.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR **2025!**

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF IBA-CEIF

Center for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) celebrated its 10-year milestone, marking a decade of advancing research, training, and industry collaboration in Islamic finance. The event brought together scholars, practitioners, and alumni to honor CEIF's contributions, innovation, and leadership in promoting ethical, knowledge-driven financial practices in Pakistan and beyond.



## IBA-CED CELEBRATED GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK 2025

CED hosted a month-long series of activities to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2025 under the theme "Together We Build." Key events included a reverse-pitching session with Fatima Gobi Ventures; I-Bazaar 2025, featuring 87 student-led ventures; Pakistan's first Invent for the Greater Good Challenge; and the I-Incubate 1st Cohort Demo Day. GEW 2025 highlighted IBA-CED's commitment to nurturing young innovators, strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and advancing social impact through mentorship, collaboration, and opportunity.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## IBA AWARDS 1046 DEGREES AT CONVOCATION 2025



IBA held its Convocation 2025 at the Main Campus, awarding degrees to 1,046 graduates across undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programs, including the first cohorts of MS Data Science and MS Marketing. The ceremony was graced by Mr. Muhammad Ismail Rahoo, Honorable Minister for Universities and Boards, Sindh, as Chief Guest, and Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Founder of Akhuwat Foundation, as Guest of Honor. Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, congratulated the graduates and reaffirmed IBA's commitment to excellence in education.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## SMCS HOSTED MS POSTER PRESENTATION SHOWCASING PROJECTS FROM MSCS, MSDS, AND MS MATHEMATICS STUDENTS

SMCS hosted an MS Poster Presentation, showcasing 28 projects from MS Computer Science, MS Data Science, and five projects from MS Mathematics. The projects featured research in machine learning, data engineering, NLP, AI, cloud computing, and related domains.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean, SMCS; Dr. Shahid Hussain, Chairperson, CS Department; Dr. Tariq Mahmood, Program Coordinator, MSCS & MSDS; and Dr. Danish Ali, Program Director, MS Mathematics, attended the showcase, emphasizing the importance of academia-industry collaboration in driving innovation.



## IBA'S SPORTING EXCELLENCE



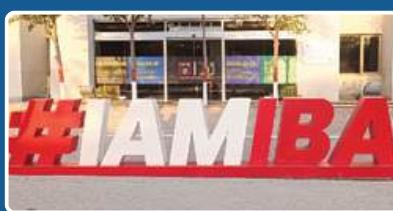
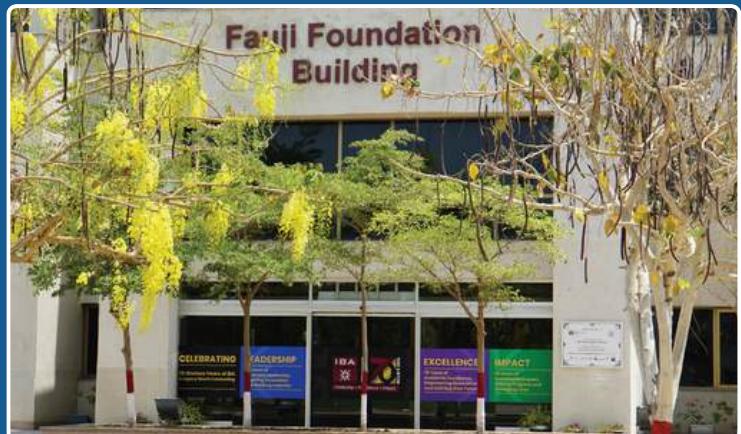
IBA celebrated remarkable sports achievements throughout the year, with students excelling in national and inter-university competitions. From cricket and rowing to athletics and indoor games, IBA athletes showcased discipline, teamwork, and resilience. Their victories strengthened the institution's sporting legacy and highlighted the passion and talent within the student community.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## RE-BRANDING IBA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

IBA's rebranding initiative, led by Team MarComms under the leadership of Syed Fuad Mehdi, Head - Marketing & Communications, introduced a modern and cohesive visual identity across the institution. The refreshed look spanned multiple platforms and assets, including building banners, entrance branding, wayfinding, social media creatives, and campus-wide installations across City and Main Campuses—creating a unified, contemporary IBA experience.



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## BRAND STANDARDIZATION OF IBA SCHOOLS, CENTERS, AND SOCIETY/CLUB LOGOS

MarComms led the standardization of IBA Schools, Centers, and Society/Club logos across the institution and developed the official "IBA 70 Years Logo" to commemorate the Institute's milestone anniversary. These Branding initiatives ensured consistency, strengthened visual governance, creating a unified, celebratory identity across digital, print, and on-campus platforms, reinforcing IBA's legacy and forward-looking vision.

### IBA CORPORATE AND SCHOOL LOGOS



### IBA CENTER LOGOS



### IBA SOCIETY/CLUB LOGOS



# RECAP OF THE YEAR 2025!

## EXPANDING IBA'S DIGITAL PRESENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

MarComms strengthened IBA's digital footprint by launching the Institution's official TikTok account and achieving significant growth across social media platforms. Within a short span, IBA's TikTok presence garnered over 50,000 followers, reflecting strong engagement among younger audiences, while IBA's Facebook community crossed a major milestone of 300,000 followers. These achievements underscore MarComms' strategic focus on platform diversification, audience engagement, and consistent brand storytelling across digital channels.



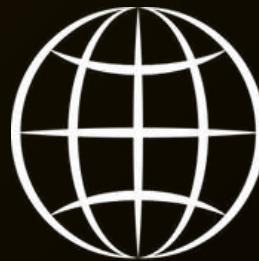
# DECEMBER NEWS

## IBA Karachi Attains Full Membership of UNICON

IBA has attained Full Membership of University Consortium for Executive Education (UNICON), effective December 2025. This achievement places IBA among an exclusive global network of 125+ leading universities and business schools worldwide, reinforcing its role as Pakistan's gateway to international executive education partnerships.

Since joining UNICON in 2023, IBA CEE has actively engaged in global conferences hosted by institutions including the American University in Cairo, HKUST, NOVA SBE Lisbon, and Johns Hopkins University. These engagements have supported the enhancement of leadership programs, ADR and mediation training, faculty development, and executive education outreach.

As a full member, IBA CEE will deepen global collaboration through joint program design, faculty partnerships, research, and peer learning—continuing to connect Pakistani leadership with global best practices.



**unicon**  
CONSORTIUM FOR UNIVERSITY  
EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



## IBA Hosted Annual Fundraiser

IBA's Annual Fundraiser, Diya Jalaye Rakhna Hai, was held at the residence of Mr. Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, bringing together over 150 philanthropists and business leaders to support deserving students.

At the event, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, reaffirmed IBA's mission. Ms. Malahat Awan, Director, Alumni Affairs, Resource Mobilization and Corporate Affairs, emphasized how small contributions can light a "diya" for Pakistan's youth, while inspiring student stories highlighted the transformative impact of IBA's financial assistance programs. The evening featured a soulful performance by Hamza Akram, with acknowledgments to the host committee and Master of Ceremony, Mr. Sibtain Naqvi.

The event celebrated both new and renewed partnerships, including with DWP Foundation, and welcomed prospects such as Mr. Saeed Allawala, CEO, Atco Laboratories. Notable attendees included Mr. Zulfiqar Lakhani, Mr. Mian Abdullah, Mr. Raza Pirbhai, Mr. Atif Hanif, Mrs. Anam Akhai, and Mr. Farrukh Sabzwari—who generously contributed to the cause.



## IBA Library Inaugurates Dr. Ishrat Husain Corner

The IBA Library proudly inaugurated the Dr. Ishrat Husain Corner, a dedicated space established in recognition of Dr. Ishrat Husain's generous endowment of his personal collection to the library and his distinguished service to IBA. This initiative creates a permanent scholarly corner that preserves and celebrates his intellectual and institutional legacy.

The ceremony brought together faculty, staff, and distinguished guests from across the IBA community to honor Dr. Husain's enduring leadership, scholarship, and contributions to the Institute. The event featured brief remarks by Dr. Ishrat Husain and Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, followed by the formal unveiling of the collection and a guided tour of the corner. Dr. Hilal Anwar Butt, Professor and Chair of the Library Committee, welcomed the guests, while Mr. Muhammad Anwar led the guided tour of the newly established space, highlighting its scope, relevance, and significance for teaching, research, and institutional memory.

Notable attendees included Dr. Muhammad Nishat, Former Associate Dean, Faculty of Business Administration; Ms. Ayesha Menai, Former Director HR; Capt. Ahmed Zaheer, Former Registrar; Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, IBA-SBS; Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean, IBA-SMCS; Dr. Qazi Masood Ahmed, Acting Dean, IBA-SESS; Mr. Irfan Qamar, Director HR; Mr. Abdul Wajid, Controller Examinations; Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED; Dr. Mohammad Kamran Mumtaz, Director, IBA-CILET, Mr. Kamran Bilgrami, Director, IBA-CEE, among others.

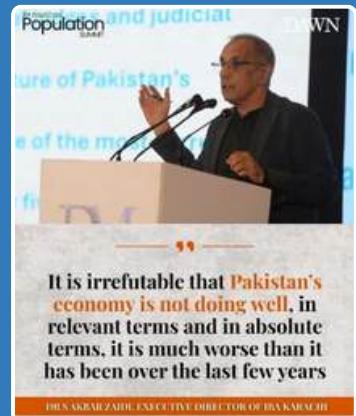




# IBA IN THE MEDIA

## PAKISTAN POPULATION SUMMIT 2025

Strengthening IBA's role in national policy dialogue, our Executive Director, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, delivered a keynote address and participated in critical discussions on population growth, economic decline, and the urgent need for a women-centered development model for Pakistan's future. The Session Chair was Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Co-Chair was Her Excellency Jane Marriott, CMG OBE, British High Commissioner to Pakistan. Alongside Dr. Zaidi, Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, and Dr. Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director for Pakistan, World Bank, were also the speakers in the session.



Speaking at the Summit, Dr. Zaidi emphasized that "Pakistan's population challenge cannot be addressed without putting women first – whether through security, education, mobility, finances, or jobs." He further reflected on the state of the economy, noting that many indicators continue to move in the wrong direction – calling for reform-driven, evidence-based policy thinking.

## Dr. S Akbar Zaidi on Pakistan's Economic Outlook in 2025

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, appeared on Geo News program Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sat to discuss Pakistan's economic outlook in 2025. He shared evidence-based insights on economic decline, policy constraints, and the urgent need for reforms.

Dr. Zaidi emphasized an export-led growth model, stressing that sustainable recovery depends on controlling energy costs, improving productivity, and investing in human capital, while prioritizing long-term planning over short-term fixes.





# IBA IN THE MEDIA

## Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi's View on Pakistan's Economic Future

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, published in Dawn, which offers a candid and data-driven assessment of Pakistan's current economic, social, and human development trajectory.

The article highlights Pakistan's sustained decline in economic growth, worsening human development indicators, rising unemployment, and deepening gender gaps—placing the country increasingly behind its regional and global peers. It also underscores the critical challenges posed by rapid population growth, weak investment, and lagging education and human capital development, raising serious concerns about long-term competitiveness and prosperity.



## Dr. Khadija Malik Bari on Dawn News Program "All Things Money"



Dr. Khadija Malik Bari, Associate Professor & Director, Financial Assistance, IBA, joined the Dawn News Program, All Things Money, titled, "How Unchecked Population Is Breaking Pakistan's Economy", where she shared an impactful perspective on Pakistan's population growth trajectory and its economic consequences.

In this insightful conversation, Dr. Bari highlights how Pakistan's rapidly expanding population has outpaced the country's ability to provide education, employment, healthcare, housing, and social protection at scale. She stresses the urgent need for population management, policy reform, and national awareness to secure a sustainable economic future.

## Dr. Lubna Naz on Dawn News special podcast "Front Seat to Climate Change"



Dr. Lubna Naz, Professor and Director, IBA-CBER, appeared on the Dawn News special podcast "Front Seat to Climate Change", where she discussed critical insights on Pakistan's climate vulnerability, economic resilience, and the policy frameworks needed to safeguard communities.

In this engaging conversation, Dr. Naz highlights the urgency of climate-aware development planning, the importance of data-driven policy reforms, and the pivotal role academic institutions like IBA Karachi play in shaping national climate discourse.

## SMCS Hosted Workshop on Responsible AI to Strengthen Security, Governance, and Fairness



SMCS held a successful workshop titled, "Responsible AI: Making AI Secure and Governed", which provided a deep learning experience for both professionals and students. The facilitators of the session were Mr. Muzzamil Hussain, Assistant Vice President, National Bank of Pakistan, and Mr. Hassan Azwar, Senior Information Security and AI Governance Consultant (CISSP, FIP).

The workshop enlightened the attendees with the basic principles of AI Governance, stressing the role of policies, oversight structures, and accountability mechanisms in the mentioned financial and enterprise environments.

An important part of the workshop was dedicated to Model Bias and Fairness, which is one of the responsible AI development major factors. The attendees investigated the fairness and explainability tools like FairLearn, AIF360, and SHAP, that support teams to scrutinize model behavior for various user segments, assess transparency, and recognize the portions needing mitigation.

## Dr. Hasnain Walji Addressed the IBA Community on AI, Wisdom, and the Human Heart

IBA had the honor of hosting Dr. Hasnain Walji, Director, Jaffer Family Foundation, for a deeply insightful and thought-provoking session titled, "AI Has a Mind. Do We Still Have a Heart?". The event brought together students, faculty, staff, and leadership from across the IBA, fostering a powerful conversation at the intersection of technology, ethics, and humanity.

Following the session, Dr. Walji was given an exclusive walkthrough of the architectural model of the upcoming Data Science Center at IBA. He was accompanied by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean and Professor, SMCS; Malahat Awan, Director, Alumni Relations, Resource Mobilization & Corporate Relations, and representatives from the Jaffer Family Foundation.

The visit allowed Dr. Walji to engage in meaningful conversations about the future of data science, research capacity building, and the role of ethical leadership in shaping technology ecosystems.



## Inaugural Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Board for Digital Health

The meeting convened leaders from academia, healthcare, and industry to discuss the role of health data, AI, and analytics in improving patient care. Discussions addressed bridging research with real-world deployment, regulatory and operational challenges, and pathways to translate research into hospital-ready solutions.

Highlights included Ijlal Jafri's insights on responsible AI adoption, data governance, and cross-sector collaboration. Dr. Shakeel Khoja outlined the Advisory Board's focus on advancing digital health, fostering collaboration across universities, hospitals, and industry, and establishing ethical and data protection guidelines, while Dr. Tariq Mahmood emphasized scaling academic research into practical healthcare innovations through strong partnerships.



# IBA Icons: Leaders, Mentors & Rising Stars

## #IAMIBA

Team MarComms celebrates the spirit of excellence at IBA by illuminating inspiring leaders, dedicated faculty, and exceptional students. Through exclusive communication, we honor their impact, achievements, and lasting contributions to the IBA community and beyond.



### FACULTY PROFILE

## DR. ADNAN HAIDER

Professor of Economics & Analytics (SESS)

Dr. Adnan Haider is a polymath with strong grounding in classical and contemporary scholarship. He serves as Professor of Economics and Analytics at IBA and Research Fellow at IBA-CBER. Previously, he worked as a Research Analyst in the Monetary Policy Department at the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). His academic training includes postdoctoral research at Oxford, a PhD in Economics from PIDE, and an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Statistics.

Dr. Haider has pursued extensive interdisciplinary studies across mathematics, data science, finance, and theology, completing seven MS/MPhil degrees (with four gold and silver medals). He has published three books on Islamic philosophy and theology, with two forthcoming.



**OUR FACULTY**  
**OUR EXCELLENCE**

+92 21 111 422 422 | [www.iba.edu.pk](http://www.iba.edu.pk)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/ibakhlofficial) [X](https://www.twitter.com/ibakhlofficial) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ibakhlofficial) [d](https://www.youtube.com/ibakhlofficial) [i](https://www.instagram.com/ibakhlofficial) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@ibakhlofficial) [ibakhlofficial](https://www.ibakhlofficial)

#IAMIBA



### FACULTY PROFILE

## DR. TARIQ MAHMOOD

Professor - SMCS  
Head - Big Data Analytics Lab

Dr. Mahmood believes in nurturing students to prepare them for the local and global industry. He therefore proposes personalized data analytical and software frameworks in his courses, which bridge academia and industry and assist students in blending strong theoretical and extensive practical skills.

He has developed linkages with local clinical organizations to complete over 10 healthcare analytics projects and has proposed guidelines for digital healthcare transformation. His aim is to improve local healthcare processes to enhance patient safety and well-being.



**OUR FACULTY**  
**OUR EXCELLENCE**

+92 21 111 422 422 | [www.iba.edu.pk](http://www.iba.edu.pk)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/ibakhlofficial) [X](https://www.twitter.com/ibakhlofficial) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ibakhlofficial) [d](https://www.youtube.com/ibakhlofficial) [i](https://www.instagram.com/ibakhlofficial) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@ibakhlofficial) [ibakhlofficial](https://www.ibakhlofficial)

#IAMIBA

## IBA-CICT Hosted Certificate Distribution Ceremony & Qawwali Night

IBA-CICT hosted a Certificate Distribution Ceremony celebrating the achievements of its graduating students and their journey toward becoming future-ready IT professionals. The event opened with inspiring remarks by Prof. Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Head – IBA-CICT, who emphasized leadership, lifelong learning, and continuous upskilling to meet the evolving demands of the IT industry. Adding a memorable cultural touch, a soulful Qawwali performance held on December 20 created a lively yet elegant atmosphere, making the occasion a meaningful and celebratory milestone for students, faculty, and guests alike.



## Being Pakistani Week Brings Together Diverse Voices at IBA



As part of Being Pakistani Week, IBA, in collaboration with OPEN Karachi, OPEN Lahore, OPEN Islamabad, and OPEN Global, hosted a well-attended gathering that brought together participants from diverse professional and generational backgrounds. The event commenced with a networking breakfast, fostering meaningful connections and exchange among attendees.

The program featured two panel discussions. "Many Voices, One Nation" focused on a multi-generational dialogue on identity, values, and belonging, with panelists including Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Mushtaq K. Chhapra, Najeeb Agrawala, Hassan Khan, Alisha Junaid, Nida Ali, and Emaan Bilgrami, and was moderated by Dr. Sahar Awan.

The second session, "Beyond Borders," explored how Pakistanis think, lead, and build in global contexts. Speakers included Sultana Siddiqui, Tariq Khan, Faisal Jedd, Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Javaid Iqbal, Junaid Qureshi, and Aamir Chalisa, who shared insights drawn from their leadership and international experience.

The event reflected the spirit of Being Pakistani Week—encouraging thoughtful dialogue, cross-generational learning, and engagement with ideas shaping Pakistan's present and future.

## From Karachi to Silicon Valley: Founders in Conversation with Zain Jeewanjee

IBA's Centre for Entrepreneurial Development (IBA-CED) hosted an exclusive Founders' Meetup with Mr. Zain Jeewanjee, a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur with over four decades of robust global business experience.

Designed as an interactive conversation, the session offered founders practical insights on scaling startups, entering international markets, and positioning local innovation for global impact. Participants engaged in candid discussions, gaining actionable takeaways grounded in real-world entrepreneurial journeys.

The meetup reaffirmed IBA-CED's role as a platform for young founders to actualize their potential through global exposure, mentorship, and meaningful dialogue.

This session was proudly held in partnership with IBA-CEE, The Founders Space, and OPEN Karachi, and marked the first in a series of Founders' Meetups planned by IBA-CED.



## Dr. Nausheen H. Anwar Delivers Keynote on Extreme Heat and Health



Dr. Nausheen H. Anwar, Professor, City & Regional Planning, and Director, Karachi Urban Lab, was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the 'Global Health Symposium: Extreme Heat and Health in the Context of Climate Change,' organized by the University of Copenhagen, School of Global Health, and funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Professor Nausheen's keynote was titled 'Extreme Heat and Health in a Changing Climate: Biosocial Frontiers, Gendered Vulnerabilities, and Pathways for Just Adaptation.' Her speech underscored the importance of understanding extreme heat as both a biophysical and biosocial dynamic, with intersectionality as a crucial component for addressing challenges of care, equity, and justice. She drew on her work across cities in Africa and South Asia.

## Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion

IBA Library hosted a thought-provoking Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion titled "Advertising and the End of the World!", examining the intersection of media, culture, and consumer behavior. The discussion explored how modern advertising, branding, and influencer marketing often perpetuate cycles of capitalism and consumerism by promoting idealized lifestyles and unattainable standards. A key takeaway from the session was the emphasis on self-awareness, contentment, and mindful decision-making as antidotes to manipulative marketing narratives. The event encouraged critical reflection on how advertising shapes societal values and everyday choices, fostering meaningful dialogue among participants.



## Completion of Term of IBA Alumni Representative on the Board of Governors

**Acknowledging Distinguished Service on the Board of Governors**

IBA extends its sincere appreciation to **Mr. Mohammad Sohail**, *CEO - Topline Securities - (MBA Class of 1992)* for his dedicated service as the IBA Alumni Representative on the Board of Governors.

His leadership and commitment have strengthened institutional governance and fostering alumni engagement.

IBA extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Mohammed Sohail (MBA Class of 1994) on the completion of his three-year term as the IBA Alumni Representative on the Board of Governors. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in strengthening board governance, enhancing alumni representation, and supporting major institutional milestones, including AACSB accreditation, expanded financial aid benefiting one in three students, and the activation of key Board committees in line with global best practices. His leadership also contributed to the approval of a two-term limit for elected alumni representatives, ensuring fresh perspectives and broader alumni participation going forward.

Mr. Sohail's term was marked by impactful alumni-focused initiatives and engagements, including the launch of the IBA Alumni Chapter Charter, expansion to 14 active alumni chapters worldwide, and signature platforms such as the IBA Alumni Excellence Awards, Leaders' Connect, Town Halls, AlumFest, HerLegacy Campaign, Alumni Premier League, Startup Summit, CEO Directory, and Alumni Magazine. We thank him for representing the IBA alumni with distinction and for his continued commitment to the institution. IBA looks forward to welcoming the next Alumni Representative and building on this strong foundation of alumni engagement and collaboration.

## IBA Signs MoU with NOWPDP to Advance Inclusion and Accessibility



IBA, through its Office of Diversity, Accessibility & Inclusion (ODAI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NOWPDP, a leading organization dedicated to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Under this partnership, IBA and NOWPDP will collaborate to promote accessibility, build institutional capacity, and create learning and development opportunities for students and stakeholders. The scope of the MoU includes awareness campaigns, training sessions, accessibility initiatives, joint programs, and strategic collaborations aimed at fostering a more inclusive campus environment. The MoU was formalized by Executive Director, IBA Karachi, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, and Dean Student Affairs, Ms. Maheen Ghauri. Representing NOWPDP, Mr. Amin Hashwani, President, and Mr. Omair Ahmed, CEO, were present at the signing, reflecting a shared commitment to driving meaningful social impact.

During the ceremony, the leadership emphasized the importance of strong institutional partnerships in building a more inclusive and accessible future. This collaboration marks a significant step toward ensuring equal opportunities, representation, and support for persons with disabilities within the IBA community.

The ODAI looks forward to working closely with NOWPDP to introduce impactful initiatives that empower individuals and contribute to a more inclusive society.



## ODAI Hosts "Breathing Books" in Collaboration with NOWPDP



The Office of Diversity, Accessibility & Inclusion (ODAI), IBA Karachi, in collaboration with NOWPDP, hosted "Breathing Books", a unique and impactful storytelling initiative centered on the lived experiences of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Designed as a human-library style engagement, the event invited participants to "read" people instead of pages, creating a space for meaningful, empathy-driven dialogue. Attendees engaged directly with speakers, listening to personal journeys of resilience, identity, and growth.

The event featured four inspiring individuals—Ashir Wilson, Dr. Anila Wilson, Ms. Nazia Omer, and Ms. Agnes—who shared candid reflections on the challenges they have navigated and the strengths that have shaped their paths. Their narratives highlighted how lived experiences, societal barriers, and personal aspirations have influenced who they are today.

A key theme across the discussions was the significant role of NOWPDP in supporting their development. Through skill-building opportunities, advocacy, and community support, NOWPDP has played an instrumental role in empowering these individuals to thrive both professionally and personally.

"Breathing Books" provided students and attendees with a powerful opportunity to engage with perspectives that are often underrepresented. The session reinforced the importance of inclusive spaces, active listening, and recognizing the value of diverse lived experiences. Through initiatives such as this, ODAI reaffirms IBA Karachi's commitment to diversity, accessibility, and inclusion.



## IBA-CEE Delivers Executive Education Programs Across Karachi & Islamabad



Center for Executive Education (CEE) at IBA, delivered multiple executive education programs across its Karachi and Islamabad campuses, engaging professionals from diverse sectors.

In Karachi, IBA-CEE conducted the Finance for Non-Finance program, bringing together participants from leading public and private sector organizations to strengthen financial understanding and decision-making.

At IBA Islamabad (NIBAF), IBA-CEE delivered a series of programs, including Financial Modeling & Business Valuation, Directors' Training Program, Directors' Training Program for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and Managerial Communication Strategies for Success, with a focus on governance, leadership, financial analysis, and effective communication.

These initiatives reflect IBA-CEE's continued commitment to delivering high-impact executive education and leadership development across Pakistan.



## IBA-CED Conducted Orientation for Seventeen Startups in the Second I-Incubate Cohort

Seventeen startups from the second cohort of our flagship I-Incubate program advanced from pre-incubation into incubation — marking a milestone that carries both opportunity and responsibility.

During the orientation session, Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED, emphasized that incubation demands intent, urging founders to actively engage, learn deeply, and fully leverage the mentorship aligned to their ventures. Dr. Kanza Sohail, Incubation Lead, followed with an overview of the incubation structure, expectations, and key milestones ahead.

As this second cohort enters the incubation phase, their journey will be defined by how purposefully they translate access and guidance into execution, learning, and impact.



## IBA-CED Startup NanoDrop bags UNESCO x Nestlé Youth Impact Grant

NanoDrop, one of our many incubated startups, tackles Pakistan's urgent water scarcity challenge with sustainable, energy-efficient water purification solutions. Handpicked to be a part of the global 100 startups from across the globe, NanoDrop won the UNESCO x Nestlé Global Youth Grant, securing USD 8,500, showcasing its potential to create real-world impact.

With our support, NanoDrop has not only developed cutting-edge technology but also gained national recognition through the Prime Minister's National Innovation Award 2025 and won PKR 300,000 at the Social Enterprise Competition 2025.

From generating revenue and creating jobs to securing a patent and forming strategic partnerships, NanoDrop is a shining example of how we empower entrepreneurs to transform ideas into solutions that matter.



## IBA CICT x House of Habib: Advancing Intelligence Across Business & Operations

IBA CICT conducted a series of specialized AI-focused sessions for House of Habib as part of a comprehensive hi-tech learning engagement. The program addressed key applications of AI across manufacturing, business analytics, supply chain, quality management, and managerial productivity, highlighting the shift toward predictive, data-driven, and insight-led operations to enhance organizational decision-making and efficiency.



## Maverick Mentorship Program 2025:

IBA-CDC recently organized the Maverick Mentorship Program, bringing together a distinguished panel of industry professionals to guide and mentor students on key aspects of career development and professional growth. The initiative aimed to provide students with practical insights into industry expectations, career pathways, and informed decision-making as they prepare for their professional journeys. The program featured experienced mentors from leading organizations, including:

- **Imran Khan** – Business Partner Manager, EBM
- **Syed Asad Raza** – Managing Partner & COO, The Coded Inc.
- **Muhammad Salman Rana** – Head of IT Business Partnering, Packages Group
- **Saiyed Shahab Ahmed** – Head of IT, Oil & Gas
- **Faizan Hanif** – Zonal Sales Head – Modern Trade, Treet Corporation
- **S Yusra Batoor Rizvi** – Lead HR, Onederland – Lucky Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.
- **Iffat Hina** – Head of Human Resources, Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company
- **Arsalan Mahmood** – Demand Planning Manager, Unilever
- **Syed Muhammad Faisal** – Deputy General Manager IT PMO, K-Electric
- **Misbha Bashir** (CHRP) – Head of HR, Karwan-e-Hayat Institute for Mental Health Care
- **Komal Rehman** – Manager Talent Acquisition, Lucky Core Industries
- **Kamran H.** – Head Resource Mobilization, The Dawood Foundation
- **Syeda Aqsa Raees** – Assistant Manager – HR, EFU Life
- **Salman Lone** – Country Head – Automation and Innovation, Overseas Enterprise
- **Saad Ahmed** – Relationship Manager – Talent, Resourcing & Employee Engagement, Meezan Bank Limited



## IBA-CICT Launched Digital DeCode Program Across Multiple Cities



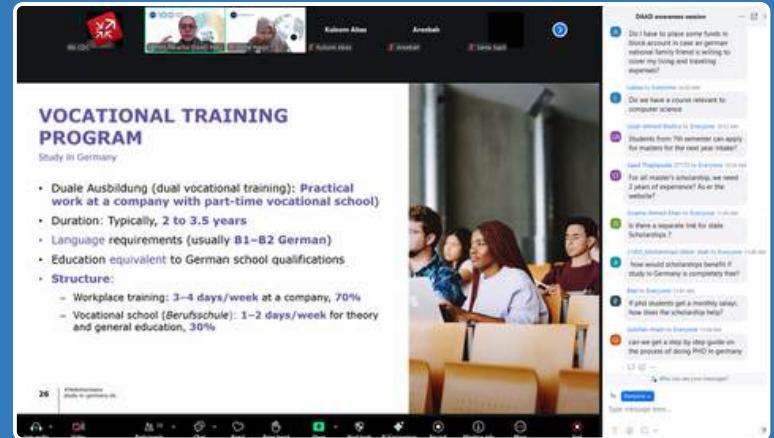
IBA-CICT partnered with Beaconhouse to successfully launch DigitalDeCode, an online training program engaging students from Lahore, Faisalabad, and Multan. Delivered through live, instructor-led sessions, the program focused on high-demand digital skills including Digital Marketing, Cybersecurity, and Data Science, reinforcing IBA-CICT's commitment to inclusive digital empowerment and preparing young learners across northern regions for future-ready careers.

## IBA-CDC Grad School Initiatives: Empowering Students for Global Opportunities

IBA-CDC recently organized an informative webinar on Study in Germany – DAAD Scholarships 2026 in collaboration with the DAAD Information Center, Islamabad.

The session provided an overview of fully and partially funded study opportunities in Germany and the EU, covering eligibility criteria, funding structures, scholarship timelines, and academic programs.

Students also gained insights into research grants and doctoral pathways, followed by an interactive Q&A with Ms. Lubna Yasmin Paracha (Director, DAAD Pakistan) and Ms. Qurat Ul Ain Naqvi (Manager, DAAD Pakistan). The initiative reflects CDC's commitment to supporting students with expert guidance on international higher education pathways.



### Study Trips by IBA-CDC

#### Mondelēz International

The IBA-CDC organized a study trip to Mondelēz International for MBA students, offering hands-on exposure to the chocolate manufacturing process at its Hub Industrial plant. Students gained insights into production workflows, quality control, packaging, and supply chain management, observing the company's focus on efficiency and innovation.

CDC extends sincere thanks to Mr. Sufyan Qazi (CIPD), People Lead – MSC, Mondelēz International, for facilitating this valuable experiential learning opportunity.



#### Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX)

The IBA-CDC organized a study trip to Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to gain first-hand exposure to financial market operations. The session offered insights into trading processes, stock transactions, and navigating the PSX website for real-time market data, bridging classroom learning with practical experience.

CDC extends sincere thanks to Mr. Raheel Ahmed (Web & Digital Initiatives, Financial Literacy – Marketing & Communication Development) for facilitating this learning opportunity.

#### DP World Study Trip

The IBA-CDC organized a study trip to DP World to explore the operations of one of the world's leading logistics and port management companies. The trip provided hands-on exposure to supply chain management and real-time port operations, offering valuable insights into global trade, logistics practices, and career opportunities in international business.



## QEC-Led Formation of SCALE – Student Council for Academic Learning & Enhancement

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen internal quality assurance and promote inclusive academic governance, the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at IBA initiated the formation of the Student Council for Academic Learning & Enhancement (SCALE). The initiative was conceptualized to formally integrate the student voice into academic quality assurance and enhancement processes, in alignment with HEC Pakistan's Institutional Level Quality Assurance guidance and international best practices.

QEC recognized that while student feedback mechanisms existed, there was a need for a more structured, sustainable, and collaborative model of student engagement—one that moved beyond feedback collection toward active participation in quality dialogue, review, and enhancement. In response, QEC designed SCALE as a formal student body that enables high-performing undergraduate and graduate students to contribute meaningfully to institutional quality processes.

Through SCALE, QEC has fostered a culture of trust, transparency, and shared responsibility for academic excellence. Regular meetings, structured engagement, and collaborative projects have enabled students to work alongside faculty and administrators in identifying areas for improvement and strengthening teaching and learning practices.

The formation of SCALE reflects QEC's proactive and forward-looking approach to quality enhancement—one that recognizes students as partners in quality assurance and reinforces IBA's commitment to continuous improvement and academic excellence.



## IBA Educators Connect '25, Karachi & Lahore



IBA hosted Educators Connect 2025 in Karachi & Lahore. Counselors and educators from across the city were invited to connect and share ideas.

The conference focused on the changing dynamics of education and future learning and also encouraged collaboration, exchange of insights, and stronger educator networks.

## IBA Open House 2025



IBA hosted IBA Open House 2025, a six-day outreach event. Schools and colleges from across the city visited the campus for information sessions about IBA. The experience included campus tours and interactive activities for students.



## Strategic Process Improvement – Six Sigma & Project Management

The HR Department organized a two-day training program titled "Strategic Process Improvement – Six Sigma & Project Management" at the IBA Main Campus. The program was facilitated by Dr. Rameez Khalid, a seasoned expert in Project and Supply Chain Management, with extensive experience across industry, academia, and consultancy. He has trained over 5,500 professionals and holds internationally recognized certifications, including PMP, CQSSBB, and CPSM.

The training provided participants with a strong conceptual and practical understanding of Six Sigma, Lean methodologies, and project management frameworks. Participants learned to apply the DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) approach to analyze organizational processes, assess the cost of quality, and identify improvement opportunities aligned with strategic objectives.

Through interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on exercises, participants explored tools such as Kaizen, 5S, Value Stream Mapping (VSM), and Kanban to support continuous improvement initiatives. The program also strengthened participants' ability to plan, manage, and execute improvement projects using established project life-cycle stages.

The training concluded on a high note, with participants expressing strong interest in pursuing Six Sigma Green Belt and Black Belt certifications. Group-based assignments further reinforced real-world application and collaborative problem-solving skills.



## Christmas Celebrations at IBA

IBA Karachi came alive with the colors and spirit of Christmas as employees gathered to celebrate the festival of joy, peace, and togetherness. The auditorium was beautifully adorned in festive red and green décor, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The celebration began with an inspiring message from Mr. Irfan Qamar, Director HR, who emphasized the values of humanity, inclusion, and trust, and highlighted the importance of embracing diversity and fostering mutual respect—principles that continue to strengthen the fabric of the IBA community.

The event featured a series of engaging activities, including a Christmas tree decoration activity and an energetic "Guess the Pakistan Tune" game. Participants enthusiastically identified popular Pakistani songs and sang along, filling the auditorium with cheer and laughter.

The celebration concluded on a heartfelt note as the Director HR distributed cakes to Christian employees, making the occasion both meaningful and memorable. Overall, the event reflected IBA's strong commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and community building.



## Stronger Together: A Growth Journey

A one-day training session titled "Stronger Together: A Growth Journey" was organized at the IBA Main Campus. The session was facilitated by Syed Atif Murtaza, Faculty Member at IBA-SBS, with over 15 years of experience in sales, marketing, coaching, and development capability. The workshop focused on strengthening cross-functional collaboration through shared decision-making, mutual accountability, and alignment with organizational goals. Participants explored the importance of adopting a growth mindset, embracing change, and seeking feedback for continuous improvement.

The session received an overwhelming response, with participants appreciating the relevance of the content, quality of facilitation, and practical insights shared.



## Leadership Development Program



The HR Department conducted a Leadership Development Program for Managers and Assistant Managers at the IBA City Campus. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nyla Ansari, an experienced trainer and academic with over two decades of expertise in leadership development, organizational psychology, and management.

The workshop focused on key leadership traits, building trust, fostering accountability, managing emotions, conducting difficult conversations, and resolving workplace conflicts using structured, solution-focused approaches. Emotional intelligence was emphasized as a critical tool for stress management, decision-making, and relationship building.

Interactive activities, discussions, and role-play enabled participants to apply concepts to real workplace scenarios, supporting the development of sustainable leadership capabilities.

## Trainings @ IBA – December 2025

The training calendar for December 2025 was successfully executed for the IBA Staff.

Course Name	Participants	Trainers
Leadership Development Program	14	Dr. Nyla Ansari
Stronger Together: A Growth Journey	19	Syed Atif Murtaza
Strategic Process Improvement – Six Sigma & Project Management	10	Dr. Rameez Khalid
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43</b>	

## Editorial Team

### Connect with us



+92 21 111 422 422

[www.iba.edu.pk](http://www.iba.edu.pk)

#### Syed Fuad Mehdi

Head - Marketing & Communications (Ext: 3030)

#### Anusha Samad Khan

Manager - Media & Marketing Services (Ext: 2085)

#### Mushtaq Qamaruddin

Graphic Designer (Ext: 2079)

#### Email

[publications@iba.edu.pk](mailto:publications@iba.edu.pk)