

**JUNE 2025** 

#### **ISSUE NO: 06**

SBS Hosts 4th International Conference 2025 on 'Transforming Business for People & Planet'



IBA-SBS held the 4th International Conference 2025 under the theme 'Transforming Business for People & Planet.' The two-day conference brought together global academics, corporate leaders, researchers, and students to address climate change, economic uncertainty, and sustainable business innovation.

In his opening remarks, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, stressed the need for practical, collaborative solutions to global crises and called for greater corporate responsibility. Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean IBA-SBS and Conference Chair, emphasized inclusive growth, fair wages, and employee well-being, citing IBA's global impact with over 250 alumni CEOs. Dr. Aitzaz Ahsan Alias Sarang, Assistant Professor IBA-SBS and Conference Convener, highlighted the climate vulnerability of developing nations and the need for green taxonomies to guide sustainable investment. The conference received 209 research paper submissions from 55+ universities, with 80% selected for presentation.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Victoria Hurth, Independent Pracademic and Fellow at CISL, who spoke on purpose-driven governance; Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Chair in Sustainable Development Law and Policy, University of Cambridge; and Dr. Yasin Rofcanin, Professor and Co-Director of the Future of Work Research Centre, University of Bath, both offering transformative insights on sustainability policy, innovation, and the evolving nature of work.

The conference featured panels on climate finance, sustainability governance, and technical sessions across disciplines. It reaffirmed IBA Karachi's role as a vital platform for shaping responsible business practices through global collaboration and knowledge exchange.



#### **JUNE 2025**

#### **IBA NEWS**



# **IBA IN THE MEDIA**

#### **Executive Director's Perspective: Shaping the Budget Conversation**

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, engaged with the media to offer his perspective on Pakistan's most pressing economic issues. His recent appearances across prominent news platforms have focused on the Budget 2025–26, where he provided nuanced analysis on fiscal priorities, and economic direction. These media interactions reinforce IBA as a hub of national thought leadership.







#### National Spotlight: IBA Students Featured on HUM News

IBA Karachi proudly hosted 'Hum Dekhain Gay: Pakistan ka Noujawan Kyun Naraz Hai?', a compelling HUM News special with Mansoor Ali Khan. Featuring IBA students at the center, both episodes explore youth identity, leadership, and national challenges through honest and powerful dialogue.



# **Behind the Desk**

IBA's success is powered by its people. In this new section, we spotlight our leadership team — their roles, their journeys, and their perspectives. Get to know the leaders driving IBA's mission forward.



# DR. ASMA HYDER

Professor and Dean, School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS)

## What inspired you to pursue an economics and social sciences career?

My interest in economics and social sciences grew from a curiosity about labor markets, gender, and structural inequalities. I was drawn to why some economies grow faster than others and why individuals raised in similar conditions can have vastly different outcomes. Economics gave me the tools to analyze resource allocation and policy impact, while social sciences offered the historical and cultural context to understand those outcomes. I was especially inspired by how research can inform public policy and improve lives in developing countries like Pakistan. This interdisciplinary approach has shaped my career as a researcher and academic leader, and I am committed to fostering the same perspective in students.

## What role does SESS play within the larger IBA ecosystem?

IBA-SESS plays a vital role at IBA by offering a broad range of electives— Philosophy, Literature, Visual Arts, Mathematics, Religion, Environmental Sciences, Economics, and Foreign Languages—to students from all programs. These courses build essential reading, writing, critical thinking, quantitative analysis, and research skills. SESS also hosts faculty- and student-led forums on pressing issues like the budget, elections, the Indus Water Treaty, and discussions on literature, history, and politics. These forums are open to all and are especially enriching for business and computer science students.

#### How does SESS ensure its programs stay relevant in a rapidly changing world?

IBA-SESS keeps its programs relevant through academic innovation, interdisciplinary approaches, and responsiveness to real-world challenges. The curriculum is regularly updated to reflect global trends, such as technological shifts and social issues. For example, data science courses were introduced early on, climate change is addressed through region-specific courses, and urban planning is emphasized, given Karachi's context. This ensures students have foundational knowledge and the tools to tackle contemporary issues.

#### How does SESS support student research and experiential learning opportunities?

IBA-SESS fosters a strong research culture through student-faculty collaboration, supported by two research centers and four labs. Students actively lead research initiatives and often present their work at local and international conferences, gaining valuable experiential learning opportunities.

# **Behind the Desk**

#### What is your vision for making SESS a hub for impactful social sciences research and policy dialogue in Pakistan?

IBA-SESS is home to some of Pakistan's top scholars, whose expertise extends beyond the classroom. As an independent academic institution, SESS contributes to national dialogue by offering expert input on key social and economic issues. Provincial and federal bodies regularly seek our feedback on policy matters. Evolving into a strong think tank, the SESS faculty also participates in international panels, and we are increasingly involving our graduate students in this work. I envision SESS becoming a leading hub for impactful research and policy dialogue in Pakistan.

## Are there any international accreditations, partnerships, or exchange programs SESS is pursuing?

Recognizing the importance of global collaboration, IBA-SESS has established several national and international partnerships and exchange programs. The School is also engaged in joint policy work with the government on key initiatives.

## What principles steer SESS in promoting diversity and a supportive space for everyone?

IBA-SESS actively promotes diversity across gender, ethnicity, and religion, standing out as one of the most diverse schools at IBA and among institutions in Pakistan.

#### What achievement at SESS are you most proud of?

I am proud of IBA-SESS's commitment to interdisciplinary learning, academic freedom, and critical inquiry, which has nurtured a new generation of scholars and professionals excelling in academia, policymaking, and international institutions. These achievements reflect the collective effort of our faculty, students, and staff, as well as our belief in rigorous and socially grounded education.

# What advice would you give to students pursuing a career in economics or social sciences today?

For students pursuing economics or social sciences, I encourage you to remain intellectually curious and engaged with the world around you. These fields go beyond theory; they help solve real human problems and inform better policies. Let your work be guided by purpose and empathy, always keeping social and economic justice at the forefront.

How do you envision SESS evolving in the next five years, and if you could describe your vision for SESS in one sentence, what would it be?

To be a leading research and learning hub for addressing social, cultural, political, and economic issues through multidisciplinary, critical, and innovative approaches.

#### SBS Attains Global Recognition with AACSB Accreditation



#### From Al to Cybersecurity: SMCS's Final Year Projects Highlight Innovation

IBA-SMCS hosted the Final Year Project (FYP) – Computer Science Showcase 2025. The graduating CS Class of 2021 presented 29 innovative projects across AI, Machine Learning, NLP, Cybersecurity, and Software Development, addressing real-world challenges through tech-driven solutions.

With mentorship from leading firms such as Astera Software, Securiti.ai, Folio3, Virtuosoft, Meezan Bank, and Indus Hospital, the event highlighted IBA's strong industryacademia collaboration. Evaluators from companies like VentureDive, Bazaar Technologies, and HBL offered valuable feedback.

Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean, IBA-SMCS, Dr. Tahir Syed, FYP Coordinator, and faculty praised the students for their creativity, problem-solving, and dedication.







AdVisory

# **ADMISSIONS CAMPAIGN**

From Concept to Creation, Team MarComms produced these admissions videos in-house inviting aspiring students to apply to IBA Karachi.



## **IBA Icons: Leaders, Mentors & Rising Stars**

# **#IAMIBA**

marketing campaign was launched by Team MarComms to spotlight the strength of our leadership, the excellence of our faculty, and the pride of our students.

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.





#### **IBA-CBER Newspaper Supplement**

IBA-CBER presents a timely policy supplement: 'State of Pakistan's Economy 2025–26 – Missed Opportunity: Revisiting Pakistan's Choices'. Focused on Pakistan's economic, governance, and climate challenges, this brilliant initiative offers expert analysis to inform national dialogue. This supplement presents selected highlights from the report's chapters to inform the wider policy discourse.





#### IBA Implements Credential Verification Policy and Signs an MoU with TechExons

IBA's HR department has introduced an 'Employee Credential Verification and Misrepresentation Policy,' marking a significant move to uphold transparency and trust across the institution.

As part of this initiative, IBA has signed an MoU with TechExons, a reputable third-party verification agency. The process will apply to all employees, verifying their two most recent academic qualifications and the last five years of professional experience.

The policy reinforces IBA's commitment to integrity and accountability, with strict consequences for any false or misleading information, including disciplinary action, termination, or legal proceedings.



#### **FACULTY FEATURE**

Dr. Nadya Chishty-Mujahid in Conversation with Taha Kehar



Dr. Nadya Chishty-Mujahid, Associate Professor, IBA-SESS, was recently featured in You Magazine by The News. In an engaging interview titled 'College Chronicles', acclaimed author Taha Kehar speaks with Dr. Chishty-Mujahid about her creative writing, campus inspirations, and characterdriven storytelling.

The feature highlights her two recent books, 'Timeless College Tales' and 'Perennial College Tales', which explore university life through themes including student politics, identity, and youth.

#### **READ THE INTERVIEW HERE**

## **Pehchan Awards**

The HR department conducted the Pehchan Rewards ceremony to recognize employees for their exceptional performance. Rewards worth PKR 50,000 were presented to acknowledge staff members' dedication and impact.



#### Mental Health Hackathon 2025

IBA-CED, in collaboration with Synapse – Pakistan Neuroscience Institute, hosted Pakistan's first and largest in-person interdisciplinary Mental Health Hackathon.

The event brought together nearly 70 participants across 15 teams—including mental health professionals, entrepreneurs, technologists, and thought leaders—to design practical solutions for Pakistan's growing mental health challenges.

Structured around three core themes: Mass Mental Health Literacy, Early Intervention and Prevention, and Accessibility and Affordability of Care, the hackathon encouraged collaborative innovation.

Winning teams won cash prizes of PKR 100,000, PKR 75,000, and PKR 50,000, along with incubation opportunities at IBA-CED worth almost PKR 4 million.

Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED, emphasized the emotional strain within Pakistan's startup ecosystem and the need for collective action beyond mental health professionals for a meaningful change.

Dr. Ayesha Mian, Founder and CEO, Synapse, stressed the urgency of the crisis and highlighted the theme 'Doosri Nazar Se' to inspire creative thinking among youth to develop robust mental health solutions.

In the closing remarks, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, said, "The work IBA Karachi has done over the past year in the mental health realm is just a precursor, and we endeavour to create further impact through the many opportunities we provide to the community."





#### Podcast: IBA Hour 13:13 - Startups, Stress and Self-Care

In this episode, Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED, and Dr. Ayesha Mian, Founder and CEO, Synapse, explored the intersections between mental health and entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

They challenged hustle culture, highlighted systemic neglect of founders' mental well-being, and made a case for prioritizing mental health from the start of every entrepreneurial journey.

Together, they explored where entrepreneurship meets emotional resilience and why mental health needs to be part of the conversation from day one.



#### IBA-CED Ignites Teen Innovation at Entrepreneurship Summer School

IBA-CED organized the Entrepreneurship Summer School (ESS) as an immersive, hands-on camp for aspiring teen entrepreneurs aged 13–19. The program combined tech bootcamps and real-world startup workshops. Participants formed teams, developed prototypes, pitched innovative ideas, and received guidance from seasoned founders and industry experts.



Beyond The Firewall 3.0 Conference Champions Cyber Awareness and Collaboration



IBA-CICT organized a one-day cybersecurity conference, Beyond The Firewall 3.0, which brought together experts, professionals, and students to discuss emerging cyber threats. The event opened with remarks by Mahwish Ahmed, Manager Programs-CICT, and a welcome address by Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Dean IBA-SMCS, followed by a keynote from Dr. Haider Abbas, Director General, Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team, Government of Pakistan.

Highlights included two thought-provoking panels: 'The Wire Warfare' moderated by Jawwad Farid, with panelists Dr. Haider Abbas, Faisal Anwar, Mubariz Siddiqui, and Habib Ullah; and 'Surviving Invisible Conflict', moderated by Haris Shamsi, with Shoukat Bizinjo, Khurram Javed, Dr. Mehreen Afzal, and Hussein Hassanali. Expert talks covered digital forensics by Dr. Faisal Iradat and the national importance of cybersecurity by Haris Shamsi.

The conference concluded with a strong message of collaboration and resilience, reinforcing IBA's commitment to building informed and secure digital communities through this initiative.

## Students Present Data-Driven Solutions at BI Open House

IBA-SMCS hosted the BI Open House. Led by Abeera Tariq, Lecturer & Academic Director – IBA Life Design Lab, the showcase featured 25 teams of students from the Business Intelligence (CS459) course, who presented interactive dashboards and data-driven solutions to realworld business problems. Students demonstrated data cleaning, analysis, and visualization skills using tools like Power BI, Tableau, and Python.

Industry experts evaluated the projects and provided valuable feedback, reinforcing IBA's focus on experiential learning and industry relevance.





#### IBA-ORIC Workshop Enhances Research Communication Through Data Visualization

IBA-ORIC hosted a full-day workshop on 'Data Visualization in Academic Research' by Dr. Hanif Mohammed, Professor of Practice and Director, Executive Education, KSBL. Tailored for Graduate and PhD students, the session emphasized the power of data storytelling in enhancing research clarity and impact. Combining theory and hands-on practice, the workshop gave participants vital skills to visualize and communicate their research effectively.



#### IBA-CILET Launches Future of Teaching Bootcamp with Game-Based Learning

IBA-CILET launched its Future of Teaching Bootcamp series with a session on game-based learning. Led by Kiran Qasim Ali from AKU-IED, an expert in curriculum design and tech-integrated teaching, the bootcamp aimed to help faculty adopt modern, student-centred strategies. With over a decade of international experience, she shared valuable insights on using games to boost engagement and learning in higher education.



#### IBA-CEE Enhances Legal Expertise at Telenor Through Customized Certification Program

IBA-CEE conducted a tailored 3-day Certification Program on Public Procurement & Contract Management for Telenor Pakistan's Legal team at their Islamabad HQ.

The sessions, facilitated by Dr. Shahid Mir, Mohsin Chandna, and Iffat Malik, deepened participants' understanding of procurement laws, contract execution, and compliance, turning legal frameworks into practical strategies.

This collaboration underscores IBA-CEE's commitment to empowering professionals with clarity, accountability, and strategic insight.



Experts Debate Budget 2025–26 at IBA-CEE Forum



IBA-CEE, in collaboration with GTTN, hosted a seminar titled 'Budget 2025–26: Does it Put Us on the Path to Economic Recovery?' at NIBAF, Islamabad.

Keynote addresses by Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle and Kamran Bilgrami, Director, IBA-CEE, offered critical insights into fiscal governance. Hamid Sharif moderated a panel discussion with experts, including Syed Bulent Sohail, Head, Program & Partnerships ADRIC – CEE, and presented on the national budget's structure and implications.

Dr. Muhammad Zubair provided an in-depth review of the fiscal outlook, while Sakib Sherani shared a visionary perspective on 'Reimagining the Pakistan Budget.'

The event closed with Mr. Sharif calling for strategic reforms and coherent policy direction.

#### Designing Reward Strategies: IBA-CEE Empowers HR Teams Across Industries



IBA-CEE conducted a two-day Total Rewards Workshop in Lahore. The event brought together 39 HR and reward professionals from leading organizations across sectors, including power, pharmaceuticals, FMCG, textiles, and education.

The sessions, led by Muhammad Hussain Adenwala, combined insightful discussions with practical frameworks, equipping participants with tools to design and implement total rewards strategies aligned with organizational goals.

#### IBA-CEE Launches Summer <u>School 2025</u>

IBA-CEE announces Summer School 2025, offering nine short-term certificate programs tailored to emerging skills and professional development needs. Programs include 'Early Childhood Care & Education', 'Freelance Business Management', 'HR Competency Mastery', 'Mediation Advocacy', and more. Experienced faculty and industry experts will deliver these programs at IBA Karachi. Scheduled for July-August 2025, the Summer School will cater to professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, and executives.

#### For more details: https://lnkd.in/dqNGvKJi



# SKILL UP WITH IBA-CEE!

Since 2003, the Center for Executive Education (CEE) at IBA Karachi has provided specialized management training for executives and professionals. IBA-CEE offers diverse programs, including customized corporate training, designed to enhance leadership, productivity, and strategic thinking through cutting-edge, evidence-based approaches. These programs empower individuals and organizations to gain a competitive advantage by developing their most valuable resource: their people.



Certificate in Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Date: July 14-19 & 21-23, 2025 Duration: 9 Days Audience: Parents, Teachers, Aspiring Teachers Investment: PRR 54,000 + 5% Tax

Freelance Business Management Date: July 21-22, 2025 Duration: 2: Days Audience: Small Business Owners, Solo Entropronours / Freelancers, E-Commerce Businesses, Remate or Hybird Teams, Freelancers Investment: PKR 48.000 + stres

HR Competency Mastery: Talent, Leadership, and Data-Driven Decision Date: July 24-25, 2025 Duration: 2 Days Audience: Entry Level HR Executives, Aspining HR Professionals Investment: PKR 48,000 - 35 tos

Teachers' Bootcamp: Empowering Educators for Excellence Onte: July 28-30, 2025 Duration: 3 Days Audience: Teachers, Aspiring Teachers Investment: 158 27,000, 16 No.



Enabling Young Family Leaders Training for Tweens and Teens Date: August 4-8, 2025 Duration: 5 Days Audiones: Tweens and Teens Investment: PKR 45,000 - 55 Tes

Strengthening School Governance and Leadership for Quality Education in Pakistan Date: August 11-12, 2028 Duration: 2 Days Audience: School Leadership, BOGe, HODs, Administrators Investment: PKR 90,000 - 55 tax

Linkedin for Professional Growth: Branding Yourself for Success Date: August 21, 2025 Duration: Hall Day Audience: Professionals across industries Investment: PKR 12.000 - 1% Ion

Mediation Advocacy Training Date: August 25-28, 2025 Durotion: 4 Days Audience: Legol Professionals, Law Students, Corporate Counsel, Legol Educators, Litigation Associates

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#### Maheen Ghauri, Dean Student Affairs & International Student Exchange - Empowers Aspiring Students through Professional Development

As part of the Student Skill Development Program under the Office of Student Affairs, Maheen Ghauri, Dean Student Affairs and International Student Exchange, conducted Personal Grooming and Professional Etiquette sessions for over 200 students enrolled in the IBA National Talent Hunt (NTHP) Orientation Program. The gender-segregated workshops prepared students from diverse backgrounds to present themselves professionally through interactive activities focused on networking, problem-solving, and workplace readiness. The NTHP program highlights IBA's commitment to inclusivity by fostering talent from remote areas.



#### IBA Strengthens Global Student Engagement with OISE Transformation

The International Resource Center (IRC) has officially transformed into the Office of International Student Engagement (OISE)-a shift that underscores IBA's evolving commitment to global student experience. This transformation marks a strategic realignment, placing students at the heart of international engagement. While international faculty and research initiatives will be managed by the schools–SBS, SESS, and SMCS–OISE will focus exclusively on expanding global exposure for students through exchange programs, intercultural international collaborations, and engagement opportunities. The new identity reflects IBA's mission to create more inclusive, student-driven global pathways across disciplines.

#### For More Details:

🔽 OISE@iba.edu.pk

💮 osa.iba.edu.pk/oise

www.facebook.com/IBAOISE

#### Farewell for Class of 2025: Closing Chapters, Welcoming Futures

ISG and OSA committees, under the Office of Student Affairs, hosted a lively farewell ceremony for the graduating class. The event featured music, personal reflections, and heartfelt goodbyes, creating a memorable send-off as the Class of 2025 celebrated their journey and future ahead.





#### **IBA Welcomes New Employees with an Orientation Session**

IBA's HR department hosted a staff orientation to welcome 15 new employees. The session featured a welcome address by Director HR Irfan Qamar, interactive icebreakers, and an overview of key policies, including medical, education, training and development, antiharassment, and grievance policies.

New joiners were also introduced to IBA's leadership and organizational structure. The event concluded with welcome packs and a group photo, marking a warm start to their journey.



#### Training@IBA- June 2025

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

Course Name	Participants	Trainers
Unlocking Your Creative Potential	19	Syed Atif Murtaza Qaiser
Empowering Your Data Journey with Power Bl	21	Salman Hanif
Grand Total	40	

#### Unlocking Your Creative Potential Workshop

IBA's HR Department hosted a dynamic workshop, 'Unlocking Your Creative Potential,' by Syed Atif Murtaza Qaiser. Through interactive activities, staff explored creative thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. Highlights included team challenges like designing 'Junglee' characters, creating jingles for IBA, and a fun Kahoot quiz. Participants left energized, appreciating the hands-on session and practical insights.



#### **Empowering Your Data Journey with Power Bl**

IBA's HR Department, in collaboration with CICT, organized a three-day Power BI workshop for IBA staff, facilitated by Salman Hanif, Group Business Analyst & Strategy Manager, Gatron Group. The workshop covered importing and integrating data from Excel and databases, performing ETL tasks, building data models, and creating impactful dashboards.

Participants engaged in hands-on practice, combining theory with real-world application. They were assigned mini-projects to apply their learning and qualify for certification. The facilitator's industry insights and practical approach were highly appreciated.



## Welcoming Our New Team Members!

A warm welcome to the newest members of the IBA family who joined us in June 2025! We are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to your contributions in shaping excellence at IBA. As you embark on this exciting journey, we hope you find inspiration, collaboration, and success in your new roles. Wishing you all a fantastic start—welcome aboard!



### **Connect with us**

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