

# IBA NEWS

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## CILET and HESSA collaborate to host a workshop

The Centre for Innovation in Learning & Ed-Transformation (CILET), IBA conducted a two-day workshop on **'Effective Teaching Practices'**, facilitated by the USAID-funded program, Higher Education Systems Strengthening Activity (HESSA).

Over fifty faculty members from all schools of IBA attended a two-day workshop featuring sessions by esteemed instructors, including Dr. Steve Burian, Professor of Civil Construction and Environmental Engineering, University of Alabama; Professor Jim Agutter, Associate Professor Multi-Disciplinary Design Division, University of Utah; and Dr. Claire Major, Professor of Higher Education, University of Alabama. Topics included learner needs, learning objectives, engaging class sessions, and evidence-based teaching.

The event concluded with presentations and certificate distribution, equipping participants with skills to enhance teaching effectiveness and student engagement.



## SPC and HESSA unite to strengthen IBA's Strategic Planning Process



The Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and Higher Education Sustainability Support Activity (HESSA) discussed **IBA's 2030 Strategic Plan (IBA-SP30)** at the Main Campus.

The discussion covered IBA's strategic plan development, a tentative work plan, discovery session, and the SPC's landing page launch.

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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup, in collaboration with UNDP and JS Bank

The Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED), in partnership with UNDP and JS Bank, hosted the SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup to promote sustainable businesses in Pakistan. Over **350 attendees**, including students, startups, and representatives from various organizations, witnessed the event. From 200 applications, **30 SMEs** underwent capacity-building workshops, with 10 finalists competing. The top four winners were **Vitality Vehicles, Concept Loop, Knowledge Platform, and Davaam Life**, each receiving grants and financing.

Evaluators of the competition were Dr. Lalarukh, Director CED; Ammara Durrani, Assistant Resident Representative, Development Policy, UNDP Pakistan; Syed Jafar Raza, Group Head - Investment, International & Transactional Banking, JS Bank; and Umer Akhlaq Malik, Policy Analyst, Development Policy Unit, UNDP Pakistan. This initiative highlights the significance of blended financing and public-private partnerships in fostering climate-resilient projects.



## 'Media and Democracy: An Essential Partnership'

The seminar was held at the Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ), in collaboration with the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS), IBA, and Free Press Unlimited. The event brought together renowned journalists to explore the essential role of media in upholding and promoting democratic values.

Veteran journalist, Hamid Mir, emphasized that Pakistan can't survive without strong democracy, strong democracy can't survive without free media and free media can't survive without independent judiciary.

Seasoned journalist, Adil Jawad, addressed the ongoing issue of impunity in journalist murders in Pakistan. Lynne O'Donnell, one of the panelists, who has spent many years as a foreign correspondent, discussed the overwhelming availability of information online and the challenges it poses to good journalism. With 20 years of experience, Amber Rahim Shamsi discussed the impact of social media and new technologies on journalism.


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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## Word Warriors Unite: Celebrating Scrabble Mastery at the IBA Karachi

The **36th Pakistan Scrabble Championship Masters Category** and the **9th Ranking Scrabble Tournament** took place, at the IBA Main Campus with **160 students** participating from various schools, colleges, and universities across Karachi.

Winners:

🏆 **Waseem Khatri - Winner**

🏆 **Ali Salman - 1st runner-up**

🏆 **Affan Salman - 2nd runner-up**

This prestigious national championship featured 44 players competing at the highest level.

The 9th Ranking Scrabble Tournament showcased talent across different categories. In the Recreational Category, 🏆 **Syeda Muhal** claimed victory, followed by Samir Mustafa as the 1st runner-up and Rayan Raheel as the 2nd runner-up.

The Novice Category saw 🏆 **Hammad Asif** as the winner, with Ayaan Khan as the runner-up and Eman Faisal as the 2nd runner-up.

In the Beginners' Category, 🏆 **Syed Hussain** took the top spot, Muneem Iqbal was the 1st runner-up, and Syed Ashus finished as the 2nd runner-up. We congratulate all the participants and winners for their outstanding performances!



## Talent Hunt Program welcomes Orientation Batch 2024

As part of the IBA Ihsan Trust National Talent Hunt Program (NTHP) and IBA OGDCL Talent Hunt Program, we welcomed over **300+ students** from across **67 cities** of Pakistan as our Orientation Batch of 2024. This diverse group included students from districts such as **Khuzdar, Loralai, Chitral, Skardu, Mardan, D.G. Khan, and Tharparkar.**

During their stay at IBA, students are engaged in various mental, physical, and academic activities to keep them motivated while they prepare for the aptitude tests. Students celebrated Eid-ul-Adha with their fellow students and staff at the boys' and girls' hostels.



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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## SMCS's Final Year Projects Exhibition 2024



SMCS held its FYP Exhibition 2024 where students from the Department of Computer Science showcased over **45 innovative projects** addressing real-world challenges in Machine Learning, AI, Data Science, Generative AI, and more.

Industry leaders and academics from top organizations including **Systems Limited, Folio3, Bazaar Technologies, Amreli Steels, HBL, GSK, and Careem** evaluated the projects, offering invaluable feedback.



Distinguished projects of FYP 2024 included **No-Code Platform for Customized Chatbots/AI Agents, AR Virtual Try-On for Clothing, Football Data Generation and Analysis with Deep Learning, AI Gym Instructor, Urdu Braille Recognition System, Autonomous Drone Navigation with SITL Simulation, and Skills Targeted Assessment and Review (STAR).**

## PRC organizes an insightful session on Demographic Diversity and SDGs

The Population Research Centre (PRC), IBA, in collaboration with the UNFPA Karachi office, hosted a session on Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) featuring Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan, moderated by Dr. Khadija Bari, Director, PRC. The event drew academics, researchers, students, and journalists.

Dr. Shabaneh discussed policy and implementation gaps in Pakistan, highlighting the need for strategic actions. Key takeaways included the importance of investing in education, skills development, and empowering women and youth to address population challenges and utilize the demographic dividend. These investments are crucial for achieving the SDGs and improving citizens' well-being.


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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## 'Fintech Inclusion in Pakistan: Academia's role in closing the Gender Gap'

The Office of Research, innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), IBA organized a focus group on '**Fintech Inclusion in Pakistan: Academia's role in closing the Gender Gap**'. The session aimed to bring together researchers, policy makers and businesses working towards promoting financial inclusion in Pakistan.



Participants included, Dr. Irum Saba, Assistant Professor and Program Director MS-IBF, IBA Karachi; Raeda Latif, Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer, Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited; Kanza Akhwand, Manager Growth, Oraan; Batool Hasan, Branch Manager, Digital Client Partner Program, HBL; and Ammar Habib, Assistant Professor of Practice, IBA Karachi & Chief Risk Officer, Karandaaz, Pakistan.



## IBA-CED Interventions

The week-2 of **Certificate in Entrepreneurship (CIE)** by IBA-CED of batch 15 took place at the City Campus. Guest Speaker, Ayesha Fahad, led a session on idea generation and shared insightful case studies. While Dr. Kamran Mumtaz, Faculty Member, IBA Karachi, conducted a session on design thinking, engaging participants in hands-on experiential activities.



IBA-CED '**CodeGrit**', a **women-in-tech entrepreneurship program**, featured insightful sessions led by notable industry experts. Irfan A. Khan, Founder & Chairman, CUTERA Aesthetics, conducted a session on fundraising and investment readiness. Hanya Ali, Partner, Ali & Associates, covered crucial topics on company formation, taxation issues for entrepreneurs, and provided an information session on IP and small business. Asma Inayat, covered topics of traditional and digital marketing growth strategies.



IBA-CED hosted an engaging session under the **I-Talk Series** at the City Campus. Dr. Abdul Basit Shaikh, Faculty Member, IBA Karachi, conducted an insightful and activity-based session on Business Model Canvas in the context of Digital Transformation. The event was a resounding success and was attended by students and the broader community.


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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

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## **IBA students shine at the 63rd Grand Moscow Regatta**

**We are super proud of our girls!**

Two of our exceptional students, Syeda Manahil Hussain, an SSLA-8th semester student, and Mariam Kanchwala, an SSLA-2nd semester student, won silver medals in the quadruple scull rowing (4x) event at the **63rd Grand Moscow Regatta**. The event was held at the prestigious Moscow Rowing Canal.

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## **CDC enhances career services via national and international outreach**

Syed Atif Murtaza Qaiser, Lecturer and Head of the Career Development Center (CDC), IBA Karachi, had an insightful meeting with Eddie Phua, Team Lead (Early Careers) Senior Associate Director at NUS Business School, and Pfeiffer Chung, Career Coach at NUS-ISS, during his visit to the National University of Singapore. They shared best practices and exchanged innovative ideas to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Career Office Services.

As part of the outreach activity, CDC visited Islamabad to engage with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Bahria University, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, COMSATS University, and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology. The visit's purpose was to enhance collaboration among institutes, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships. Such interactions within the academic community foster valuable exchanges and create opportunities for student development.

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## **CDC invites MBA alumna for Peer Connect Session**

In an insightful session, Sheeza Asim (Class of 2022) provided invaluable guidance on the essential steps students should take in their careers. She covered key topics, including interview dos and don'ts, and offered mentorship advice specifically tailored for graduating students. Her valuable tips and personal experiences provided attendees with a deeper understanding of how to navigate the professional world successfully.



# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## CICT Award Distribution

We are thrilled to share the success of CICT's recent Certificate Distribution Ceremony, where the graduates of various diploma and certificate programs were honored. This significant event celebrated the dedication and achievements of the students across several disciplines, including **Digital Marketing (Batch 14)**, **Big Data Analytics (Batch 10)**, and **Business Intelligence (Batch 01)** as part of our diploma programs.

Additionally, the certificate programs saw graduates in **Advanced Excel (Batch 5)**, **Digital Earning Program (Batch 5)**, **ERP (Batch 8)**, and **Security Operations Center (SOC, Batch 1)**. The accomplishments of students from our scholarship-based programs were also celebrated, through the inaugural batch of the **Umeed Digital Certification Program by BankIslami**.

A special vote of thanks to the partners and sponsors, especially BankIslami, for their continuous support in CICT's educational endeavors, exemplified by the launch of the Umeed Digital Certification Program.



## Dr. Shabana Nisar receives Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

We are pleased to share that Dr. Shabana Nisar, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, School of Mathematics and Computer Science, was awarded with the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award at the HESSA's Women Leadership Showcase held in Islamabad. The award was presented by Professor Susan Carvalho, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Alabama.



## Engagement with future leaders!

The Marketing and Communications Department participated in The News Education Expo in Karachi and Islamabad to inform potential students about making informed career decisions and to showcase IBA's longstanding tradition of shaping the future leaders of our nation.



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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## IBA – CED MoU Signing

IBA Centre for Entrepreneurial Development (IBA CED) and **Fast National University (Fast NU)**, **DHA Suffa University** and **Fatima Jinnah Women University - Rawalpindi** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to enhance entrepreneurial initiatives and collaborations.

Key areas of cooperation include joint funding applications, collaborative entrepreneurial research and publications, subsidized co-working spaces, incubation facilities, entrepreneurial training, shared access to state-of-the-art labs, and support for intellectual property creation and commercialization.



## IBA CICT signs MoU with Google and Tech Valley Pakistan

June came in with some good surprises...

Under an MoU signed between Google & Tech Valley Pakistan and the IBA Center for Information and Communication Technology (CICT), 500 certifications in the field of Tech, cyber security, Data Analytics and many more will be given to IBA Students at no cost.

This is a huge accomplishment and IBA students can benefit from this collaboration extensively in 2024-25.



## IBA HR launches 'Pehchan' Rewards and Recognition policy for staff

The policy is designed to recognize and reward the exceptional contributions of the IBA staff. The initiative aims to motivate the HR team to engage in innovative practices, improve institutional processes, and to achieve the IBA's strategic objectives.



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# JUNE AT A GLANCE

## IBA Training & Development

The training calendar for June 2024 was successfully executed by arranging training sessions for 182 participants as per their training needs.

The **Mastering Goal Setting and Service Excellence** training was conducted by Syed Atif Murtaza; **Stress Management and Resilience** training was led by Nasir Ahmed; **Ethical Hacking and Cyber Security** was taught by Sana Zahra Ahmed; **Leadership Development Program** was conducted by Dr. Irum Saba; **Project Management** was conducted by Dr. Rameez Khalid; **IT Support Staff Development Program** was led by Adnan Ali; and the **Conflict Management Essentials** training was facilitated by Maisam Thariani .

