

IBA NEWS

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'Innovation and Disruption: Business Success Through AI' - IBA-SBS 3rd International Conference 2024

The 3rd International Conference hosted by the School of Business Studies (SBS) on **'Innovation and Disruption: Business Success Through AI'** wraps up on a high note. Esteemed national and international academicians, researchers, practitioners, students and speakers participated in the conference.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA delivered the opening remarks and welcomed the scholars to the two-day conference. He recognized the SBS for hosting its 3rd international conference on the pertinent topic of AI, emphasizing that Pakistan has a lot to work towards to catch up on the diverse effects of AI.

Dr. Irum Saba, Associate Professor, SBS, and Conference Convener, emphasized the uniqueness of this conference in bringing together academic scholars from Pakistan and around the world, along with industry practitioners.



School of Business Studies
3rd International Conference

A special thanks to our Guest of Honor, Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman, HEC Sindh, and Chief Guest, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs, for their insights on how universities must harness AI for growth and survival. They emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to catch up with global advancements in AI which is reshaping economies, societies, and education.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Nora Ann Colton from UCL, who discussed the transformative potential of AI in healthcare and the reimagining of business education. Professor Geoffrey Wood from Western University, Canada, delved into the dual nature of AI technology, its calibration, and the hype versus reality debate. Dr. Adam Zaremba, from Montpellier Business School, and Poznań University of Economics and Business spoke on 'A Trend Factor for the Cross-section of Cryptocurrency Returns', discussing about CTREND, a new trend factor for cryptocurrency returns which aggregates price and volume information across various time horizons.

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MAY AT A GLANCE

The Future of Dispute Resolution in Pakistan

The IBA in collaboration with the Singapore International Mediation Center (SIMC) and the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), U.S. Department of Commerce successfully hosted a seminar titled 'The Future of Dispute Resolution in Pakistan: Embracing the Singapore Convention on Mediation and Green ADR', at the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) in Islamabad. The event brought together distinguished legal experts, climate change advocates, and key stakeholders to discuss the future of dispute resolution in Pakistan with a focus on mediation and sustainable practices.

Eric Ives, Attorney Advisor, CLDP, U.S. Department of Commerce, shared insights into the U.S. government's services and assistance to Pakistan's ADR movement. This was followed by an enlightening explanation of the Singapore Convention on Mediation by Sidharth Jha, Legal Counsel at the SIMC.

Amin Lakhani, Honorary Consulate General of Singapore in Pakistan, provided his perspective on the convention, and Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, highlighted the ADR initiative by IBA and expressed his commitment to future of ADR in Pakistan through the IBA ADR International Center (IBA ADRIIC).

Chief Guest, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan, presented alarming statistics, revealing a staggering 2.4 million pending cases in Pakistan, mainly within the district judiciary, with 68,000 new cases filed monthly at the district level. Advocating for a paradigm shift, he proposed a sequence from negotiation to mediation to arbitration, positioning courts as the final recourse.

The second part of the seminar focused on 'Green ADR for Sustainability'. Syed Bulent Sohail, Attorney-Adviser to IBA ADRIIC and SIMI Accredited Mediator, introduced the concept of Green ADR, emphasizing its core principles and environmental benefits.

Justice Jawad Hassan, Lahore High Court, highlighted in his conclusion note the pro-mediation stance of the superior judiciary. He stressed the urgent need for Pakistan to ratify the Singapore Convention, which already had provisions in implementation. Supporting his argument, he referenced numerous judgments.

Milestone of the seminar was the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) of IBA ADRIIC with the Ministry of Law and Justice of Pakistan, the Directorate of Legal Education, Pakistan Bar Council, and the Islamabad Bar Council.



MAY AT A GLANCE

SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup's Capacity Building Workshop

IBA-CED, UNDP Pakistan and JS Bank launched the SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup to encourage climate resilience and innovative climate financing in Pakistan.

The challenge opened doors for SMEs working innovatively and passionately for climate-sustainable solutions. Out of the 200+ SMEs that applied from more than 20 cities across Pakistan, 30 promising projects were shortlisted to participate in a two-day capacity building workshop at the Main Campus.

The two-day workshop featured esteemed speakers, including Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED; Umer Malik, Policy Analyst, UNDP; Jafar Raza, Group Head of Investment, International & Transactional Banking, JS Bank; and Rabia Khatak, Head, Diversity and Inclusion, Jazz.

The sessions covered a diverse range of topics including Innovative Leadership, Strategic Innovation, Scaling Business Models, Financial Strategies, Sustainability Integration, Intellectual Property Strategy, and Pitching for Growth.

The next phase of the Challenge Cup will identify the top 12 projects, which will then compete for further support and investment opportunities.



Celebrating the power of community at the 'Friends of IBA Meet & Greet' event



The first '**Friends of IBA Meet and Greet**' hosted by the Resource Mobilization team, honored Mr. Danish Aman, Director of Hafiz Tannery, for his philanthropic contributions.

It was a celebration of new and existing supporters, where our National Talent Hunt Program scholars shared inspiring stories, showcasing the power of education. We are grateful to our supporters for giving so many the chance to receive quality education.

[Link to our meetup Video](#)

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Adoption of Digital Technologies in Industry - a panel discussion stressing the need for a digital mindset, a discussion amongst industry experts stressed the need to cultivate a digital mindset, or simply, the strategy of using technology to improve business. The panelists were Farhan Haroon, CEO and General Manager, Haleon Pakistan Limited, and M. Faisal Anwar, Chief Information Officer, MCB Bank Limited, moderated by SBS faculty member, Dr. Khalid Basit.

While Haroon gave examples of how their supply chain support system uses meteorological data to predict dynamic changes in demand, Anwar spoke of the importance of decision support systems (DSS) installed in banks to fight online fraud in real-time. They both spoke of applying critical thinking skills to use pertinent technologies to smoothen out relevant processes.



BSCS students explore industry dynamics at Systems Limited The Industrial Liaison Section of the SMCS Dean's Office organized an industry visit for BS Computer Science students to Systems Limited. The visit aimed to expose students to industry leaders, stimulate discussions on potential projects, and create opportunities for Final Year Projects (FYPs) mentorship.

Access. Ability. Careers 2024 - a one-of-its-kind career fair for differently abled students focusing on fostering accessibility and inclusivity! Jointly hosted by the IBA Office of Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (ODAI) under the umbrella of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and ConnectHear, the career fair raised awareness about accessibility challenges faced in Pakistan and emphasized on creating a more inclusive environment.

Thirty-three organizations and **700** persons with disabilities (PWDs) were invited to participate and were provided with a platform to connect with potential employers and explore career opportunities in a supportive environment.

Maheen Ghauri, Dean, OSA, emphasized that every individual is diverse, and each has their own distinct abilities.

The event's success highlights the commitment of ConnectHear and IBA to promote accessibility and inclusivity in Pakistan.



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MAY AT A GLANCE

The Mediator's Magic: Transforming Conflict into Collaboration

IBA CEE organized a seminar featuring eminent speakers from the judiciary, business, and academic community, and international organizations on the transformative power of mediation in resolving conflicts and fostering collaboration across various settings.

Dr. Ishrat Husain, Professor Emeritus, IBA, delivered the keynote address on 'The Power of Mediation in Conflict Resolution,' discussing the significance of mediation and the role of IBA in promoting its use.

Director, IBA-CEE, Kamran Bilgrami gave the introductory remarks, while Justice (R) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, former Chief Justice of Pakistan, delivered the welcome address.

The seminar also featured a discussion on 'Mediation in Pakistan - Future Prospects,' with insights shared by esteemed judges, and a panel discussion moderated by SIMI Qualified Mediator, Syed Bulent Sohail, on 'The Landscape of Mediation'.

The insightful journey of data analytics in Pakistani industry – a panel by SMCS

SMCS hosted a panel talk featuring esteemed industry experts including Khurram Afzaal, Assistant VP Systems Limited; Waleed Rehan, Lead Software Engineer, Folio3; Resham Gul, Business Intelligence Consultant, Blutech Consulting; and Ashfaque Ahmed, Head of Technology, Bank Islami.

The event offered an insightful journey into the realm of data analytics. With profound expertise, the panelists delved into the current trends of data storage, data management & governance, and the intricacies of Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence. The discussion also revealed the importance of acquiring the right skill set for success in the data analytics landscape of Pakistan.

CEJ hosts UNDP delegation

Amber Rahim Shamsi, Director, CEJ-IBA welcomed Kanni Wignaraja, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP, Samuel Rizk, UNDP's Resident Representative in Pakistan, at the City Campus.

The visit focused on the advancements made by the **iVerify** Pakistan platform, a UN fact-checking initiative crucial for combating misinformation and disinformation in Pakistan, which is being implemented by the CEJ-IBA.

Director, CEJ, Shamsi, noted the significant benefits of collaborating with the UNDP Pakistan, enhancing the capacity to educate and equip society against disinformation.

SMCS organizes FYP Industry Connect Spring'24

Experts from folio3 discussed possible project ideas with our Computer Science students at the third session of the FYP Industry Connect Spring'24. These ideas revolved around software engineering, AI/ML, and other related fields. Students and professionals explored more creative ideas and possible mentorship opportunities offered by the company during the industry connect session.

MAY AT A GLANCE



Maverick Mentorship Program

Maverick Mentorship Program Spring 2024 a tailored initiative was launched by the Career Development Center (CDC) designed to equip students with essential skills for launching their careers. This unique program offers students the invaluable opportunity to connect with industry and academic experts, receiving personalized guidance on a wide range of career-related matters.

On May 6, 2024, the Mentorship Maverick program reached over a hundred students, spanning sophomores, juniors, and seniors, eager to gain insights directly from industry experts to excel in both job placement opportunities and corporate interactions. Notable participating companies included Systems Ltd., IRD Global, and more.

The Revised HEC Undergraduate Program Structure

In the inaugural dialogue of the Quality Enhancement Cell's (QEC) dialogue series, 'Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges in the Revised HEC Undergraduate Program Structure', panelists and participants from various universities convened to deliberate on the intricacies of the revised undergraduate program structure.

Representatives from various universities' QEC leadership positions, such as SZABIST, Salim Habib University, NED, University of Karachi, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Nazeer Hussain University, Textile Institute of Pakistan, Fast NUCES, Greenwich University, PAF Air War College Institute, and Newports Institute of Communications and Economics, engaged in an enriching dialogue.

First anniversary of IBA's satellite campus in Islamabad!

Through a wide range of workshops, academic and research-oriented programs, the past year was all about reimagining management and leadership in creative and innovative ways. The CEE trains professionals to keep ahead of the curve while meeting the demanding expectations of the modern, exponentially changing corporate world.

We offer our deepest appreciation to NIBAF, OGDCL, University of Sialkot and IBA Alumni in Islamabad for their unwavering support throughout the year.

MAY AT A GLANCE

Annual Retreat 2024

There is no work without some fun! Annual Retreat 2024 a Beach Bonanza was organized by the HR department for IBA Staff & Faculty.

The fun-filled day was packed with engaging fun activities and delectable food. A special shoutout to all who helped in making this event truly unforgettable for the faculty and staff!



Rahima, the first McCall MacBain Scholarship awardee from IBA

A talented BS Economics student, Rahima has secured the prestigious \$20,000 McCall MacBain Finalist Award for her studies at McGill University. She has also received additional funding for her MSc Agricultural Economics program! We are beyond proud to see our students shine on the global stage!

Voices Unbound: Poetry of Resistance

In a stirring display of creativity and courage, students at our Writing Centre came together for a thought-provoking open mic event where they shared their favorite verses of defiance and resilience by various poets. They also shared poetry written by themselves, both in English and Urdu. The event showcased an array of poignant and powerful poems that challenged societal norms, confronted injustice, and celebrated the spirit of resistance in its many forms. As students took to the stage, their voices echoed the struggles and triumphs of marginalized communities worldwide.



Great performance by IBA's Hockey Team

Congratulations to our Hockey Team on securing the 2nd position in the HEC Zone-M Intersarsity Hockey Men's Championship 2024!



MAY AT A GLANCE

IBA Training & Development

The training calendar for the month of May 2024 was successfully executed by training 104 participants of IBA staff in **5** programs as per their training needs.

The **Budgeting & Feasibility with Business Strategy** training was conducted by Mohsin Ali Patel; **Business Etiquettes & Professionalism** was led by Danish Imtiaz; **Effective Communication Skills - Basic Level** was taught by Farhan Uddin Raja; **Finance for Non-Finance** was conducted by Abdul Rahim Suriya; and the **Power BI** training was facilitated by Salman Hanif.



World No Tobacco Day 2024



HR department conducted an employee engagement for IBA staff and faculty members where they joined hands on World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2024. At the IBA, we proudly stood united with the WHO's inspiring theme of this year, 'Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference'.

New & Updated HR Policies

For the latest updates in HR policies please scan the QR code:

