

## “A New Global Order, Yet Again” Organized by IBA-CBER

IBA proudly hosted the Fifth Annual International Conference on “A New Global Order, Yet Again”, which was organized in collaboration with IBA’s School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) and the IBA’s Center for Business & Economic Research (CBER).

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, thanked the World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank for their support, emphasizing the need for strong institutions, climate resilience, and historical perspective in shaping future policy.

Hina Rabbani Khar, Chair of the National Assembly’s Foreign Affairs Committee and Former Foreign Minister, delivered a powerful address on the unraveling post-1945 global order, China’s economic rise, selective sanctions, and the climate crisis.

Prominent attendees included Bolorma Amgaabazar, Country Director for Pakistan, World Bank; Mahir Binici, Resident Representative for Pakistan, International Monetary Fund; Farzana Noshab, Lead Economist, Asian Development Bank, and Professor Adnan Qadir Khan, Professor, School of Public Policy, LSE, and Former Chief Economist, UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

The panel discussion, “Climate Change and Social Protection”, was moderated by Dr. Lubna Naz, Director, CBER, and the discussion focused on aligning Pakistan’s social protection frameworks with escalating climate risks to safeguard the poorest households.

Parallel technical sessions showcased cutting-edge research during the conference.





## IBA-CEIF Marked a Decade of Excellence, Driving Growth and Thought Leadership in Islamic Finance



Center for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) celebrated its 10-year milestone with the event “A Decade of Empowering Islamic Finance” at IBA City Campus. Dr. Irum Saba acknowledged the support of SBP and partner Islamic financial institutions, while Dr. S Akbar Zaidi highlighted IBA’s 70-year legacy, AACSB Accreditation, and the need for a forward-looking roadmap for CEIF.

Guest of Honor, H.E. Herman Hardynata Ahmad, commended Pakistan-Malaysia collaboration and outlined key global trends including green sukuk, Islamic digital banking, and social finance. Dr. Ishrat Husain and Deputy Governor SBP, Mr. Saleem Ullah, emphasized the vital role of Islamic finance in national growth and the importance of scaling such initiatives.

The event concluded with a panel on future trends in Islamic finance and MoU signings with leading financial institutions, signaling a strong path for CEIF’s next decade.





## IBA Prestige Lounge: Celebrating Success, Community, and Camaraderie

The HR Department hosted the IBA Prestige Lounge Annual Dinner, featuring an elegant grey, black, blue, and magenta theme. The evening opened with a warm message from Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director of IBA, who emphasized the value of community, shared celebration, and creating spaces that bring colleagues together beyond the workplace. The program featured the 5 Star Awards recognizing outstanding performers, followed by a lively Kahoot round that sparked friendly competition. The much-anticipated People's Choice Awards kept the excitement high, and the night concluded with the heartfelt "Pat on the Back" activity, where colleagues exchanged appreciation, and five lucky participants won giveaway baskets. Furthermore, Malahat Awan, Director, Alumni Affairs, Resource Mobilization & Corporate Affairs, randomly selected five lucky winners from the "Pat on the Back" cards, and they were awarded special giveaway baskets. The evening concluded on a celebratory note with an exclusive dinner, where guests connected, shared laughter, and captured memorable moments with colleagues.



### Spotlight Moment:

The HR department introduced a special Spotlight Moment as the final segment of the event, recognizing employees who were appreciated by their peers for being dependable and supportive. These individuals received appreciation cards from the Director HR, and Team L&OD personally acknowledged their contributions and commitment to making IBA a better place to work.



# IBA IN THE MEDIA

## Dean IBA-SMCS Featured in Synergyzer Magazine

Dr. Shakeel Khoja, Professor and Dean SMCS, was featured in the latest Synergyzer Magazine. In the interview, he discussed his academic journey, his contributions to strengthening computer science education in Pakistan, and his vision for preparing students for a rapidly evolving digital future.

### The 4th Generation Revolution with DR SHAKEEL KHOJA

Dr Shakeel A. Khoja, Dean of the School of Mathematics & Computer Science at IBA Karachi, has spent over two decades at the intersection of technology, education, and innovation, shaping Pakistan's digital future one learner at a time. A pioneer in learning technologies and semantic web research, his work has consistently pushed boundaries to make education more intelligent, accessible, and learner-centric. In this conversation, he unpacks how IBA is redefining academia through AI integration. Dr Khoja's vision is clear: Pakistan must stop chasing trends and start leading them.

By Ayesha Anjum

**Synergyzer:** What sets IBA apart in preparing Pakistan's next generation of innovators, and how has AI been integrated into this vision?  
**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** IBA stands out for its holistic approach, combining technology with business, economics, and social sciences. Our three schools, Mathematics and Computer Science, Business, Economics and Social Sciences, actively collaborate to bridge disciplines. For

example, our Economics programme is evolving into Economics and Data Science, while initiatives like Ecomath have produced globally competitive graduates with strong quantitative and analytical skills. We have also embraced AI across teaching and learning. Faculty members are trained to use tools like ChatGPT and Claude in classrooms, and many assignments, projects, and exams are now AI-based. Students use large language models as learning partners through gamified assessments and leaderboards that encourage creativity and innovation. Similar to Khan Academy's Khanmigo, our goal is to help teachers and students use AI to enhance learning and stay ahead in an evolving digital world.

**Synergyzer:** You recently signed an MoU with RCCI to bridge academia and industry. What will it take to turn such partnerships into real drivers of industrial innovation?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** At IBA, this kind of collaboration has been part of our DNA for decades. For over 70 years, we have been training professionals who go on to strengthen the industries they work in. By equipping them with new technologies, ideas, and business concepts, we help enhance their efficiency and performance. Our partnership with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) reflects the same vision to extend IBA's expertise to the Rawalpindi-Islamabad region and strengthen professional capacity in an area with immense but underutilised industrial potential. Through this MoU, we aim to bridge the gap between academia and industry by offering practical, hands-on education that drives innovation, skill development, and continuous learning across Pakistan's industrial landscape.

**Synergyzer:** As AI reshapes creativity and innovation, will Pakistan lead the charge or be left catching up?  
**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** AI will replace repetitive, mechanical work that lacks imagination, but in the realms of innovation, problem-solving, and creativity, it becomes a collaborator

rather than a competitor. We have seen this before, when computers arrived, many feared job losses, yet they created far more opportunities. The same applies to AI today: those who adapt will thrive; those who resist will fall behind.

To lead this transformation, Pakistan must adopt a forward-thinking mindset where innovation and education drive progress. Institutions like IBA are already working towards this, integrating technologies like generative AI and cybersecurity into their curricula to address local challenges. But real progress demands a stronger ecosystem, one where the government, academia, and industry collaborate, invest in research, and encourage entrepreneurship.

If Pakistan wants to stay ahead, we must move from dependency to self-reliance. Progress comes when we stop waiting for others to lead and begin creating our own solutions. With creativity, commitment, and the right support, we can ensure our graduates don't just survive the AI revolution—they lead it.

**Synergyzer:** With the YOTABYTE partnership, you have spotlighted cybersecurity. What does true cyber resilience look like for Pakistan, and how close are we to it?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** YOTABYTE exemplifies the kind of collaboration Pakistan needs. Operating globally with offices in Canada, the UK, Islamabad, and Karachi, the company brings top-tier cybersecurity expertise that complements IBA's academic strength. Together, we are co-developing academic programmes, sharing knowledge, and building practical cybersecurity capacity. Our first major initiative, a conference on digital threats and organisational vulnerabilities, was a step toward raising awareness and driving action. This partnership represents more than dialogue; it's about creating real solutions. Cyber resilience in Pakistan will stem from such academic-industry collaborations, ensuring that cybersecurity becomes a core pillar of our digital future, not an afterthought.

**Synergyzer:** Will Pakistan's banking sector see AI as real innovation or just another buzzword?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** I believe the banking sector in Pakistan is taking generative AI very seriously. From the State Bank to leading commercial banks, there is a clear understanding of its potential and a growing commitment to explore it

meaningfully. Banks are looking at AI not just as a trend, but as a tool to transform operations, whether it is improving customer service, optimising investment strategies, or developing smarter policies.

What is encouraging is their willingness to collaborate with academic institutions like IBA to co-create solutions tailored to the industry. Their aim is twofold: to modernise banking in a way that resonates with younger, tech-savvy generations, and to expand their customer base through more efficient, intelligent systems. In short, they're not chasing the buzz; they are working to harness AI as a genuine driver of innovation.

**Synergyzer:** Do you believe universities beyond the top tier are moving in the right direction? If not, who needs to lead the reset: policymakers, industry, or academia itself?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** Many universities remain trapped in outdated systems due to limited industry engagement and rigid policies. I believe the responsibility begins with the universities themselves; they must expand their vision. Students today won't thrive in restrictive, obsolete environments. Technology is evolving fast, and institutions that fail to modernise will fall behind. A reset is needed, but it requires shared responsibility. Policymakers must create forward-looking standards, while the government should provide direction, not solutions. The National AI Policy is a good start, setting the stage for adoption and awareness. Now universities must act by seeking research funding, updating pedagogies, and integrating technology. The problem isn't access to tools; it's our inertia.

**Synergyzer:** As AI transforms key sectors, how urgent is it for Pakistan to build ethical and governance frameworks, and can it also help bridge the digital divide?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** It is very urgent. Pakistan's first AI policy is a step forward but still incomplete. AI is already reshaping finance, healthcare, and education, yet without strong safeguards, risks like data misuse, bias, and privacy breaches remain high. We have seen this before with social media, where data was shared without a clear understanding of its repercussions. Recent reports of NADRA and credit card data leaks underline the need for stricter privacy laws and greater public awareness. At the same time, Pakistan's digital divide is widening. Urban areas enjoy reliable internet, while many rural regions struggle with poor connectivity and unstable electricity. Generative AI has disrupted higher education, pushing learning towards more individualised models – a shift that can work if educators adapt and the government strengthens infrastructure.

Only about 13-14% of Pakistan's population has access to tertiary education, compared to 40% in developed countries. We cannot rely solely on traditional campuses. Expanding digital and distance learning, alongside the development of ethical frameworks, is vital to ensure that technology empowers rather than divides society.

**Synergyzer:** What keeps you excited as a researcher in Pakistan?  
**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** My research in web sciences includes the Semantic Web and machine comprehension. What excites

me most is solving local challenges like developing Urdu language models so systems such as ChatGPT can process Urdu as effectively as English.

What frustrates me is the lack of infrastructure and research culture. We have limited research centres, collaboration, and institutional support. Real innovation needs an ecosystem that inspires and connects researchers, and that is what we lack.

**Synergyzer:** As AI transforms the way we learn and work, what skills must today's graduates develop, and how is it reshaping education and research in Pakistan?

**Dr Shakeel Khoja:** Graduates must focus on human-centred skills, the ones AI cannot replace. Critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and ethical decision-making will be essential, along with the ability to interpret data responsibly and question assumptions. Adaptability and empathy are equally vital, as the future workforce will operate in diverse, global teams where understanding and respecting differing perspectives is key.

At the same time, AI is forcing a complete rethink of how we teach and assess learning. Traditional methods, such as asking students to write long essays are becoming obsolete, as chatbots can generate the same content in seconds. The solution isn't to ban AI, but to embrace it. Educators must find creative ways to integrate it into classrooms, using it to enhance rather than replace learning. When used thoughtfully, AI can make education more inclusive, creative, and deeply relevant to the world we inhabit.



26 Synergyzer

**“Executive Doodles”**  
by  
**Ahmed Kapadia**

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# GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

## Kicking Off GEW: IBA-CED Hosts Reverse-Pitching Session



To kick off Global Entrepreneurship Week, CED hosted a reverse-pitching session led by Muhammad Ali Taufiq, VP Investments, Fatima Gobi Ventures. Instead of founders pitching, he pitched the investor mindset, drawing on his VC experience and leadership roles at Careem and Bykea. He emphasized the importance of clarity of vision, market understanding, and strong founding teams—reminding participants that investors back conviction, insight, and people, not just ideas. His candid insights energized and refocused the founders in attendance.

## IBA-CED Hosted 'Invent for the Greater Good Challenge 2025'



CED hosted the inaugural Invent for the Greater Good Challenge 2025 with the Beba Foundation, August Leadership, and Unilever Pakistan. From 150+ applications, 13 early-stage ventures pitched social innovation ideas, evaluated on feasibility, creativity, and impact.

The judging panel featured Ammad Danish, General Manager Homecare, Unilever; Musharaf Hai, Advisory Partner, August Leadership; Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, CED; and Korhan Deniz Beba, Executive Director, Beba Foundation. Winners received one of Pakistan's largest prize pools: PKR 1,000,000 (Roshan Pani), PKR 750,000 (Valkyrie Diagnostics), and PKR 500,000 (EcoStove). The top five will also receive incubation support worth PKR 300,000. Dr. Ejaz welcomed guests, Dr. Shakeel Khoja delivered the keynote, and Maheen Ghauri offered the vote of thanks—spotlighting how mentorship and global exposure can accelerate youth-led social impact.

## IBA-CED Hosted I-Bazaar 2025, Showcasing 87 Ventures Led by Young Founders

CED hosted I-Bazaar 2025 at the Main Campus, transforming the football ground into a vibrant marketplace with 87 student-led ventures across Tech, Health, Food, Fashion, Services, Handmade, and Earthwise categories. Over 1,500 visitors explored innovative products and emerging ideas. Six startups from the I-Incubate program also showcased early-stage ventures. The event blended entrepreneurship with campus culture, featuring a pet show by the IBA Animal Welfare Society, a live jamming session by the IBA Music Society, sports activities by the Sports Society, and digital coverage by the IBA Arts and Photography Society—creating a lively, community-driven celebration of creativity and enterprise.



## Evaluations, showcases, graduation: IBA-CED Marks First Cohort Milestone

CED marked a milestone with evaluations, a prototype showcase, and the graduation of its inaugural I-Incubate cohort during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2025. Venture evaluations were conducted by a distinguished panel comprising Noshaba Owais, Director Research & Innovation, HEC; Kashif Shabbir, EVP & Group Head, Corporate & Investment Banking, Pak Libya Holding; Naieel Ikram, Partner, Fatima Gobi Ventures; Ahsan Jabbar, CEO, AJ Ventures; and Sara Munir, CEO, Invest2Innovate, who assessed business models, tested assumptions, and provided strategic guidance to strengthen early-stage ventures. Cohort startups then showcased their prototypes, engaging mentors, industry professionals, and visitors. The day concluded with a graduation ceremony celebrating growth, discipline, and readiness to contribute to Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem, reaffirming CED's commitment to nurturing purpose-driven founders.





## IBA hosted public lecture by Dr. Waleed Ziad on his book "Hidden Caliphate: Sufi Saints Beyond the Oxus and Indus"

IBA hosted an insightful public lecture by Dr. Waleed Ziad, Associate Professor of History, Georgetown University (Qatar). The session, held at the City Campus and organized by the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS), centered on Dr. Ziad's acclaimed book, "Hidden Caliphate: Sufi Saints Beyond the Oxus and Indus."

In his talk, Dr. Ziad explored the Naqshbandi-Mujaddidi Sufi networks that connected Central and South Asia between the 18th and early 20th centuries. He revealed how these Sufi scholars exercised their sacro-political authority to shape religious thought and community life, while also engendering a cultural resilience that transcended regional boundaries.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA, also attended the session and commended SESS for organizing intellectually stimulating dialogues that promote interdisciplinary learning. The lecture was moderated by Dr. Ali Gibran Siddiqui, Assistant Professor, SESS, who facilitated an engaging discussion between the speaker and the audience.



## IBA-CED Hosted Panels on Strengthening Pakistan's Startup Ecosystem

CED hosted two signature panel discussions on Pakistan's startup ecosystem.

The first panel, "Incubators and Micro-Foundations – Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem", moderated by Salik Khan, CEO, Qianhio Technology, featured Noshaba Awais; Khurram Zafar, CEO Pakistan Mercantile Exchange; Dr. Kanza Sohail, Incubation Lead, CED; Syed Azfar Hussain, Project Director, NIC Karachi; and Khizar Pervaiz, CEO, Sindh Enterprise Development Fund. The session highlighted collaboration, mentorship quality, early-stage funding, and growth pipelines for startups.

The second panel, "From Ideas to Impact: Building Sustainable Ventures in Pakistan", moderated by Irfan Khan, Founder Cutera & Dvago, featured Omer Bin Ahsan, Founder and CEO, Haball Pvt. Ltd.; Umair Azam, Founder and CEO, Integration Xperts; Ali Anwerzada, Founder, Cedar College; Azima Dhanjee, Founder, ConnectHear; Muhammad Hassan Khan, CEO and Co-Founder, Pegasync; and Anas Niaz, Founder, Bioniks. Speakers addressed uncertainty, product-market fit, regulatory hurdles, and sustaining long-term value.

Together, the panels mapped the entrepreneurial journey—from institutional support to founder endurance—offering practical direction for Pakistan's startup landscape.





# 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.





## LEADERSHIP PROFILE

### MUHAMMAD ANWAR

**Chief Librarian & In-Charge Research Data Center**

Muhammad Anwar has been instrumental in transforming the IBA Library into a modern, technology-driven, and research-centered learning hub. With over 30 years of distinguished experience at IBA, LUMS, UMT, and SMEDA, he is widely consulted for redesigning library spaces and integrating advanced library technologies. His leadership has revitalized the library's infrastructure, introduced global research databases, and enhanced student-centered services.

He is an active member of international professional associations, including IFLA, ALA, and PLA, and contributes significantly through his roles on various advisory and professional boards. His expertise continues to shape Pakistan's academic and research library landscape.



**OUR LEADERSHIP  
OUR STRENGTH**

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## FACULTY PROFILE

### DR. USMAN NAZIR

**Assistant Professor & Head of Leadership & Governance Programs (IBA-CEE)**

Dr. Nazir is an executive educator and a scholar of leadership and decision sciences. He brings international experience from world-leading organizations, including JPMorgan, in Singapore and Hong Kong. His work bridges academia and industry, combining strategic insight with behavioural understanding to address the evolving needs of leaders and organizations in complex environments.




Holding two doctorates, a DBA in Behavioural Science and a PhD in Information Science, Dr. Nazir integrates data, psychology, and decision science to build future-ready leaders. He designs and delivers board-level trainings, leadership education, sustainability awareness, and governance consultations that inspire purpose, foresight, and integrity.



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## FACULTY PROFILE

### DR. AMIR JAHAN

**Associate Professor & Program Director, Undergraduate Programs - Economics**

Dr. Amir Jahan Khan, Associate Professor and Program Director of Undergraduate Programs in Economics at IBA-SESS, demonstrates how economic models — taught through courses such as Intermediate Microeconomics and Business Strategy — offer real-world insights beyond mere data.

By bridging theory with practice, he sharpens students' analytical skills and strengthens IBA's legacy of rigorous, application-oriented economics education.



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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### ZOHA ADNAN

**Class of 2026**

Zoha Adnan, a final-year student and captain of the IBA Cricket Team, has been selected to represent Team Sukkur in the PM Youth Program Cricket Provincial League.

In the opening match, she delivered an outstanding all-round performance, scoring an unbeaten 69 off 54 balls and taking 2 wickets to secure a remarkable victory for her team.



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OUR PRIDE**

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## Rebranding IBA – Bringing the Legacy to Life

Team MarComms' branding campaign celebrates IBA's journey and achievements across both campuses. In November, the team successfully executed the following branding initiatives:

### Shuttle Branding

As part of its 70-year celebration, IBA's shuttle branding carries the institution's legacy across the city, celebrating seven decades of Visionary Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Sustainable Impact. Wrapped in signature blue, purple, and green visuals, the shuttles reflect IBA's journey of academic distinction and national contribution—carrying pride, progress, and purpose through every route.





## IBA-CEJ Hosted UNDP Pakistan Delegation

CEJ hosted a delegation from UNDP Pakistan, including Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative; Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative; and Usman Zafar, Safe Digital Environment Specialist.

Shahzeb Jillani, Director CEJ, welcomed the delegation and briefed them on CEJ's mission, training programs, and industry impact, followed by a guided tour of the facility.

The visit also featured an interactive session with the iVerify Pakistan team, who showcased their work on tackling misinformation/disinformation and discussed strategies to strengthen fact-checking and media literacy across Pakistan.



## IBA-CEJ Hosted a Book Talk on Media and Politics in Pakistan

CEJ hosted a book talk titled "A Story of Media and Politics in Pakistan", featuring Senior Journalist, Bahzad Alam Khan in conversation with Author and Journalist, Umber Khairi about her novel Akbar in Wonderland. Set in 1990s Pakistan, the novel follows young news-magazine editor, Akbar Hussain navigating media, power, and political pressures, highlighting how media establishments can be influenced by prevailing power structures to influence public discourse.

Ms. Khairi shared that the novel reflects the enduring challenges of media-politics interactions, noting that ethical journalism today faces even greater demands in the digital age, where pressures and coercion continue to test journalistic integrity.



## IBA-CEJ Welcomed U.S. Consulate Officials

CEJ welcomed Tim Brauhn, Public Diplomacy Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, along with Saif Jiskani, Press & Media Specialist, and Najeeb Ullah, Press & Media Manager. Shahzeb Jillani, Director CEJ, briefed the delegation on CEJ's vision, programs, and training initiatives, followed by an interactive session with the iVerify Pakistan team, who showcased their verification workflows and tools for combating misinformation/disinformation.



## IBA Celebrated International Men's Day at IBA

IBA celebrated International Men's Day by acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of its male faculty, staff members, and students. The observance highlighted the values of well-being, and leadership, recognizing the role men play in advancing excellence, impact, and an inclusive culture at IBA.






**Honouring the Men at IBA for their  
Leadership · Excellence · Impact**



**19 | November**  
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## OSA Recognized Students for Completing Educast Training Modules

OSA hosted the Educast Certificate Ceremony to recognize students who successfully completed the Educast training modules. Certificates were awarded in the presence of faculty and staff, celebrating students' dedication to professional growth. The event reaffirmed IBA's commitment to nurturing talent, fostering lifelong learning, and equipping students with essential academic and professional skills.



## Karachi Say Kalachi Takk 4.0: A Journey Through Karachi's History, Culture & Identity

OSA organized the fourth edition of Karachi Say Kalachi Takk (KSKT 4.0), an immersive city-exploration experience that encouraged students to rediscover Karachi through its culture, history, and community narratives. Students visited key landmarks, engaged in discussions on the city's heritage, and reflected on Karachi's evolving identity. The initiative promoted learning beyond the classroom, while strengthening student engagement and fostering an appreciation for the city.



## IBA-CED and CITADEL Partnered to Promote Tech Leadership & Entrepreneurship

CED and CITADEL Pakistan have formed a strategic partnership to accelerate innovation, entrepreneurship, and tech leadership in Pakistan. The collaboration combines IBA's academic excellence with CITADEL's industry expertise to deliver advanced entrepreneurial training, professional development programs, specialized consultancies, and joint research initiatives. The partnership aims to equip emerging professionals, support startups with industry-aligned guidance, and strengthen Pakistan's knowledge-driven economy. The MoU was signed by Dr. Lalurukh Ejaz, Director, CED, and Air Commodore (Rtd.) Farhan Ahmed, Director CITADEL, is marking a shared commitment to long-term, impactful collaboration.



## IBA Library Hosted Documentary Screening and a Panel Discussion on Media, Culture, and Society

The IBA Library hosted a documentary screening of 'Advertising and the End of the World' followed by a panel discussion exploring how media, advertising, and influencer culture shape consumer behavior and social values. The session was moderated by Dr. Abdul Haque Chang, Assistant Professor, and featured panelists, including Ms. Maryam Aziz, Assistant Professor, with active participation from BBA and BS SSLA students.

Panelists discussed consumerism, digital messaging, and the need for mindfulness in navigating media-driven standards of success. The event concluded with an orientation on accessing the Media Education Foundation (MEF) streaming platform via the library's subscription, available both on campus and remotely through OpenAthens.

The Library continues to promote media literacy and critical thinking across the IBA community.





## IBA-SMCS Hosted First Mentorship Meetup

SMCS held its first Mentorship Meetup, bringing together Sophomore, Junior, and Senior BS Mathematics students for a collaborative peer-learning session. Seniors guided their juniors in curriculum planning, electives, internships, and career pathways, fostering a strong culture of students supporting one another.



## IBA-SMCS Alumni Connect 2025: Insights from Global and Local Tech Leaders

SMCS Dean's Office hosted SMCS Alumni Connect 2025, bringing together CS alumni and current CS/MT students for an evening of mentorship and meaningful conversations. Alumni from the 2018–2024 batches—working across global tech roles, AI, UX, software development, product, and project management—shared insights on career growth, industry expectations, and opportunities in both local and international tech ecosystems.



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

CDC organized two initiatives to guide students toward international higher education opportunities.

The Erasmus Mundus Info Session, led by Dr. Rizwan Ahmed Khan, Professor, SMCS, and Invited Professor, Université Jean Monnet, France, offered insights into scholarship eligibility, application structure, and key documents. Dr. Khan also advised students on program selection and application timelines, engaging participants from all three IBA schools.



In the Pathways to Ireland Education Fair, organized with IDP Education Ltd, students explored academic programs, admissions, and scholarships by interacting with representatives including Periyé Bisina, Regional Advisor, Dublin City University; Michael Galvin, Regional Manager, National College of Ireland; Ciaran Coakley, Global Student Mobility Manager – Africa, Griffith College Dublin; Ahmed Tyseer, Regional Advisor (UAE, Pakistan & MENA), Technological University of the Shannon.

Together, these initiatives reflect IBA-CDC's commitment to equipping students with guidance and access to global graduate education opportunities.





## IBA Students Gain Real-World Insights Through IBA-CDC Study Trips

CDC organized a series of study trips to provide students with immersive exposure to diverse industries, operational practices, and real-world workplace dynamics across Pakistan.

Highlights included:

- **Lucky Textile Mills Limited:** Students explored the whole textile production value chain, sustainable manufacturing, and consumer-driven design.
- **NOWPDP:** Led by Dr. Tehzeeb Amir, Assistant Professor, SSLA, students experienced disability inclusion initiatives, sensory-motor simulations, and inclusive education practices, emphasizing empathy and accessibility.
- **HBL Head Office:** BS Mathematics students engaged with senior officials, learning about operations, sustainability, and career strategies.
- **PSO House:** SBS students explored energy operations, work culture, and national service delivery.
- **Heritage Field Visit – Thatta:** Led by Dr. Muhammad Moiz Khan, Visiting Faculty, SESS, IBA, Karachi's History class students visited prominent historic sites in Sindh, including the Makli Necropolis, Chaukhandi Tombs, Archaeological Museum & Fort Banbhore, and Shah Jahan Mosque, linking classroom learning to Pakistan's cultural and architectural heritage.
- **Unilever:** MBA students from Dr. Amber Gul's class attended a session with Ms. Suniya, Geography Sales Manager, Unilever, learning about FMCG marketing strategies, industry challenges, and innovative practices.

These study trips reflect CDC's commitment to bridging academic knowledge with practical experience, enhancing professional awareness, and fostering holistic learning.



## IBA-CDC Enriched Student Learning Through Expert-Led Lecture Series

CDC organized a diverse special lecture series featuring global and national leaders who shared insights on industry trends, leadership, and international career pathways. The series featured the following:

- **DD Consulting LLC:** In an engaging webinar, led by Hussain Feroz Ali, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (USA) and Founder & CEO of DD Consulting LLC, discussed global trends in actuarial science, emerging roles, professional exams, and Pakistan's evolving actuarial landscape.
- **Ismail Industries Limited:** A Leadership Connect session with Wajeeha Khan, Chief Human Resource Officer, explored Gen Z's workplace expectations, shifting leadership styles, and the skills young professionals need to thrive.
- **Teach For Pakistan:** Khadija Shahper Bakhtiar, CEO, Teach For Pakistan, delivered an inspiring talk on purpose-driven leadership, equity, and careers in the development sector.
- **IBA Finance Club & IDP Education Pakistan:** Professor Grzegorz Trojanowski from the University of Exeter spoke on corporate governance and executive compensation and guided students on global study opportunities and scholarships.

The series reflected CDC's commitment to connecting students with thought leaders, strengthening industry linkages, and broadening access to impactful global career pathways.





### Code of Conduct Awareness Session

IBA's HR Department, through the L&OD Team, conducted a Code of Conduct Awareness session for 18 staff members. The session covered key expectations, including professional behavior, responsible use of IBA assets and IT resources, maintaining integrity, and proper documentation and financial practices. Participants appreciated the practical insights and clarity provided, highlighting the session's relevance to daily workplace responsibilities.



### Mastering Emotional Intelligence

IBA's HR Department conducted a session on Mastering Emotional Intelligence, facilitated by Dr. Tehzeeb, Assistant Professor at IBA with over 16 years of academic experience. Fourteen participants explored EI fundamentals, analyzed personal and team dynamics to identify blind spots, triggers, and areas of dysfunction, and practiced tools such as 5 Chairs 5 Choices, the Situation-Behavior-Impact Model, Circle of Control, and Empathy Mapping. The session enabled attendees to evaluate leadership responses, communication styles, and team norms, and develop emotionally intelligent strategies grounded in self-awareness, empathy, resilience, and conflict transformation, thereby strengthening the university's culture. Participants appreciated the practical insights and look forward to future sessions.



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