



**3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASSESSING
QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (ICAQHE 2010)
University of the Punjab, Lahore.
(6th - 8th December, 2010)**

REPORT ON 3RD ICAQHE, (6TH - 8TH DECEMBER, 2010)

The prosperity of a nation and the quality of education it provides to its people are interlinked. Quality education especially at the higher level improves the standard of living of people by enhancing the performance of engines of economic growth e.g. industries, agriculture and public sector organizations.

The challenge especially in the case of developing countries is to provide quality education which is continuously improving, sustainable and compares favorably well with international standards.

To meet the challenge in Pakistan, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) had set up a National Quality Assurance Committee. This committee has been functioning for the last seven years. It was decided to set up a permanent secretariat to hold a series of International Conferences on Assessing Quality in Higher Education every two years, thus providing an opportunity to faculty members, administrators and others related with the education system to exchange views amongst themselves and interact with some of the international known scholars in the field of Higher Education.

The first conference was held in December, 2006 at Lahore - Pakistan. The theme of the conference was "Prosperity through Quality Education". The second conference was held in December, 2008 and its theme was "Quality in Higher Education - Challenges and Practices".

The third International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education with a theme of "Modeling in Higher Education" - continuously seeking models for improving Quality of Higher Education. The conference under auspices of the National Quality Assurance Committee of Higher Education Commission was organized by the Institute of Quality & Technology Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore, National Textile University, Faisalabad, University of Management & Technology, Lahore and Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro. The conference was financially supported by HEC.

126 abstracts were received out of which 22 papers were selected/approved by the Technical Committee of the ICAQHE. In addition, six distinguished personalities from around the world in educational field agreed to participate in the conference as invited speakers.

Sr. #	Name of Invited Speaker	Paper topic
1	Dr. Arif A. Waqif, Professor and Founder Dean (Retd), School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad, India.	International approaches and Developmental Perspectives on Management Education





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2	Prof. Maria José Lemaitre, Executive Director of CINDA, (a network of universities in Latin America and Europe), Chile. Prof. Fred M. Hayward read the paper on behalf of Prof. Maria José Lemaitre	New approaches to Quality Assurance in the changing World of Higher Education
3	Dr. David Woodhouse, Executive Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), Level 10, 123 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia. Dr. Iring Wasser, Audit Director AUQA represented and read the paper on behalf of Dr. David Woodhouse	Creativity and Diversity: Challenges for QA Beyond 2010
4	Prof. Fred M. Hayward, Senior Higher Education Specialist, Academy for Educational Development, Washington, DC. 20008, USA.	Rethinking Standards for Quality Assurance and Accreditation: thoughts from the field
5	Dr. Ihtesham-ur-Rehman, Materials Department/IRC in Biomedical Materials, School of Engineering and Material Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road London E1 4NS (UK).	Implementing TQM including a UKAS and ISO9001 System in an Academic Organization
6	Prof. Norman Reid, Emeritus Professor of Science Education, University of Glasgow Honorary Professor of Science Education, University of Dundee.	Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Pakistan: Looking to the Future

The Chief Guest was ex-Senator Rukhsana Zuberi (Chairperson, Pakistan Engineering Council), Pakistan's first lady mechanical engineer. During her inaugural address, she said that it is the government's responsibility to provide adequate funding to the universities in order to bring them at par with international standards. However, keeping in view the economic crisis, the nation is facing, the universities should also play the role of an entrepreneur for generation of funds. According to the Boston Report (2002), Pakistanis perform well in educational and professional settings but there is a need to upgrade the quality of education through a quality assurance model.





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Ms. Zuberi lauded the efforts of the organizers to hold this conference in 2010 despite the multi-facet problems, natural disasters, man-made dissension causing paucity of funds. According to her Pakistan Engineering Council had adopted the recommendations of the previous two ICAQHEs.

The Chairman of the Conference, Prof. Dr. Abdul Raouf (SI) expressed his satisfaction regarding the progress made since 2006. Size of the quality family is increasing. He was conscious of lack of funds in the country but he still emphasized that the quality of education is essential for survival. Only those graduates will have opportunity for jobs who have quality education. He lauded the efforts of HEC for increasing the number of universities, quality of university faculty and providing funds for infrastructure. He stressed on the culture for self assessment, improvement and introduction of quality management system models in the universities.

The Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran addressed the participants on behalf of the Vice Chancellors of the organizing universities i.e. National Textile University-Faisalabad, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology-Jamshoro and University of Management & Technology-Lahore. He said that University of the Punjab, one of the oldest seats of learning in Pakistan has the proud distinction of hosting all the three such conferences in collaboration with other universities in Pakistan. He expressed his happiness at the expanding participation of other universities in organizing such conferences. It is a step forward where the universities are ready to share knowledge and their expertise in enhancing the learning process. Sharing of knowledge is the only way forward for the academicians. Knowledge is not a privilege of individuals, it is a collective effort. He expressed his confidence that the 3rd ICAQHE, 2010 would demonstrate this. He advocated the progressive increase in the allocation of funds for education to 4% of GDP. According to him, Pakistan is fourth from bottom as compared to progressive countries.

Message from Engr. Shams-ul-Mulk (HI), Former Chairman WAPDA, Former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was also distributed among the conference participants. In his message Engr. Shams-ul-Mulk stressed that Healthy, well-nourished and motivated students, well-trained teachers and active learning techniques, adequate facilities and learning materials, a relevant curriculum that can be evolved/ designed based upon the knowledge and experience of the teachers/learners and commensurate with national requirements, an environment that not only encourages learning but is welcoming, gender-sensitive, healthy and safe, a clear definition and accurate and objective assessment of learning outcomes, including knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, participatory governance and management and respect for and engagement with local communities and cultures must be the objective of education.

The sessions were chaired by the Vice Chancellors of various universities of Pakistan and eminent invited speakers from abroad. Trophies were distributed amongst the speakers and the session chairmen.





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The conference was well attended throughout the three days. There was active participation from the audience in form of question, answer and discussion sessions. The interaction and discussions amongst the participants continued during the tea and lunch intervals.

The Chief Guest of the concluding session was Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar, Chairperson, Chief Minister's Task Force on Teacher's Training, Government of the Punjab, Lahore who distributed the prizes amongst the organizers.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Brig (R) Engr. Salim Ahmed Khan, SI (M), Director, Quality Enhancement Cell, Riphah International University, Islamabad.

The conference program, contact list of speakers, recommendations and summary of feedbacks can be seen on www.icaqhe2010.org

(DR. NASIR SAEED BUTT)
Chairman Management Committee

