Preface

It is an honor and privilege to welcome you to the Department of Economics, which has been working ferociously to improve the quality of education and its facilities. The Department of Economics has put in tremendous efforts to compile all the activities conducted during the Fall 2019 semester but still some might have been missed. The continuous achievements of the faculty, staff and students have led to the compilation of this newsletter that instills all departmental activities. It gives me immense pleasure to share with the faculty members and students the host of curricular and co-curricular activities conducted during the semester. The current issue covers the salient details of Fall semester 2019, more importantly the highlights of the events held during the semester. The efforts of the faculty members and the enthusiastic students, who took part in the activities, need to be acknowledged as they are the building blocks in rising up the standards of the Department. Some of the graduating students have been a part of the activities carried out in the Department and since they are at the helm of joining the practical world. It has really helped them to modify their attitude and broaden their perspective towards becoming good managers. Furthermore, it has added up another dimension in their lives. The Department has been able to impart the spirit of hard work and dedication for whatever venture they intend to take up in their lives. When they will face any physical challenge in their lives, they would be able to draw on all their resources, which create an opportunity for personal growth and maturity.

The faculty members who provide constant guidance and support to the students in grooming them and turning them into good leaders cannot be missed out. Their efforts are appreciated in delegating different tasks to the students so that they can shoulder the responsibilities as and when the time arises. Resilience has been a priority and I am a firm believer that these challenges will make them good citizens, economists and policy makers. The primary goal is to grow holistic educational opportunities, which build character, resilience and a healthy mind and body. Academic success will follow. This Newsletter will not serve as a rich repository for the activities but will also provide space for the analysis of the research being carried out by the faculty members.

I hope, this Newsletter will be inspiring and invigorating for the reader. Feedback from the readers will be much appreciated for the improvement of the Newsletter.

Warm regards,

Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar-ul-Hasnain
Head of the Department of Econo
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*Head of the Department*

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Content Reviewer

Mr. Abdul Subhan
Architect
PRESENTING THE COPY OF NEWSLETTER TO THE HONOURABLE RECTOR

Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar-ul-Hasnain, Head of the Department of Economics presenting the first copy of Spring 2019 newsletter to honorable Rector Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar (T.I.)
SHANGHAI RANKING’S GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS 2019-ECONOMICS

COMSATS Department of Economics declared to be top-ranked in term of Shanghai Ranking’s global ranking academic subjects 2019. That position we are maintaining for the past 2 odd years: a moment to be honored of and cherish.

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CUI THROUGH MY LENS

Education dominates the forces that help develop a nation. COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) is one of those organizations that help deliver the wide-spread benefits of education. While providing a knowledge-driven environment, CUI boasts a large number of students focused on excelling in their respective academic fields. The institute has set up accessible platforms to engage learners in educational as well as extra-curriculars to develop soft and professional skills among students. Belonging to the Economics Department, I have been a part of a number of seminars, workshops, conferences and discussions that aim to improve the quantitative understanding of students. Furthermore, the department is home to the best of researchers with diverse specialized focuses. I am hopeful that the time we are going to spend here will be wonderful and full of experiences that will help us in becoming better individuals.

SHARING MY EXPERIENCE AT CUI

I would like to share my experience as a graduating student. COMSATS as a university is providing the best educational experience to its students. It consists of every facility from a lavish cafeteria to fully developed departments. It has the highest number of PhD faculty and we were lucky to get the benefits of learning from them. One thing, I would like to mention is that for the economics students, more practical approach should be taken and each semester the students should be taken to industrial trips so that they get the first-hand knowledge of the industry and can relate it to their courses. Only theoretical knowledge cannot suffice. Students need to learn market knowledge through visiting the organizations. Leaving the university, I will always cherish what I have learned and will try to put those techniques to use in the field.

MUHAMMAD SHAHZEB KHAIM
(BACHELOR'S GRADUATING STUDENT)

MANAL SHAHID
(BACHELOR'S GRADUATED STUDENT)
SHARING MY EPISODE AT CUI

It will be a pleasure moment to share my views about how I got here. The faculty of department of economics is well reputed & highly experienced in the all aspects. The faculty main purpose is to make its students as future leaders & for this purpose they present the latest job market competitive course outline, which is then implemented very nice conceptual way. It has been a year, I am continuing my 3rd semester studies, it’s been amazing journey so far. Freedom of expression & learning are two basic opportunities provided by the departments. The engagement of overall staff & students is very well Fabric relation, there is a plenty of new things every day to be done. The environment is totally student friendly and I have enjoyed the surrounding due to its cleanliness & green attractive scenery. Lastly, I would say that the need for more is always there, it’s better to prepare for worst & hope the best. My best wishes & all the efforts are with the faculty to make it Rise & Shine.

ZULQARNAIN ALI
(MASTER’S FINAL SEMESTER STUDENT)

MY EXPOSURE AT CUI TURNED ME INTO A POSITIVE SOUL

I am very pleased to have a part of the Comsian because as the recent report of the Shanghai COMSATS University department of economics is first rank in the world. What I have felt is that our all faculty of COMSATS and especially department of economics faculty are very passionate and dedicated towards imparting students with the knowledge. They do not take their profession as a duty, but they enjoy teaching to the core. Somewhat it relaxes their souls. The teachers here are extremely helpful and provide us with the tools and techniques to enhance our knowledge. They have seen always willing to help us, no matter curricular or co-curricular activities. I choose CUI because apart from studies, the faculty emphasizes on grooming the students. As a newcomer to the university, I was somehow anxious as to how this new life will be and how will I be treated.

ADNAN MUHAMMAD
(MASTER’S FINAL SEMESTER STUDENT)
MY STAKE AT CUI AS A STUDENT

As the student of final year, I feel honored to be given an opportunity to study at this prestigious university and the critical role it has played in shaping my personality and students who are graduating is really remarkable. The campus life is awesome and we have enjoyed it very much all through these years. The only thing I feel lacking is the practical approach with which the courses should be carried out. We as economics graduates should be given practical exposure so that we can relate it with the theoretical concepts. What I would like to suggest is that the university should start a course of industry practicum for the students who wish to gain an exposure of industry and intend to broaden their skill set and develop a better understanding of how the industry operates. Unfortunately, what needs to be fixed is that the environment of education needs to be more up to date as research based. More research work should be encouraged so that the students go beyond their comfort zones covering an extra mile and receive more solid information about current economic conditions. Lastly, it’s better to prepare for worst & hope the best. My best wishes to the faculty and students of the department.

What I Felt Entering CUI

I would like to share my first impressions with you. What I have found here is, the faculty is passionate and shows dedication in teaching. They get into the details of the topic so that the students can understand the entire concept. As a whole the system is working well but further improvements can be made. I am hopeful that the time we are going to spend here will be wonderful and full of experiences that will help us in becoming better individuals.

ABDUL SUBHAN
(BACHELOR’S FINAL SEMESTER STUDENT)

RABIA SULTAN
(MASTER’S GRADUATING STUDENT)
My Experience at CUI

I joined CUI in Fall 2017 as an Economics student. Time flies and now I am graduating. It has been a long and short journey in terms of learning new things. Long when we used to keep doing so many assignments and projects and would feel time is static. But now within no time, everything will be over. We will be free of all the examinations, assignments and quizzes. Soon we will be moving around as free souls. It has taught me an array of new skills, added so many new experiences in my life and added many memories to ponder upon. I wish my alma mater best of luck in producing quality graduates for this competitive world. I didn’t face any difficulties regarding support and guidance from my teachers. As students we need rest too as the routine gets very tough, for that COMSATS has various other platforms for students to take part and show their abilities through various student societies. They conduct trips, fresher’s welcome party, farewells, educational seminars, awareness drives among many more activities.

Sharing my Knowledge at CUI

My experience of being an Economics student has been enriching. I came in disoriented, as most teens are. The faculty demonstrated confidence in my capabilities, which in turn helped me remain on a path leading up to self-determination. My classmates and teachers have nurtured and expanded my capacity to learn and absorb new concepts. The best part out of it all was unequivocally the final thesis. The experience equipped me with the necessary skills required to pursue research ahead. Despite all its strengths, I would like to add that I feel my experience would have been greatly enhanced if we were readily exposed to companies that would recruit COMSATS students for internships and jobs.
SHARING MY UNDERSTANDING AT CUI

I would like to share my experience here at COMSATS as I’m in my final Semester. COMSATS as an institute has come a long way as I have also experienced in my 4 years as a bachelor’s student here. From expanding new areas of studies like the newly established Economics Department, which I’m a part of myself to the lavish cafe, sports complex and other activities being conducted on campus COMSATS boasts a high number of talented PhDs too. One thing I’d like to mention here is that as a final year student who has opted for thesis and research, the faculty here at COMSATS has helped me a lot. I didn’t face any difficulties regarding support and guidance from my teachers. As students we need rest too as the routine gets very tough, for that COMSATS has various other platforms for students to take part and show their abilities through various student societies. They conduct trips, fresher’s welcome party, farewells, educational seminars; awareness drives among many more activities. As I’ll be graduating this year, I’ll definitely miss COMSATS and all the friends I made here, all the teachers who guided me throughout my graduation and I look forward to make as many more memories as possible with the little time I have left here at COMSATS.

AAMNA AHMAD
(BACHELOR’S FINAL SEMESTER STUDENT)

CUI COMPLETED AT MY LENS

I would like to share my first impressions with you. What I have found here is, the faculty is passionate and shows dedication in teaching. They get into the details of the topic so that the students can understand the entire concept. Being from Gilgit, it was difficult to adjust in a new environment. Difference was pretty drastic after coming from college. Here, students do feel the independence which we did not encounter at the school and college levels. We are free to roam around and bunk classes but me as a student did not feel the need to. The faculty engrosses us in an interactive way that I felt to attend the classes.

YAWER ALI
(BACHELOR’S GRADUATING STUDENT)
COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), launched "Azaadi Plantation Drive" on August 14, 2019; with slogan “Adopt a Tree”. A total of 5000 trees of different species will be planted in this drive on sites specified by CDA. During “Adopt a Tree” campaign, CUI will not only plant the trees, it will also take care of the plants for a year. On the inaugural day of the campaign 2,000 trees were planted. 1,500 Jacaranda trees were planted on the green belt along Islamabad Express way, from Koral chowk to Gulberg green, similarly, 500 trees (Shukh Chain) were planted on the Green belt along Murree Road, from Rawal Chowk to Faizabad interchange Islamabad. Remaining 3,000 plants of Batangi, Kachnar and Shukh Chain will be planted in the coming weeks along Murree Road and Kuri Road. The Azadi Plantation Drive was purely conceived as a voluntarily initiative and the faculty, students and community donated generously for purchasing the plants. It was a great team work, resulted in training of our students to give something back to our beloved mother land. From economics department Dr. Mudassar Rashid (Assistant Professor), Dr. Usman Shakoor (Assistant Professor), and 20 students joined the activity.
ORIENTATION DAY FALL 2019 SEMESTER

Orientation in COMSATS is a way for new comers to meet the old students and to become familiar with COMSATS culture. It is a platform for new and existing COMSIANS to interact with each other and learn about university surroundings. During the Fall 2019 orientation, Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar ul Hasnain and Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar, Incharge under-graduate and graduate were there and addressed the student community. This was the first orientation in COMSATS history that was entirely conducted by the students only. On the first day, freshmen were formally welcomed by volunteers from the senior semesters (7th & 8th semester students), who guided them into rooms where the new comers were registered and given a detailed presentation on acceptable conduct on university premises, along with the activities of COMSATS followed by a campus tour, also guided by the senior students.

Second day was devoted to taking ID card photographs of the new entrants and updating their CU Online portals. Alongside, students were welcomed to various clubs of the university. With a success of student management of this event, COMSATS received over 50 admissions for BEC.
Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics) conducted a Two-Day Training Workshop on STATA & E-VIEWS Software Packages on 12-13 Sep, 2019 at BIC via ORIC CUI. The key focus of the workshop was to explain econometric and statistics approaches related to cross-sectional, time series and panel data. The participants from all over Pakistan attended workshop specifically from Punjab University Lahore, National Defense University Islamabad, FAST NU Islamabad, UET Quetta, Int'l Islamic University Islamabad, IMDC Islamabad and Islamabad Dental Hospital Islamabad.
Students of economics department in particular Abdul Subhan, Zarwa Shah, Faizan Asghar, Zulqurnain Ali, Subhan Ahmad and Rehman Shah attended the session “Kashmir: what should be our response?” on Kashmir’s Day, which is observed to show support to Kashmiris who are living in the occupied Kashmir. This day is celebrated all over Pakistan as well as in Azad Jammu Kashmir. It is important to look at the history of Kashmir. Kashmir was a part of the subcontinent before partition and as Pakistan and India got independence, the dispute of Kashmir started. Both India and Pakistan claim that Kashmir belongs to them, which has been a bone of contention since 1947. Currently, Indian forces have occupied Kashmir and continue to inflict terror on the citizens. This almost-70 year war has resulted in the deaths of millions of people. It remains unclear what Kashmir’s future will be, but currently the Indian forces continue to fight brutally against Kashmir nationalists because they have a lot to gain from Kashmir.

While United Nation’s main purpose is to bring peace in the world and protect the rights of citizens around the world, however, their role in the Kashmir crisis has been minimal. There were attempts on their part to bring about a resolution in 1948 through a plebiscite, but that remains the extent of their involvement. No action has been taken against the brutality of the Indian forces on the Kashmiris. According to an estimated voting, 50% of Kashmiris voted to be the part of Pakistan, while 40% for India and other 10% wants independence. This result was complicated and so it ended in a stalemate. After the last resolution, nothing positive has come on this front. The pending decision must be resolved to end the misery of the citizens of Kashmir and they should be allowed to make a decision for themselves.
Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar has been nominated to participate in the 7th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting of the Laureates of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences. The meeting is scheduled from 25th to 29th August 2020 at Lindau, Germany and will include interaction with 40-50 Nobel Laureates. The interaction with Nobel laureates is a joint venture of the HEC, PIEAS and the Council for Nobel Laureate Meetings in Lindau, Germany, agreed upon under a formal MoU meant for Pakistani nationals studying or working in Pakistan. This year, around 300 applications were submitted, out of which 50 applicants were shortlisted and interviewed. After the interviews, 10 applicants have been nominated for the 70th Interdisciplinary Nobel Laureate Meeting, while for the 7th Economics Nobel Laureate Meeting, four applicants have been nominated. The nominees for the 70th Interdisciplinary Meeting include Sadaf Sulman, Rizwan Ahmad, Tabinda Salman, Saiqa Hafeez, Muhammad Ansar Farooq, Saba Ashraf, Sultana Rehman, Neha Farid, Memoona Ramzan, Syeda Kiran Shahzadi. The nominees for the 7th Economics Meeting are Aribah Aslam, Farhad Zulfiqar, Saira Saeed, and Noman Ahmad.
Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics) conducted a Training Workshop on STATA Software Packages at video conferencing room CUI for students of economics department. The key focus of the workshop was to working with different types of data in STATA, exploratory data analysis, introduction to STATA commands and concept of a regression model and its estimation. STATA software is primarily used by researchers in the fields of economics, biomedicine, and political science to examine data patterns. It has both a command line and graphical user interface making the use of the software more intuitive.
Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics) conducted a Training Workshop on STATA Software Packages at video conferencing room CUI for students of economics department. The key focus of the workshop was to explain econometric and statistics approaches related to cross-sectional, time series and panel data. Stata is a powerful statistical software that enables users to analyze, manage, and produce graphical visualizations of data. It is primarily used by researchers in the fields of economics, biomedicine, and political science to examine data patterns. It has both a command line and graphical user interface making the use of the software more intuitive.
MUHAMMAD SHAHZEB KHAIM REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN: FLC 2.0
BANGKOK, THAILAND

Inviting nationals from all across the globe, the Future Leaders Congress (FLC) 2.0 was conducted to engage students and professionals to discuss and debate on issues faced by different countries. The event being held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) was aimed to provide a forum for knowledge consumption that simulated the proceedings of formal UN congress sessions. Mentors and speakers from various countries were invited to teach how different economies can tackle foreseeable challenges as the world welcomes the next industrial revolution: Industrial Revolution 4.0.

I was lucky to be named among the chosen candidates to represent their respective countries. Grateful to have been provided this opportunity, I was eager to present how problems faced by the people, and their dimensions, in Pakistan are different from those in other nations. Similarly, I was able to associate the unjust and inequitable practices with the named problems i.e. poverty, income inequality, food and water security, provision of education and healthcare. The platform provided an unbiased and unrestricted approach to discuss aspects of a country contributing to its failure.

FLC was hosted at one of the top tourist destinations in the world, Bangkok, Thailand. Home to rich culture, traditions and a notably fast developing economy, the country offers a number of memorable activities. It was fascinating to observe how the locals approached decision making. With considerations of both locals and tourists, policies are reshaped to provide fully for the people and their welfare.
VISIT TO SENATE OF PAKISTAN OR AIWĀN-E-BĀLĀ PĀKISTĀN

Students of economics department visited the Senate of Pakistan or Aiwān-e-Bālā Pākistān ("Pakistan upper house") is the upper legislative chamber of the bicameral legislature of Pakistan, and together with the National Assembly makes up the Parliament. First convened in 1973, the Senate's composition and powers are established by the Article 59 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Each of the four provinces are represented by 23 senators regardless of population, while the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Islamabad Capital Territory are represented by eight and two senators respectively, all of whom serve staggered six-year terms. The Senate secretariat is located in the east wing of the Parliament Building; the National Assembly convenes in the west wing of the same building. The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the National Assembly, including the powers of making parliamentary bills as a being enforced into law. Elections are held every three years for one half of the Senate and each Senator has a term of six years. The Constitution does not allow for the dissolution of the Senate.
VISIT TO STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN

Study Visit to the State Bank of Pakistan BSC Rawalpindi of the 5th semester Economics Department CUI on 26th of December, 2019. The session was chaired by the Chief Manager Muhammad Saleem Khan and Deputy Chief Manager Shereen Baloch. Sir and Ma'am both gave a brief presentation on the working of SBP BSC. We also visited to their Price Bond Unit, Public Account Department and Foreign Exchange Operation Unit. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is incorporated under the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956, which gives the Bank the authority to function as the central bank of the country. The SBP Act mandates the Bank to regulate the monetary and credit system of Pakistan and to foster its growth in the best national interest with a view to securing monetary stability and fuller utilization of the country’s productive resources. Established under the SBP-BSC Ordinance 2001, SBP-BSC supports SBP in performing functions such as handling of currency and credit management, facilitating the inter-bank settlement system, and sale/purchase of savings instruments of the Government on behalf of Central Directorate of National Savings. SBP-BSC also collects revenue and makes payments for and on behalf of the Government. It also carries out operational work relating to development finance, management of public debt, foreign exchange operations and export refinance. The Board of Directors of SBP-BSC, chaired by the Governor SBP, comprises of all members of the Central Board of SBP and the Managing Director of SBP-BSC.
DAAD ALUMNI SPECIAL PROJECT 2019

Scientific Debating about Sustainable Agriculture – Biodiversity Protection supported by breeding, biological plant protection and mixed crop cultivation

Dr. Shahzad Kouser, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics was selected to present her research work “Prediction of Climate Change on Livestock Production in Pakistan” using the latest Artificial Neural Network approach in 2019 DAAD Alumni Seminar organized by University of Goettingen, Germany from 10 to 17th September, 2019. During Alumni Special Project, she also visited renowned organizations like KWS SAAT SE, BIOCARE, etc. She was also trained in debating and online publishing of scientific debates.
VISIT OF PHD HOST UNIVERSITY “UNIVERSITY OF GOETTINGEN, GERMANY

During 2019 DAAD Alumni Seminar, Dr. Shahzad Kouser, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, got the opportunity to visit her PhD campus and meet her ex-PhD supervisor, Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim. Department of International Food Economics and Rural Development, at the University of Goettingen, Germany. This meeting was very useful for her to discuss her current research work with her honorable mentor and to explore post-doc opportunities. She also visited Admission Office and attending a meeting organized between current and ex-students of the university. She also got the chance to see Ganzeliza.
IDENTIFICATION AND UP-SCALING OF CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY IN HIGH ALTITUDE FARMING REGIONS OF HIMALAYA

This session was jointly organized by department of economics and center of climate change research and development, COMSATS University Islamabad. Agriculture is an important sector of the Pakistan’s economy. Agriculture in Pakistan contributes 21% to the GDP each year. Increases in temperature and carbon dioxide (CO₂) can increase some crop yields in some places. But to realize these benefits, nutrient levels, soil moisture, water availability, and other conditions must also be met. Changes in the frequency and severity of droughts and floods could pose challenges for farmers and ranchers and threaten food safety. Meanwhile, warmer water temperatures are likely to cause the habitat ranges of many fish and shellfish species to shift, which could disrupt ecosystems. Overall, climate change could make it more difficult to grow crops, raise animals, and catch fish in the same ways and same places as we have done in the past.
TRAINING OF FIELD SURVEYORS AT NEPAL AGROFORESTRY FOUNDATION IN KATHMANDU AND RASUWA, NEPAL

Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar, Incharge Grad and Undergrad, conducted a training of Field Surveyors at Nepal Agroforestry Foundation in Kathmandu and Rasuwa, Nepal from December 8-17, 2019 for data collection related to the collaborative research project entitled “Identification and up-scaling of Climate smart Agriculture Practices for sustainable Food security in High Altitude Farming Regions of Himalaya”.

TRAINING OF FIELD SURVEYORS AT KARAKORAM INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, GILGIT

Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar, Incharge Grad and Undergrad, conducted a training of Field Surveyors at Karakoram International University, Gilgit from December 4-7, 2019 for data collection related to the collaborative research project entitled, “Identification and up-scaling of Climate smart Agriculture Practices for sustainable Food security in High Altitude Farming Regions of Himalaya”.

Economics Coffee
Department of Economics
A PARADIGM SHIFT FROM FOOD SECURITY TO FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar Incharge Graduate and Undergrad, presented on the topic “A Paradigm shift from Food Security to Food and Nutritional Security” at Conference on “Strategies for Agriculture led Rural Development”, October 9-10, 2019, at Serena Hotel Islamabad, Pakistan organized by Lok Sanjh Foundation.

STUDY TOUR AT LAKE VIEW PARK

A picnic trip at Lake View Park for the Masters and Bachelors students was organized by Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed, Assistant Professor Department of Economics.
Morality in Islam encompasses the concept of righteousness, good character, and the body of moral qualities and virtues prescribed in Islamic religious texts. The principle and fundamental purpose of Islamic morality is love: love for God and love for God's creatures. Teachings on morality and moral conduct constitute a major part Islamic literature. The session was organized by department of economics with TACS COMSATS Islamabad.
REUNION LEADERSHIFTERS

Mr. Abdul Subhan and Ms. Maryem Tariq attend the dinner under Alumni COMSATS LeaderSHIFT Program at Tandoori Restaurant, Rawalpindi.
INVITED LECTURES ON LEADERSHIFT AND RESEARCH METHODS

Dr. Aneel Salman, Assistant Professor department of economics, delivered lectures on LeaderSHIFT and Research Methods at department of International Masters in Engineering Management (IMEM), Tsinghua University, China (November 2019).

MARITIME SECURITY WORKSHOP

Dr. Aneel Salman, Assistant Professor Department of economics, delivered lecture at Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW 2019) from 4-12 December, 2019.
PUBLICATIONS OF STUDENTS WITH THE FACULTY

UNCOVERING PAKISTAN’S ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND REMEDIES UNDER THE CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Congratulations! To Mr. Abdul Subhan student of 8th Semester Bachelors in Economics and Dr. Shahzad Kouser Assistant Professor Department Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad Pakistan to published an editorial letter from his BS project in Springer Journal “Environmental Science and Pollution Research” with impact factor 2.914 (https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-019-07428-5).

Abstract

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a journey towards economic integration of Eurasia. The CPEC contains US$62 Billion investment projects on energy, infrastructure, and other development projects in Pakistan. However, CPEC could enhance climate change vulnerabilities for the farming economy of Pakistan due to its three possible environmental risks and repercussions. Its major environmental concern is related to energy projects as three quarters of the newly planned energy will be generated from multilateral coal-fired power plants. Traditional coal power plants are the major contributors to CO2 emissions and smog, which ultimately lead to global warming and climate change. Its second important environmental concern is linked with massive tree cutting for the construction of various road networks from Kashgar, China, to Gwadar, Pakistan. Tree cutting leads to enormous concentrations of CO2 emissions along the road networks. Vehicle thickening is its third important environmental threat. Karakoram highway is expected to carry up to 1000 trucks per day that will release up to 36.5 million tons of CO2. Despite all the environmental risks, the CPEC would enable Pakistan to manage energy crisis and upgrade aging infrastructure. However, if appropriate remedial measures are not taken to diminish environmental risks, Pakistan will be among major contributors to CO2 emissions, and its rank will worsen in global climate risk index, after completion of this project. Therefore, it is very crucial to assess possible environmental impacts of CPEC projects regarding energy, infrastructure, and transport. Furthermore, scientists from both countries should collaborate to manage the environmental repercussions of CPEC projects.

TESTING FOR EXUBERANCE BEHAVIOR IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES OF PAKISTAN

Congratulations! To Ms. Hira Fatima graduated student Bachelors in Economics and Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad Assistant Professor Department Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad Pakistan to publish a research paper with her thesis in MPRA Journal (https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/95304/1/MPRA_paper_95304.pdf).

Testing for Exuberance Behavior in Agricultural Commodities of Pakistan

Fatima, Hira and Ahmed, Mumtaz
Department of Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) Pakistan, Department of Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) Pakistan
KINNAIRD’S 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES 24TH TO 26TH OCTOBER 2019

Congratulations! To Ms. Hira Fatima graduated student bachelors in economics, cui to present a research paper with her thesis in Kinnaird’s 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities 24th to 26th October 2019.

PAPERS PRESENTED IN CONFERENCES AND PUBLISHED BY DR. MUMTAZ AHMED FALL SEMESTER 2019
Tropentag Conference 2019

Filling Gaps and Removing Traps for Sustainable Resource Management

Dr. Shahzad Kouser, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, presented her paper “Prediction of Climate Change on Livestock Production in Pakistan” in a poster session of 2019 Tropentag Conference organized by Kassel University, Germany from 17 to 21st September, 2019.

**Prediction of Climate Change on Livestock Production in Pakistan**

*Ahmad Shahzad*, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan

**Background and objectives**

- Livestock is one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change in the world.
- Higher temperatures and changing rainfall pattern may directly and indirectly impact livestock population and its by-products such as milk and meat.
- In Pakistan, livestock is the first largest sub-sector of agriculture but the country is 9th most climate affected.
- This study predicts the impact of climate change on livestock production in Pakistan.

**Data Collection and Methods**

- 1973-2016 series of livestock population, milk and meat production, wheat, and rice production were obtained for Pakistan from FAOSTAT (2018). Irrigation water availability was obtained from Economic Survey of Pakistan (Fall, 2018).
- Temperature and rainfall data were obtained from World Bank Climate Change Portal (2018).
- Artificial Neural Network is capable of clarifying complex non-linear relationships between input and output data sets without prior knowledge of internal structure of a system instead of physically based models.

**Results of Artificial Neural Network**

Conclusions

A feed-forward neural network is trained to map the relation between climate change and livestock production. Higher projected temperature will decrease meat and milk production, while increased rainfall will help to cover expected water shortage in Pakistan. Livestock is vital to control food insecurity and rural poverty. Therefore, it is necessary to identify and implement climate change mitigation strategies and solutions in the country.
Plastic pollution is a global menace to the environment. Majority of plastic is released as waste due to inadequate recycling and incineration facilities. Among plastic waste generators, Pakistan ranks 6th in the world and 3rd in Asia. Moreover, Indus River ranks 2nd, in terms of plastic waste disposal in world oceans. Almost half of plastic debris comprises single-use polythene bags. The country uses 55 billion plastic bags annually. The unchecked spread of grocery bags has ravaging effect on environment and human health. Government of Pakistan has recently started curtailling the use of plastic bags in different cities. Implementation of Plastic-Bag Free Initiative in Federal city Islamabad on August 14, 2019 is one of such regulatory measures. Banning the manufacturing, sale and purchase of plastic bags is a small remedy to tackle prodigious problem of plastic pollution in the country. Without grim corporation from city’s residents, plastic-bag free initiative will remain ineffective. However, more comprehensive and concrete measures need to be taken by government to put a lid on this growing menace for country’s green and clean environment.

Dr. Shahzad Kouser, Assistant Professor Department Economics and Mr. Abdul Subhan student of 8th Semester Bachelors in Economics, COMSATS University Islamabad Pakistan, presented a poster presentation at conference: sustainable alternative to plastic bags: conserving environment on plastic pollution in Pakistan and plastic-bag free initiative on 19 October, 2019.
LUNCH FOR COMSATS UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES
Students of economics and management sciences department arranged lunch for COMSATS University Employees.
MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION

Head of department Dr. M. Iftikhar ul Hasnain, Associate Head, Dr. Saima Nawaz and Incharge Graduate and Undergraduate Program Dr. Farhad Zulfikhar distributed the merit scholarship certificates among students who take first position in Spring Semester 2019.
BAIT BAZI CONTEST

A Bait Bazi declamation contest was organized by Department of Humanities. The Judges of the competition were Mr. Kamran Taj, Ms. Zehra Syed and Mr. Shamsul Hassan who have been the best Poets of their college and university times. There were 13 students from all the departments, who actively participated in the event and were well prepared for the Battle of Words. After the interesting session of bait bazi, the audience was enthralled with some good music. BEC students Arham Khral won the Bait Bazi Competition.

COMSATS BUSINESS CASE COMPETITION

We participated in the COMSATS Business Case Competition, Season 4. The presentations for the first round were due on the 3rd of December, 2019. The judges commended our efforts and especially pointed out that they liked our communication skills and confidence. Out of 30 teams, The Economists came 11th place. Only 2 places short of being selected for Round 2 with a total of 215 points. This is especially commendable as they were up against BBA and BAF students that are more geared towards presentation skills and business management.
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