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The Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST) aims to elevate Pakistan's higher education to global standards through partnerships with top Austrian and other foreign partner universities, promoting innovation and enhancing international academic collaborations.



**39 students
visited different
countries
to explore
internationalization
opportunities in 2024.**

**111 students
will be
traveling to
different
countries in
2025.**



MESSAGE FROM RECTOR



Professor Dr. Mohammad Mujahid

**Rector Pak-Austria Fachhochschule
Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology**

At Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, we are committed to advancing Pakistan's manufacturing sector through strategic international partnerships and technology-driven industrialization. Our International Office facilitates global engagement, enhancing our curriculum and educational standards to world-class levels. Our ongoing goal is to expand our international presence, transforming PAF-IAST into a global hub for excellence, innovation, and inclusivity.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR ESTABLISHMENT



Dr. Arshad Hussain

Professor & Dean (FEST & FHAS)

**Pak-Austria Fachhochschule
Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology**

At PAF-IAST, we are dedicated to fostering global collaborations and providing our students with international exposure. Our efforts focus on building meaningful partnerships, facilitating exchange programs, and creating opportunities for academic and professional growth. I encourage all students and faculty to actively participate in our initiatives and make the most of these opportunities. Together, we can achieve excellence and contribute to a brighter, interconnected future.



PAF-IAST at ALLAM Challenge 2024

Humza Asrar, a 7th-semester Software Engineering student, represented PAF-IAST at the ALLAM Challenge by SDAIA in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. His team developed an AI-powered pipeline using LLMs for industries like defense, media regulation, and anti-propaganda, focusing on sentiment analysis, threat alerts, and social media insights. Kudos to Humza for showcasing PAF-IAST's innovation globally!

PAF-IAST Excels at Hult Prize Bangkok Summit 2024

PAF-IAST's BIC-incubated startup, Porteco, represented the university at the Hult Prize Palestine Bangkok Summit 2024, with Abdul Moiz and Shamikh ul Haq showcasing their talent. This achievement highlights PAF-IAST's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Congratulations to Team Viridescent - Australia for advancing to the Global Accelerator, and thanks to Chulalongkorn University for hosting a successful event!



PAF-IAST Representation at International Fair with FH Joanneum Director Martin Payer

PAF-IAST Students in Austria



Director Martin Payer from FH Joanneum had the privilege of visiting the vibrant and engaging stalls at the International Fair, where he interacted with a diverse group of international students from PAF-IAST. During his visit, he took the time to connect with students, engaging in meaningful conversations that highlighted their experiences and contributions to the global community. The students, who were proudly representing Pakistan and their home institution, PAF-IAST, provided a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and innovation spirit that define their academic environment.



As ambassadors of PAF-IAST, these students demonstrated not only their academic excellence but also their ability to foster a sense of unity and cooperation across cultural boundaries. The International Fair served as an ideal platform for them to showcase the dynamic and diverse community at PAF-IAST, reinforcing the institute's commitment to creating a collaborative learning environment. This event went beyond just being a display of culture; it also emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange, the sharing of ideas, and the creation of lasting global partnerships.



Innovative Rail and Big Data Technologies Explored at Beijing Jiaotong University

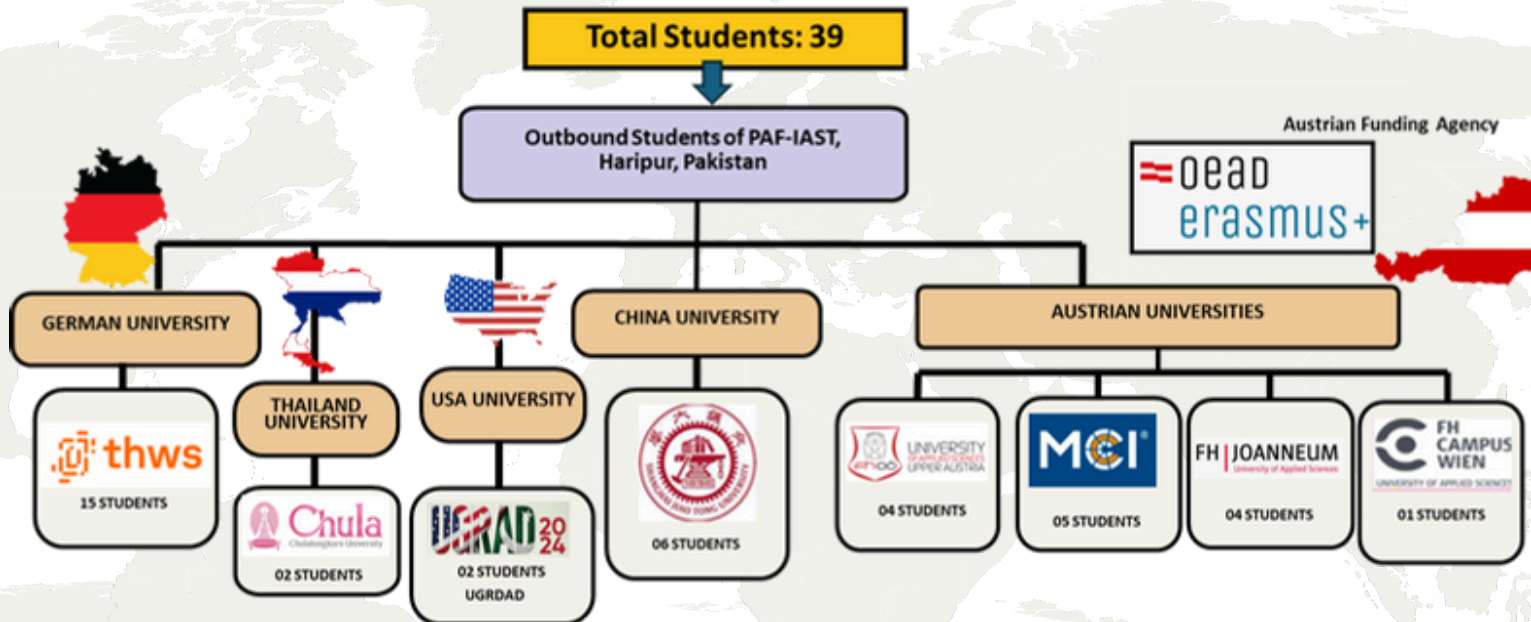


During their visit to Beijing Jiaotong University, students delved into advanced rail technology and big data for traffic management. Hosted by Dr. Long Pan at the Key Laboratory, they examined railway engineering innovations and traffic system optimization. Additionally, Dr. Lu Xiaohua presented on psychological resilience, demonstrating the university's holistic approach to education and transportation innovation.

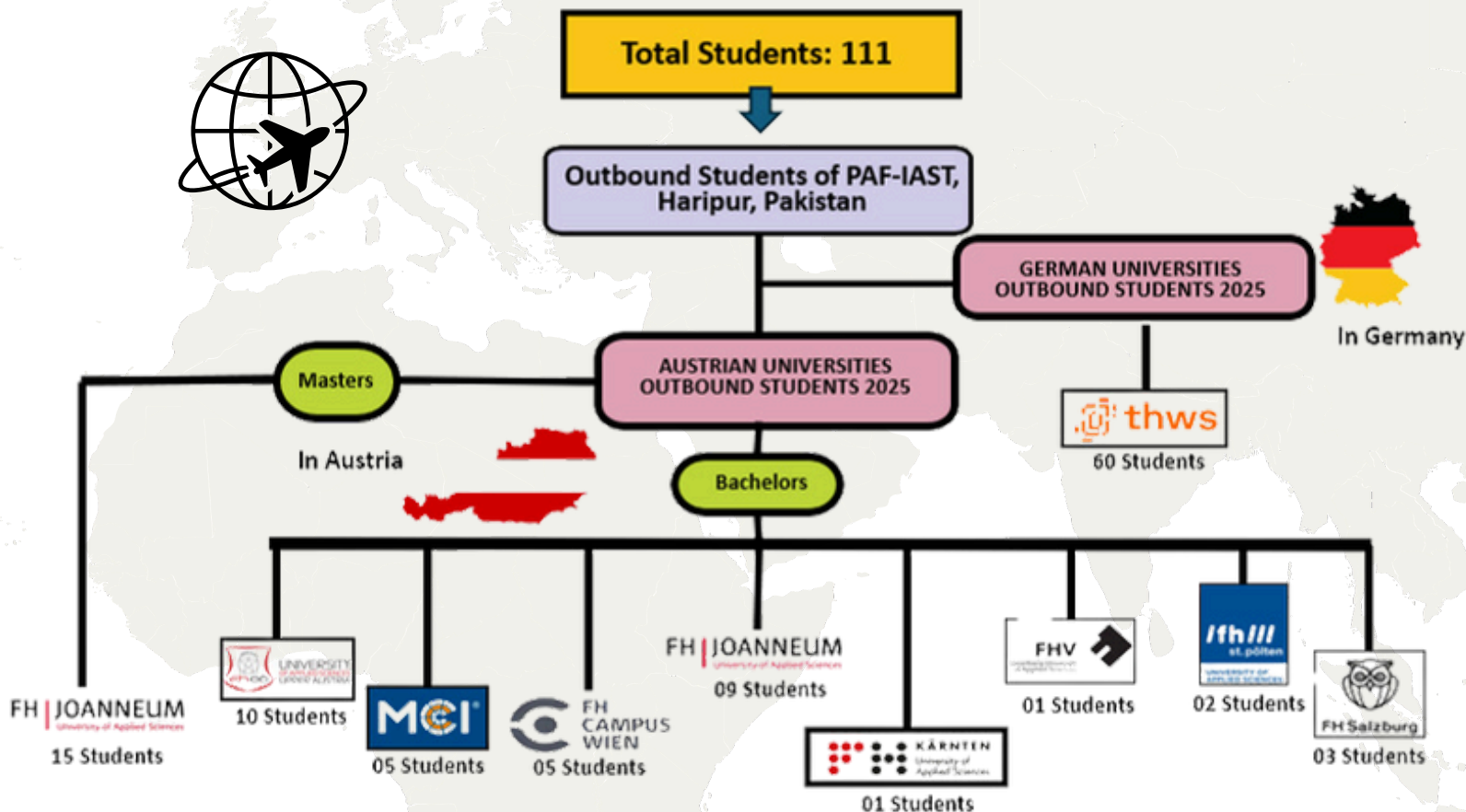




Global Gateways: Outbound International Scholars in 2024



Preparing Outbound Pioneers Students in 2025





OUR PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Austrian Partner Universities

JKU
JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITY LINZ

FH JOANNEUM
University of Applied Sciences

scch {}
software competence
center hagenberg

MCI
DIE UNTERNEHMERISCHE
HOCHSCHULE

Prestigious Funding Agencies

oead
Agentur für Bildung
und Internationalisierung


Erasmus+

 **BRITISH
COUNCIL**



NEW AFFILIATED COUNTRIES WITH PAF-IAST

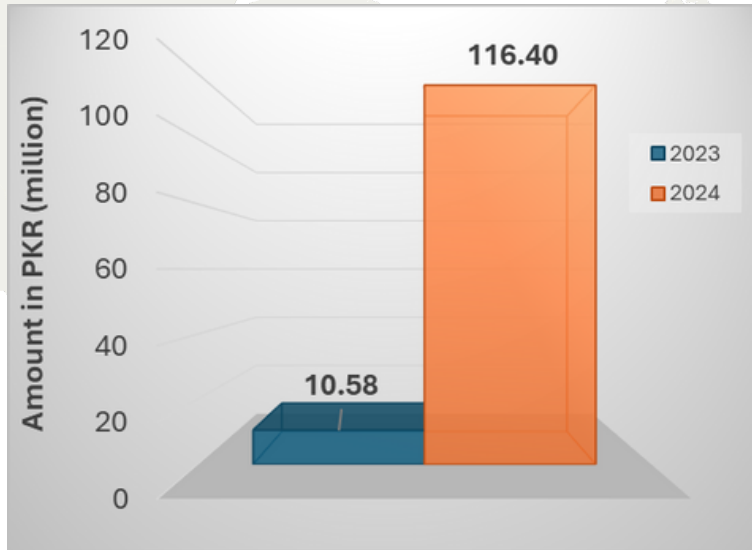

**Coventry
University**



thws
Technical University
of Applied Sciences
Werbung-Schweinfurt



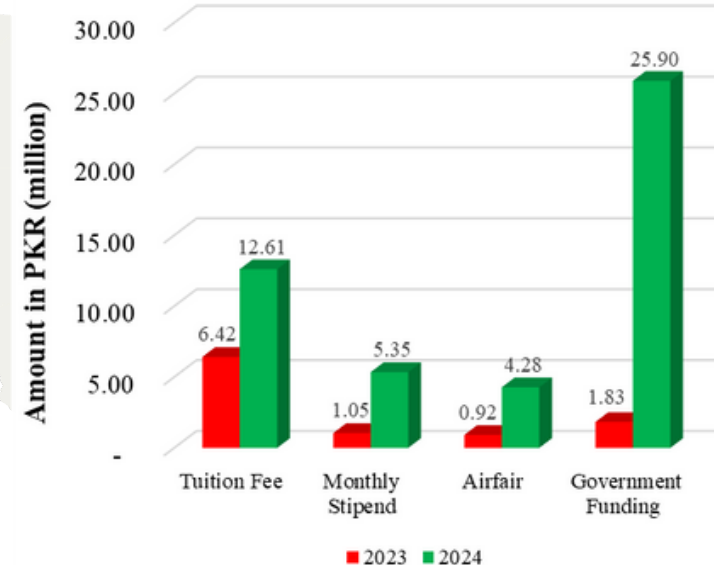
Global Financial Outlook: Navigating Student Expenses & International Expansion



Overall Internationalization funds

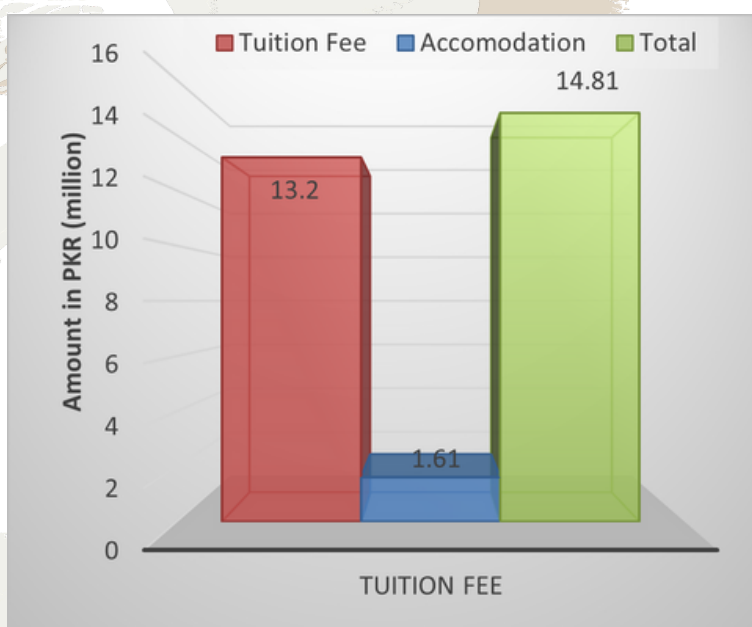
The bar chart illustrates a substantial rise in internationalization funds, increasing from 10.58 million PKR in 2023 to 116.40 million PKR in 2024, reflecting a major investment boost. This significant surge highlights a strategic focus on global expansion, partnerships, or international student programs. The sharp growth suggests an evolving commitment to enhancing global educational outreach and institutional competitiveness.

Internationalization funds from Austria



The comparative bar chart illustrates the sharp increase in education-related costs between 2023 and 2024, with tuition fees rising from 6.42 million PKR to 12.61 million PKR, more than doubling. Similarly, the monthly stipend surged from 1.05 million PKR to 5.35 million PKR, while airfare costs escalated from 0.92 million PKR to 4.28 million PKR. This significant rise suggests increased educational demand, inflationary pressures, or changes in funding policies.

Internationalization funds from PAF-IAST and Chinese Partner Universities



The stacked bar chart presents a breakdown of educational expenses, showing that tuition fees amount to 13.2 million PKR, while accommodation costs total 1.61 million PKR, bringing the overall expenditure to 14.81 million PKR. This visualization effectively highlights the proportion of costs, helping stakeholders assess financial distribution. The clear segmentation aids in better budget planning and decision-making regarding tuition and living expenses.

Connecting Innovation to Market: A Transformative Visit by Mr. Friedrich Christian Böhmler



During their visit to Beijing Jiaotong University, students explored advancements in rail technology and big data for traffic management. Hosted by Dr. Long Pan at the Key Laboratory, they examined innovations in high-speed rail, intelligent signaling, and automated train operations.

The session also covered big data applications, including real-time analytics, AI-driven traffic models, and IoT-based monitoring, enhancing traffic flow efficiency and urban mobility. Additionally, Dr. Lu Xiaohua discussed psychological resilience in transportation, highlighting stress management for railway operators.

The visit concluded with a Q&A session, fostering collaborative research discussions and academic exchange opportunities, offering students practical insights into modern transportation systems.

Unlocking Global Pathways: U.S. Education Opportunities for KP Students

PAIMAN, supported by the U.S. Public Affairs Section, Peshawar, hosted an insightful seminar at Pak Austria Fachhochschule on promoting U.S. education for students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Distinguished speakers, including Ms. Aneela Shamshad, Ms. Bushra Haider, and Asfandiyar Khan, shared key insights on scholarships, study programs, and pathways to higher education in the U.S., inspiring students to explore global opportunities.



Distinguished Guests Visit PAF-IAST



Dr. Rashid Mazhar, a Qatar-based cardiothoracic surgeon, and Mr. Reto Stocker, a global energy expert, toured PAF-IAST's Technology Park, Business Incubation Center, SPCAI Labs, and key departments. Impressed by PAF-IAST's achievements, they engaged in discussions on collaborations in cellulose-based biomedical products and micro inverters, pledging support for future R&D initiatives. Exciting ventures lie ahead!



Seminar on SUSI Student Leadership Exchange Program



The info session on the SUSI Student Leadership Exchange Program, organized by the International Office Pafias, was a great success! Students gained valuable insights into the program's eligibility criteria, the application process, and best practices for submitting a strong application. Special thanks to Ms. Yasrib Jahangir for leading this informative session and answering all participant queries.

PAF-IAST & University of Salford Launch Strategic Collaboration



On July 25, 2024, top management from the University of Salford, UK, and PAF-IAST met at Serena to initiate a groundbreaking collaboration. The partnership will enhance academic and research excellence across all educational levels, from undergraduate to PhD, paving the way for innovative opportunities and global partnerships.

Alex Sustainability Award 2024: Designing a Greener Future

We are excited to announce the Alex Sustainability Award-2024 with the theme: "Inter-Campus Signage Design Competition for Campus Cleanliness and Energy Saving Awareness." This initiative, in collaboration with our international partners, reflects our commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All students are encouraged to showcase their creativity and contribute to raising awareness about sustainability on campus. Special acknowledgments to Alexander Dumfort from MCI, Innsbruck, Austria, for conceptualizing and providing funding support for this meaningful competition. Let's join hands to promote sustainability and make a positive impact.



MS Students Visit Golra Station & Museum with Mrs. Patricia Fort



The Center of Excellence in Transportation/Railway Engineering, PAF-IAST, organized a field trip to Golra Railway Station/Museum on March 28, 2024. MS Railway Systems Engineering students explored railway history, track geometry, and maintenance, with insights from experts, including British professional Mrs. Patricia Fort. The visit, led by Rector Dr. Muhammad Mujahid and Prof. Ishfaq Khattak, promoted practical learning.





PAF-IAST at Pakistan Venture Connect 2024

PAF-IAST, led by Rector Prof. Dr. Mohammad Mujahid, participated in Pakistan Venture Connect 2024, hosted by the Asian Development Bank and CAREC Program at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Engaging with leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan, the event emphasized regional cooperation and innovation. PAF-IAST leveraged this platform to foster strategic partnerships, reaffirming its commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.

PAF-IAST Startups Gain International Spotlight at Prime Minister's Office with Patricia Scotland

PAF-IAST startups Edversity, led by Saad Siddiqui, and EcoZindagi, founded by Areeba Syed, showcased their innovative ventures at the Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad, during Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's inaugural visit to Pakistan. Receiving the prestigious Excellence Award from Secretary-General Scotland and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, the startups highlighted the global potential of Pakistani innovation. This recognition reflects PAF-IAST's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship with international impact, positioning Pakistan as a rising hub for global innovation.

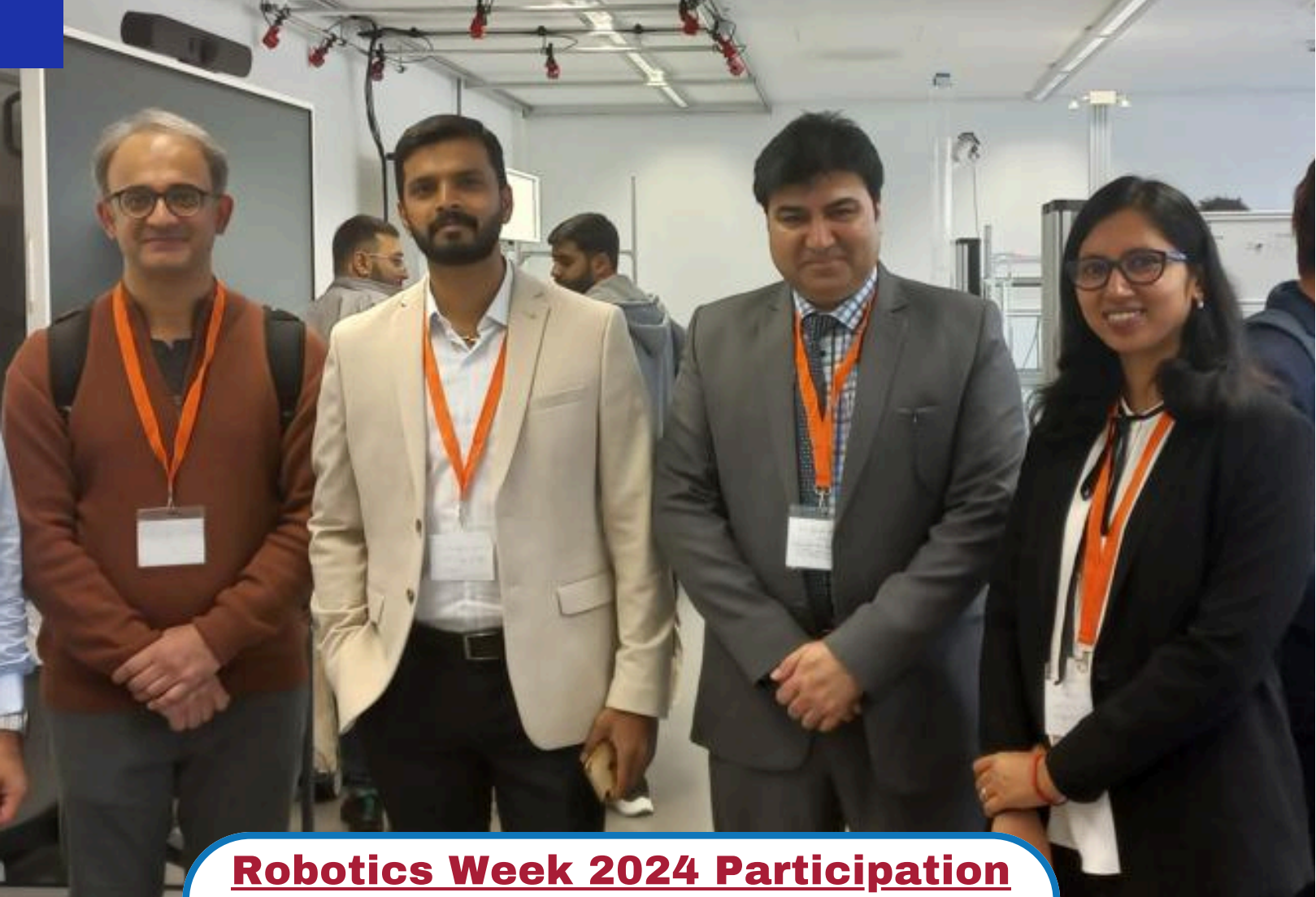




Dr. Rizwan Ahmad's Visit to MCI, Innsbruck, Austria

During his visit to MCI in Innsbruck, Austria, from January 18 to 24, 2024, Dr. Rizwan Ahmad held collaborative meetings and lectures to strengthen academic ties and foster research partnerships. He showcased PAF-IAST's facilities, generating interest in exchange opportunities among students and faculty. Key discussions focused on finalizing Ernst Mach grant nominations and aligning curricula for future collaborations. The visit concluded with a promotion ceremony, enhancing relationships with MCI faculty and administration. Overall, the trip was crucial for establishing lasting international collaborations in education and research.





Robotics Week 2024 Participation **Dr. Zahid Ullah at THWS, Germany.**



Dr. Zahid Ullah participated in Robotics Week 2024 at THWS, Germany, representing PAF-IAST. The event focused on fostering international academic collaboration through the World TWIN project, enhancing global degree program connections, and facilitating student and faculty exchanges. Key discussions included curriculum harmonization, internship opportunities abroad, and establishing a World-TWIN-Robotics-Alliance with multiple global partners. Dr. Ullah's involvement aimed to strengthen PAF-IAST's international ties and enhance its Robotics curriculum, reflecting a commitment to educational excellence and international cooperation.



Strengthening Global Design Ties: Professor Zafar Iqbal's Visit to FH Joanneum



Professor Zafar Iqbal, the Head of the School of Design, Art, Architecture, and Technology (SDAAT), is currently visiting FH Joanneum in Austria under the directives of Rector Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mujahid to enhance academic and research collaborations. This visit is particularly significant as it coincides with the year when final-year students from the Information Design program at SDAAT will be spending a semester at FH Joanneum.



During his visit, Professor Iqbal has engaged in discussions with leaders at FH Joanneum to develop a robust framework for collaboration. Key objectives include setting up partnerships for projects that receive international funding, integrating faculty from SDAAT into the annual Design Week hosted by FH Joanneum, and exploring potential collaborations.

Dr. Asim Farooq Keynotes on CAP Connectivity at CASS Forum 2024



Dr. Asim Farooq was a keynote speaker at the CASS FORUM 2024, focusing on China-Afghanistan-Pakistan connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative. The event, held on April 15, 2024, was co-hosted by the Institute of Chinese Borderland Study, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Jiao Tong International Cooperation Service Center, and the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China.



"Dr. Humaira Ayub Attends Genetics Festival Kickoff with Tribute at Anıtkabir in Ankara"

The 'Genetics Festival' was held in Ankara, hosted by a Genetic Rare Diseases Diagnostic and Research Center, with 45 scientists from 10 countries participating. The delegation visited Anıtkabir before engaging in symposiums and training programs. Prof. Dr. Serdar Ceylaner highlighted Turkey's advanced status in rare diseases research, emphasizing its global collaborations, diagnostic capabilities, and successful treatments. He stressed the need for investment in personalized medicine and youth-driven drug production to reduce dependency on costly imported treatments and further strengthen Turkey's role as a global leader in genetic research.



Celebrating Unity, Achievements, and Cultural Diversity with Sirilankan Students

This creative collage vividly embodies the resilience, adaptability, and achievements of Sri Lankan students abroad, capturing their journey through academia, culture, sports, and national pride. The seamless blend of diverse moments reflects their ability to thrive in a global environment while staying deeply connected to their roots. Each image tells a unique story, from academic success and social interactions to teamwork and patriotism, illustrating the rich tapestry of student life. The dynamic composition, complemented by a global backdrop and bold typography, enhances the visual appeal, making it a powerful tribute to their multifaceted experiences.



Expanding Global Horizons: PAF-IAST Students Thrive in Exchange Programs



The student engaging in a variety of activities, from conducting scientific research in a lab, to exploring automotive engineering, and participating in cultural and educational gatherings. These visuals underscore the broad scope of learning and cultural immersion that the exchange program offers, showcasing the student not only acquiring specialized knowledge but also experiencing life-changing interactions and travels.



These experiences represent the enriching opportunities provided by the program to build international networks and develop a deeper understanding of global perspectives. The layout encircled with vibrant adds a dynamic and celebratory tone to the narrative, emphasizing the positive impact of such global educational programs on a student's personal and professional growth.



MEET OUR TEAM

Building Bridges Beyond Borders for a Connected Future



Dr. Rizwan Ahmad

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL
OFFICE

"Internationalization is not just about crossing borders; it's about erasing them in the mind and weaving a tapestry of shared knowledge."

Mr. Hamza Hassan

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
COORDINATOR

"Internationalization is the key to academic and professional growth in today's interconnected world."



THANK YOU FOR READING



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We are delighted to welcome you to our global community. As part of our commitment to keeping you connected and informed, We hope you enjoy being a part of our international newsletter family and look forward to engaging with you further.