

Quality Assurance & Accreditation Awareness Seminar at Abbottabad University of Science & Technology- Havelian

June 4, 2024

Abbottabad is the biggest town and headquarter of Hazara division in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Havelian is an important Tehsil of district Abbottabad situated on Karakorum Highway/Express Way. Hazara University, after starting operations at Mansehra in 2002, established its second sub-campus at Havelian in 2008 on a vast area (over 150 acres). The same campus has been declared as Abbottabad University of Science and Technology after being chartered by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly in May 2015. Currently, there are 4 faculties and 4,000 enrolled students. AUST initiated FST program in fall 2021 and currently enrolled students in FST are more than 60.



A Quality Assurance & Accreditation Awareness Seminar was conducted at Abbottabad University of Science & Technology, Abbottabad on June 4, 2024. Dr. Mudassir Ali Qazalbash, Focal Person, Department of FST, Dr. Azam Hayat, Chairman, Department of MLT and Mr. Usman Shoukat Lecturer, FST received and welcomed the guests. Following their arrival, the guests visited the Vice Chancellor's office, where they engaged in discussions on mutual interests and collaborative opportunities.



The seminar started in the main conference hall with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Dr. Zia Ahmed, Registrar of AUST. This was followed by an introductory session. Dr. Saif Ullah Khan, Director, Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), provided an overview of AUST and the initiatives of its QEC. Dr. Azam Hayat then presented a comprehensive history and introduction of both the university and the Department of Microbiology and Food Science and Technology.

Later, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC delivered his talk on "Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education". The main objective of this talk was to explain the overall process of accreditation and its significance in maintaining the quality of education. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar introduced the NAEAC, explained the evaluation criteria of accreditation process which comprised of 8 criteria and 73 subcriteria in detail. He also highlighted the impact of accreditation on quality improvement employing the accreditation data of last 14 years. During the presentation, Questions raised by the participants were discussed in details. During the seminar, Prof. Dr. Malik Mujaddad Ur Rehman, Vice Chancellor not only remained present in the entire session but also emphasized the commitment of the university's faculty members towards quality education and the necessity of upgrading the curriculum based on modern industrial needs. He also briefed the guests on the various initiatives undertaken by AUST to enhance educational standards and facilities. The seminar was also attended by the Mr. Imran Javed, Controller of Examination and Dr. Muhammed Rizwan, Chairman, Pakistan Studies and faculty members of FST, Microbiology and MLT, reflecting the broad interest and support for the accreditation process across the university.

Following the seminar, the guests visited the university's classrooms, laboratories and library, gaining a first hand view of the facilities and resources available to students. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar also addressed the students of BSc. (Hons) Food Science and Technology, in the ORIC Hall, offering words of encouragement and highlighting the importance of maintaining high educational standards.

In the concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Malik Mujaddad Ur Rehman, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mudassir Ali Qazalbash and Dr. Azam Hayat thanked the guests speaker and assured that the administration will fulfill the accreditation requirements of NAEAC to maintain the high quality of education.

