



# PEC Newsletter

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## "Changing Calamity into Opportunities"- National Post COVID-19 Exhibition organized by Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) PEC and PSF

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) organized a National Post-Covid-19 Exhibition "Changing Calamity into Opportunities" at COMSTECH, Islamabad. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan graced the event as Chief Guest. The showcase brought together various technologies and solutions developed by the country's scientists, engineers and innovators, to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Engr. Jawed Salim Qureshi Chairman PEC, Engr. Brig(R) Tariq Javed, PEC Advisor on Innovation, Engr. Khadim Hussain Bhatti, Registrar PEC, were also present at the event.

The Prime Minister appreciated the team efforts under the leadership of Federal Minister for transforming a calamity into an opportunity especially by the Pakistan Engineering Council in developing standards, specification & testing facilities for Bio-Medical & Engineering Products including Ventilators. He also added that within 02 months, Pakistan is on the path to become self-sufficient in the production of ventilators & other medical equipment and is considering the export of PPEs to the World.



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## **MoU signed between Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of National Health & Coordination**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Framework/ Mechanism of Pakistan Manufactured Electro-Medical Devices was signed on June 11, 2020 between Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination. As per MoU, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has been assigned the responsibility to mentor the designs for local manufacturing of EM devices used to counter COVID-19. As per MoU, PEC will also assist in seeking approval of devices from Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP). The Federal Minister for Science and Technology and Dr Zafar Mirza, Special assistant to Prime Minister on Health, signed the MoU.



The Chairman PEC, Engr Jawed Salim Qureshi was also part of the signing ceremony. PEC was also directed to identify and assist in development of innovative solutions/ products in the field of science, technology and engineering. The framework/ mechanism under this MoU would spark off innovation and local engineering solutions besides opening new avenues for the innovators to invent multiple EM equipment in Pakistani engineering universities and change the culture of "Degree to get Govt. job" to "Degree for innovative products". PEC in the short span of time, made possible the local manufacturing of ventilators besides opening fronts for testing and certification of electro-medical equipment and devices. For this, PEC has also established a separate platform of Pakistan Innovation & Testing Centre (PITC) to Play its vibrant role.

## **PEC organized National Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Building Code in collaboration of World Bank and NDRMF**

PEC in collaboration with World Bank organized a National Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Building Code Updation on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The workshop was the first step towards the revision and updating of the Building Code of Pakistan (Seismic Provision-2007). Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation workshop was arranged online to mitigate the risk of virus spread. A large number of stakeholders, representing federal and provincial government departments, academia, consultants, senior law-makers and other related bodies attended the workshop. The event was inaugurated by the Chairman PEC Engr Jawed Salim Qureshi whereas Lt Gen (R) Nadeem Ahmad, CEO NDRMF, Lt Gen Ejaz Moazam, EnC Pak Army, Prof Dr Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, Vice Chancellor NED-UET, Mr Ahsan Tahseen, World Bank, Prof Dr Asif Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar were also amongst the speakers.



The objective of the consultation workshop was to offer a platform to the relevant stakeholders including representatives from ministries and government departments, building authorities, consultants and experts from academia and industry for sharing their experiences, feedback and challenges faced by them in the past. As a way forward, the updation of Building Code of Pakistan was stressed based on experts' suggestions, latest international standards and new seismic data which was not available in the past. A comprehensive working plan was also shared and agreed with the participants.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Engineering Professional Development Committee (EPDC)

The Engineering Professional Development Committee (EPDC) held its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (online) to discuss the progress and strategy for CPD short course/ seminars during COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Committee meeting was chaired by Engr Qazi Rashid Ahmad Baloch (Vice Chairman, Balochistan) as Convener EPDC. The Additional Registrar-CPD apprised the Committee about the steps taken to cope challenges facing by CPD Department in the efforts for the skill enhancement and career development of the engineers in the current COVID-19 situation, especially free Webinars for wider coverage and outreach.

The Committee also discussed and devised a way forward for conduct of EPE professional exam in the current situation. EPDC also constituted a Sub-Committee to formulate a comprehensive policy defining mechanism for translating PEC regulations being "Law of Land" into the Government Policies relating registration, EPE and privileges for becoming PE (Professional Engineer).

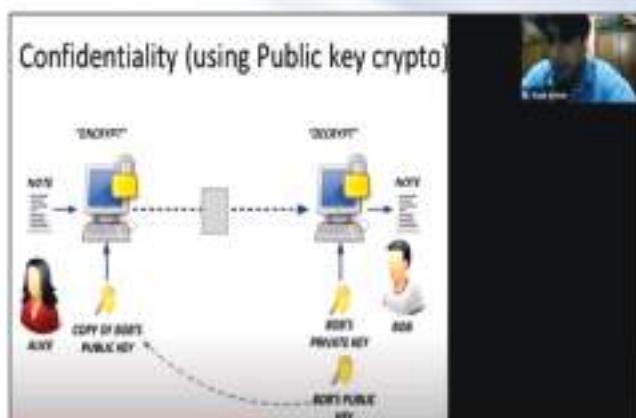


## PEC Conducting Free Live Webinars for Engineers' Skill Development

Under the lock-down situation due to COVID-19, PEC continued CPD activities for capacity building and skill enhancement through Live-Webinars and online facilities for wider outreach and facilitation to large engineering community. PEC through its CPD Online Platform is conducting free Live Webinars while ensuring quality of delivery by including

eminent and renowned resource persons from national and international universities and technical organizations. The engineers overseas are also benefitting from the facility.

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PEC has also partnered with its registered PEBs like Knowledge Now, Quality Solutions for offering market-based trainings and certification programs for the engineers under the PEC umbrella.

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Vice Chancellors Committee

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Vice Chancellors of Engineering Universities in Pakistan was held (online) with the main agenda of discussing road map towards the future challenges especially under the pandemic situation around the world. The deliberations were focused towards devising/ updating policy guidelines for online assessment and admission policy regarding entry test for session (Fall-2020). The meeting was convened by Engr. Jawed Salim Qureshi, Chairman PEC whereas Engr. Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Convener EAB/ Vice Chairman-PEC (Punjab), Engr. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Inayat Ullah Babar VC-UET Taxila, Engr. Prof. Dr. Mansoor Sarwar VC-UET Lahore, Engr. Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain VC-UET Peshawar, Engr. Jehangir Bashar Rector-GIKI Swabi, Engr. Prof. Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar VC-BUET Khuzdar, Engr. Prof. Dr. Sarosh H. Lodi VC-NED UET, Karachi and many others also participated.

The Chairman shared his views about the efforts being made from PEC platform for uplifting of Engineering Profession and addressing the issues of Engineering Community, particularly to combat the pandemic Covid-19. The Chairman also highlighted the challenges regarding online education, assessment and entry test mechanism in

the present emergency situation. The Chairman PEC also emphasized that HEIs should share proposals for innovation and R&D activity so that a line of action might be submitted to the Government.

### **97<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Engineering Accreditation Board/ EA&QEC**

The Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB)/ EA&QEC held its 97<sup>th</sup> meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 via Zoom video link to take up the matters relating accreditation in prevalent COVID-19 pandemic situation besides numerous reforms in education system and policy formulation. The meeting was convened by Engr. Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Convener EAB/ Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission. The Board also discussed the mechanism for induction of new batches and entry test for engineering universities.

### **International Workshop organized by PEC and IES Singapore under the umbrella of Washington Accord**

On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020, PEC in collaboration with Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) organized a virtual Washington Accord Workshop on "Sharing Best Practices and Policies for Online Teaching Learning and Assessment System and Virtual/ Remote Accreditation Process". The PEC Engineering Accreditation Division under leadership of Dr Nasir M Khan, Head EAD PEC took up this issue to brainstorm the best possible practices/policies and digital solutions with signatories of the Washington Accord under International Engineering Alliance (IEA).

The PEC Chairman Jawed Salim Qureshi and Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid, also the PEC Vice Chairman, presided over the workshop under the theme of "Quality assurance of the robustness and equivalence of higher education institution (HEI), virtual/ online teaching-learning & assessment (TLA) systems" and "Virtual/ online accreditation of HEIs".

The conference received the highest ever participation of more than 864 professionals from 29 Washington Accord signatories around the world. It was attended by the top leadership of IEA/WA, vice chancellors, experts from academia/ industry, presidents/ chairmen of various engineering

accrediting bodies and policy makers from around the world. In four sessions, 15 presentations were made by leading speakers followed by Q&A sessions with the panelists.

The participants exchanged different practices and solutions, explored and discussed existing challenges in transition and post-Covid-19 scenario to frame acceptable policies to impart knowledge and skills to students, and outcome-based assessment in both cognitive and psycho motive domains based on set principles to adopt and live in a virtual world. The recommendations from this workshop will be taken up on relevant forum of IEA/WA for formulation of policy guidelines on online TLA and virtual accreditation processes.



### **Pakistan Journal of Engineering (PJE) launched by PEC**

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has taken an initiative of launching an official journal "**Pakistan Journal of Engineering**" for better dissemination of scientific research and innovative contributions. The Journal covers technical, management and policy related topics in all disciplines and subsectors of engineering. The Journal is operated under the guidance of an Advisory Committee and Editorial Board, comprising eminent international and national experts and researchers. PEC Headquarter Islamabad is the secretariat for the Journal. For viewing PEC Journal <http://journal.pec.org.pk/>. Due to overwhelmed response from the engineering community and researchers, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Journal is expected during July 2020.