

The Year End Note-2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year and Seasons Greetings....!!!

As I reflect on the beautiful journey of academic excellence that we have travelled together during the last year, I am grateful for the support from all of you. While I am truly delighted over what we have collectively achieved in 2022, I am really excited to think about the opportunities lying ahead.

Last year I beamed with pride when our graduates walked across the graduation stage during the 2nd Convocation of the University held in January. The vibrant ceremony, accompanied by the jubilant celebration of students and tearful emotions of proud parents, along with the presence of eminent dignitaries including the honourable Chancellor / the Governor of the Punjab, was something to behold! Over 1300 graduates (both undergraduate and postgraduate) were conferred degrees across 12 disciplines in the ceremony that reflect the quality and diversity of our academic programs.

Talking of achievements, the previous year has, once again, witnessed several of our landmark successes, dreams realized, and strategies executed. Most proudly, we achieved high positions in prestigious rankings worldwide including THE Impact Rankings 2022, WURI (World Universities Real Impact), UI GreenMetric Ranking as an environmentally sustainable university. There have been some key accomplishments on academic and research fronts last year: The ORIC of the university has been recognized by HEC; established Business Incubation and Agricultural Entrepreneurship Centre and HEC recognized our Agricultural Sciences Journal in 'Y' category. During the year, we have extended our international academic and research collaborations signed MoCs/agreements with the national and international organisations including industry, universities like the Selcuke University, Koniya; and Gabze Technical University Istanbul. Similarly, our faculty has successfully attracted national as well international research funding through R&D projects with ACIAR, FAO and ICIMOD. Year 2022 has also witnessed admission of the University's first international student in the discipline of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

Apart from successfully organizing our annual brand events (Mango Festival, Climate Smart Agriculture Conference, DICE IdeaFest) a number of international and national conferences, seminars, trainings, consultative workshops etc. were efficaciously organized in the year-2022. Our students also participated in extra-curricular and sports events and got distinguished positions, held within and outside the campus. The financial aid portfolio has been doubled almost during the year through various donors. The Career Development Centre organised more than 10 Job Fairs, engaged more than 70% BS students on paid internships, and employability of our graduates through self, private and public sectors has been very satisfactory.

On the development side, we have fast-tracked our progress to make up for the loss that we suffered due to social and financial restrictions during COVID-19. While the ever-increasing number of students (about 7000) and academic programs (>60) has been balanced with equal number of inductions of faculty and staff (>70 in year-2022), their housing and recreational facilities are being catered for with an ADP funded development project that includes another Academic Block, a Girl's Hostel and an Indoor Sports Complex. The central mosque (Syeda Fatima-tul-Zahra Mosque) of the University is partially operational now, and, to meet the demand of energy shortage with clean and cheap electricity, a solar energy plant of 0.500 MW capacity has been installed.

Apart from our collective achievements, there have been some individual feats that need special reflection. Babar Farid got his research work published in Nature Genetics having impact factor 41.37, Dr. Aziz-ur-Rehman was granted Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal Gold Medal, and Dr. Ayesha Hakeem received Outstanding Research and Innovation Award by Rotary Club. Their accomplishments illustrate their brilliance as well as their commitment and dedication to their work. The overall impact factor publications in 2022 exceeded 300, about 3 publications per faculty member.

On the community outreach front, once again we have stood one step ahead in our efforts for reaching out to those in need of help. The unprecedented devastation caused by heavy rains and floods this year left millions stranded without any food or shelter. MNSUAM students and faculty members went as far as hill torrent areas of D. G. Khan to conduct flood relief and rehabilitation activities including ration drives, health camps, veterinary camps, and agricultural inputs for land. Our services were acknowledged at the highest forum and one of the Rover Scouts of the University was awarded with Prime Minister's Flood Relief Hero Award.

Last but not the least, I would like to state that amidst difficult times in the country, we must remain resolved and committed to play our role in stabilizing and alleviating the status of the community and our country. As we have already done in the past, I do believe that such challenges make us stronger, more resilient, and with that, more creative and innovative.

Once again, I send my warmest good wishes to every member of the campus community, patrons, stakeholders, friends, and well-wishers of the university for a very happy and prosperous New Year-2023.

With best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Asif Ali
Vice-Chancellor