AICOP CONFERENCE 2025

REFLECTING PROGRESS, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

DATE
September 11, 2025

Prepared By:

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AiCoP
Academia-Industry Collaboration Platform

HIGHLIGHTS

2025

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AICOP CONFERENCE

2025

SUMMARY

The AICoP Conference 2025, hosted by Iqra University's H-9 Career Services Office, was a resounding success in bringing together academicians,and industry experts to explore the future of academia-industry collaboration in the era of Industry 4.0 and beyond. The conference featured keynote talks, panel discussions, and networking sessions, with esteemed speakers sharing insights on bridging the gap between academia and industry. The event provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and exploring future collaborations, and 5 Memoranda of Understanding were signed between academia and industry partners.

The conference showcased a lineup of esteemed speakers and panelists, including Mr. Alex Foong, Dr. Ali Sajid, Rana Khurram Ali, Prof. Dr. Eatzaz Ahmad, and Samia Qamar, among others. The event was supported by partners such as Cheezious Pakistan, Khyber News, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and ASK Development. A podcast series titled "Voices of Change – Journey to Success" was also recorded with industry experts, providing insights into their experiences and perspectives. Overall, the conference was a huge success, paving the way for future collaborations between academia and industry.

AICOP CONFERENCE

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

42

Organizations Participated

A total of 42 representatives from 42 different organizations participated in the AICOP Conference, engaging in discussions aimed at strengthening industry-academia collaboration and exploring opportunities for student development and employment.

73

Faculty Participation

73 faculty members from 7 departments actively participated in the event, showcasing a strong commitment to academia-industry collaboration. The participation was inclusive of Deans and Heads of Departments (HODs), highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and leadership engagement.

5

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

5 MOUs were signed with esteemed partners: Aspire Institute, Khushhali Micro Finance Bank, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), and Prime BPO & IBEX, fostering academia-industry collaboration and driving growth.

4

Podcast Recordings

Four engaging podcasts were recorded during the conference, capturing insightful discussions and valuable perspectives from industry experts and thought leaders.

AICOP CONFERENCE

The AICoP Conference 2025 was a huge success, with attendees benefiting from the knowledge sharing, networking opportunities, and insights from industry experts. The conference paved the way for future collaborations between academia and industry, and the MoU signings marked a significant step towards bridging the gap between the two.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The AICoP Conference 2025 was inaugurated at 1:45 PM with a solemn recitation, followed by the national anthem. Mr. Habib Ullah, the host, welcomed the guests and introduced Iqra University Islamabad Campus (IUIC), highlighting its vision, programs offered, and the conference's agenda. Further, Professor Eatzaz Ahmad delivered a warm welcome address, expressing gratitude to the guests and participants. He praised the dedication of IUIC and the Career Services Office in organizing the conference, emphasizing their role in bridging the gap between academia and industry.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. M. Ali Nasir, Advisor at HEC, delivered insightful talks. They stressed the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to drive growth and innovation. Their addresses set the tone for the conference, emphasizing the significance of Industry 4.0 and beyond.

COMPANIES PARTICIPATION

AICOP CONFERENCE 2025

42 representatives from diverse organizations across various sectors, including IT, banking, healthcare, textile, media, and pharmacy, participated in the AICoP Conference. The event facilitated meaningful discussions on strengthening industry-academia collaboration, student development, and employment opportunities. A highlight of the conference was the networking session, where industry professionals had engaging interactions with faculty members, fostering potential partnerships and collaborations.

PANEL 1

The panel, comprising industry experts Arshad Mahmood Akif, Dr. Ali Sajid, Rana Khurram Ali, and Dr. Shimail Daud Arain, moderated by Mr. Faisal Irfan, delivered key recommendations. Dr. Ali Sajid emphasized the need for teachers to upgrade their skills, align with industry demands, and use case studies and interactive classes. Rana Khurram Ali highlighted industry's readiness to support academia through training sessions and Training of Trainers programs. Dr. Shimail Daud Arain stressed the importance of high-demand skills in healthcare and continuous learning for faculty. Arshad Mahmood Akif discussed modernizing education with AI integration and strategies to bridge the academia-industry gap.

- 👤 Arshad Mahmood Akif – CEO, ASK Development, a leading ISO-certified consultancy, training, and HR outsourcing organization serving both development and corporate sectors.
- 👤 Dr. Ali Sajid, PhD, TI – Educationist, Director, Leadership and Management Development Associates, with extensive expertise in leadership and organizational transformation and former World Bank consultant and Advisor to Govt. of Pakistan.
- 👤 Rana Khurram Ali – COO ASK Development (Pvt.) Ltd., Founder & CEO of Foodies & Friends, Co-Founder of multiple ventures, trainer and philanthropist with deep expertise in financial management and consulting.
- 👤 Dr. Shimail Daud Arain – CEO Maryam Memorial hospital and renowned healthcare solutions provider, public health consultant, and entrepreneur in digital healthcare and health management.
- 🎙 Moderator: Mr. Faisal Irfan – Corporate Trainer & Wellness Coach, with 20+ years of HR leadership, TV/Radio host, training expertise, media communication, and wellness coaching.

PANEL 1: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Teachers should upgrade their skills to align with industry demands.
- Incorporate case studies, interactive classes, and latest content in curriculum.
- Industry exposure visits for students and faculty to enhance experiential learning.
- Faculty training and development programs to stay updated.
- Promote virtual learning to enhance accessibility and flexibility.
- Shift from conventional teaching mindset to collaborative learning approaches.
- Break stereotypes in student-teacher relationships to foster mentorship.
- Industry is ready to support academia through all means such as training sessions, industrial visits,bootcamps, student placement and Training of Trainers programs.
- Students should focus on high-demand skills.
- Modernizing education with AI integration can bridge gaps.
- Collaborative strategies can foster academia-industry partnerships.

PANEL 2

The second panel discussion brought together a diverse group of experts, including Mr. Alex Foong, Mr. Adnan Qaiser, Prof. Dr. Eatzaz Ahmad, Ms. Samia Qamar, and Mr. Parvez Abbasi, moderated by Mr. Faisal Irfan. This panel explored innovative solutions to bridge the academia-industry gap, focusing on digital learning, micro-credentials, strategic partnerships, and technological advancements. The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and adaptability in shaping the future of education and industry.

- 👤 Mr. Alex Foong – Former Regional Director, Coursera APAC & ASEAN; Think Tank on Micro-Credentials, with vast experience in global education and digital learning.
- 👤 Mr. Adnan Qaiser – Diplomacy and Strategic Affairs Expert, writer, and former Advisor to the Canadian Government.
- 👤 Prof. Dr. Eatzaz Ahmad – Economist, researcher, and professor at Iqra University, H-9 Islamabad, with extensive contributions to academia and policy research.
- 👤 Ms. Samia Qamar – Regional Director HR-Octus and Global Goodwill Ambassador for Pakistan, recognized among South Asia's Top 100 Power Women.
- 👤 Mr. Parvez Abbasi – Founding Project Director at NIC & Mobilink (Jazz), entrepreneur, and TEDx speaker with expertise in innovation and technology leadership.
- 🎙️ Moderator: Mr. Faisal Irfan – Corporate Trainer & Wellness Coach with over 20 years of HR leadership, media communication, and employee wellness expertise.

PANEL 2: KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Encouraging students to develop entrepreneurial skills and build startups, with a focus on commercializing final-year projects.
- Integrating micro-credentials into curricula to prepare students for the modern market, recognizing skills acquired through short-term courses or certifications.
- Adopting technology in education and training to enhance student and teacher engagement, and facilitate industry projects.
- Making classes interactive and engaging, encouraging student inquiry, and promoting critical thinking.
- Adopting effective teaching methods to enhance learning outcomes, and fostering a student-centered approach.
- Encouraging collaboration between academia and industry to provide practical exposure, training, and project-based learning.
- Revising curricula to include industry-relevant skills, micro-credentials, and modern teaching approaches.
- Embracing global shifts in academia, and exploring unconventional approaches to education and skill development.

UNLOCKING UNIVERSITY POTENTIAL: THE CONFERENCE'S IMPACT

The conference aimed to bridge the gap between academia and industry, focusing on the crucial role of teachers in preparing the next generation of students and exploring ways for industry to support academia, ultimately fostering collaborative growth and development.

To bridge the academia-industry gap, it's essential to bring faculty members up to par and provide them with industry exposure in their respective fields and disciplines enabling them to impart relevant, practical knowledge to students.

The conference aimed to:

- Bridge the gap between academia and industry
- Foster innovation, collaboration, and growth
- Provide a platform for knowledge sharing and networking
- Explore future collaborations between academia and industry

AICoP Conference: Fostering Collaboration

Key Takeaways from the AICoP Conference 2025

- Opportunities for attendees to connect with peers and industry leaders.
- Memoranda of Understanding signed between academia and industry partners, paving the way for future collaborations.
- Another significant outcome of the conference is gaining an international perspective on academia-industry collaboration, fostering global insights and potential partnerships.
- Hosting a successful conference with top companies enhances the university's reputation as a hub for talent development and industry collaboration.
- The Conference provides a platform to promote the university's brand, academic programs, and research initiatives to a wider audience.
- Insights from industry leaders and experts on the latest trends and challenges in Industry 4.0 and beyond.

FACULTY PARTICIPATION

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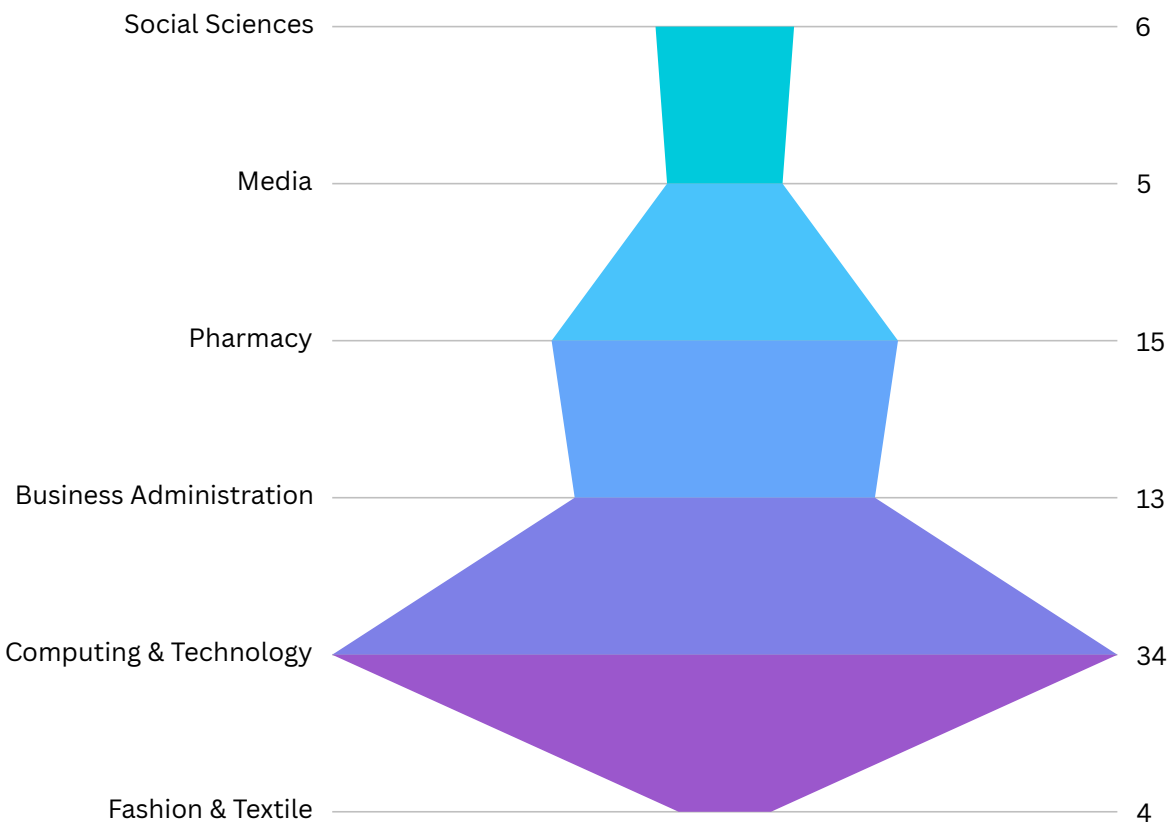

73 Faculty Members From 7 Departments Registered for the Conference

IQRA UNIVERSITY IU
H-9 CAMPUS, ISLAMABAD

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CONFERENCE 2025

Organized by
Career Services Office,
Iqra University H-9 Campus,
Islamabad

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Event Partners

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iuisl.iqra.edu.pk · Plot No 5, Khayaban-e-Johar, H-9 Islamabad, Pakistan · 051-111-264-26

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY

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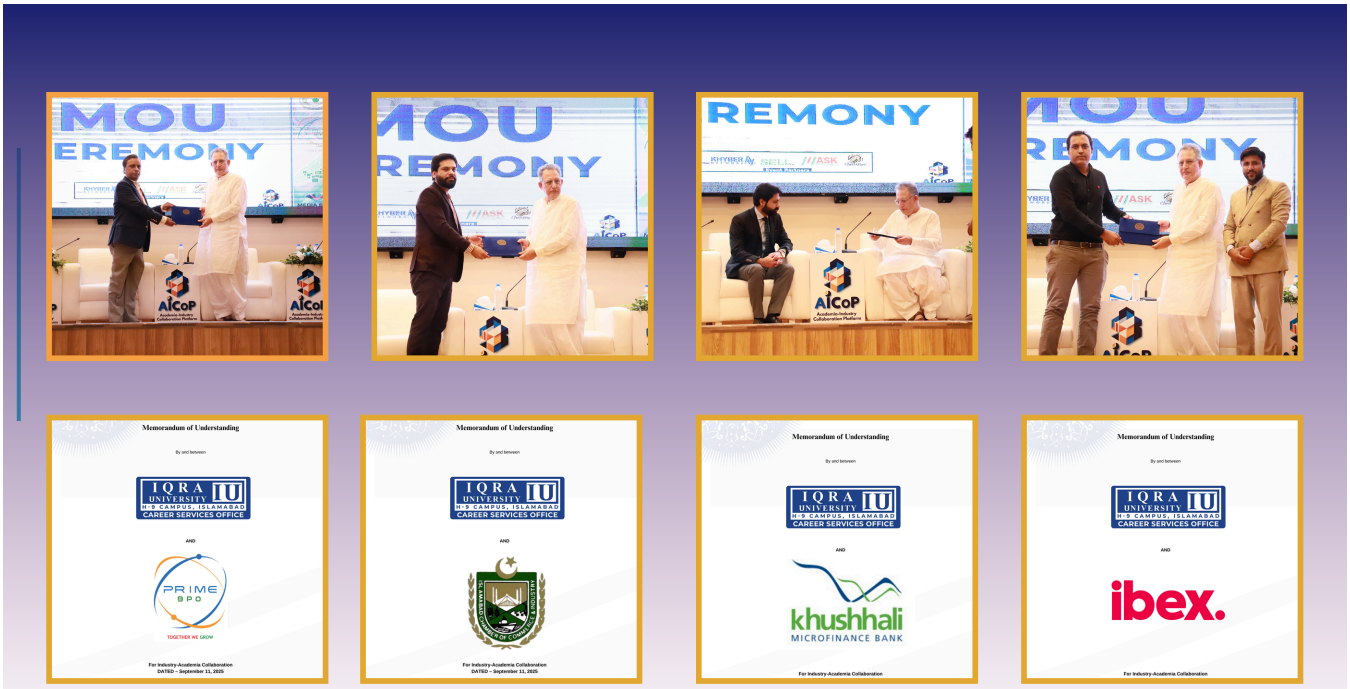

AICoP Conference 2025

In a significant step towards fostering collaboration and driving growth, five Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with renowned partners. The partners include Aspire Institute, Khushhali Micro Finance Bank, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), and Prime BPO & IBEX.

These MOUs outline a framework for cooperation in various areas, including:

- Student training and development programs to equip students with industry-relevant skills.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) programs to enhance faculty capabilities and ensure industry-aligned training.
- Establishment of a Skills Development Center to provide students with access to in-demand skills training.
- Organization of boot camps to provide intensive, hands-on training and practical experience.
- Student placement services to facilitate job placements in partner organizations.
- Startup engagement initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship and support innovative ventures.
- Micro-credentials recognition to certify students for acquiring specific skills, enhancing their employability.

Through these partnerships, the collaborating institutions aim to bridge the gap between academia and industry, promote innovation, and drive growth. The MOUs are expected to pave the way for mutually beneficial collaborations, enhancing the quality of education, training, and research, while fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

PODCAST

AICoP 2025: Voices of Change – Journey to Success

In a significant initiative, four podcasts were recorded with esteemed guests, featuring in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing on various topics. The podcast, hosted by Mr. Kashif M. Khan, features insightful discussions on bridging the gap between academia and industry. The theme, "Bridging Academia and Industry for a Better Future," highlights the importance of collaboration in shaping the next generation of professionals. Podcast Highlights

The podcast, recorded at Iqra University H-9 campus production studio under the supervision of Mr. Rohail Khan, featured in-depth discussions on various topics.:

- Professionalism and Professional Attitude
- Youth Challanges, Soultions and Western Perpective of Education
- Talent Acquisition, Leadership and Employees Wellness
- AI, Automation, Digital Tools Reshaping the Relationship between Employees and Employers in the Next Decade

Key Takeaways

- The importance of developing professional attitudes and skills in youth.
- The role of Western educational approaches in shaping modern education.
- Strategies for effective talent acquisition, leadership development, and employee wellness.
- The transformative impact of AI, automation, and digital tools on the future of work.

The 30-minute podcasts were professionally recorded, ensuring high-quality audio and engaging discussions. Mr. Rohail Khan's supervision guaranteed a polished final product.

CONCLUSION

The AICoP Conference September 11, 2025, held at Iqra University's H-9 Campus, marked a significant milestone in fostering academia-industry collaboration. Through thought-provoking discussions, panel sessions, and networking opportunities, the event brought together experts, faculty members, and students to shape the future of education and industry.

The conference's focus on innovation, employability, and sustainable partnerships underscored the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry. The insights shared by industry experts and thought leaders will likely inspire positive change and drive growth in various sectors.

A valuable networking session was also held among faculty members and representatives from various organizations, providing a platform for meaningful connections, potential collaborations, and mutually beneficial partnerships. This exchange will likely lead to impactful outcomes, further strengthening the bond between academia and industry.

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MARKETING CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

90+	33	20	300+
Designing	Days	Postings	Printing

4	02	100+	3
Podcasts	Press Release	Post Event Editing	Post Event Posts

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H-9 CAMPUS, ISLAMABAD

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THEME

INDUSTRY 4.0 AND BEYOND: BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY FOR A BETTER FUTURE & THE ROLE OF ACADEMIA IN PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROFESSIONALS.

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Organized by
Career Services Office,
Iqra University H-9 Campus, Islamabad

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