

Workshop Report: Sindh HEC Hosts Workshop on Financial Strategies for University ORICs

On May 27, 2024 in Karachi at a private hotel, the Sindh Higher Education Commission (HEC) hosted a workshop focused on exploring and enhancing the role of universities in community service-based research, faculty consultancy services, and strengthening academia-industry linkages. This report summarizes the key discussions and outcomes of the workshop, emphasizing the initiatives that universities can adopt to achieve these goals, along with the associated benefits.

Key Agendas and Discussions

1. Generating Financial Resources:

A primary agenda of the workshop was how universities can generate their own financial resources in light of anticipated reductions in HEC funding. Different policy matters were discussed and presented, focusing on activities that could augment universities' financial resources.

Strategies for financial independence included providing community service-based research, offering faculty consultancy services, and developing strong academia-industry linkages. These initiatives not only enhance financial stability but also contribute to the university's growth and sustainability.

2. Community Service-Based Research:

- Universities were encouraged to initiate research projects that directly benefit local communities. These projects address real-world problems and foster a sense of social responsibility among students and faculty.
- Examples of successful community service-based research were presented, showcasing how universities can positively impact societal issues such as public health, education, and environmental sustainability.

3. Faculty Consultancy Services:

The workshops highlighted the importance of faculty members engaging in consultancy services. This allows universities to leverage faculty expertise to solve industry-specific problems and offer strategic insights to businesses and organizations.

Faculty consultancy was identified as a significant avenue for professional growth and additional income for academic staff, while also enhancing the university's reputation and financial resources.

4. Academia-Industry Linkages:

- Strengthening partnerships between academia and industry was a major focus. These linkages are vital for ensuring that academic research is aligned with industry needs, fostering innovation, and enhancing employability of graduates.
- Case studies were shared where universities successfully collaborated with industries, leading to the development of new technologies, improved curricula, and co-funded research initiatives.

Outcomes and Benefits

- **Enhanced Financial Resources:** Universities can boost their financial resources by engaging in consultancy services and forming industry partnerships. These activities attract funding from external sources, reducing dependency on traditional funding models.

- **Strengthening ORIC's Role:** Dr. Qammar Uddin Mahar (In-charge ORIC) University of Sufism and Modern Sciences BhitShah emphasized the importance of the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) in facilitating these initiatives. ORIC's role is crucial in bridging the gap between academia and industry, and in managing the commercialization of research outputs.



Honorable Chairperson Prof. Dr. S.M Tariq Rafi (T.I), Chairperson Sindh Higher Education Commission & Moinuddin Siddiqui, Secretary, Sindh Higher Education Commission addressing participants during Workshop Session



Dr. Qammar Uddin Mahar (In charge ORIC University of Sufism and Modern Sciences BhitShah) expressing his views during the session

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