Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said, peace could only be achieved through strength and the country's nuclear programme was a guarantor of peace in the region.

He said Pakistan's scientific development has formed the basis of the country's defence strategy, “which is always tough, yet achievable by credible defence.”

Addressing the convocation at the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), on March 10, 2005, the Prime Minister said Pakistan's scientific development had made it unique in the Muslim Ummah, allowing it to solve external and internal challenges.

He said Pakistan was a peaceful country and wanted good relations with everyone. But he added, “peace cannot be achieved through weakness; peace is achieved through strength.”

The country's nuclear programme, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said, was achieved due to a passion, where the scientists worked with a sense of pride, achievement and accomplishment.

“This (nuclear programme) has become a guarantor of peace for this whole region.” He pointed to the contribution of the Pakistani scientists in this regard, and said “many of you have given Pakistan the strength to succeed, to progress and development.”

He said there had been credible achievements in radiation therapy and said that the government was providing the necessary resources for the health sector.

The government, he said, was propelling the country forward by relying on a strong economy, strong political process, internal and external security and knowledge-based economy.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz called for using the nuclear technology in industrial applications and said there was a need to switch over from commodity-based to engineering-based products.

He said the “share of mind was important than the share of muscle” in today’s world. The country, he said, enjoys rich human capital, but it needs to be fully exploited.

He said an illiterate nation could never reach its full potential and there had to be a tremendous progress in areas of research and development.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz announced that the government would fund the construction of a building for girls' hostel for PIEAS.

He appreciated the excellent output from
the institute and said it was producing graduates who would play a leading role in bringing about a better future for our country and people. “You are our future and future of Pakistan, the more we do for you, the better it will be for the country,” he added.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz earlier conferred degrees and gold medals on the successful candidates.

The 261 recipients of degrees were from 33rd and 34th batch of M.Sc. (Nuclear Engineering), 12th and 13th batch of M.Sc. (System Engineering), 8th and 9th batch of M.Sc. (Nuclear Medicine), 2nd batch of M.Sc. (Information Technology), 1st batch of M.Sc. (Process Engineering) and 1st batch of B.S. (Computer and Information Sciences), including one Ph.D. Degree in chemical and materials engineering.

At the occasion, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman called for harnessing knowledge and utilise it for country’s development.

He said a plan for the use of Science and Technology in national development would soon be presented to the Prime Minister.

He said the plan, made in consultation with all the key market players, envisages use of modern technology in all spheres of life to improve the quality of life of people.

He urged the country’s scientists and engineers to broaden their knowledge base and utilise it for national development. He said Pakistan is probably the only country which provides free access to 17,000 scientific journals online.

The universities, he said, are being encouraged to adopt a four-year under-graduate programme to improve the quality of education and hoped it would have a positive impact in the times to come.

He urged the students not to compromise on integrity, enjoy learning and to work diligently for the development of the country.

In his welcome address, Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, PAEC said that we are passing through an era, where, economy and prosperity is driven by knowledge and innovation. It is also a matter of great honour that although PAEC has more than 100 centres, institutes and plants, the first centre is a teaching institution which is a centre of excellence.

We are very conscious of the fact that the success of a major technological enterprise is dependent on a number of factors and most pivotal of all these factors is the quality manpower which is dedicated towards its goals, he stated.

Hepointed out that it was exactley due to this consideration that right from PAEC’s inception, half a century ago, our founders initiated the nuclear enterprise by picking the brightest and sparkling young scholars fresh from the universities, and after grooming them for six months to a year, sent them to the best institutes, universities, laboratories and the plants in the world, where they interacted with the pioneers of their fields.

Mr. Butt said that we concentrated our attention on a teaching facility, which after passing through various phases, has now blossomed into a full-fledged degree awarding Institute PIEAS (Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences). This Institute has produced hundreds of graduates not only in nuclear technology, but in system analysis, computer technology, chemical engineering and even in nuclear medicine. They are working in almost all the centres of PAEC both in the open as well as classified areas. For the last few years, it is also training scholars from sister organizations like NESCOM, KRL etc.

Mr. Butt apprised that in imparting knowledge, PAEC has not only confined itself to PIEAS but has also set up a number of other teaching institutes like Karachi Institute of Nuclear Power (KINPO) where emphasis put more on practical and applied side of nuclear power. We have a Computer Training Centre (CTC) which imparts computer studies at the master level.

Mr. Butt said the PIEAS graduates will be involved in all facets of PAEC activities like basic research, research reactors, power plants, computers control and instrumentation, mining, and nuclear medicine.

Success of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission lies in its multidisciplinary nature...Its diversity is the unity which has brought to it many laurels in all areas of nuclear technology both for the defence as well as for socio-economic uplift of the country, he stated.

He expressed confidence that PAEC will continue to play a pivotal role in the development of technologies needed for progress and prosperity of the country.

Rector, PIEAS Dr. Muhammad Aslam explained the genesis and evolution of PIEAS and its future academic plans. He informed that PIEAS is fulfilling the requirements of trained manpower for the PAE and other strategic organizations.
Indigenization, support to industry, thrust of PAEC programme: Parvez Butt

High-technology being the vital tool for value addition is the only way to the economic development and acquisition of the same remains main thrust of PAEC programme. It is for this reason that we embarked upon support industry initiatives way back in 70s.

This was stated by Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, while inaugurating a 3-day seminar on “Welding Science & Technology” on March 14, 2005.

Industry being the value multiplier of the nation’s raw wealth needed indigenious support, which PAEC is providing in the form of training and certification of Welding Engineers, Quality Control Technologies for the manufactured goods, Design Consultancy for industrial ventures and precision/large scale manufacturing facilities, Mr. Butt apprised.

Our research activities aim at solution of local industrial problems and our technologies are at the disposal of local entrepreneurs for putting up projects having capabilities to produce with a competitive advantage as quality is the only survival in the emerging WTO regime, Chairman, PAEC informed.

Butt said, welding personnel produced by PAEC are as per international standards and are accepted all over the world, specially the Middle East, for their knowledge and craftsmanship and they are earning significant amounts of foreign exchange for the country, apart from being an asset for the promotion of local industry.

In his welcome address, Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power), PAEC said that a large number of high-skilled engineers in welding expertise were needed to cope with the industrial pace of the country and PAEC training and certification facilities have provided this much needed input.

Earlier, Mr. Mohammad Naeem, Senior Manager, PWI explained the activities and objectives of the Institute and informed that more than 800 welding technicians, supervisors, engineers and executives from nearly 110 premier national engineering companies and defence organizations have benefited so far from the wide range of technical courses offered by the Institute and added that Pakistan Welding Institute is playing a significant role in re-orienting dependence on imported skills and expertise.

This 3-day national seminar was attended by representatives from industries, academia, research and defence related organizations of the country. An exhibition of the latest welding equipment and instruments was also arranged at the sidelines of the Seminar.

PAEC assigned to produce 8800 MW nuclear electricity:

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

PAEC assigned to produce 8800 MW nuclear electricity: Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan

To ensure supply of electricity for the enhanced needs of accelerated economic development of the country and in the wake of ever growing oil prices, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has been mandated by the Government to produce mammoth 8800 MW electricity in the coming 25 years.

This was stated by Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission of Pakistan while speaking at a 3-day national seminar on “Welding Science & Technology” organized by PAEC Welding Institute on March 16, 2005.

Dwelling on the energy needs of the country in the coming years, Mr. Sheikh said 54% of energy requirements would have to be imported in the coming years and that is why, it is imperative to explore all possible sustainable energy sources including nuclear electricity.

Urging PAEC for evolution of broad spectrum of high tech, Dr. Sheikh said the Commission has made a good start but quantum of workable technologies is far from the board needs of the country is still a challenge.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commissions should go for initiatives to cope with the technological needs of the country and it will find full and committed support of the government for this purpose.

He said the value addition of nation’s raw material can be achieved only through industry and it appreciates the efforts of the PAEC for evolving industrial support services in the form of industrial welding quality control techniques for the finished goods, design consultancy for engineering ventures and state-of-art manufacturing facilities.

Dr. Sheikh lauded the contribution of PAEC in the defence of the country.

Dr. Sheikh informed that Planning Commission is devising a medium term planning framework for the development of the country.

This will be bi-annual and document depicting our vision for which a collective vein—puts needed from the public, academia and various other professionals of the country who can provide their advice at our Website www.pakistan.gov.pk.

The purpose of this document is to prepare a vision and action plan for a technology driven economy.

A summary of suggestions and recommendations emerging out of sharing of knowledge from various stakeholders was read by Captain Nair Hasan Shahoof Pakistan Navy.

He said PAEC is providing highly needed support to industries, entrepreneur, R&D and defence related organizations but enhancement of the quantum of the services is the need of the hour.

He urged PAEC to help set up uniform curriculum in the science of welding for various institutions of the country imparting this education along with preparation of data on accidents and poor quality products caused by untrained welders so that the necessity of imparting regular education in this vital field is brought to the fore.

Moreon-site assistance is needed from PAEC by many industrial projects for installation commissioning and service inspection.
Pakistan second largest recipient of IAEA technical assistance: Javed Iqleem

Pakistan has always been involved in various activities of the IAEA and has worked for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful applications and are the second largest recipient of technical assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This was stated by Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power), Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission while inaugurating IAEA Regional Meeting on “Impact of the New IAEA Regulations on Safety Management of Present and Future Power Plants, Especially Severe Accidents” organized by PAEC in collaboration with IAEA on March 21, 2005.

Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power), PAEC (center) presiding the inaugural session of the workshop (left) Mr. Povilas Vaisnys, IAEA Expert (right) Mr. Jamshed Hashmi, Chairman, PNRA

Member (Power), PAEC stated that the IAEA missions have been very helpful in establishing a sustainable, strong and viable nuclear safety regime and PAEC has welcomed international experts from IAEA, World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and Candu Owners Group (COG) for the benefits of KANUPP and CHASNUPP in their efforts to operate the plants safely.

PAEC is engaged in the socio-economic development of the country in diverse areas such as research in basic sciences, application of radiation and isotopes, development of agriculture and biotechnology, provision of specialized medical services in cancer-related diseases, exploration and production of nuclear materials, industrial support services and adiatic nuclear power generation, he said.

“We have successfully operated KANUPP for the last thirty years of its design life and through indigenous expertise and skills, have upgraded the same for the extension of its design life for nearly fifteen more years. Similarly, CHASNUPP which is being operated entirely by our own personnel has attained a capacity factor greater than 95%, which is one of the best in the world,” he informed.

Earlier, Mr. Povilas Vaisnys, IAEA expert conveyed his gratitude to PAEC on behalf of D.G. IAEA for hosting this meeting and for its efforts and cooperation in making IAEA mission a success. He stated that IAEA will continue to support and strengthen the nuclear safety regime in the member countries by providing its technical input and added that this particular meeting organized by PAEC is an example of IAEA’s commitment to the objective of protecting people and the environment.

In his brief comments, Mr. Gumshield Hashmi, Chairman, Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) stated that nuclear safety is a perpetual and paramount concern of the operators, regulators and the IAEA for the benefit of humanity at large.

Mr. Hashmi said IAEA safety standards which will be the subject of discussion in this five-day discourse, framed on the basis of collective human wisdom and which countries should assimilate and adopt, these for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment from harmful effects of radiation without unduly limiting the use of beneficial practices that give rise to radiation exposure.

Earlier in his welcome address, Mr. Qamruddin General Manager, KANUPP, presented the salient features of KANUPP’s 30 years of safe operation and activities related to extension of life. He said, “KANI IPP is a self-financing project.”

Pakistan under unjust embargo goes on its Nuclear Power Programme: Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad

PAEC ready for big nuclear power generation: Parvez Butt

Pakistan has suffered unjustly under export embargoes on its Nuclear Power Programme. Our Nuclear Power Plants are under IAEA safeguards and Pakistan has a perfect record of complete safeguards compliance of these plants.

This was stated by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Strategic Programme while addressing the IAEA Regional Meeting on “Impact of New IAEA Regulations on Safety Management of Present and Future Power Plants, Especially Severe Accidents” organized by PAEC in collaboration with IAEA on March 25, 2005.

Dr. Ishfaq said Pakistan made a remarkable start of building a nuclear power plant, KANUPP in 1972. But, its Nuclear Programme suffered mainly due to embargo. However, due to untiring efforts of PAEC, CHASNUPP went into commercial operation four years back and another unit C-2, a 330 MW has been contracted to be in operation this decade.

Under very adverse conditions, Pakistan continued to operate its Nuclear Power Plants consistent with international safety standards and wishes to appeal to the senior experts from IAEA that in addition to their valuable technical advice, they may exercise their influence to help Pakistan in its efforts to develop nuclear power. Dr. Ishfaq stated.

He lauded the efforts of IAEA for their sincere efforts to help countries like Pakistan by promoting regional and international cooperation and for promoting the framework of global safety culture through implementation of its nuclear safety standards.

“In the face of irreversible global warming, its nuclear energy alone which offers a viable and sustainable solution to the looming disaster predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change. Nuclear energy is proven technology, non-polluting, safe and cost-competitive,” Dr. Ishfaq informed.

In his welcome address, Chairman, PAEC, Mr. Parvez Butt, stated that PAEC having 34 years of successful operation of Nuclear Power Plants with a total capacity of more than 8400 MW has been assigned to the government, thanks to the development of infrastructure and indigenous facilities by PAEC for this purpose.

Mr. Butt informed that PAEC demonstrated its capabilities to operate Nuclear Power Plants efficiently and safely as evidenced from maintaining 94% availability factor for CHASNUPP-1, which is one of the highest in the world.

The fruits of our indigenous capabilities in the areas of design, testing techniques and fabrication facilities will be our tangible asset whenever we embark upon the ambitious nuclear generation in the coming years, he added.

Talking to the media men, Chairman, PAEC said that we look forward to potential partnerships who are ready to build and operate Nuclear Power Plants in Pakistan with equity sharing in designated zones called Nuclear Power Parks. These plants owned by foreign partners will increase nuclear proliferation concerns as they will operate under international safeguards.

Nuclear electricity is desperately needed by a number of less developed nations which require an immediate solution of this need and have advocated for foreign nuclear assistance in Pakistan’s domestic electricity generation programme.

Earlier, IAEA Expert, Mr. Povilas Vaisnys in his remarks regarding the proceedings of the one-week IAEA Regional Meeting on Safety of Nuclear Power Plants, said that IAEA sharesthe values, problems, concerns and objectives of the nuclear community for safe operation of Nuclear Power Plants and would continue to provide inputs for this purpose.
In his welcome address, Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission said apart from its national development contributions in basic research, nuclear power, industrial support services and development of minerals, PAEC is playing a pioneering role in the field of biotechnology and agricultural related services.

Mr. Butt said by harnessing nuclear techniques, PAEC has evolved more than 47 high yield crop varieties which are resulting in about Rs. 6.5 billion additional annual income to the farmers of the country.

PAEC is utilizing nuclear expertise for running 13 cancer hospitals in the country from which more than 3,50,000 patients benefit annually. Five such cancer hospitals are under construction at Gujranwala, Nawab Shah, Gilgit, Bannu and Muzaffarabad.

The combined use of biotechnology and nuclear knowledge, PAEC has evolved technologies to utilize salinity-hit lands by growing salt-tolerant crops and trees and we have embarked upon a project for the reclamation of 25,000 acres of such lands, 5,000 acres in each province. PAEC is providing this technology to the farmers of the country. PAEC has evolved more than 47 high yield crop varieties which are resulting in about Rs. 6.5 billion additional annual income to the farmers of the country.

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Dr. Kauser Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology spoke on behalf of Minister for S&T, He appreciated the efforts of PAEC in its various public sector development programmes including biotechnology and promised full support of the Govt. for the Commission's initiatives.

Representative of United States National Science Foundation (USNSF) Dr. Robert Gaxiola said we are here for long term collaboration with Pakistan and other countries of the region as it is the responsibility of international scientific community to share knowledge for higher agricultural and food productivity to benefit the common man.

Earlier in his introductory remarks, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Secretary, National Commission on Biotechnology and Member (Bio-Sciences), PAEC told that 25 foreign scientists and 60 from Pakistan in addition to scholars from IAEA and ICGEB have participated in this 4-day Conference which included one day visit to PAEC's National Institute of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) and Nuclear Institute of Agriculture & Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad.

Minister for Food and Agriculture, Sikandar Hayat Bosan said Pakistan is set to enter era of genetically modified cotton once the biosafety guidelines are put in place.

"The developments made in cotton biotechnology by our scientists are quite impressive," he said while speaking at the International Conference on Biotechnology for Salinity and Drought Tolerance in Plants. He said Prime Minister has taken keen interest and has instructed the Ministry of Environment to finalize the bio-safety guidelines so that different transgenic crops evolved through our research could be released for commercial multiplication.

In his welcome address, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Secretary, National Commission on Biotechnology and Member (Biosciences), PAEC said this international conference has evoked enthusiastic participation of the community of international scientists which is the only response to the problems faced by the multitude of people in the region towards security of food.

Dr. Kauser said over 45 presentations were made in the conference with 18 coming from the foreign scientists. The international moot will be made a permanent feature to consolidate gains from this long-term collaboration.

Commenting on the outcome of the Conference, Prof. Roberto, representative of United States National Science Foundation said after participation in the conference and a visit to PAEC's National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Faisalabad, he is impressed by the professionalism of the Pakistani scientists and with the facilities available to them for carrying out research. He promised a continued support to Pakistan agriculture by sharing research and expertise.

Representing International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr. Rachid Serraj said, "IAEA as part of its programme will promote agriculture research in Pakistan and member countries through available mechanisms i.e. South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation as this is the only way to deliver the fruits of science to the common man."
NIA Celebrates its 40th Anniversary, Farmers’ Day

The Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA) celebrated its 40th Anniversary on March 08, 2005. This institute was established in November 1963 with the name of Atomic Energy Agricultural Research Centre (AEARC) and upgraded to the level of institute in November 1998. Addressing the occasion as chief guest, Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, PAEC while commending the remarkable achievements made by NIA said that it would continue to play its due role for developing agriculture sector in the country to meet the upcoming challenges at the global level.

While admitting the role of farming in boosting agriculture and their close interaction with the scientists, Dr. Malik urged the both to focus on their activities in the scenario of WTO. He also urged the need to use modern techniques including biotechnology.

Earlier, Dr. Mazhar H. Naqvi, Director, NIA, in his keynote address highlighted the activities and achievements of the institute. He said our research activities revolve around the five important disciplines of agriculture, namely Plant Genetics, Entomology, Plant Physiology, Soil Science and Agricultural Bio-technology. This institute has developed 16 high yielding, better adapted, disease resistant/tolerant and improved quality varieties of important crops, he added.

While celebrating its 40th anniversary, NIA also organized its annual mega event “Farmers’ Day” which was participated by progressive farmers representing different areas of Sindh, representatives of private seed companies, Sindh Abadgar Board, Chamber of Agriculture and Department of Agriculture.

IAE to Continue Help Pakistan in the Field of Nuclear Safety: Akira Omoto

Expressing hope that Pakistan will always accord top priority to cooperation in nuclear facilities, Director, Division of Nuclear Power, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Akira Omoto said the global nuclear agency will continue to help Pakistan in the field of nuclear safety.

Talking to newsmen after inaugral ceremony of IAEA national workshop on “Effective Outage Management”, he said that Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) has very good track record of safeguards and safety standards with regard to nuclear power generation.

First nuclear power plant of the world was connected to the grid on June 26, 1954, he said, today 441 nuclear power plants are generating about 367 GW of electricity. The share of nuclear electricity is about 16 percent. India has 14 nuclear power plants and constructing another 9 units. China is operating 9 units and constructing another 2. Korea is operating 20 units and constructing another 8 units in Japan. 54 nuclear power plants are operating and another 8 are under construction.

Chairman’s Assignments Abroad

? Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, PAEC, led the Pakistan delegation as Governor from Pakistan in the Meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors held at Vienna (Austria) from 28 February - 4 March, 2005.


Assignment of PAEC Expert Abroad

Mr. Asghar Ali Khan, Director, National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing (NCNDT), SES Directorate, PAEC, Islamabad undertook assignment as an IAEA Expert at Yagon, Myanmar from 7 - 11 February, 2005 to Review and Assess NDT Capability under Project-Nuclear Science and Technology Training.

Assignments of IAEA Experts in Pakistan

? A five member IAEA Experts Team comprising Mr. Claudio Ubirajara Couto de Meideida (Brazil), Mr. Fil Nikolay (Russia), Mr. Reinhard Gubler (Switzerland) and Mr. Zhang Shujun (People’s Republic of China) and Mr. Marco Gasparini (Italy), IAEA Technical Officer visited PNRA, Islamabad from 21-25 February, 2005 for Task: Early Identification of Safety Issues of two Loop PWR vis a vis IAEA Safety Standards Series NS.R-1 under Project-Applicability of Agency Nuclear Safety Standards for Nuclear Power Plants in Pakistan.

? Mr. John W. Steker (USA) carried out Mission as an IAEA Expert at KNPC, Karachi from 14-18 March 2005 for Task: The First Interim Review of Fire PSA under ProjectImprovingSafetyFeatures of KANUPP.

? Mr. Aybars Guerpinar (Turkey), IAEA Technical Officer, Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, IAEA, Vienna (Austria) carried out assignment as an IAEA Expert at PAEC, PNRA, Islamabad from 14-18 March, 2005 to Review Chapter-2 of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) of Chashma NPP Unit-2 under Project Application of Agency Nuclear Safety Standards for Nuclear Power Plants in Pakistan.

? A four member Radiation Safety Infrastructure Appraisal (RaSIA) Mission comprising IAEA Experts Mr. Khammar Mraibit (Morocco), Head, Policy and Programme Support Section, Division of Radiation and Waste Safety, IAEA, Mr. Cherf Abdelmadjid (Algeria), Mr. Andrew Graig McEwan (New Zealand) and Mr. Stephen Anthony Evans (UK) visited PNRA, Islamabad from 14-18 February 2005 under Project Application of IAEA Regional Model Project National Regulatory Control and Occupational Radiation Protection Programmes.
As part of Fight Against Cancer, a cancer awareness symposium was organized at PAEC’s Nuclear Medicine Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Rawalpindi/Islamabad chapter. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Member (Administration&Biosciences), PAEC was the chief guest. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik asked doctors to collaborate with scientists in research. He urged them to shun the attitude of working in isolation.

The purpose of the programme was to promote cancer awareness among the general practitioners and non-oncologists. The subjects covered include Hazards of Smoking, Diet and Cancer and Breast Cancer Screening. Dr. Mohammad Faheem, Consultant Oncologist, (PMO), NORI stated that the smoking is the largest preventable cause of ill health. About five million people die annually from tobacco-related diseases in the world. Tobacco results in more than 100,000 deaths in Pakistan annually. Tobacco in any form is dangerous. The studies show that the most affected segment of society is the youth that become victim to heart throbbing and bewitching ads of tobacco industry, that entice them to their self-destruction. Peer pressure and curiosity are the major reasons for young people to try smoking. The use of tobacco in films is increasing and is reinforcing misleading images that present smoking as widespread and socially desirable activity. Smoking counts for about 1/3rd of all cancer-related deaths. More than 90% of lung cancers are caused by smoking. Other cancers which are caused by smoking include cancer of Oral Cavity, Larynx, Oesophagus, Urinary Bladder etc. Smoking also reduces the heat of smokers.

Speaking about the ‘Role of diet in cancer’, Dr. Humera Mahmood, Consultant Oncologist (SMO), NORI, said 30% of the cancers occurred due to consumption of harmful diet. She said that five principles for preventing cancer are: Eating lots of fruit, vegetables and whole grains, physical activity, staying tobacco free, taking low-fat diet and protecting oneself from the Sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. She stressed the role of hundreds of naturally occurring anticarcinogens in fruits and vegetables in prevention and treatment of cancer. She also highlighted the increased risk of colorectal cancer with higher consumption of red meat.

Dr. Humera said nutrition is an important part of treatment and eating the right kind of food before, during and after treatment could help the patient feel better and stay stronger. Suggestions on nutrition for cancer patients often emphasize eating high calorie and high protein food because the most common form of nutrition depletions that of protein, calorie, and malnutrition manifested as loss of body mass, impaired immunity and tolerance to treatment. Dr. Rakshanda Rasheed stressed on early detection of breast cancer. She said that young women should start examining their breasts for any irregularity by the age of 20 years.

PMA president Dr. Arshad Rana emphasized the importance of joint meetings particularly related to the awareness of cancer and other diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rafiqa At Ali Jafari, Director NORI, said that in view of the public importance of the subject, cancer awareness campaigns will be regular feature of the Institute’s activities.

MINAR holds 4th PAEC Workshop on Clinical Ultrasound and Doppler Imaging

PAEC’s Multan Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy (MINAR) held the 4th PAEC Workshop on Clinical Ultrasound and Doppler Imaging from 17-21 March, 2005. This workshop was largely attended and participants came from both PAEC and Non-PAEC establishments. Dr. A. N. Khan FRCP, FRCS, FRCR, consultant radiologist at the North Manchester General Hospital, Manchester, was a resource person along with Dr. Dur-e-Sabih, Director, MINAR.

This 5-day workshop had daily hands-on sessions and two participants per machine. Ratios were maintained during the hands-on sessions. Dr. Khan also delivered 3 open house lectures on invasive and therapeutic radiology. MINAR continues to strive to hold capacity building events and this workshop was part of that effort.
Many Nuclear Power Plants after CHASNUPP-2: Dr. Ishfaq

Pakistan would construct more nuclear power plants after Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (CHASNUPP-2) as it has abundant expertise, manpower and reliable friends for cooperation in this regard.

“Pakistan has now more dependable workforce and friends and our nuclear power programme is poised for expansion in order to meet the higher needs of accelerated economic development of the country.” Said Advisor to the Prime Minister on Strategic Programme, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad at Chashma Site, Mianwali on Friday, April 08, 2005.

Referring to “Shahrahe Dosti”, a road at Chashma site named to signify Pak-China friendship, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad said this road has no end point, an allusion to ever growing cooperation between the two countries in the peaceful usage of nuclear energy.

Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, who also performed the ground-breaking of C-1 in 1992, paid glowing tributes to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and its Chairman for their unrelenting efforts to move forward for their contribution in the security and prosperity of the country.

“The creation of an independent Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PARA) will be helpful in ensuring safety and integrity of nuclear power plants,” he added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chairman, PAC, Parvos Butt said, Pakistan has demonstrated its capability to operate nuclear power plants efficiently and safely for the last 34 years. He said CHASNUPP-1 is being safely operated at 95 percent capacity factor which is one of the highest in the world and this success has led to the launching of CHASNUPP-2 at the same site, followed by many more in coming years to meet the target of 8,800 MW electricity in coming 25 years assigned to PAC by the government.

The Chairman said President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz have provided their fullest support for the development of a strong base for producing nuclear electricity as per requirement of the country.

The success of PAEC has been because of its people, work culture and systems which ensured a continued march of its programme despite embargoes, Mr. Butt added.

The Chairman said Pakistan’s nuclear power plants are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and therefore maintains close liaison with IAEA, World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANT), CANDE Operators Group (COG) and PARA.

He informed that there is resurgence of nuclear power in the world due to global warming and soaring oil prices and Pakistan nuclear electricity program will be expanded as per local and global conditions.

Representing Chinese government, Vice President of China National Nuclear Cooperation (CNNC), Mr. Wang Shoujun said Pak-China friendship has been steady and fruitful to their mutual benefit of their people and it will continue to grow in all areas including nuclear power.

He said success of CHASNUPP-1 which is the fruit of hard work of engineers and scientists from both the countries has paved the way for 340 MW CHASNUPP-2 and many others in future.

Secretary Foreign Affairs, Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan, who has been Ambassador to China during the crucial period of negotiations of CHASNUPP-2, said the ever green friendship between Pakistan and China is an outstanding example in the world, as evident from the recently signed treaty of friendship between the two countries on the eve of recent visit of Chinese Premier to Pakistan.

He said the C-1 and C-2 power plants are just the beginning and nuclear going to be the mainstay in our energy production for meeting the requirements of economic development of the country.

Earlier, Member (Power) PAEC, Mr. Javed Iqleem said the expertise and knowledge obtained from Chashma-1 and Chashma-2 will be of great assistance and embarking upon an ambitious nuclear power production programme.

Recounting the achievements of Pakistsni scientists and engineers in nuclear power generation, he said, after the completion of 30 years of design life of KANUPP, PAEC has renovated it to extend its useful life for another 15 years.

Chairman, PNRA, Mr. Jamshed Hashmi, who himself is a veteran of nuclear power, put on record the efforts of Chairman, PAEC Parvez Butt for his contribution to indigenous solutions of the problems faced by Pakistan’s nuclear power programme.

Hashmi assured full support of PNRA for operating nuclear power plants safely and said only a safe plant is an efficient plant.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Zhang Chunxiang, a key figure in supporting C-1 and C-2 assistance said China’s support to Pakistan is a permanent feature of our policy and in a lighter vein congratulated PAEC for CHASNUPP-3 at the ground breaking of CHASNUPP-2.

On the evening preceding the ground-breaking ceremony, General Manager C-2, Dr. Ansar Parvez, General Manager C-1, Mr. Ziaul Hassan Siddiqui and Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power) gave an elaborated presentation to the media persons regarding nuclear power programme of Pakistan.