Chairing the 32nd meeting of Pakistan Atomic Energy Council, Prime Minister, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, said Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is a centre of excellence and everyone is proud of what the Commission has been doing for the security and economic development of the country. The contributions made by it in the areas of electricity generation, health, education, agriculture and research are source of strength for Pakistan. The Prime Minister advised the Commission to launch a public awareness campaign about its programme in health and agriculture so that more people could benefit from these facilities. He said PAEC Cancer hospitals can play a great role in providing treatment facilities to the public. The Prime Minister was informed that eight new cancer hospitals will be opened across the country to help the people receive timely treatment.

He said, PAEC as a diversified and disciplined organization, should retain its core working while developed facilities in the major areas of health, agriculture, industrial support and research should be enlarged and delivered through public-private partnerships.

The Prime Minister urged PAEC to further expand its human resource development programme as it is the main asset for a country. He said, with two Nuclear Power Plants in operation and the third in progress, PAEC is poised to be a major energy provider to the country and stage is ready for separating its energy projections commercial basis as it would ensure accelerated development of this vital sector through the input of market forces.

Earlier, Parvez Butt, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission made an elaborate presentation on the Commission’s activities and future plans in areas of nuclear energy, nuclear fuel, basic research, health, agriculture and human resource development.

The PAEC Chairman, explaining the achievements of the Commission said, the PAEC is operating 13 cancer hospitals in the country at Karachi, Jamshoro, Larkana, Quetta, Multan, Bhawalpur, Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Abbottabad and Peshawar where more than a quarter million patients are treated annually and added that eight more such hospitals are coming up at Swat, Bannu, D.G. Khan, Gujranwala, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, Rahim Yar Khan and Nawabshah. We are also manufacturing radiopharmaceuticals for local cancer hospitals.

Parvez Butt said PAEC is running a nuclear university, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences, in which education up to Ph.D. level is being imparted in the disciplines of Nuclear Engineering, Process Engineering, Materials Engineering, Health Physics, System Engineering, etc. He said, this institution apart from fulfilling the needs of the Commission is providing manpower to national and international organizations.

Talking about the contribution of PAEC in agriculture and allied fields, Chairman apprised that Commission has so far evolved 47 high-yield crop varieties resulting in about Rs. 1 billion additional annual income for the farmers. He said using nuclear techniques, PAEC is reclaiming salinity-hit lands and five projects covering 25000 acres of such lands are underway through farmers’ participatory programmes.

Parvez Butt informed that Commission’s Biotechnology Institute (NIBGE) at Faisalabad has evolved genetically modified cotton varieties, which have the potential of Rs. 40 billion additional income for the country.

He said PAEC has developed a laser-leveler at half the international cost for which it has a large number of orders from various departments and provincial governments to attain their irrigation water economy.

He said, PAEC’s infrastructure in industrial support includes Pakistan Welding Institute, National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing, industrial design, fabrication workshops and instrumentation and control facilities from which national industry, defence and research organizations benefit and added that PAEC was the pioneer in computer education since 1982 and has provided training to a large number of organizations of the country.

The Prime Minister congratulated the PAEC scientists and engineers for exemplary services to the country by assuring the country’s security and promoting scientific and technical research.
Mutually beneficial cooperation between European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and Pakistan is poised to be expanded to include more areas of S&T in the coming years.

This was stated by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Advisor on Strategic Programme to the Prime Minister, while speaking as chief guest at a special get-together organized by PAEC and NCP to mark the celebration of 10 years of CERN-Pakistan cooperation and to chart out new vision for this collaboration, on December 14, 2004.

Being a pioneer of this technical cooperation, he traced its genesis and developmental stages which have culminated in a smooth and congenial sharing of scientific knowledge between CERN and Pakistan.

In his welcome address, Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission said that quality and capability of the design and fabrication facilities of PAEC can be gauged from the fact that it is supplying mechanical equipment and parts worth US $10 million to high-tech organizations like CERN, IAEA, WANO, Jordan based SESAME project, Professor Abdu Salam Centre, Italy, and World Nuclear Association etc.

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PAEC to train Health University postgraduates: Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) will support the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore, by training UHS postgraduates at its institutions, said Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Member (Biosciences), PAEC.

Dr. Malik met with Dr. Mahmood Ahmad, the chairman of UHS Board of Governors, and other officials on December 20, 2004. A statement issued after the meeting said that the UHS and PAEC had entered into a 10-year agreement for scientific and technical cooperation to advance scientific research, training and technology in Pakistan. The statement said, "This collaboration envisages exchange and training of scientific and technical personnel; joint research and technological development programmes in selected areas; holding of joint conferences, seminars, symposia and workshops at national and international levels."
PAEC leading fight against cancer

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is running 13 cancer hospitals in the length and breadth of the country extending its reach to even the remote area of the country. Overall, more than 3,25,000 patients benefit annually from these hospitals in diagnosis and cure of cancer. Eight more such centres are being established each at Gujranwala, Nawabshah, Bannu, Muzaffarabad, D.G. Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Gilgit and Swat. Due to high incidents of breast cancer, PAEC has also set up 13 breast care centres at its hospitals where early diagnosis of the disease is made available. 14 more early diagnostic facilities will be developed in rural areas where they will aim at creating public awareness of the disease and necessity of early presentation.

This was the theme of the speech of Chairman, PAEC, Parvez Butt at the inaugural session of ONCO, 2004 international Cancer Conference on Dec. 17, 2004 which was organized with the joint efforts of Oncology Department, Combined Military Hospital, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Shifa International Hospital, Fauji Foundation Hospital and others.

PAEC is the single largest contributor in the country towards cancer care which is also introducing surgical wards in its cancer hospitals to convert them into single self-sufficient units for cancer treatment. PAEC’s doctors and technologists are engaged in this discipline since 1961 and have the latest know-how in this subject through IAEA technical support programme.

Each cancer hospital of PAEC has its own awareness raising programme for the public directly and indirectly through local doctors, surgeons and paramedical staff who direct the patients to the PAEC hospitals for diagnosis and treatment. Our hospitals are well-known to the local population.

PAEC provides highly qualified manpower in this discipline as its institute PIEAS is offering M.Sc. Nuclear Medicine degree. PAEC also aims to expand its cancer programme by undertaking the extensive research pertaining to this disease. Its cancer hospitals are located in major civil hospitals of country i.e. there is a cancer treatment unit of PAEC at Mayo Hospital, Lahore, one unit attached with Nishter Hospital, Multan, one unit attached with Allied hospital, Faisalabad another unit attached with Jinnah Post Graduate Hospital, Karachi. This is a coordinated effort in conjunction with the other hospitals and departments of the country. PAEC cancer hospitals find a lot of technical support from its other nuclear establishments in analytical work and equipment.

Nuclear power, an established source for socio-economic development: Javed Iqleem

Through the indigenous development of necessary infrastructure, the nuclear power has established itself as viable source of electricity generation in the energy mix of Pakistan and it is expected that its use will increase in the years to come.

This was stated by Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power), Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission while inaugurating a two-week IAEA/PAEC National Training Course on Data Acquisition and Control using Lab View Environment on December 13, 2004.

He said KANUPP has a unique operating history, as assistance from the vendors and other developed countries was stopped due to political reasons and PAEC sustained its operation through indigenous resources. It has completed a safe and successful design life of 30 years and through local technical innovation and upgradation its life is now being extended by another 15 years.

CHASNUPP-I, installed with the Chinese assistance, has entered fourth year of its excellent performance, is a good example of South-South Cooperation and has led to the signing of CHASNUPP Unit-2. Nuclear power is poised to play its role as a viable energy source for the sustainable socio-economic development of the country with evermore contribution to the national grid.

In his remarks, IAEA expert Mr. Jahyono, an Indonesian, lauded the efforts of PAEC and PINSTECH for its collaborative projects with IAEA. He added that Indonesia as a member-state is eager to provide available technical assistance to Pakistan and also looks forward to seeking similar support from Alpha Training Course, the IAEA expert stated that it will train the engineers in the field of Data Acquisition enabling the preparation of large human resource in this domain.

Mr. Javed Iqleem, Member (Power), PAEC presided over the inaugural session of the training course.
Minister for Science and Technology, Ch. Nouraiz Shakoorsaid advancement in science and technology is the only route to address economic problems and the government is fully committed to support this investment-oriented end. “In pursuit of this, during the past three to four years, under the direction of the President and Prime Minister, the budgetary allocation for this sector has increased manifold”, he said while speaking at a Convention of Scientists.

Minister for Science and Technology, Ch. Nouraiz Shaikoris presiding over the Convention of Scientists with Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman, HEC (Right), Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Advisor to Prime Minister (Left), Dr. Farid Malik, Chairman, PSF (Extreme Left) while Chairman, PAEC addresses the forum.

The Convention was jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and UNESCO to mark the World Science Day observed all over the world on 10th of November to highlight the significance of science for peace and development. The Minister said as many as 152 development projects amounting to Rs. 12 billion have been launched for capacity building and for rapid and sustainable growth.

Urging the importance of science and technology, he said, it is an important tool for human advancement as it translates the benefits of scientific findings into direct and usable forms.

He said the government has embarked upon a number of socio-economic and economic efforts for accelerated human resources and physical infrastructure for science and technology development to achieve self-reliance in vital areas.

Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman eulogized the efforts of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad on whose initiative the UNESCO has pronounced to observe 10th of November as “World Science Day” and in this context he remarked “that is how one man makes a big difference”.

“We are still in the critical stage of science and technology when it comes to science and technology if we want to compete” he added. Dr. Atta said two educational TV channels for Virtual University have been launched while the research and area plant open more focused channels for other areas of learning. He said Pakistani youth of 100 million can be converted into an engine of economic growth if groomed properly, otherwise they will be a burden.

In his address, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Strategic Programme, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad traced the history of science by terminology of direct benefit to humanity from the stage of fossil evolution from electricity generation to nano-technology and control provision needed for competitive and modern projects.

Parvez Butt said the success of PAEC is solely attributable to merit based appointments, recognition for quality and innovation, and its well-groomed human resource. Mr. Buttsaid PAEC is launching new projects in many fields such as bio-technology, support to the industry etc. apart from expansion of its existing programme for agriculture, health care, mineral development, nuclear energy and education at Ph.D. Level.

He informed that PAEC is the pioneer in Information Technology education and lasers in the country. Chairman KRL, Dr. Javed Arshad Mirza urged for higher investment in science and technology for bridging the alarming gap between developing and advanced world. In this regard, he suggested effective partnerships between scientists from the world to address poverty, backwardness and hunger.

He said KRL is providing consultancy and support to the national organizations in the fields of metallurgy, laser, bio-medical and clinical services.

Earlier, Dr. Humala Khalid read out the message of Director General UNESCO which stressed upon proper distribution of the fruits of knowledge among all the citizens of the globe.

Dr. Farid Malik, Chairman PSF, the host of the Convention called for effective integration between scientists and industry for socio-economic development of the country.