

**CENTRES OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND
COMMERCIALIZATION (ORICs)**

*Transforming invention (pure knowledge) into
innovation (products, production processes)*



Minutes of ORIC virtual Orientation Session

*Held, through Video Conferencing, on Friday
18th Feb. 2011 at 1030 hours*



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, ISLAMABAD

Minutes of ORIC virtual Orientation Session Held on Friday 18th Feb. 2011 at 10:30 through video conferencing

In order to establish Offices of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs) several letters have been sent to the universities by the HEC top Management bearing letters No. 1-10/ED/HEC/2010/1086 dated 08-12-2010 and 20-1 (RO)/R&D/10/5486 dated 12-02-2011. In pursuance of the said letters a virtual orientation session, through video conferencing, was organized and the universities of Khyber Pakhtun Khaw (KPK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) region were taken on board.

This session was held on Friday 18th February, 2011, at 10:30 A.M. and was presided over by Dr. Muhammad Latif, Director General, Research and Development Division of Higher education Commission Islamabad, participated by the Deputy Director (R&D), HEC Islamabad, Ms Noshaba Awais and Assistant Director (R&D), HEC, Islamabad, Mr. Muhammad Raza, along with following Public/private Sector Universities of the KPK and GB region:

S. No	Universities/DAIs Name Participated in VC Session	Main Campus Location
1	Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan	Mardan
2	Frontier Women University, Peshawar	Peshawar
3	Gomal University, D.I. Khan	D.I.Khan
4	Hazara University, Dodhial, Mansehra	Manshera
5	Institute of Management Science, Peshawar (IMS)	Peshawar
6	Islamia College University, Peshawar	Peshawar
7	Khyber Medical University, Peshawar	Peshawar
8	Kohat University of Science and Technology, Kohat	Kohat
9	University of Agriculture, Peshawar	Peshawar
10	University of Engineering. & Technology, Peshawar	Peshawar
11	University of Malakand, Chakdara, Dir, Malakand	Malakand
12	University of Peshawar, Peshawar	Peshawar
13	University of Science & Technology, Bannu	Bannu
14	Karakoram International, Gilgit	Gilgit
Private Universities University/DAIs in KPK		
15	Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences & Technology, Topi	Topi
16	Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar	Peshawar

ORIC;

Transforming Invention (Pure Knowledge) into Innovation (Products and Production Process)

The Meeting was started with an introductory session of each participant. Dr. Muhammad Latif, DG (R&D) briefed the participants regarding various initiatives taken by the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad for the promotion of research in the country such as National Research Program in Universities (NRPU), Travel Grants, establishment of Business Incubator, University-Industry linkages, PAKUS collaboration for research etc.

The Director General stated that through the program and initiatives launched by HEC for strengthening research and the process of knowledge creation, the quality and research output emanating from the universities and institutes in the country have shown tremendous improvements. Due to these efforts Pakistan has been acknowledged as rising star in a number of research disciplines in terms of percentage increase in internationally cited research publications. Yet, this is no more than an end of a beginning and we need not only to sustain and improve this trend but also take the questions of relevance and economic, social and academic impact of the research into consideration. He further stated that in pursuit of this end, HEC has started working to organize the research activities of universities/HEIs by ensuring availability of well-established and fully functional ORIC (Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization) in public/private sector Universities/DAIs of the country.

After the brief introduction the Director General (R&D) delivered a detailed presentation shedding light on all the aspects of ORICs ranging from its core function to the ultimate end of community welfare.

This presentation was followed by a Question Answer Session where all the universities actively participated in the discussion and appreciated the efforts of Higher Education Commission for such innovative ideas and initiatives. To mention a few, following were the important questions and answers in the session:

ORIC;

Transforming Invention (Pure Knowledge) into Innovation (Products and Production Process)

Question:

Is it possible to have a setup that is different from the structure of ORIC provided by the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad?

Answer:

Yes, it is possible at initial stage. The universities may manage the HR initially as per their work load. However, ultimately the core functions associated with the ORIC should perform by the research office of the University with appropriate HR strength.

Question:

What kind of support will be provided by the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad for the establishment of ORICs?

Answer:

The ORIC fulfilling minimum standards will be notified by HEC making them eligible for the overhead cost @ 15% (instead of 2% as per previous policy) on each research proposals/projects submitted to NRPU w.e.f the date of HEC Notification.

Question:

Is it possible for the ORICs to have Directors/In-charge with additional charges or on contract basis?

ORIC;

Transforming Invention (Pure Knowledge) into Innovation (Products and Production Process)

Answer:

Initially for Director/In-charge it's ok to have with additional charges, with permanent supporting staff. However the universities should, at first instance, hire/readjust the required staff like Managers and Assistants etc. on permanent basis, exclusively dedicated to the research office.

Question:

What are those minimum standards for the establishment of ORICs in order to enable the university to get the increased overhead cost of 15% instead of 2%?

Answer:

The universities should, at first instance, hire/readjust the required Human Resources, dedicated exclusively to the research office and accordingly intimate the HEC on the "Phase-I Proforma (O-01)" available at the HEC's website www.hec.gov.pk/oric. This will enable Higher Education Commission to notify an ORIC making it eligible for the increased overhead cost. However, eventually permanent and exclusively dedicated staff should be hired, as future progress evaluation of the ORIC will depend on it.

Question:

Is it possible for the Universities to merge several already working research cells/units etc. under one umbrella to be called ORIC?

ORIC;

Transforming Invention (Pure Knowledge) into Innovation (Products and Production Process)

Answer:

The answer is YES, as far as core functions associated with ORIC are carried out by this Office + maintain the overall structure provided by the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.

Question:

Will Higher Education Commission provide Financial Support for the Building and HR strength under this program?

Answer:

No such financial support is available for establishment of the Office, as a matter of fact various research activities are already being carried out, in one way or another, by the universities, through various office(s), hence proper infrastructure is available. Universities are now required to streamline those activities strategically and systematically with a clear vision and purpose of research promotion and university industry linkage in perspective. However, Higher Education Commission will provide support in term of guidelines and training in this regard.

Universities were advised to visit HEC website, as all relevant information is available on the ORIC page of HEC website under the link www.hec.gov.pk/oric. They have also been informed that for further query /information in this regard, Ms Noshaba Awais and Mr. Muhammad Raza may please be contacted.

The meeting/session ended with a vote of thanks, with a promising commitment of Universities to establish the Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs).