



**Message from Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed  
Member (Operations & Planning)  
Higher Education Commission**

I am pleased to express my feelings on the launch of the NSTC Alumni Association Magazine (NAAM) by the alumni of National Science Talent Contest organized by STEM Careers Project for bolstering science and technology culture in the country.

Progress and prosperity of nations no longer hinges on natural resources. It is advancements in research, science and technology that divide prosperous from the poor and developed from the undeveloped. In reality, degree of sovereignty of nations is ultimately determined by quality of their human capital. While, HEC has been able to successfully undertake Higher Educations Reforms of an unequaled scale and kind, it will eventually require transformation of the entire society into a way of life that thrives on knowledge, creativity and its applicability into real life business and production processes. Therefore, every opportunity irrespective of its size needs to be optimally utilized to achieve this end.

Pioneered by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in 1995, the National Physics Talent Contest provided young and brilliant science students an opening to present their competence nationally and subsequently in International Physics Olympiad and, bring laurels for their country. Mindful of the need to promote scientific and research culture, the Higher Education Commission borrowed the idea in 2003 and approved STEM Careers Project aimed at expanding the Science Talent Contests in four basic subjects viz. physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics and also to organize Engineering Competitions in collaboration with our premier engineering institutions. Since its inception, HEC has been supporting this program and will continue its support in the manner it is required. Although, the students selected through this project have brought international recognition for the country in the form of Bronze Medals and Honorable Mentions, we still need to work hard to rise and attain Silver and Gold medals and consistently surpass our competitors.

In this backdrop, I congratulate the NSTC Alumni Association for opening another window voluntarily for our young scientists in shape of NAAM and motivating and providing them greater opportunities to bring out their talent imperative for the transformation of our society. While wishing success to the NSTC Alumni Association, I offer all possible support and guidance to the association on behalf of HEC in furthering its goals and objectives.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmed



**Message from Dr Ansar Parvez,  
Member (Science)  
Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC)**

It is a pleasure to note that the participants of National Science Talent Contest organized by STEM Careers Project, have formed an Alumni Association to work on voluntary basis on various academic activities including the launching of Alumni Magazine 'NAAM' for increasing the awareness about its objectives and for strengthening a scientific culture in the country. It is a very useful extension of the STEM project and deserves full support.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission initiated the genesis of this programme as National Physics Talent Contest in 1995 under the directives of the President Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The National Physics Talent Contest (NPTC) participants brought laurels to the country when they made their mark in the International Contests. PAEC has all along remained associated with the subsequent expansion of NPTC to include mathematics, biology and chemistry ultimately resulting in Pakistan's representation in the International Olympiads in all these disciplines.

The idea has popularized science among the youth and has attracted the brilliant minds to careers in science. We in Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission have a very elaborate human resource development programme at our educational and training institutions i.e., Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), KANUPP Institute of Nuclear Power and Engineering (KINPOE), CHASNUPP Centre of Nuclear Training (CHASCENT), Computer Training Centre (CTC). Our oncoming initiative in this direction is the establishment of PAEC School of Excellence at Islamabad where high school students will be inducted on countrywide merit basis. PAEC will offer full financial support for the entrants of this school.

On behalf of Chairman, PAEC, I am pleased to offer the resources of these educational institutions for NSTC Alumni for reference and research purposes.

May God bless you in your pursuits!

Dr Ansar Parvez



**Message from Dr Muhammad Aslam,  
Rector,  
Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS)**

STEM Careers Project has the following four major objectives:

- (i) Appreciation of achievement of excellence in learning of the four basic sciences, namely; Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics at intermediate level in Pakistan.
- (ii) Facilitation of mutual interaction among young outstanding students from all over Pakistan and their interaction with the outstanding Physicists, Chemists, Biologists and Mathematicians in Pakistan.
- (iii) Participation of the best students from Pakistan in the International Olympiads to compete against the best students from the world over.
- (iv) Encouragement of innovation in engineering design and fabrication among young engineering students in Pakistani universities.

The overall purpose of the project is encouragement of Pakistani youth for achievement of excellence in basic sciences and engineering. The role of NSTC Alumni is very important for fulfillment of these objectives.

It is really heartening to see that NSTC Alumni are bringing out their magazine, NAAM, to share their candid views and rich experience of participation in NSTC camps and International Olympiads. It is truly an important step forward for achievement of objectives of STEM Careers Project. I sincerely appreciate this excellent move by NSTC Alumni and wish them a great success!

Dr Muhammad Aslam