3 DECEMBER 2026 • QAA-HEC ISLAMABAD

National Conference on

Internationalizing Higher Education

Partnerships, Mobility & Capacity Building

DATE	VENUE	TIME	FUNDED BY
Thursday, 3 December 2026	QAA-HEC, Islamabad	08:30 – 16:00	NORPART-CONNECT

A partnership between **Sukkur IBA University** and **NTNU Norway** in Collaboration with **QAA HEC**
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DETAILED PROGRAMME

Inauguration Session 08:30 – 12:00

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 09:15	**National Anthem and Recitation from the Holy Quran**
09:16 – 09:30	**Welcome Note** Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
09:31 – 09:45	**Address** Prof. Dr. Asif Ahmed Shaikh, Vice Chancellor, Sukkur IBA University
09:46 – 10:00	**NORPART-CONNECT Project Brief** Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad Daudpota, Dean, Faculty of Science and IT, Department of Computer Science, Sukkur IBA University
10:01 – 10:15	**Connecting Campuses – Coordinating the NTNU-SIBAU partnership** Dr. Ali Shariq Imran, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, NTNU Norway
10:16 – 10:30	**Address** Representative of Kingdom of Norway Embassy in Pakistan

10:31 – 10:45	**Address** Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO, OGDC, Pakistan
10:46 – 11:00	**Morning Session Closing Remarks** Dr. Zia ul Haq, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission
11:01 – 11:20	**Agreement Signing – OGDC National Talent Hunt Program**
11:21 – 11:30	**Souvenir Distribution and Group Photo**
11:31 – 12:00	**Networking Tea and Refreshments**

Conference Afternoon Session 12:00 – 14:00

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
12:00 – 12:15	**From Global Exposure to Institutional Transformation: Making International Partnerships Count** Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Director, IMSciences, Peshawar
12:16 – 12:30	**The Two-Way Tide: A Student Exchange Journey Connecting Norway and Pakistan** Dr. Muhammad Mudassar Yamin, Associate Professor, NTNU Norway
12:31 – 12:45	**Internationalization of Pakistani Institutions with European Funding** Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Government College University, Faisalabad
12:46 – 13:00	**From Building Capacity to Building Possibilities** Dr. Mohib Ullah, Researcher, Department of Computer Science, NTNU Norway
13:01 – 13:15	**European Grant Management, International Partnerships in Education and International Relations (Europe – Asia)** Mr. Antonio Gennarelli
13:15 – 14:00	**Lunch**

Conference Closing Session 14:00 – 16:00

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY

14:00 – 14:15	**NORPART-CONNECT – SIBAU and NTNU Exchange Students' Experiences**
14:16 – 14:30	**NORPART-CONNECT Video Documentary**
14:31 – 15:30	**Panel Discussion: HEC Policy on Dual, Double and Joint Degree Programs – An Opportunity for Internationalizing Higher Education in Pakistan** **Moderator:** Dr. Mohsin Kazmi, Assistant Professor, Sukkur IBA University **Panelists** 1. Dr. Tayyaba Tamim, Dean, Syed Ahsan Ali and Syed Maratib Ali School of Education, LUMS Lahore 2. Dr. Ali Shariq Imran, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, NTNU Norway 3. Prof. Dr. Javed Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Computer Science, Sukkur IBA University 4. Mr. Nasir Shah, Director General, Quality Assurance Agency, HEC, Islamabad
15:31 – 15:45	**Pakistani Embassy to Norway – Support for Internationalization** H.E. Asim Ali Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Norway
15:31 – 15:45	**Closing Remarks** Mr. Nasir Shah, Director General, Quality Assurance Agency, HEC, Islamabad
15:46 – 16:00	**Souvenir Distribution and Group Photo**

About the Event

Internationalization — through institutional partnerships, faculty and student mobility, joint curriculum development, and collaborative research — is an increasingly central priority for Pakistani higher education institutions (HEIs) and for the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Yet successful, replicable examples of such partnerships, and the practical lessons they generate, are not always widely shared across the sector.

NORPART-CONNECT — "Curricula Development and Capacity Building in Applied Computer Science for Pakistani Higher Education Institutions" — is a NORPART-funded partnership between the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU), running from 2022 to 2026 with a budget of 8.09 million NOK. Over its lifetime, the project has delivered 86 bilateral faculty/student mobilities, six fully-funded Master's scholarships at NTNU, three successful MACS graduating batches, multiple peer-reviewed publications, and a national Master's curriculum in Applied Computer Science — a working case study in what a sustained international academic partnership can achieve.

Three-Day Overview

DAY 1 — DECEMBER 1

Travel & Arrival

SIBAU delegation (40 students, 20 faculty) travels from Sukkur to Islamabad. Evening: hotel check-in, registration and orientation briefing.

DAY 2 — DECEMBER 2

Student Technology Workshop

Exclusive to SIBAU students and faculty (HEC venue). DevOps in the morning, Agentic AI in the afternoon, Digital Twins as the closing session; evening preparation of the student project/poster showcase.

DAY 3 — DECEMBER 3

National Conference

Open to Pakistani HEIs invited jointly by HEC and SIBAU. Inauguration, conference sessions, student experiences, panel discussion and closing (detailed programme on page 1–2).

Objectives

1. Create a national platform for Pakistani academia and HEC to discuss internationalization of higher education — institutional partnerships, faculty/student mobility, joint curriculum development, and capacity building.
2. Present NORPART-CONNECT's experience — curriculum development, the 86-mobility exchange programme, six full MACS scholarships, and research output — as a practical, replicable case study of a sustained international academic partnership.
3. Provide SIBAU students and faculty a national platform to present CONNECT-supported research and share their exchange/mobility experiences.
4. Build hands-on capacity among students in Agentic AI, Digital Twins, and DevOps through the sideline technical workshop.
5. Facilitate networking between Pakistani HEIs, HEC, and international partners such as NTNU for future collaboration, mobility, and joint research.
6. Raise awareness among Pakistani academia and HEC of NORPART and similar international funding and partnership opportunities.