Vice Chancellor’s Convocation Address at 14th Convocation of the University of Engineering & Technology Taxila, December 8th, 2015

The Honorable Chancellor Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, Respected Chief Guest, Ch. Sher Ali Khan, Chairman, Punjab Education Foundation Engr. Qamar ul Islam Raja, Prof. Dr. Nizam ud Din, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission, Lt. Gen Muhammad Akram Khan, worthy Vice Chancellors, Members of the Syndicate, Deans of the faculties, Faculty Members, Graduating Students, Proud Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen:

AOA and warm welcome to all of you at this 14th Convocation of the University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila and thank you to make this special occasion special with your graceful presence.

We are really very happy, honoured and encouraged to have the honorable Chancellor of UET Taxila among us today. We are indeed grateful to your Excellency for the sustained interest you have been taking in growth and development of the universities.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Today is yet another episode of another silent revolution taking place around the globe and
certainly here in this beautiful convention center we are passing on another installment of roles and responsibilities bestowed upon my generation and yours to the next generation. With each new graduating class we will continue to pass on some more roles and responsibilities to the next generation. This is how future transforms into present and present into past and past into distant past as time is continuous. And I expect that the legacy of the graduating class will be better than what they are inheriting from us today. They will pass on the better world, more peaceful, prosperous, equitable, just, and technically advanced to the next generation than that of today. I am very hopeful and positive that they will as they are better prepared and have better tools and technologies to make this happen.

On behalf of my faculty, staff and university management, I congratulate my graduating students who have successfully completed rigorous process of their studies which they started in their childhood. You have our best wishes and blessings for your future journey. Now you are entering into a practical field of your life. I know there are lot of challenges and opportunities which are waiting for you in the new
environment and I would advise you that your actions and deeds should be reflective of Merit, Honesty, Transparency, Justice, Teamwork, and Implementation of Rule of Law in every step of your life. No matter whether you are highly competent professional, intelligent and hardworking but if your attitude is not right then everything will be multiplied by zero. Last but not the least attitude is the measure of altitude.

I request you to remain hard working in your practical life, continue to improve your knowledge in your area of specialization, spend at least one hour in reading relevant books/literature as well as develop your habit for reading Quran Kareem with translation on daily basis. I expect you to be competent professional engineer as well as responsible international citizen who are working for the betterment of the society and socio-economic development of the country. We also appreciate and recognize the efforts of your parents who have been praying and waiting for your success for the last 16 years. I congratulate them for providing you successful education and training as well as successful completion of major task assigned to them by Allah SWT.
Please convey to them our sincere congratulations from bottom of our hearts.

On this special occasion, I also wish to congratulate my dedicated faculty and staff who are trying their level best in imparting quality education and training to the shining stars of the country. I will also request my faculty members to keep yourself current in your area of specialization. As you know the academic environments as well as technologies are rapidly changing. There is paradigm shift from “what is being taught” to “what is being learnt” “Teachers Centered Delivering to Student Centered Learning”. There is focus on OBE and whether Engineers are capable of solving complex engineering problems or not? Even today SRO of Government of Pakistan does not allow intermediate students with Pre-medical background to apply in Engineering programs, however, due to the rapid technological development, the HEIs consider Biology, Anatomy as necessary module in Engineering Programs like Bio Engineering

Bio Medical

Bio Electrical
Few years back Medical and Engineering educations were considered as two different streams but today these disciplines are supplementing each other and it is difficult to differentiate them from each other.

The Honourable Chancellor!

After joining the University as the Vice Chancellor, I tried to build a team for improvising the governance of the University on following Pillars.

- Merit
- Honesty
- Justice and Fair-play
- Teamwork
- Transparency and
- Implementation of Rule of Law

Sir! My students, faculty and staff are witness that these pillars are found as core value in all the operations of the university.
Sir, basically these are the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab to bring merit and transparency in HEIs.

- University Statutes have been prepared and will be put up shortly for the approval by your honour.
- First officers of the University Registrar, Treasurer, and Controller of Examinations as well as Auditor have been inducted.
- Keeping in the present security situation, all necessary security measures have been taken to enhance the security of University.
- In the academic side, Sir, as per your directions, we organized International Seminar on “Re-designing Engineering Education in Pakistan” in October this year. Technical Experts from Industry and Academia were invited in this important event. Now the recommendations of this event are being placed in Academic Council of University for approval.
- Outcome Based Education System has been introduced in all academic programs of the University as per
National/International Accreditation Council’s requirements.

- Master programs in the following disciplines have been started:
  - Applied Mathematics
  - Metallurgy and Materials Engineering
  - Energy Engineering
  - Electronics Engineering with specialization in Instrumentation and Process Automation
  - Product Design and Development
  - Power Engineering with major in Hydel Engineering & Thermal Engineering
  - Petroleum & Gas Process Engineering

In services side

- To motivate high achievers and develop sense of competition amongst students, fee waiver has been introduced at Undergraduate level.

- In order to promote quality research and attract serious researchers, scholarship scheme of Rs 15,000/month
for MS and Rs 50,000/month for Ph D students have been introduced.

- Due to shortage of class rooms and labs, combined academic block for IE, Electronics Engineering and School of Basic Sciences is under construction at Main Campus which will be completed by next year.

- To enhance the existing capacity, construction of additional 1\textsuperscript{st} floor of Electrical, Mechanical, Telecom, Civil Engineering departments and Main Mosque have been started and will be completed in next couple of months.

- Monitoring system for all academic, administrative departments, hostels, dispensary, cafeterias etc has been introduced.

- Scholarship amounting to Rs. 53.674 Million has been paid to 729 needy students.

- Technical staff and about 50 faculty members in different cadres in various disciplines have been inducted to improve the student teacher ratio to 1: 15 – 20 as per national requirements.
• The internet bandwidth for the University has been doubled from 84 Mbps to 164 Mbps. The bandwidth is further expected to be enhanced to 300 Mbps, increasing the bandwidth by four times the original allocation. This will make UET Taxila as one of the top internet utilizing universities in Pakistan.

• Faculty Hostel for 24 teachers and Boys Hostels for 100 students are under construction at Sub-Campus Chakwal.

• Regular meetings of Syndicate, Academic Council, Selection Boards, Board of Advance Studies, Finance Committee and Financial Audits are being held.

• University processes are being handled manually since its inception. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System is being introduced now which will improve the University’s efficiency drastically.

• To ensure the availability of maximum faculty in the campus, construction of two bedroom apartments for faculty will be started shortly.
• Active Research projects by the faculty and students amounting to Rs. 47.9635 Million are in progress
• A proper Day Care Center has been established at the Main Campus.
• Water and sanitation project has been completed and will be inaugurated day after tomorrow to prevent shortage of water during harsh summer season. Sewerage system has also been redesigned to ensure hygienic and clean environment.
• Directorate for international linkages has been established and focal persons nominated for collaborating with their foreign alma mater.
• Great emphasis has been laid on developing industry and academic linkages e.g. The MOUs have been signed with Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) for MS program and OGDCL for collaborative research, OJTs and Industrial Tours.
• Funds of Rs. 928 Million have been earmarked for Sub-Campus, Chakwal and two new programs in Water
Resources and Petroleum and Gas Engineering are being started.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is the historical day. We are going to admire the outstanding contributions of our Ex-Vice Chancellors of UETs who have developed and brought this institution in one of the top leading engineering universities of the county, we salute them for all their efforts which they put in during their tenure. We are also going to acknowledge the valuable services and exceptional contribution of a Leader and a soldier who have worked day and night for 18 years as a Vice chancellor in our mother engineering institution UET Lahore. I mean Lt Gen (R) Muhammad Akram Khan who not only changed the image and reputation of this great institution in the country but brought this highest school of learning in the international ranking. The UET, Taxila also got benefitted from Gen. Sahb as he remained member of the Syndicate, Selection Board & other statutory bodies and worked for the uplifting of this University. Therefore, on the recommendations of Researchers, and engineering
community particularly Alumni of this University, the UET Taxila Deans & Chairmen Committee as well as Member of Academic Council decided to decorate Gen Sahb with Gold Medal on his lifelong achievements in the field of engineering profession.

Last but not the least, I assure you Sir, the university management is fully aware of its key responsibility i.e. Creation of knowledge through research and imparting knowledge to its graduate and prepare Professional engineer with high moral values who should work for the uplifting of the socio-economic development of the country. I am sure the faculty members and staff of the UET Taxila is fully prepared and committed to achieve these targets for this beautiful country. Finally I congratulate my faculty, staff and organizing committee headed by Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad Kamal, and Mr. Mehmood Akhtar, Controller of Examinations for organizing this wonderful ceremony. With these opening remarks, I am pleased to welcome you all once again to “Our Celebration”. Allah Hafiz and Pakistan Painda Bad