KHYBER MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

PNQAHE
PAKISTAN NETWORK OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HEC

7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE)
and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

April 26-28, 2027 **AT ISLAMABAD |**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS • 1st NOVEMBER, 2026

From Quality Assurance to Trust Assurance: Advancing Quality, Innovation and Public Confidence in Higher Education

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Higher education is being reshaped by artificial intelligence, new learning models, cross-border provision, evolving workforce needs, and rising societal expectations. At the same time, confidence in institutions, qualifications, research, and expertise is under increasing scrutiny. In this rapidly changing landscape, trust has become the defining currency of higher education.

Trust cannot be mandated; it must be earned through demonstrable quality. As a result, quality assurance must extend beyond compliance and accountability to become a strategic enabler of trust, safeguarding the integrity, relevance, and credibility of higher education. Central to this is a strong quality culture that embeds continuous improvement, evidence-informed decision-making, transparency, and stakeholder engagement across institutional practice.

This conference will explore how quality, quality assurance, and quality culture work together to build and sustain trust, enabling higher education to innovate, internationalize, expand lifelong learning opportunities, and deliver meaningful societal impact in an increasingly interconnected and borderless world.

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

SUB-THEME 1

Trustworthy Governance, Quality Culture, and Institutional Resilience

Trust begins within institutions. Effective governance, strong leadership, and a deeply embedded quality culture create the conditions for sustainable quality and institutional credibility. This theme explores how quality assurance can strengthen governance, accountability, transparency, stakeholder participation, and evidence-based decision-making. Discussions will focus on the role of internal quality assurance systems, quality culture, strategic leadership, and organizational learning in building resilient institutions capable of adapting to changing environments while maintaining stakeholder confidence and public trust.

SUB-THEME 2

Trust in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is transforming teaching, learning, assessment, research, student support, and institutional management. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into higher education, maintaining trust requires robust quality assurance frameworks that ensure ethical, transparent, and responsible use. This theme examines how quality assurance and quality culture can support trustworthy AI adoption by addressing academic integrity, assessment validity, algorithmic accountability, data governance, human oversight, and the development of AI-related competencies. The focus is on ensuring that technological innovation strengthens, rather than diminishes, trust in educational quality and outcomes.

SUB-THEME 3

Trust Across Borders: Quality Assurance, Recognition, and Global Mobility

As higher education becomes increasingly international, trust between institutions, systems, and countries is fundamental. Quality assurance serves as the foundation upon which the recognition of qualifications, student mobility, transnational education, and international partnerships depend. This theme will explore how quality assurance frameworks can support confidence in qualifications, learning outcomes, and educational experiences across borders. Particular attention will be given to qualification recognition, the UNESCO Global Convention, transnational education, international branch campuses, digital credentials, micro-credentials, and mechanisms for strengthening transparency, comparability, and trust within a globally connected higher education ecosystem.

SUB-THEME 4

Trust in Innovation: Assuring Quality in Emerging Learning Ecosystems

The emergence of micro-credentials, flexible learning pathways, online education, lifelong learning, and alternative providers is reshaping the higher education landscape. While innovation creates new opportunities for learners, it also raises questions about credibility, comparability, and quality. This theme examines how quality assurance can support innovation while safeguarding trust in learner outcomes and qualifications. Discussions will focus on developing agile quality frameworks that promote creativity, responsiveness, and continuous improvement while ensuring that new models of provision remain credible, relevant, and trusted by learners, employers, regulators, and society.

SUB-THEME 5

Building Public Trust Through Quality and Societal Impact

Universities are increasingly expected to demonstrate their contribution to economic prosperity, social cohesion, sustainability, innovation, and community well-being. Public trust in higher education is strengthened when institutions can clearly demonstrate the value they create for society. This theme explores how quality assurance can help institutions measure, evaluate, and enhance their societal impact while fostering a quality culture that places public value at the center of institutional priorities. Topics will include sustainability, equity and inclusion, graduate outcomes, community engagement, knowledge exchange, regional development, and the role of higher education in addressing national and global challenges. The focus is on how quality assurance can help ensure that higher education remains both relevant to society and worthy of public trust.

TIMELINE & DATES

1 Call for Abstract — 1st November 2026

2 **Deadline for Submission of Abstract — December, 15th, 2026**

3 Communication of accepted Abstract — January 15th 2027

4 Registration of Conference Starts — January, 1st, 2027

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Note: Approved papers will be published in Journal of PNQAHE with the consent of the Author

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