Research Centre on Environmental Sustainability

Overview

Air University Islamabad hosts dedicated research initiatives with a clear focus on environmental sustainability. The **Center of Environmental and Sustainable Development (CESD)**—currently under development—aims to serve as a multidisciplinary hub for research, innovation, and policy dialogue on sustainability-related challenges. In the interim, several departments, including the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Department of Computer Science, and Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, are actively engaged in research that directly addresses climate action, renewable energy, environmental monitoring, and sustainable urban development.

Air University demonstrates an enduring commitment to environmental sustainability, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a comprehensive integration of sustainability in education, research, and community outreach, the university seeks to play an active role in addressing today's global challenges. In particular, research outputs and collaborative projects align with SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

This institutional effort reflects Air University's proactive stance under the Environmental Impact category of the QS Sustainability Rankings, where the presence and impact of sustainability-focused research centres play a pivotal role in driving both local and global environmental solutions.

Environmental Research Indicators

ER1 - Research Impact on SDGs for Sustainable Research

Air University aligns its research agenda with SDG-linked themes through targeted funding, interdisciplinary collaboration, and outcome-driven initiatives. Faculty and research centers actively pursue projects aligned with environmental sustainability, such as:

- Climate change resilience
- Sustainable engineering and technology solutions
- Environmental psychology and public health
- Renewable energy systems

The university promotes research dissemination in high-impact journals and platforms, ensuring global visibility and contribution to the SDG discourse.

ER2 - Sustainable Research National Statistics

The Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) facilitates national reporting on research outputs, including projects funded by national agencies like HEC-

TDF, NRPU, and NESCOM. Sustainability-oriented themes are consistently emphasized within competitive grant proposals.

ER3 - Research Center with an Environmental Sustainability Focus

The Air University Sustainability Center, embedded within the Business Incubation Centre (BIC), leads research and innovation focused on environmental sustainability. Key contributions include:

- Support for climate and sustainability-themed startups (e.g., Tapit, Air Overflow)
- Collaborative MoUs with national and international entities (e.g., Siber Koza Innovation Centre)
- Dedicated mentorship and funding support for environmentally aligned research projects

This center fosters cross-disciplinary work and serves as a hub for green innovation.

ER4 - Policy Citations (Environmental)

While formal tracking of policy citations is being strengthened, Air University faculty have contributed to national initiatives and advisory roles, particularly through linkages with:

- Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
- Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)
- National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP)

These affiliations allow for research outputs to be referenced in policy planning, especially in domains such as sustainable defense technology, urban resilience, and digital security frameworks.

Strategic Focus

- Expand tracking of SDG-related research outputs and their policy impacts
- Increase institutional collaborations with environmental think tanks
- Launch a public dashboard highlighting sustainability-oriented research projects

Evidence

<u>Annex A – Research Publications on Sustainability / SDG Themes</u>

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<u>Annex B – Details of Sustainability-Focused Research Projects</u>

• Title, funding agency, PI name, SDG focus (especially climate, clean energy, life on land/water).

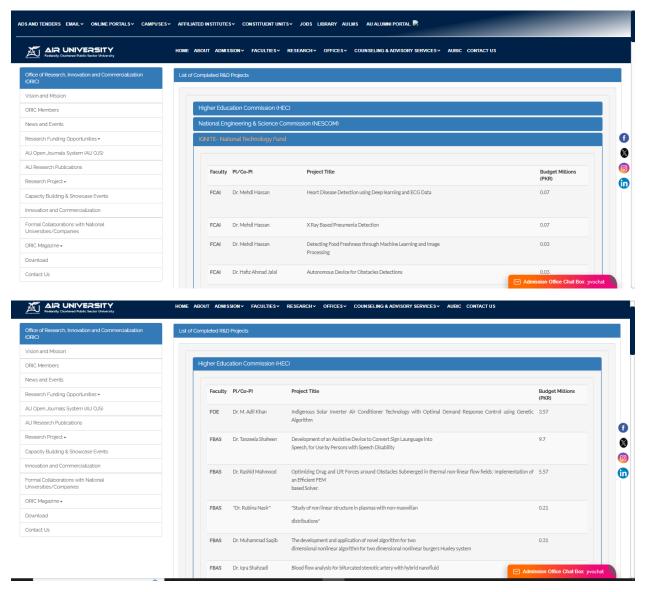
	HEC FUNDED PROJECTS									
Faculty	PI/Co-PI	Project Title	Budget Millions (PKR)							
FOE	Dr. M. Adil Khan	Indigenous Solar Inverter Air Conditioner Technology with Optimal Demand Response Control using Genetic Algorithm	3.57							
FBAS	Dr. Iqra Shahzadi	Blood flow analysis for bifurcated stenotic artery with hybrid nanofluid	0.3							
FBAS	Dr Saima Rafique	Aptamer Based Label-free Electrochemical Detection of Oral Cancer Gold Nanostructures	3.98							

FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	Development of an assistive device for independence and mobility of paraplegic patients	14
IAA	Dr. Ibraheem Haneef	Digital Land Mapping for Mega Projects	13.81
FSS	Shoaib Sultan	Generate Environmental Awarenss among Trainee Teachers in Tertiary Education	0.35
AUSOM	Dr. Khuram Shehzad	Positioning for maximal Gain; how the human welfare output of export processing zones in a developing country's context can be maximized	1.77
FBAS	Dr Muhammad Atif	Synthesis and characterization of Core Sheel Like Structured Multiferroic Nano-Comosites for Energy Storage Application	9.58
FBAS	Dr Rizwan Akram	Development of thermoelectric materials via modeligsimulation and experimental Approach	0.46
FOE	AVM Saleem Tariq	Strengthening and upgradation of electrical engeneering	3
FOE	Dr Syed Ahmed Pasha	System Identification of High Dimensional Dynamics Point Process System	1.77
IAA	Dr. M Umer Khan	Reconfigurable energy enhanced architecture for efficient utilization of stored energy	1.77
FBAS	Dr. Saima Rafique	Gold nanoparticles based electrophoretic discrimination of cancer related point mutations	0.47
FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	To prepare high school students for college and career (intoduction of Robotics and automation)	1
FOE	Dr. Shakil Rehman Shiekh	Workshops for introducing sustainable energy related technologies to school students	0.88
FOE	Dr. Shakil R.Sheikh	Energy Saving in Buildings in Pakistan	0.5
Total mil	lion (PKR)		57.21

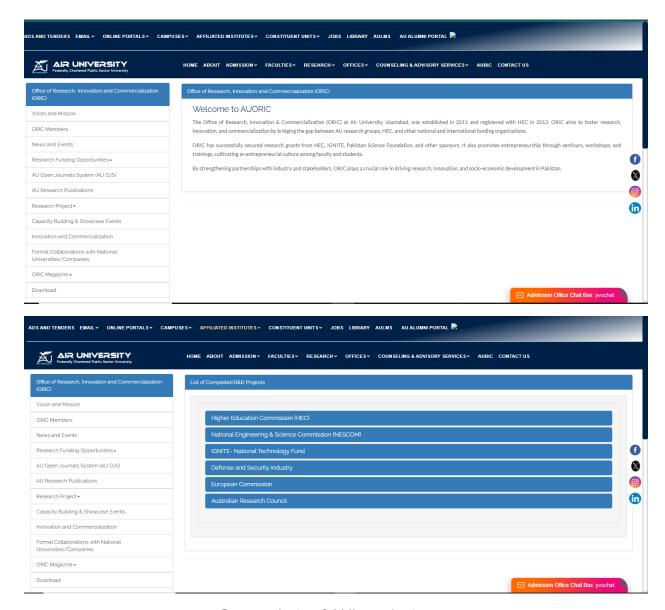
	IGNITE FUNDED PROJECTS								
Faculty	PI/Co-PI	Project Title	Budget Millions (PKR)						
FCAI	Dr. Mehdi Hassan	Detecting Food Freshness through Machine Learning and Image Processing	0.03						
FOE	Mumajjed ul Mudassir	Socially Aware Smart Home	0.09						
FOE	Samina Jamil	Bio Hybrid Electrical Vehical	0.09						
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Design and Development of Zero Energy Buildings based on Indigenously Available Solar and Waste Sewerage Water	0.07						
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Hybrid UPS Based on Super Capacitor Energy Storage and Adjustable Speed Generator for Military and Medical Applications	0.07						

FOE	Mumajjed ul Mudassir	Designing and Development of IOT based Psyclogical Health Monitoring System	0.06
FCAI	Dr. Naveed Bhatti	Water Flow Monitoring System	0.03
FoE	Air Commodore (R.) Tahir Mahmood Khalid	SCADA Based Water Filtering and Supply System	0.04
FoE	Madeeha Uzma	Smart Helmet for Ignition of Bike and Emergency Contact	0.04
FoE	Engr. Salman Tariq	Frequency Controlled Refrigeration	0.03
IAA	Dr. Sohail Iqbal	Design and fabrication of Canal top solar panel system	0.08
FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	Design and implementation of aeroponic farming	80.0
FOE	Dr. Shakeel Rehman	Design and fabrication of tree plantation drone	0.08
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Hybrid electric vehicle	0.08
FOE	Engr. Atiq ur Rehman	Guidance and monitoring system for AU parking	0.08
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Electric vehicle with regenerative braking and battery protection system	0.07
FOE	Engr. Atiq ur Rehman	Weather data simulation and experimental calculations of heating and cooling loads	0.06
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Solar power fine dust/smoke removal system using cockroft walton circuit	0.06
FOE	Dr. M. Adil Khan	Controlling solar water pump using variable frequency drive by android	0.03
		application	
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Design and implementation of shunt active power filter for power quality	0.02
FOE	Dr. Zafarullah Koreshi	Thermoelectric Incubator	0.07
FOE	Dr. Noman Naseer	Embedded System for Automatic Detection of Heart Disease using ECG machine	0.07
FOE	Engr. Rahman R Alyaei	Multi Source (Solar power using a multi-level inverter WAPDA Generator) Power System Variable Load and Automated Shifting	0.07
FOE	Dr. Noman Naseer	Brain Controlled Wheelchair	0.07
FOE	Engr. Hammad A. Nazir	Automatic Vehicle Gear Transmission	0.07
Total million (PKR)			0.37

More SDG projects: https://au.edu.pk/Pages/QEC_WEB/StartupProjects.html



Snapshot of Approved ORIC project grants



Screenshots of AU's project page

Annex C – Research Centre for Environmental Sustainability

1. Photographs of the centre (labs, collaborative spaces).











2. Screenshots or printouts from AU website about the center.



3. List of incubated startups with sustainability impact

(i). Gamotivity:

Gamotivity is an innovative startup founded by students at Air University and currently incubated at the Air University Business Incubation Centre (AUBIC). The venture focuses on revolutionizing the gaming industry by integrating blockchain technology and NFTs, aiming to create a decentralized platform that empowers both gamers and developers.

Gamotivity has gained recognition for its innovative approach to gaming. Notably, the startup was a semi-finalist in the Supernova Challenge at GITEX Global, one of the world's largest tech events, highlighting its potential in the global tech arena. By fostering a community-driven ecosystem, Gamotivity seeks to redefine gaming experiences, offering transparency and ownership through blockchain integration. The startup's commitment to innovation and its roots in Air University's supportive environment underscore its potential to make significant strides in the tech industry.



Super Nova Semi-finalist in Web3 Category



National Winner of ten18 Pitchfest 2023

(ii).Tapit:

Tapit is an innovative startup founded by Air University student Shahreyar Raja, currently incubated at the Air University Business Incubation Center (AUBIC). The

startup has developed Pakistan's first digital business card, aiming to revolutionize how individuals and organizations share contact information.

Inspired by the tap-to-access functionality of metro bus cards, Tapit offers a seamless, eco-friendly alternative to traditional paper business cards. Users can share their contact details with a simple tap, eliminating the need for physical cards and promoting sustainability. The platform also provides personalized digital cards with unique user interface designs, enabling businesses to market their products effectively.

Tapit's innovative approach has garnered significant recognition. The startup secured its first angel investment of **PKR 400,000** in March 2022 and won \$30,000 worth of grants and incentives from AWS and EO Islamabad. Additionally, Tapit achieved 4th position out of 100 startups in the All-Pakistan Startup Cup organized by ICSTSI at COMSATS University, earning a PKR 300,000 stall at the Islamabad Business Expo 2023.

Tapit's success story exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit fostered at Air University, highlighting the institution's commitment to nurturing innovative ideas and supporting student-led ventures.

(iii). Overflow:

Air Overflow is a cybersecurity-focused startup founded by students at Air University and currently incubated at the Air University Business Incubation Centre (AUBIC). The venture specializes in delivering advanced cybersecurity solutions, including Security Operations Center (SoC) services, penetration testing, malware analysis, auditing, and secure software development.

Air Overflow has made significant strides in promoting cybersecurity awareness and skills within the academic community. Notably, it successfully conducted AirCTF, the first Capture Flag (CTF) competition of its kind in Pakistan and has organized similar events tailored for Air University students. The startup maintains collaborations with prominent institutions such as the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and various think tanks to develop secure digital solutions. Its client portfolio includes the National Center for Cyber Security (NCCS), the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Air University, and BLAU WELT Solutions.

Air Overflow's commitment to enhancing cybersecurity infrastructure and education underscores its role as a pivotal player in Pakistan's digital security landscape.





4. MoU copies with Siber Koza / NASTP

(i). SIBER KOZA:

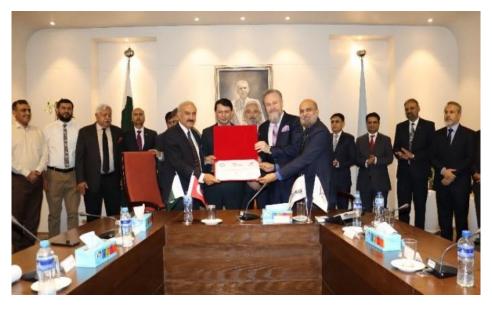
Signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), Air University Islamabad and Siber Koza was held on 15th of June 2023. The signing was followed by opening of Siber Koza Innovation Centre at Air University. Vice Chancellor Air Marshal (Retd) Javaid Ahmed HI (M), CEO Cryptech Alper Cem Yılmaz and CEO NASTP Air Commodore Liaquat Ullah Iqbal signed this MoU.

Siber Koza is an innovative training and incubation center established by Crypttech Turkiye. Young students are provided training and mentorship in the fields of Cyber Security, IT, AI and Robotics. Bright students are selected and provided job opportunities for working on projects in cutting edge technologies. Furthermore, incubation of startups is also supported through mentorship, networking and funding prospects.









(ii).MoU B/W AU & PEHCHAAN CLINIC 22nd January 2025

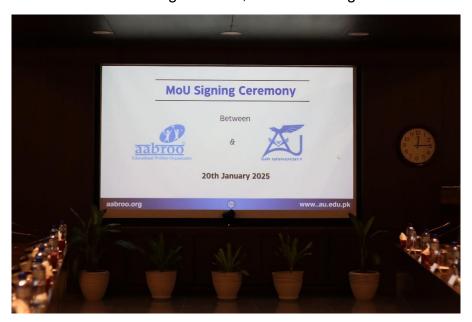
The MoU between Air University and Pehchaan Clinic establishes a collaborative partnership to enhance clinical psychology through research, student internships, and professional development. It focuses on academic excellence, practical training, and community welfare, bridging the gap between academia and industry.





(iii). AABROO Educational Welfare Organization

The collaboration between Air University (AU) and Aabroo Educational Welfare Organization focuses on promoting sustainable waste disposal practices, supporting education for underprivileged communities, and advancing shared goals like addressing key SDGs. It includes waste management operations, financial aid for deserving students, and enhancing environmental awareness.









Annex D - Policy Engagement and Institutional Linkages

Air University has engaged in collaborations and initiatives involving the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) in Pakistan.

In October 2019, Air University hosted a symposium titled "Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Pakistan," where the then Minister of State for Climate Change, Zartaj Gul, was invited as the chief guest. This event facilitated discussions on environmental challenges and fostered partnerships with NGOs working in the climate sector.

The university's CPD **Center of Professional Development** has undertaken research projects aimed at informing policy decisions related to sustainable development and climate change. These projects are designed to assist various governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Climate Change, by providing insights into maximizing human welfare outputs in the context of economic zones.

2. Screenshots of faculty participation in policy forums or working groups.

Visit to Attend World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting at DAVOS

The Department of Strategic Studies at Air University recently organized an educational visit for the students of BS 4th and 6th semester of International Relations. The students had the opportunity to attend the event on creating awareness at the "World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting at DAVOS," hosted by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) and Roots Millennium Education Group at the renowned Amaani Bagh. Faculty member, Ms. Aiza Azam, was invited as a guest speaker, she spoke on women empowerment.







Reimagining South Asia: Alternative Histories of India-Pakistan Crises

Faculty member Faraz Haider conducted a project for BS International Relations 7th Semester students on 19th December 2024 for the course of Strategic Stability in South Asia. The students were asked to make videos and live sketches of what could happen if Pakistan-India crises were handled differently while applying the core concepts of strategic stability to reimagine these crises for the lessons learnt.







15-20





Annex E – Funding Opportunities & Research Grants

1. Tables of grants secured under HEC-TDF, NRPU, or international climate grants.

	HEC FUNDED PROJECTS							
Faculty	PI/Co-PI	Project Title	Budget Millions (PKR)					
FOE	Dr. M. Adil Khan	Indigenous Solar Inverter Air Conditioner Technology with Optimal Demand Response Control using Genetic Algorithm	3.57					
FBAS	Dr. Iqra Shahzadi	Blood flow analysis for bifurcated stenotic artery with hybrid nanofluid	0.3					

FBAS	Dr Saima Rafique	Aptamer Based Label-free Electrochemical Detection of Oral Cancer Gold Nanostructures	3.98
FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	Development of an assistive device for independence and mobility of paraplegic patients	14
IAA	Dr. Ibraheem Haneef	Digital Land Mapping for Mega Projects	13.81
FSS	Shoaib Sultan	Generate Environmental Awarenss among Trainee Teachers in Tertiary Education	0.35
AUSOM	Dr. Khuram Shehzad	Positioning for maximal Gain; how the human welfare output of export processing zones in a developing country's context can be maximized	1.77
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FBAS	Dr Rizwan Akram	Development of thermoelectric materials via modeligsimulation and experimental Approach	0.46
FOE	AVM Saleem Tariq	Strengthening and upgradation of electrical engeneering	3
FOE	Dr Syed Ahmed Pasha	System Identification of High Dimensional Dynamics Point Process System	1.77
IAA	Dr. M Umer Khan	Reconfigurable energy enhanced architecture for efficient utilization of stored energy	1.77
FBAS	Dr. Saima Rafique	Gold nanoparticles based electrophoretic discrimination of cancer related point mutations	0.47
FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	To prepare high school students for college and career (intoduction of Robotics and automation)	1
FOE	Dr. Shakil Rehman Shiekh	Workshops for introducing sustainable energy related technologies to school students	0.88
FOE	Dr. Shakil R.Sheikh	Energy Saving in Buildings in Pakistan	0.5
Total mil	lion (PKR)		57.21

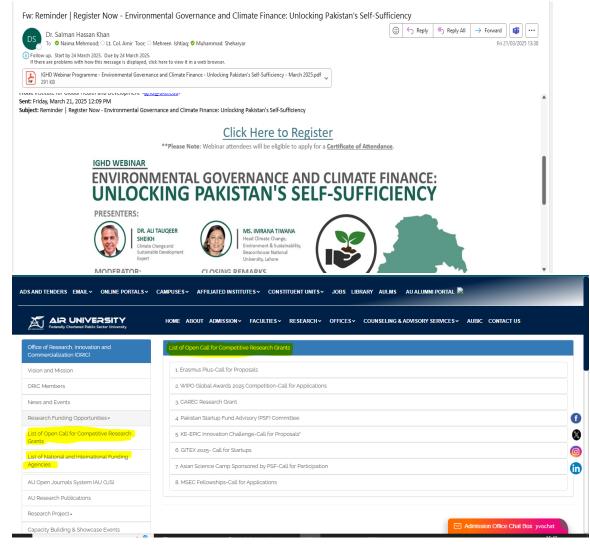
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FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Hybrid UPS Based on Super Capacitor Energy Storage and Adjustable Speed Generator for Military and Medical Applications	0.07						

FOE	Mumajjed ul Mudassir	Designing and Development of IOT based Psyclogical Health Monitoring System	0.06
FCAI	Dr. Naveed Bhatti	Water Flow Monitoring System	0.03
FoE	Air Commodore (R.) Tahir Mahmood Khalid	SCADA Based Water Filtering and Supply System	0.04
FoE	Madeeha Uzma	Smart Helmet for Ignition of Bike and Emergency Contact	0.04
FoE	Engr. Salman Tariq	Frequency Controlled Refrigeration	0.03
IAA	Dr. Sohail Iqbal	Design and fabrication of Canal top solar panel system	0.08
FOE	Dr. Zareena Kausar	Design and implementation of aeroponic farming	0.08
FOE	Dr. Shakeel Rehman	Design and fabrication of tree plantation drone	0.08
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Hybrid electric vehicle	0.08
FOE	Engr. Atiq ur Rehman	Guidance and monitoring system for AU parking	0.08
FOE	Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan	Electric vehicle with regenerative braking and battery protection system	0.07
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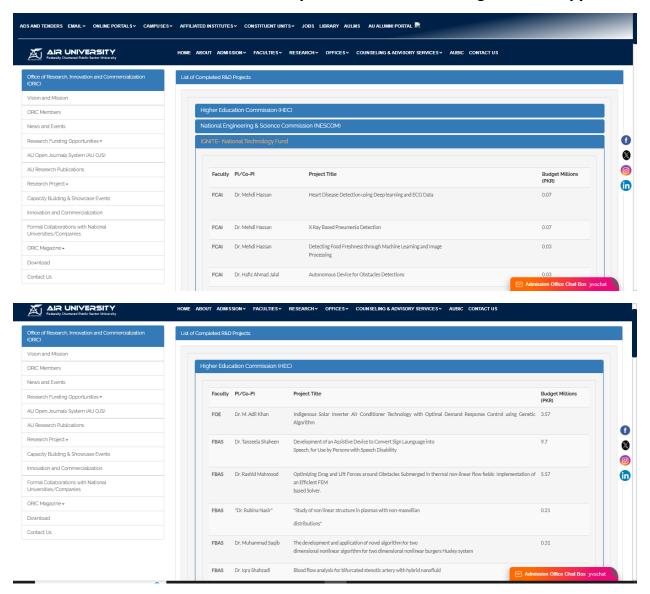
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2. Calls for proposals highlighting sustainability themes.





3. Screenshots from AU's internal portal or emails showing calls and approvals



Prepared by: Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)

Air University Islamabad

For submission to: QS Rankings - Environmental Impact Category