

## UPSIGN Newsletter 1 [Spring 2020]



**Chairman's Welcome:** it is my great pleasure to welcome you the first edition of UPSIGN's newsletter. UPSIGN Network is a registered charity made up largely from Brits and British Pakistanis who have a long-term commitment to sustainably improving the lives of those in Pakistan and its UK diaspora through friendship, support, two-way knowledge transfer and capacity building.



UPSIGN is an open, voluntary group that operates on a secular and non-political basis. We consist of professionals, students and educators who work mainly in the UK and in Pakistan. We are interested to uplift and support Pakistanis so they can be successful and self-sufficient. If you want to join us in UK events or find out latest newsletter and latest updates via email. I hope you will take a few minutes to check out our website and think about how you can make a sustainable contribution to Pakistan and its diaspora.

Prof Jawwad A. Darr [UPSIGN Chairman]



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## Spotlight on...



### **World Class Research in Pakistan**

UPSIGN deputy chairman, Professor Ihtesham Rehman (Bioengineering at Lancaster) established an Interdisciplinary Research centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM) in Pakistan in 2008. Find out about the journey to affordable indigenous bone and skin implants in Pakistan.

To learn more, [click here](#).

## UPSIGN Events...

### **Upcoming Events....**

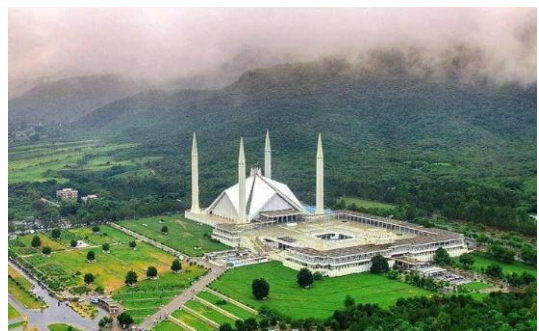
#### **3x UPSIGN Workshops [Pakistan]**

#### **Global Development Workshops**

**March 2020, Islamabad**

140 British, overseas and Pakistani stakeholders will develop consortia in agri-science, healthcare and energy/water (costing £200k).

To find out more [Click here](#)



## Past Events in UK and Pakistan..

### Our Past Events in the UK:

#### Diaspora; Global Challenges & Opportunities

Our annual UPSIGN symposium was held at UCL in July 2019 and discussed issues around challenges of Pakistan and its diaspora.

[Click here](#) to read more.



### Our Past Events in the UK:

#### Realising Pakistan's Potential in Tourism & Innovation

In June 2019, UPSIGN hosted Syed Zulfikar Bukhari (special assistant to PM Imran Khan) and Hamza Ali Abassi (actor) where they discussed the potential for tourism and innovation in Pakistan. [Click here](#) to read more.



### Our Past Events in Pakistan:

#### Biomedical Materials Symposium

This event promoted interdisciplinary research & development in Biomedical Materials and allied areas, including dental materials, which are vital to Pakistan. To find out more [Click here](#).



[Click here](#) to see recent past UPSIGN events and workshops

## Our Work...

UPSIGN's core team of academics tackle various areas in need of development in Pakistan. These Core topic areas represent the expertise our academics and the needs of our partners and stakeholders.

## **Group1: Agriculture and Nutrition**

UPSIGN aims to improve nutrition via crop-breeding and climate-smart food systems.

[Click here](#) to read more.



## **Group 2 Affordable Healthcare**

We support implementing affordable and high-quality healthcare solutions for Pakistan. This includes topics such as biomedical materials / implants, mental health and pharma.

[Click here](#) to read more.



## **Group 3: Clean Energy / Water**

UPSIGN seeks to address solutions for off- and on-grid energy storage/delivery using renewable energy. Furthermore, we seek to improve general sanitation and finding new ways to deliver clean water. [Click here](#) to read more.



## **Group 4: Education & Capacity Building**

We seek to develop initiatives to support education and capacity building with support of the Pakistani diaspora. We also want to help develop mentoring platforms and support gender equality initiatives. [Click here](#) to read more.



## **Group 5: Artificial Intelligence**

UPSIGN acknowledges the full potential of AI and is working to support the research environment and engaging with Centres of Excellence in AI and Machine Learning. [Click here](#) to read more.



## Work With us



### Work With Us

We have a number of varied opportunities for students and professionals to get involved in. If you are interested in volunteering to support UPSIGN, please contact our coordinator; Farzana Hussain at: [farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk)

## Did You Know About?...

### Pakistani Diaspora Leaders Programme:

Common Purpose has worked with diaspora leaders for many years – they run programmes for specific diaspora communities and for leaders across the many different diaspora of the world. Many of the UPSIGN team have been fortunate to go on this course for the Pakistani Diaspora leaders (sponsored by the British Council)



image: UPSIGN General Secretary Khalid Mahmood (centre taking notes) at the Pakistani Diaspora Leaders Alumni Event in Feb 2020.

If you subscribe to our newsletter, we will inform you about the next available course

## SIGN UP TO UPSIGN!

### Support UPSIGN

**Individual Donors:** Support us to lead and create a more sustainable and flourishing future for Pakistanis and its diaspora. The funds will 100% be used to pay for UK based events, seminars and debates that are used to educate the diaspora or to support mentoring programmes (all our active members are volunteers). [Click here](#) if you wish to donate towards UPSIGN's work and help support our cause.

**Corporate Donors:** UPSIGN is always interested to hear from corporate donors who wish to work with us to develop initiatives ([Click here](#)). Please get in contact with us via [farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk)

Current organisations who have supported or funded us to date can be found on the following link [here](#).

### Keep in Touch

For all the latest updates on UPSIGN's progress, opportunities and updates regarding the Pakistani diaspora, please follow our social media by clicking the icons below. If you want to get involved in our subject specific discussions, join our Whatsapp groups [here](#).

If you wish to write short articles about related topics for future newsletters, please get in contact and join our UPSIGN communications team [[farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk)].



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