



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

To: AKU Donors, Volunteers and Well-wishers  
From: Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, President  
Re: Highlights of New Developments at AKU  
Date: May 15, 2004

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In keeping with our on-going efforts to inform AKU donors, volunteers and well-wishers on recent happenings at Aga Khan University, it is my pleasure to provide you with a brief review of some exciting new developments at AKU over the past year, both in Pakistan and internationally.

### INTERNATIONALISATION OF AKU

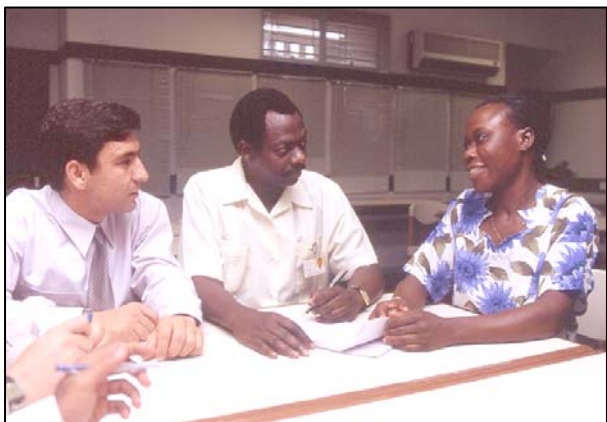
While its roots are in Pakistan, the Charter of Aga Khan University granted in 1983 established AKU as an international university, mandated to establish campuses and programmes anywhere in the world. In fulfilment of this mandate, and in response to calls for help from foreign governments, professional bodies, and its Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) partners, AKU now has 10 campuses and teaching sites in Asia, Africa and the United Kingdom.

**AKU's Advanced Nursing Studies Programme** is in operation on three campuses in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This initiative marks the first time in the history of health education in East Africa that a private sector institution is offering degree programmes in nursing. Aimed at providing new continuing education opportunities to practicing nurses, AKU in East Africa offers programmes leading to the Advanced Clinical Specialist Diploma, conversion from Enrolled Nurse to Registered Nurse, and undergraduate studies for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Currently 257 nurses are enrolled. This number is expected to jump to over 400 within two years.



*The Advanced Nursing Studies Programme in East Africa trains nurses for increasingly important roles as members of the health care team.*

In partnership with Aga Khan Health Services (EA), AKU has been accredited to commence **Postgraduate Medical Education Programmes** this year in Kenya and Tanzania. Based at Aga Khan Hospitals in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, they will offer residency training starting with radiology, surgery, family medicine and internal medicine. The new programmes will build human resources in East Africa, obviating the need to travel abroad for further training. At the same time, they are part of a cooperative initiative to enhance the quality of care in Aga Khan Hospitals whose systems are being strengthened with the assistance of Aga Khan University Hospital. Faculty and staff appointments include several being seconded from the Medical College and the Hospital in Karachi.



*East African teachers in the Professional Development Centre Lead-In Project in Dar-es-Salaam exchange ideas on new teaching methodologies.*

Also in East Africa, based on a decade of experience in teacher education and curriculum development at the Institute for Educational Development in Karachi, AKU has been operating a **Professional Development Centre Lead-In Project** in Dar-es-Salaam for two years in partnership with Aga Khan Education Services (EA) and Aga Khan Foundation (EA). Over 400 teachers, principals and school administrators have already received certificate training in modern teaching methodologies. The success of this programme has led to a decision by the Chancellor - His Highness the Aga Khan, and the Board of Trustees to establish an **Institute for Educational Development for East Africa**, also in Dar-es-Salaam, with five associated Professional Development Centres in Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala,

Mombasa, Nairobi, and Zanzibar. Each Professional Development Centre is expected to be located adjacent to new centres of excellence schools to be known as Aga Khan Academies now being planned in those cities by Aga Khan Education Services (EA).

In **Afghanistan and Syria**, both the School of Nursing and the Institute for Educational Development in Karachi are providing faculty, technical assistance and advisory services to government institutions to build capacity in the fields of teacher and nursing education and nursing practice. In Central Asia, the Institute is providing technical assistance to the government-owned **Institute for Professional Development in Khorog, Tajikistan**.



*Renowned international scholars gather at AKU-ISMC to deepen understanding of pressing issues of public life in Muslim societies.*

While the focus of programmes at AKU since its inception has been in the health and education professions, AKU moved beyond these disciplines in 2002 with the establishment of **Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations** in London, England. Its purpose is to strengthen research and teaching on the heritage of Muslim societies in all their historic diversity. Based in a heritage building close to the University of London and the British Museum, the new Institute has been busy recruiting faculty and developing curriculum for a Masters programme to commence in 2005. In a series of scholarly seminars to be held in different cities internationally, the Institute has already organized events in London and Karachi to examine organized approaches to pluralism in a Muslim context.

Topics addressed by learned academics from prestigious institutions include Self Perceptions of Muslims in the Twentieth Century, Muslim Consciousness in Public and Private, and the Organizing of Knowledge. Attended by Muslim and non-Muslim scholars from around the world, the seminars are intended to deepen understanding of pressing issues of public life affecting Muslim societies.

## AKU IN PAKISTAN

For some time, concern has been expressed over the effectiveness of traditional high school examination systems in Pakistan. School leaving exams have been criticized for doing little more than test the rote learning abilities of students, and many believe that marks awarded are subject to outside influence and interference. Following many years of reflection, and dialogues with government, AKU has been authorised to establish **Aga Khan University Examination Board** to provide an alternative private sector examination service aimed at more effectively testing the learning and reasoning capabilities of school leavers. It will offer Secondary School Certificate examinations in 2006, and Higher Secondary Certificate examinations in 2008, in both English and Urdu mediums. Examinations will receive full recognition and credit by the Government of Pakistan.

To achieve its objectives, the new Examination Board and the Institute for Educational Development will work together to train teachers in schools accepting the option of adopting AKU's examination system. Teachers, principals and education administrators will receive assistance in preparing learning materials and selecting texts that meet national curriculum requirements, yet better equip students with the skills of learning, comprehension and application of knowledge. To plan and implement this programme, the United States Agency for International Development has extended a grant of US\$4.5 million.

## AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

For many years, higher education in Pakistan, and indeed most developing countries, has concentrated on the professions. Doctors, engineers, chemists, lawyers and other professionals have been the principal output of universities. Almost no attention has been paid to the need for high quality general education in the arts, humanities and the sciences to train graduates for leadership roles needed in growing societies, whether in business, social or government positions. With this need in mind, the Chancellor's Commission Report published in 1994 described a future vision of AKU in which a high quality liberal arts college would be established to develop the leaders of tomorrow. The establishment of such an institution was announced at Convocation 2000 when the Chancellor said, "With the decision to establish the College of Arts and Sciences, AKU will take the major step of moving beyond professional education towards becoming a comprehensive university in its classical form."

You will be pleased to know that the Chancellor's vision is being realised with the start of planning and architectural design for **Aga Khan University Faculty of Arts and Sciences**. It will be built on what was originally a new 600-acre campus on the outskirts of Karachi, but which will now be an 1100-acre campus as a result of an additional 500 acres being allotted for the University's use by the Governor of Sindh. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences will offer high quality, general education to students from all over Pakistan, Central and South Asia, and East Africa. Its objective, as expressed by the Chancellor, will be to ". . . equip



*The Faculty of Arts and Sciences will equip students with skills, ethical commitment and leadership qualities for their future careers.*

young men and women from within and outside the Ummah with the skills, ethical commitment and leadership qualities for their future careers . . .” The Board of Trustees has approved the academic programme, and work is proceeding on developing curriculum and recruiting faculty. In its first phase, 1,500 undergraduate and 100 graduate students will be admitted to the residential facility. Architects have already been appointed for the new project and are busy preparing the master plan and project design.

## CONVOCATION 2003

His Highness the Aga Khan presided over the 16<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony on December 6, 2003. That same afternoon he inaugurated two newly completed buildings, and laid the foundation stone for a new cancer care building. While a short account of these events follows, more coverage, including speeches and photographs, may be found on our Website at [www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)

At the Convocation, **His Excellency Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was the Chief Guest.** Over 3,000 guests from all parts of the world attended the event. They included the graduating students and their proud families, as well as many overseas and Pakistani donors. Among the dignitaries were Princess Zahra Aga Khan, recently appointed a member of the AKU Board of Trustees; the Governor and Chief Minister of Sindh; several federal and provincial ministers; senior government officials; and foreign diplomats. The Syrian Education Minister, His Excellency Dr. Ali Saad, attended as the Chancellor’s special guest.

This year, 240 graduates received their awards. The Chancellor also conferred Distinguished University Awards on Dr. Francis Sutton of the United States, Member-Secretary of the Chancellor’s Commission, and Dr. Mohammad Afzal, former Pakistan Minister of Education, for their many years of service to higher education.

Addressing the Convocation, Prime Minister Jamali appreciated His Highness’s contributions to the development of Pakistan. He said, “The fact that this University was established in Pakistan rather than elsewhere, and the fact that the Aga Khan Development Network has all of its operating units actively working in Pakistan, are manifestations of the commitment His Highness the Aga Khan has made to social development in this country.” He went on to say that His Highness’s faith in Pakistan is, “. . . a source of inspiration and self-confidence for every one of us. And your continuous generosity is showing other members of society how philanthropic organizations, such as the Aga Khan Development Network, can lead the way in sustainable development, and also in supplementing the work of government.”



*Leila Moora from Kenya receives her Diploma in Nursing from the Chancellor. She was one of 17 foreign students representing Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and the U.S.A.*

In his Convocation address, the Chancellor emphasised the importance of higher education for the future of the Muslim Ummah. He said, “My great hope and prayer is that, in time to come, Aga Khan University will be only one of hundreds of universities in the Muslim world that are on the frontiers of scientific and humanistic knowledge, radiating intelligence and confidence, research and graduates, into flourishing economies and progressive legal political systems.”

## INAUGURATION AND FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONIES

Accompanied by members of the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor inaugurated two recently completed buildings. Funded with a donation of US\$3 million by the Khimji family of Calgary, an additional US\$1.4 million provided by nine donor families in Pakistan for equipment, and US\$2.2 million contributed by Aga Khan University Hospital, the US\$6.6 million **Khimji Building for cardiac care** is already enhancing the University Hospital's capacity to provide quality care for heart patients. Expanding on the Hospital's existing capabilities, doctors in the new facility are performing 4 to 6 open-heart surgeries every day, at a quality comparable internationally.

On land adjacent to the School of Nursing, the **Karimi, Noor and Arman Rupani Residences** are providing a home for 150 professional women from Pakistan and abroad in the secure environment of the Stadium Road campus. Blending architecturally with other University buildings, and set in quiet, pleasantly landscaped surroundings, the Residences are a major factor in attracting women professionals who otherwise may be hesitant to live in Karachi. Built at a cost of US\$6.3 million, the Residences were funded by the Karimi family of Atlanta, the Rupani family of Dallas and the Mewawalla family, in addition to a US\$300,000 contribution by the University.



*The Chancellor lays the foundation stone for a new Oncology Services Building in Karachi.*

The Chancellor also laid the foundation stone for a new, US\$7.6 million **Oncology Services Building**. When completed in 2005, it will house comprehensive diagnostic and treatment facilities, including radiation and chemotherapies that will set new standards of cancer care in Pakistan. As a result of efforts to widen its donor base, a targeted campaign was launched in the non-Ismaili sector in Pakistan. It brought together some 48 donors from a wide cross section of regional and religious communities. Sindhis and Punjabis, Memons, Bohras, Ithnasharis and others contributed US\$4 million to the new building, adding to the US\$3.6 million invested by Aga Khan University Hospital. Commenting on the significance of participation by different communities, the Chancellor said, “The foundation ceremony of this cancer

treatment centre is, in my eyes, precisely the day in the history of Aga Khan University on which this University can say we are a national university in Pakistan because the full spectrum – or nearly the full spectrum – of the people of this wonderful country have come forward and have said ‘we wish to support this institution.’ That to me is the significance of this date, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2003. And as time moves us forward, it will be important that the Trustees and I look back on this date with gratitude, humility, but also pride – pride in an institution which has earned itself, through the people who have worked with it, the credibility that it needed to become a recognised national institution in Pakistan.”

The day before the Convocation ceremony, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, His Excellency Saidullah Khan Dehlavi, was accompanied by members of the Board of Trustees, including Princess Zahra, for the unveiling of eight plaques recognising the major donations of **Endowed Professorships for research, scholarship and information technology**. They also inaugurated the purpose-built, US\$2.1 million, **Aga Khan University Hospital Clifton Medical Services facility**, located in an upscale locality in Karachi that will bring the Hospital's services closer to the community.

## **MULTI-YEAR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

Like all growing universities, AKU periodically turns to donors for their support in sustaining existing programmes and funding new initiatives. To this end, the Board of Trustees has approved the launch of an US\$83 million, five-year, global fundraising campaign which will begin in Canada this fall. Since its inception two decades ago, support for the University and its teaching Hospital has come almost exclusively from its founder, from the Aga Khan Development Network, and many generous Ismaili donors in the four corners of the world. Yet the overwhelming majority of students and patients come from other, non-Ismaili communities and cities in Pakistan. AKU has now become a national institution. It is only fair, therefore, that those who benefit from its existence should be expected to lend their support for its continued growth and development. That this is so has been demonstrated this past year by the US\$5 million raised from the mainstream community in Pakistan.

We believe there is also potential for support from mainstream donors outside of Pakistan. Geo-political events in the past two or three years have brought into sharp focus the plight of poor people in developing countries. People in North America, Europe and elsewhere in the industrialised world have learned that poverty-driven despair and a sense of hopelessness on the other side of the world have created a climate of unease and mistrust in their own communities. Safety and security, once taken for granted, are gone. We believe there are people in industrialised society who understand that one solution to poverty and despair is through higher education, and that they will lend their support to AKU as an agent of change in the developing world.

AKU will therefore launch a worldwide fundraising campaign to give both the Ismaili Jamat and mainstream communities the opportunity to support and be a part of this important institution. The appeal to the mainstream community will seek contributions equal to least 20 per cent of the campaign target.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

In this brief memorandum, I have attempted to capture highlights of the many events at AKU in the past year as indicators of how your valuable donations are being applied. These activities and programmes are but the tip of an iceberg that is forever growing. While we can take pride in some important milestones and achievements, they have not been without challenges as we work in several countries and communities characterised by social and political instability, and the fallout from regional conflicts. Recruitment and retention of high quality faculty and staff, especially nurses, continues to be the focus of our attention.

If you would like to know more about your University's programmes and activities, or have questions or suggestions you wish to express, please write to me. I also invite you to visit our Website regularly ([www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)) where you will find continually updated news of AKU events and developments.

Today Aga Khan University is genuinely an international institution, exerting its impact in the developing world in accordance with the vision and aspirations of its founder and Chancellor. On behalf of the University - its Board of Trustees, faculty, management, students and patients – I would like to thank you for your support. Donors, volunteers and well-wishers are the lifeblood of our University.

Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, *H.I., S.I.*  
President