



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Critical Creative
Innovative Thinking

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Our mission is to promote a multi-disciplinary ecosystem of creativity and innovation within and outside of AKU

The Critical Creative Innovative Thinking, CCIT, forum originated at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, in December 2013, as a modest attempt to bring change in thinking patterns within AKU. Since 2016, CCIT has adopted student-centric frameworks for channeling innovation through creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Some of these frameworks include healthcare-themed Hackathons, ignite sessions, narrative medicine, ideation, and incubation. In essence, the CCIT forum is a platform for pre-ideation, ideation (informal and formal, latter through design strategies) and early-stage incubation – both from the teaching/learning perspective for students as well as basic entrepreneurship skills (i.e. early company formation).

OUR INNOVATION CONTINUUM

Pre-ideation

Narrative Medicine
Speaker Sessions
Pre-Ideation Sessions



Ideation

Ignite Talks
Hackathons
Design Thinking
Strategies



Early Stage

I2s incubator
Business modelling
Prototyping

Late Stage



Acceleration

17

student activities

76

student employee work hours

14

companies in incubation

Our short term priorities:

- Execute events as planned for 2020; including a community Hackathon,
- innovation/incubation conference and multiple speaker & ideation sessions.
- Develop and scale up Hackathon ideas as incubates.

Our long term strategic objectives:

- Develop a safe space for individuals to ideate and create through multiple independent ventures.
- Change mindsets at the individual level, as to promote a culture of innovation within the health and development spaces

Outreach

- Collision course conducted with Habib University; 45 students engaged.
- STEM detox hosted to showcase use of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics in medicine; over 200 visitors attended.
- Participated in the European Innovation Academy 2019 boot camp in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Twelve speaker sessions conducted with an average attendance of 40 people.
- Nineteen extempore ideation sessions conducted.

Systems Innovation

- Hosted an innovation ecosystem co-assessment of AKU-K and beyond within Pakistan, in collaboration with Toronto-based Ryerson University.
- Conducted an ecosystem assessment for Abbottabad medical colleges and their tech space with the Tech Valley incubator.
- Signed MoUs with National Incubation Centers, Ignite Tech Fund, Accelerate Prosperity and Karachi Electric.
- Discussions with two US-based organizations: Miraki Innovation Fund and THINKMD.

Incubation

- Five teams completed the GS cohort incubation cycle and participated in the open house. \$15K seed funding secured for startups.
- Four teams developed their MVPs.

Education

- Global Surgery Hackathon (AKU Hackathon v4.0): 15 team-based innovations aimed at solving problems pertinent to surgery in LMICs.
- Two students sent to MIT's Grand Hack in Boston; won \$2500 in awards.
- Ignite v7.0 launched at NHSRS 2019, with the theme antimicrobial resistance; 7 igniters took to the stage.

Research and Communication

- Two innovation grants submitted.
- Research on residency induction process innovation; conducted in collaboration with Department of Surgery.
- CCIT's blog (Hikaye) launched on AKU website.
- Two Hackathon-based research manuscripts drafted and 1 submitted.