



# Department of Geography

University of Karachi



## Introduction:

Department of Geography is one of the pioneer departments of University of Karachi. It was established in 1952 under the chairmanship of Professor Dr. Manick B. Pithawala. Professor Oscar Schmider was one of the leading German Geographers who served as Chairman in the department. Department has been providing teaching and research in various fields of Geography for the last sixty years. Department has been served by leading Pakistani Geographers who were educated in USA, UK, Germany, India etc. The Department has an excellent academic history. The Department of Geography is the only Department among Universities of Pakistan which hosted International Geography Union (IGU) Conference. More than twenty Professors have served the Department as Chairpersons. Presently Prof. Dr. Sheeba Afsar is Chairperson. The Department has qualified academic staff which includes Professors, Assistant Professors and Visiting Faculty.

## History of Events, Programs, Educational Visits, Lectures, Social, and Co-Curricular activities (2004-2022):

Department of Geography boasts a very bright historic record. Faculty and students have been constantly engaged in a variety of constructive activities both academic as well as co-curricular.

### *Visit to Kirthur National Park, Rani Kot, & Sehwan City (2004 & 2021):*

The visit to Kirthur National Park and Rani Kot was under the headship of Dr. Farkhunda Burke in the year 2004. This visit was a field trip with the collaboration of WWF and Mr. Gohar Ali Meher. Kirthur National Park is located in Dadu near Karchat on the Kirthur Plateau. The region has variety of fauna and flora with rugged topography. The Field Trip was useful for the students of the studies regarding, Tourism, Geomorphology, Ecology of Natural Resources etc. The group of 16 included Prof. Dr. Farkhunda Burke, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Dr. Mudassar Hassan Arsalan, Dr. Sheeba Afsar and Ms. Anila Kausar with students of Final year.



In year 2021 another field visit of RaniKot Fort (historical Talpur Fort near Sann) and Sehwan city was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Anila Kausar and Chairperson Prof Dr. Sheeba Afsar. The fort is inside the Kirthar National Park and the ramparts of fort are compared to the Great Wall of China. The site was nominated in 1993 by the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO world heritage status. The fort is listed as a historical site under the Antiquities Act, 1975. Sehwan Sharif is 130 kilometers north-west of Hyderabad. Sehwan is one of the most featured destinations of Sindh. It is highly respected in interior Sindh, well known for the resting place of the great mystic poet, saint and scholar, Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, who lived here in 13th century. Students learned about the historic settlements and cultures and saw classic pattern of infrastructure.



### *Kavita Pandit Visited Department of Geography (2005):*

She delivered a lecture entitled “Geography in America in the 21st Century” and gifted a book entitled “Geography in America at the Dawn of 21st Century” published at Oxford University Press.

### *13<sup>th</sup> (2008) & 15<sup>th</sup> (2018) All Pakistan Geographical Conferences:*

13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> All Pakistan Geographical Conferences were held from 21-23 December 2008 and 21-23 April 2018 respectively. Conferences organized by Department of Geography, Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA), University of Karachi (UoK). Prof. Dr. Jamil Hasan Kazmi (2008,2018) and Prof. Dr. Khalida Mahmood (2008) & Dr. Safdar Sherazi (2018) were Convener and Secretary respectively. Dr. Ameer Khan, president of PGA, Dr. M. Aslam Khan, HEC member, Dr. Qazi Shakeel Ahmed (Senior Faculty), Prof. Dr. Farkunda Burke, Prof. Dr. Azra Parveen Azad, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, Dr. Syed Shahid Ali, Dr. Birjees Talat, Dr. Shakila Rehman (Late), Dr. Sheeba Afsar, Dr. Saima Shaikh , Dr. Anila Kausar, Dr. Yasmeen Anis, Dr. Lubna Ghazal, Dr. Imran Ahmed, Dr. Salman Zubair, Cooperatives Teachers, Alumni, Students and

Geographers on Pan-Pakistan basis participated and presented their research works and original contributions.



## *Flood Relief Activities (2010 & 2021):*

The Department of Geography is not only involved in educational, research and co-curricular activities but also very much enthusiastic in extending a helping hand to humanity in trauma. The year 2010 & 2021 were the years of flood in Pakistan. Areas of Sindh & Balochistan were badly affected. Department of Geography comprised an active block of Karachi University Disaster Volunteer Corps. Department of Geography raised more than 2 00 000/- (PKR) funds for flood affected people. Series of visits were organized by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi under the headship of Prof. Dr. Pir Zada Qasim Raza Siddiqui. Department of Geography actively participated in activities related to packing of flood relief items in Governor House as well as at COD with the Armed Forces. Prof. Dr. Khalida Mahmood, Dr. Anila Kausar, five students Sarosh Adnan (4th Year), Qaisar Mahmood (3rd Year), Rabia Zahid (3rd Year), Yawar Abbass (1st Year) and Usama Haider (1st Year) received Flood Relief Excellence Award from former Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Pir Zada Qasim Raza Siddiqui. While more than 100 students were also awarded Certificates for their efforts during this natural disaster in 2010.



### *Visit to Moen Jo Daro, Larkana & Garhi Khuda Baksh (2012):*

The visit to Moen Jo Daro, Larkana and Garhi Khuda Baksh was under the headship of Dr. Khalida Mahmood with the guidance of Dr. Azra Parveen Azad, Dr. Farkhunda Burke. It was organized by Ms. Anila Kausar, Mr. Sharif Shaikh and Mr. Tariq Najamuddin in February 2012. This visit was a field trip with the collective effort of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. The Field Trip was useful for the students of Tourism, Urban and Cultural Geography. The delegate of 40 persons included students, teachers and alumni along with supporting staff.



### *Visits to Turtle Beach & Sandspit:*

The visits to Turtle beach and Sandspit were organised by Dr. Jamil Hassan Kazmi & Dr. Saima Sheikh during different years to monitor the Green Sea Turtle Habitat. Students also visited the WWF-Wetland Center. The Field Trip was useful for the students of Tourism and Environmental Geography.



### *Visits to Mubarak Village & Hawks Bay:*

These visits were arranged by Dr. Yasmeen Anees under the headship of Prof Dr. Sheeba Afsar during the years 2021, 2022 and before. The purpose of visits was to observe the tidal effects, wave motions, wave height, climatic parameters, and geomorphic features. These field visits were useful for the students of Oceanography, Coastal Geomorphology and Toursim.



### *Visit to Murad Memon Goth (2022):*

This visit was organized by Dr. Anila Kausar under the headship of Prof Dr. Sheeba Afsar. The purpose of the visit was to see the agriculture patterns and land-use, impacts of urbanization on agricultural lands and uses and working to fertilizers. Students showed deep enthusiasm during the field survey. The visit was very useful for the students of Agricultural geography and Urban Land-Use and Planning.



## *World Space Week (2022):*

A seminar on Space Science and Technology – World Space Week was organized by Institute of Space Science and Technology, UoK in collaboration with Department of Geography, UoK on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Students from several departments took part and presented their research work and papers.



## *Road Safety Awareness walk and seminar:*

Department of Geography, UoK is organizing Road safety awareness walk and seminar from several years with collaboration of National Highway and Motorway Police. Dr. Salman Zubair supervised the seminar with other teachers and students.



## *3 Days workshop on*

## *Drone Applications of Remote Sensing (2019):*

The workshop was organized by Department of Geography, UoK & AZ NavTeq in collaboration with ORIC, UoK from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. All Professors, doctors, lecturer, technical staff and students of different classes attended the workshop.





### *Thematic Map Exhibition (2019):*

Thematic Map Exhibition was held on 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Sheeba Afsar in Department of Geography, UoK. Students presented their handmade maps on different themes and showed different ideas and skills about cartography.



## Celebration of different World-Wide celebrated days:

Department of Geography celebrates different national and international world-wide celebrated days, organized by different teachers and students which includes;

### Earth Day:



### Water Day 2022:

	<p>Department of Geography in collaboration with Team Green proudly present a unique</p> <p><b>Project of Water Conservation</b></p> <p><b>First time in Pakistan use of dripping water from Air-Conditioning units for growing Fruit Orchard</b></p> <p><b>Contact</b> Fatima Saleem (Head of Team Green) : 0331 2537974 Dr. Lubna Ghazal (Assistant Professor): 0302 2883968</p>
<p>Department of Geography, University of Karachi won second Position in Poster competition on 3. World Water Day 2022 celebrated at Behria University Karachi Campus today.</p>	

Agriculture Day 2022:



GIS Day:



## Independence Day:



## Internships for Students 2021-2022:

Different national and international organizations and departments offers internship programs to the students of our department every year. i.e; World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD), Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) etc.



## Welcome & Farewell Parties for Students:

Department of Geography also arranged welcome and farewell party for their beloved students before COVID-19.

