



Punjab University College of Information Technology University of the Punjab

PRESS RELEASE

LAHORE, Aug 17:

The four-day National conference and Awareness Campaign on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), an alternate to piracy of software, continued at Punjab University College of Information Technology (PUCIT) Old Campus main hall on Wednesday.

The second day events were devoted to training, FOSS discussion Forum, exhibition of Foss technologies, distribution of free CDs and kit as how to use the FOSS technology which is essential for socio-economic development of the country and transfer of technology and wealth from the developed world.

Hundreds of students from the Computer Science and Information Technology colleges in the public and private sector in the city attended the Events where more than 100 stalls have been set up for the purpose. In addition 500 computers of PUCIT were deployed for training of registered participants on use of FOSS technology. Students from Scholars College, Edge System College, Vocational Training Institute, Kinnaird College, University of Engineering and Technology, F.C. College and some engineers from Pakistan Railways visited the Exhibition and the conference where debates and exchange of experiences between the I.T. professionals, academicians and faculty members of PUCIT continued in addition to the second day training sessions. As many as 1200 participants, in addition to previous beneficiaries, registered themselves for training who were imparted training in three sessions which continued till 9 p.m. The second day events also included an exhibition of cartoon sketches depicting Free and Open Source Software. This exhibition was arranged by Literacy Society of PUCIT. About 150 participants attended this exhibition held separately at the main hall premises.

Mr. Sunil Abraham, a UNDP representative, Regional Centre Bangkok Mr. Osman Haq, Project Manager from PSEB-OSRC and Dr. M.A. Pasha, Principal, PUCIT and Fouad Bajwa, General Secretary, FOSSFP: Free and Open Source Software Foundation of Pakistan held discussion session about the future of FOSS. 300 students benefited through this live discussion. Delivered an exclusive lecture at the seminar hall which was attended by hundreds of students of PUCIT and other city colleges imparting computer education.

Chairman of Free and Open Source Software Foundation and Principal PUCIT Prof. Dr. Anwar-ur-Rehman Pasha himself delivered extensive introductory lectures on Computer technology and use of FOSS technology and its benefits.

The guests appreciated the event and said that the four-day Campaign has created a widespread interest among the students and I.T. professionals who are taking keen interest in the legal methods of having software without any spending and to enrich their knowledge and expertise.