

KHWARZIMIC SCIENCE SOCIETY: A Movement in Scientific Culture

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The KSS is, arguably, Pakistan's most active science association: organizing seminars, national workshops, public and popular lectures, sponsoring students' science projects, maintaining an online magazine **Takveen**, screening video presentations and science movies, and arranging field visits and symposiums of high quality. Most of these events are announced and reported in the local press and locally published science communiqués as well.

We were established in 1997. To date, we have organized around **150 events** of very high caliber. A full list is provided on our website, <http://www.khwarzimid.org>. Our activities are unique because of the follow-through – we provide hand-outs and detailed reports of most of our activities. This material is accessible free of charge on our dynamic website, declared as among the top five Pakistani websites in the March 2003 issue of the Spider Magazine.

The KSS greatly cherishes its **inter-disciplinary character**. Our events range from the mathematical to the biological sciences, the intricacies of the sub-atomic world to the pristine beauty of the natural habitat, from the inner workings of a petrol engine to the promise of fuel cells, from the human genome project to the advances in telecommunications. We also cover topics of imminent interest and of paramount national and social importance, such as Pakistan's nuclear programme, the cracking of the human genome and its ethical implications, and the outbreak of community diseases such as the dengue fever. Our no-boundaries philosophies even takes us into uncharted waters, commonly neglected discourses in Pakistan, such as astronomy, earth sciences and the history and philosophy of science.

The KSS **does not belong to one educational institution**. We have chapters all around Lahore and are currently in the process of expanding our reach outside Lahore. Our members and participants are students of science, economics, history, literature and religion, all sharing a common goal – the quest and never ending thirst for knowledge. We are not even confined to students and academicians. We have gained our worth amongst the **general public** as well. Our unique characteristic is our series of **public lectures** that do not assume any prior knowledge of the subjects under discussion and attract the laity. These lectures are often conducted in Urdu, maximizing comprehension and a “homely atmosphere”. This helps us a long way in achieving our goal of popularizing science.

One of our major aims is the **character building** of students by boosting their confidence levels. Our seminars and lectures are not only conducted by renowned experts, but also by students. This provides them the opportunity to share their message with their peers and helps promulgate their ideas within teachers and scientists. We personally feel that it is very important to break this communication gap between teachers and students, the experts and the novices and the KSS is duly fulfilling its role in this respect as well.

In short, our major objectives are:

- organizing scientific meetings and dialogue
- encouraging students
- promoting Student-scientist interaction
- working towards the mass popularization of science
- nurturing collaborations and developing a feel for scientific resource sharing, and
- enabling practical scientific exposure.

I hope you will appreciate the untiring efforts we have put in towards the operation and growth of the Khwarzimid Science Society, mostly done with very **meager resources**, but with indomitable will and the selfless sacrifice of my Executive Committee and all the Members and well-wishers of the Society.

How could you become a part of us? Join the Khwarzimid Science Society as Life Members, help spread our message, contribute your time, share your financial resources and volunteer your energies in helping us achieve our objectives. We are looking forward to welcoming you onboard.

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