

ADDRESS BY
CHANCELLOR
DR. ISHRAT UL IBAD KHAN

Convocation 2008
University of Karachi
December 29, 2008

Mr. Pro Chancellor, Mr. Vice Chancellor, Members of Senate and Syndicate of the University of Karachi, Honourable members of the diplomatic corps, parliamentarians, provincial ministers, eminent citizens, distinguished guests, faculty members, parents and my dear graduating students.

It has always been a pleasure for me to be at the University of Karachi especially on such occasions like the present Convocation. Convocation is not only a memorable event for the students, their parents and teachers but also for all those who have the responsibility to look after the academic and administrative affairs of institutes of higher learning. The address by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Pirzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui has indeed briefed me about the improvements that this university has made during last few years. I wish to congratulate you Mr. Vice Chancellor for the efforts you and your colleagues have undertaken to promote the cause of higher education in this province and especially at the University of Karachi.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me first congratulate all those who have successfully completed their studies and have been awarded valuable degrees and medals in various disciplines. At this occasion, I wish to remind my young graduates that globalisation has influenced every aspect of human life, education being no exception. Though it is difficult to precisely define globalization and describe its various dimensions one important aspect of it relates to Higher Education. The UNESCO Task Force Report on Higher Education in Developing Countries has stated that

“The world economy is changing -- as knowledge supplants physical capital as the source of present and future wealth.... As knowledge becomes more important, so does Higher Education... the quality of knowledge generated within Higher Education institutions, and its accessibility to wider economy, is becoming increasingly critical to national competitiveness. This poses a serious challenge to the developing world.”

In this background, I am glad to learn that University of Karachi has well addressed these challenges and is providing all possible opportunities required for capacity building, development of academic, research standards and quality assurance programmes. Linkages with foreign universities, interaction with industrial sector and employers along with organizing national and international conferences in all fields of physical, biological, management, and social sciences are to be appreciated. In my opinion, the Evening Programme at the University of Karachi is also a source of spreading education

to all those who due to one reason or the other either could not enroll themselves earlier but now have the opportunity to acquire higher qualifications. It is indeed heartening to know that the University of Karachi besides its academic responsibilities is very well delivering social services to the people of the country. The approval of the **Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chair** and its subsequent conversion into **Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute for Future Studies** will further add an opportunity for scholars and researchers to study the contemporary social, political and economic problems faced by the country and the world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You will appreciate that the University has well delivered its obligations but sustainable development of these achievements warrants a *conducive environment* from all of us -- an environment where research and studies are carried out in a peaceful academic atmosphere, -- an environment where entrepreneurship is taught to practice in life, -- an environment where tolerance and mutual respect dominates all other personal, communal, sectarian, ethnic and political considerations. Difficult though these propositions may be but are not impossible. I have great hopes for our young generation, their parents, our faculty members and the civil society in general that all of them shall help the University in accelerating its academic activities for a sane and humane society in this part of the world.

I once again congratulate you Mr. Vice Chancellor and very much appreciate the efforts you have undertaken to enhance the quality oriented academic programmes and problems based research activities related to our economy. As chancellor of this University, I am aware of the financial constraints and rising inflation that the university is facing now, but I am sure that through resource generation activities, we will be able to overcome the difficulties. As a government functionary we would also explore all possibilities to help the university. I am sure financial difficulties will not hinder the academic activities of this great institution and University will continue its endeavours for promotion of higher education for the prosperity of our country.

In the end, I pray God Almighty for peace and prosperity in our city, province and country and once again wish success to the graduating students in their future life.

Pakistan Paindabad,

Thank you