



DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017

APPLIED ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE
(Institute of National Capability in Applied Economics)
University of Karachi

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017

**Prof. Dr. Samina Khalil
Director, AERC**

VISION STATEMENT

The Center for Applied Economics Research at the University of Karachi, Pakistan will *be* a leading academic organization dedicated to advancing, applying and facilitating high standards of interdisciplinary and applied economics policy / academic research and academic teaching (undergraduate/graduate /post graduate) for a wide variety of audiences within the university and across community, province and national /international arenas.

MISSION STATEMENT

AERC is committed to enhancing inter-disciplinary and applied economics research support to scholars and public agencies for research, service, and educational activities. The center conducts original survey research, qualitative data collection, and data analysis that inform scholarship and public policy decision-making. Objective research and consultation are provided through:

- **Partnership:** Establishing and developing research relationships, both within the University and with external public policy makers, researchers, and not-for-profit agencies locally, nationally and internationally; and
- **Research Excellence:** Designing and providing quality research by adhering to the highest ethical standards and best professional practices.

OUR GOAL

- Our main goal in the light of development plan is expectations of changes to prepare our students to meet the new challenges of a dynamically, rapidly changing society. Impart knowledge, and build skills and attitudes which are most likely to provide our students with the means to be competitive in such an environment.
- The research environment has undergone tremendous transformations in recent decades, pressured by scientific challenges and inherently complex societal and

economic issues that call for solutions unconstrained by national boundaries. This requires the pooling of expertise from various sectors and the sharing of available resources. More than ever, the future of our societies hinges on creativity and the ability of all concerned actors to innovate.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategy

Operational Plan

1. Respond to local/global needs.
 - a) by adjusting our present mix of courses,
 - b) by introducing new courses and programmes.

e.g., new graduate study programmes -

 - MS in Applied Economics and Specialized fields
 - BS in Applied Economics Specialized fields

2. Emphasize student-centered learning.
 - a) by helping the faculty to adopt new roles.
 - devote larger proportion of time to students,
 - shift from our past emphasis on, 'what teachers want to teach' to 'what students need to learn',
 - focus on students outcome,
 - use appropriate teaching technologies,
 - accept accountability for,` what students outcome would occur.

3. Enhance IT and language proficiency of students.
 - a) by developing students' information technology literacy, to at least minimally acceptable standards,
 - b) by expanding language proficiency training in English e.g., prescribed IT competency/training targets for students.

4. Upgrade physical infrastructure for teaching and learning / research.
- a) by improving existing facilities,
 - b) by providing new facilities;
- **Building New Academic / Admin Block:**
 - new graduate class rooms,
 - fully furnished digital library,
 - expanded canteen facilities,
 - new undergraduate class rooms,
 - new conference hall / auditorium,
 - new student career development centers,
 - knowledge centre.
5. Strengthen continuous quality assurance programmes for faculty.
- a) by facilitating an overall enhancement to AERC's faculty complement;
 - effective reward mechanisms for excellence in teaching, research and service,
 - provide assistance to faculty to improve and adjust teaching to quality and standard -based learning techniques,
 - create innovation incentives,
 - accountability of inadequate performance.
6. Strengthen research activities of individuals and research groups.
- a) by upgrading the research infrastructure,
 - b) by developing further reward mechanisms for excellent achievements in research,
 - c) by creating targeted endowments in order to;
 - supplement existing teaching and research support,
 - conduct output evaluation leading to technology transfer,
 - d) by enhancing national and international collaboration e.g.
 - Joint Units for Specialized Areas and Interdisciplinary Research,
 - Joint Area / Theme Specific

Annual International
Conferences,

- Joint Training Workshops for faculty and students,
- Joint short- term visits (mutual exchange of faculty)for specific theme oriented public policy research.

7. Foster areas / department of excellence.
- a) by adopting better strategies with regular review;
 - identify selective penetration,
 - differentiate the emphases being taken,
 - b) by prioritizing these areas for infrastructural upgrading, e.g,
 - proposed departments of related area,
 - proposed teaching /training programs,
 - Knowledge Centre related to R&D facilities/projects.
8. Improve the cost-effectiveness.
- a) by improving management efficiency;
 - allocate funds based on performance,
 - expand mechanisms for performance appraisal,
 - require accountability,
 - conduct regular management efficiency reviews,
 - conduct internal audits,
 - embrace external audits,
9. Compensate for inadequate resources.
- a) by pursuing international competitive research funding,
 - b) by developing technology transfer,
 - c) by generating revenue from soft-funded teaching programmes,
 - d) by targeting alumni and donors,

- e) by re-allocating resources,
 - expand vertical cuts of programmes.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

1. To accomplish our mission and realize our vision, it will be important for all members of the AERC to share in its institutional goal, and contribute to the development of its strategic and action plan as they are caused to evolve.

2. The AERC, therefore solicits from its faculty and other members, their input and advice in order to achieve a common guide for managing changes. In doing so, we will have a more realistic expectation of, successfully maintaining our record of innovation and insight, so as to meet the challenge of change, determine our strategic direction and continue to achieve distinction.

Academic / Research Groups / Departments / Units

- Economic Finance,
- Development Studies,
- Environment / Climate Change,
- Sustainable Development,
- International Trade,
- Institutional Economics,
- Globalization and Governance
- Public Finance
- Public Policy Studies
- Macroeconomic Issues
- Microeconomic Issues
- Financial Econometrics
- Econometrics

Impact and Output

- Papers and Publications (working papers, technical papers)
- The faculty in the News,
- Journal Publication of each department,
- Research group specific conference,
- MPhil leading to PhD program of each department.

Multipurpose and Tasks Oriented Units of the AERC, University of Karachi

- Training Unit (Capacity Building) critical to cater to Public and Private sector (i.e., Federal and Provincial Government officials and employees of Industries),
- Standardization Unit (Quality Enhancement),
- Collaboration / Linkages Unit (Co-ordination with National / International Institutions),
- Seminars / Conference Secretariat,
- Graduate Studies Programme (Expansion) Unit,
- Publications (Multiple) Unit,
- Career Development and Counseling Unit for Students.

Research / Teaching Accountability and Productivity Award

- Review committee to be formed: The review process and composition of the review team head by the Director AERC would be approved by the BOG prior to commencement of the review.
- Report routing: The report would be sent from the Director AERC to the Chairman BOG.
- Review Committee report findings: The recommendations from the Review Committee's report will direct decisions about the future of the faculty member. Unfavorable reviews could lead to penalization by the Chairman BOG