

## OBITUARY



### **Meritorious Professor Dr. Ihsan Ilahi, T.I (December 15, 1940 – December 9, 2018)**

Prof. Dr. Ihsan Ilahi was born on December 15, 1940, received his college Education from Abbotabad and BSc and MSc Botany both with First Position and Gold Medal from University of Peshawar. He was awarded Ph.D. in 1969 by Manchester University, UK and in the same university as Post Doct fellow for six months. He also carried out Post Doctorate research at Hamburg University, Germany during 1979-1980 under Alexander Von Humboldt Program and another Post Doctorate at the same university in 1985. He also worked as Fulbright Scholar in Purdue University, USA during 1991. He was Expert to Izmir University, under RCD Technical Cooperation Program, during 1973-1975.

Dr. Ilahi served the Department of Botany, University of Peshawar as Lecturer (1964-1970), Assistant Professor (1970-1976), Associate Professor (1976-1984), Professor (1984-1998) and Meritorious Professor (1998-2000). He chaired Department of Botany (1980-1983 & 1987-1990), remained the Dean of Faculty of Life Sciences (1997-2000). During his academic carrier Dr. Ilahi won grants for some 20 research projects as Principal Investigator from various national and international funding agencies. Prof. Dr. Ihsan Ilahi was a prolific writer and an excellent researcher. He authored some 15 books/ monographs and edited proceedings and published 200 research papers. He was the pioneer in the field of tissue culture in Pakistan. He supervised 44 M.Sc, 15 M. Phil and 6 Ph.D. scholars in his lifetime. He was the pioneer and life time member of Pakistan Botanical

Society and remained office bearer and President of the Society.

After retirement on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000, Dr Ilahi taught as Honorary Professor (2000-2003) and as HEC consultant (2003) at the newly established Centre of Biotechnology, University of Peshawar. Thereafter, he joined Kohat University of Science and Technology first as Advisor Academics (2003-2005), followed by Eminent Professor (2006-2008). During this period he also remained as Registrar (2004-2005), Chairman, Department of Botany (2005-2007), Dean and Acting Vice Chancellor. Later on he shifted to Karakoram International University, Gilgit during 2008 as Professor and Dean till he received unfortunate paralysis stroke on 22nd June, 2010. He was confined to bed for long 8 years till he breathed last on December 9, 2019. This was the worst and shocking part of his life history. He could respond, listen and smile to visiting friends but could not speak.

Dr Ihsan Ilahi breathed his last on December 9, 2018 at 7 am after long illness of about 8 years on bed and laid to rest the Professors' Colony Graveyard, Peshawar. Dr. Ilahi is survived by a wife, 6 children: Tauqeer Ahmed Khan, Dr. Munir Ahmed Khan, Dr. Naseer Ahmed Khan (Assistant Professor UET Peshawar), Ayesha Ahmed Khan, Fatima Ahmed Khan, Dr. Amina Ahmed Khan, 12 grand children and a battery of students and friends. May God Almighty shower His Blessings upon the departed soul in peace and eternal happiness, Aameen.

Meritorious Prof. Dr. Farrukh Hussain  
Director, Institute of Biological Sciences  
Sarhad University of Science & Information  
Technology, Peshawar  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2019