

## **Industrial Tour to NICAT: Bridging Academia and Industry**

On November 1, 2024, the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized an industrial tour to the **National Institute for Computing and Advanced Technologies (NICAT)** in collaboration with the **Computer Science Society (CSS)** and **Interactive Bioinformatics Network (IBN)**. The visit aimed to provide students with firsthand exposure to **cutting-edge technologies, real-world applications, and industry practices** in the field of computing. NICAT, a renowned center for advanced computing solutions, offered students insights into how theoretical knowledge is applied in professional environments.

The tour featured distinguished speakers, including **Noor-ul-Huda Malik (Head of Marketing, NICAT)** and **Ammar Jamshed (CEO, Stealth Startup)**, who shared valuable insights on **emerging industry trends, innovations, and the importance of bridging academia with the tech industry**. Their sessions highlighted the significance of **artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and big data analytics**, equipping students with knowledge of current and future developments in computing.

Students had the opportunity to explore NICAT's **Innovation Lab, Data Analysis Unit, and AI Development Center**, where they witnessed advanced tools and infrastructure powering industry-leading projects. The tour also featured **hands-on demonstrations**, allowing students to engage with real-world applications of **machine learning, cybersecurity measures, and data analysis techniques**. Interactive Q&A sessions provided students with a deeper understanding of how these technologies are shaping modern industries.

Beyond technical knowledge, NICAT professionals emphasized the **importance of cross-disciplinary skills, project management, and teamwork** in building successful careers in computing. The tour helped students **align their academic learning with industry expectations**, inspiring them to explore new career opportunities and advancements in the tech sector.

The visit to NICAT was a **transformative learning experience**, strengthening industry-academia ties and offering students valuable exposure to the professional world. It **enhanced their technical expertise, broadened their career perspectives, and encouraged innovation**. This initiative not only fostered enthusiasm for future careers in computing but also **opened doors for internships, collaborations, and professional growth** in Pakistan's rapidly evolving tech industry.

