

NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION FROM CAMPUS TO CORPORATE

PANEL DISCUSSION AT NEXT GEN CORPORATE SUMMIT
DECEMBER 28, 2023



Apne Bal Peh, the CSR initiative of ASK Development has arranged a captivating panel discussion for the students of CUST university during its Job Expo 2023.

Among the distinguished panelists was Dr. Shahid Naeem, an economist who previously held the position of Chief at the International Trade and Finance Planning Commission GoP. Dr. Shahid Naeem has extensive expertise specifically in the realms of planning and human resource development for the less developed areas of Pakistan.

Complementing this eminent presence were Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Ullah, the astute Manager of HR Analytics and Excellence at Pakistan International Airline who has been passionately serving the nation for more than fourteen years.

The session was moderated by the eloquent orator Mr. Khurram Ali Khan. Mr. Khurram is the COO of ASK Development, an ISO-certified registered training, consultancy, and HR outsourcing organization. He is a Finance Professional, Management Consultant, and Entrepreneur with 25 years of experience.

Together, this distinguished panel engaged in a thought-provoking discussion on a pivotal theme pertaining to work readiness, with the noble objective of empowering students to start their careers well-prepared and equipped for success.



Embarking on the journey from the academic sanctuary to the dynamic realm of corporate life is a noteworthy milestone, and triumph in this venture hinges on a fusion of technical prowess, adaptability, and an optimistic approach to professional evolution. Adhering to these pivotal principles can pave the way for newcomers to navigate this transformative period efficiently and not only survive but truly flourish in their nascent professional roles.



Mr. Khurram Ali Khan emphasized the value of cultivating robust work ethic at offices

Achieving this necessitates an active and engaged stance in facilitating the seamless shift from the sheltered campus environment to the intricate landscape of corporate culture. Such a metamorphosis might entail shedding unproductive habits, venturing beyond the familiar boundaries of one's comfort zone, and judiciously embracing calculated risks. By undertaking these deliberate actions, one can effectively surmount the challenges inherent in this transition, ensuring not only a successful adaptation but also an enriching journey towards personal and professional growth.

The discourse encompassed, albeit not exhaustively, the importance of broadening one's professional networks, refining communication and interpersonal abilities, cultivating a robust work ethic coupled with a positive attitude, mastering the art of task prioritization and time management, acquiring hands-on experience through internships or part-time positions, staying abreast of industry trends, actively pursuing mentorship opportunities to glean wisdom from seasoned professionals, sustaining a fervor for continuous

learning, nurturing resilience in one's personality, deciphering the intricacies of organizational culture, and fostering receptivity to constructive feedback.

In the role of session moderator, Mr. Khurram Ali Khan, the COO of ASK Development, initiated an open discussion by imparting a crucial message to the students – emphasizing the significantly elevated stakes in the professional arena. Unlike neglecting to prepare for a college test, which primarily impacts the individual student, lapses in fulfilling responsibilities in the corporate realm carry far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the individual but also the company, team members, and clients/customers.

Mr. Khurram underscored the paramount importance of cultivating a robust work ethic, highlighting that such diligence should be complemented by a positive attitude. In the corporate landscape, challenges and setbacks are inevitable – missed deadlines and unforeseen obstacles are part of the journey. Maintaining a positive outlook amid adversity, Mr. Khurram emphasized, serves as a catalyst for forward momentum and upward trajectory in one's professional endeavors.



Dr. Shahid Naeem, a distinguished economist, underscored the significance of task prioritization and adept time management. As one progresses in their career, the scope of duties and responsibilities expands exponentially. With numerous tasks vying for attention and time constraints becoming more pronounced, mastering the art of prioritization becomes paramount. This becomes even more critical when collaborating with different teams, as the dynamics of priorities constantly shift. The ability to prioritize tasks and execute efficient time management assumes great importance. Particularly in the dynamic environment of startups, where agility is the guiding principle, the emphasis is on being genuinely productive rather than appearing busy. Cultivating this mindset is imperative for success in such settings, where efficiency and effectiveness take precedence over the mere appearance of activity.

Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Ullah, Manager of HR Analytics and Excellence at PIA, articulated the invaluable importance of undertaking internships. Internships, he emphasized, play a pivotal role in honing skills prior to entering the professional realm. Beyond skill enhancement, these experiences serve as a profound avenue for self-discovery, aiding individuals in identifying their true passions.

Moreover, companies view internships as a means for individuals to garner firsthand experience and exposure, facilitating a seamless transition into their roles upon formal hiring. Mr. Ahsan Ullah strongly advocated for students to approach internship opportunities with a dedicated and earnest mindset, as these experiences not only serve as learning opportunities but also contribute significantly to acquiring the essential practical experience essential for professional growth.



Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Ullah advocated the great role of internships in professional skills enhancement

The concerted efforts of Apne Bal Peh in fortifying the symbiotic connection between academia and industry, while concurrently fostering job readiness among the graduating youth of CUST University, were met with profound appreciation from both the students and the esteemed CUST management.

In a gesture of recognition for the unwavering commitment, dedication, and support extended by Apne Bal Peh, the panelists and moderator were graciously presented with shields by the CUST management. These shields served as tangible tokens of gratitude, symbolizing the invaluable contribution made by Apne Bal Peh in furnishing CUST students with vital services, instrumental in their journey towards work readiness and transformation into successful professionals.

