Conference Overview

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) encourages its Faculty members and Researchers to participate in prestigious, "high-quality" conferences and technical symposiums sponsored by leading professional, technical societies that organize conferences around the world. Attending such conferences or events motivate the KFUPM Researchers to have a free exchange of new ideas, concepts, recent advancements in their respective field of research and enables the faculty members to develop and execute their own research. This would serve as a means for the University to be recognized as a center of research excellence.

The Faculty members those of who meet the eligibility criteria mentioned in the conference guidelines are highly encouraged to apply for conferences.

Any Faculty member or Researcher satisfying the eligibility criteria could apply for conferences, which would be initially reviewed by the Chairman of the respective departments and further the application would reach the Conference office, Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination. These conference attendance applications would then be reviewed and evaluated the University standing committee, chaired by the Dean of Research and would be directed to the Higher Authorities for final approval. On obtaining the required approvals the Faculty members and Researchers would be communicated about the decision on their applications officially by the Conference office, Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination.

The support for attending conferences covers per diem and the expenses as the University conference attendance guidelines.

The Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination wishes the best for Faculty members and Researchers to participate in prestigious, excellent, "top-quality" conferences and invites them to utilize the University support to attend such conferences.

Flagship Conferences

The Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination (DROC) has been working to constitute a process which is more efficient and dynamic in operation with regards to the conference approvals of the KFUPM faculty members and researchers. This goal cannot be achieved except by reducing the process time of the conference applications and make it much faster than the process that is in practice currently. The conference committee has been rejecting conference applications because of conference organized by the "commercial organizer" or predatory in nature. In order to achieve the reduction in the processing time and assuring quality of the conference applications, the DROC proposed a methodology in which, it was decided to obtain the list of Flagship conferences from the respective departments, evaluate them in accordance with the standards of the research excellence, matching the KFUPM requirements and share it with the respective departments.

As the first step in this regard, the DROC requested all the academic departments in KFUPM to provide their list of Flagship conferences. In additions to this, the Dean of Research Oversight and Coordination and the Assistant Dean of Research Oversight and Coordination, met the respective the Academic College Deans and explained them the need to reduce the processing time of conference applications, thereby requesting them to provide the lists from the respective departments which fall under their colleges. Thereafter the lists from the departments were obtained.

Brief Description of the Process of listing the Flagship Conferences:

The list of Flagship conferences received from the departments were categorized as **A*, A** and **B** based on the following criteria.

- **Class A*:**

  1.   The organizing body is a known society
  2.   The organizing body is non-profit
  3.   The organizing body is reputable

4. The conference should be recognized by its organizing body as <u>their</u> flagship/ premier/most important/etc.

- **Class A**:

    1. The organizing body is a known society
    2. The organizing body must be non-profit
    3. The organizing body must be reputable

 Class B: Does not satisfy one or more of the Class A conference criteria (but satisfies the minimum DROC requirements)

These lists were then compiled and sent to the respective departments to receive the feedback, suggestions or update in the list, based on the evaluation and categorization done by the DROC. Most of the departments overwhelmingly accepted the evaluations and criteria set by the DROC in categorizing the conferences based on their quality into **A*, A** and **B** and replied to the relevant comments posted by the Deanship with regards to the organizations organizing the conferences, the frequency of the conference being organized, description about the review process etc.,

Some of the departments had suggested on expanding the list, which were considered by the Deanship promptly and thereby some of the conferences were added to the list as suggested by the departments, based on the quality and genuinity of the requests which were finally endorsed by the departments.

Flagship Conferences Dashboard [Link].

![Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination logo]

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Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination

Predatory Journals/Conferences:

Predatory publishing is defined as for-profit open access journal publication of scholarly articles without robust peer-review of experts, and in a short period of time. Publishing in predatory or hijacked journals will negatively impact the integrity of academic publishing. Deanship of Research Oversight and Coordination advises all faculty and researchers to be extra cautious in selecting the journal to which they submit their scholarly work.

We also urge our faculty and researchers to refrain from applying to conferences that do not maintain an acceptable level of quality, and avoid conferences organized by non-professional organizations, which are mostly commercial and have minimal scientific value. Conference Office will not process conferences organized by or affiliated with **IACSIT** or **CBEES** or **ASET**, in addition to **WASET** which has been blacklisted by the Ministry of Education (MoE).