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The Beauty and “Unreasonable” Applicability of Mathematics

Speaker: Prof. Asghar Qadir



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11:00 AM (GMT+5) Pakistan Time

Zoom ID: 886 3737 0560

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Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mky6wxwa>



Prof. Asghar Qadir

Abstract: After a brief historical introduction and debunking some myths, I explain what Mathematics is, and give examples of its beauty. I then proceed to give some examples of the elegance of its applications. Finally, I argue that what Wigner called, “the unreasonable effectiveness of Mathematics”, is actually very reasonable.

Bionote – Prof. Asghar Qadir

Prof. Asghar Qadir is a distinguished physicist, mathematician and economist with a long and illustrious career in academia and research. He obtained his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Physics from London University and completed Associateship of Imperial College London (A.R.C.S.) and Diploma of the Imperial College (D.I.C.) in Theoretical Physics from Imperial College in 1967. Later, he earned his Ph.D. in Relativity from London University in February 1971 under the supervision of Prof. Sir Roger Penrose (NL).

He held various prestigious positions in academia: Faculty Member of the Department of Mathematics, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad for over 32 years (of which he was Chair for about ten years and Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences for about two); Research Associate and Senior Research Fellow at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 1980-88 and 1988-94; Professor at the Department of Mathematical Sciences at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Professor and Director of the Centre for Advanced Mathematics and Physics (CAMP) at the National University of Sciences and Technology, where he was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus at NUST. Recently, Prof. Qadir was a visiting professor at the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, the COMSATS University Islamabad, and the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences. He has supervised research and guided numerous graduate scholars in their Doctoral and M.S./M.Phil dissertations.

Prof. Qadir's remarkable achievements in the field of mathematics and physics have earned him several awards and recognition, including the Fulbright Hayes Fellowship for 1978-79; the Senior Fulbright Fellowship for 1986-87, during which he worked with renowned physicist Prof. John A. Wheeler at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA; and various prestigious awards, including the Al Kharizmi First Prize for Mathematics in 1995; the Pakistan Academy of Sciences Gold Medal in 1996, the Sitara-i-Imtiaz of Pakistan in 1999; the ISESCO Award for Mathematics in 2003, the Distinguished National Professor title from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in 2004 (for life); the Hilal-i-Imtiaz of Pakistan in 2008; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences, Lahore, and the National Centre for Mathematics, Pakistan, on November 23, 2013.

