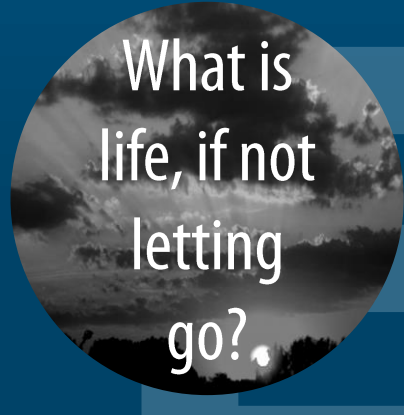


# CRESCENDO

DISTRICT 122P NEWS AND EVENTS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 5



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**CRESCENDO TEAM - 2023-24**

TM Uroosa Kanwal (Editor), TM Umna Salman, TM Imran Rana, TM Naureen Fatima, DTM Talha bin Hamid



# Message

As I pen down this message for the final issue of Crescendo before my term concludes, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude reflecting on the remarkable journey of District 122P Pakistan.

Over the past five years, we have witnessed a transformation that can be best described as a roller coaster ride—one that started with just 20 clubs and has now blossomed into a robust community of 45 clubs. This incredible growth did not happen overnight. It was a collective effort, made possible by the dedication, passion, and resilience of our members, the leadership of five successive District Directors, and the unwavering support of all our Trios, District Managers, Division Directors, Area Directors, club officers and members in these years.

Each of you has played a pivotal role in this journey, and it is your commitment that has turned our vision into reality.

In spite of challenges such as the global pandemic, political instability, and economic fluctuations, we continued our journey with resilience and determination. These obstacles not just tested our strength and unity, but they also highlighted our capacity to adapt and thrive under pressure.

## We have witnessed a transformation

To my fellow past District Directors and their teams, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your strategic guidance, innovative ideas, and relentless pursuit of excellence have been the cornerstone of our success. Each one of you has left an indelible mark on our district, and together, we have built a legacy that will inspire future leaders for years to come.

As we look ahead to our District Director and his team for 2024-25, I am confident that District 122P will continue to thrive and reach new heights. Let us carry forward the spirit of unity and collaboration that has defined our journey so far.

The road ahead will undoubtedly present new challenges, but with the same dedication and passion, I am certain we will overcome them and continue to grow. Let us celebrate our achievements, learn from our experiences, and keep pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together. With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for the future.

**Atif Irfan, DTM**  
Immediate Past District  
Director, D122P  
2024-25



# Message

Fellow members,

The past three months have been an exhilarating journey marked by dedication and remarkable achievement. The 5th Pakistan Toastmasters Annual Conference 2024, themed "Dreamers Nexus," unfolded across Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi, captivating attendees with dynamic energy and enriching content.

This grand event, attestation to our collective commitment, demanded countless sleepless nights and meticulous planning. It showcased luminaries, keynote speakers, and esteemed panelists.

**Zaid Kaliya, DTM**  
District Director, D122P  
2024-25

## We are empowered to achieve the extraordinary

We introduced novel elements like the club march, a hall of fame segment, and engaging audience activities. The talent show and a dramatic short play added flair, while the power talk segment left a lasting impact. Three insightful panel discussions, featuring wisdom from industry leaders, were among the highlights.

Another crowning achievement was the All Pakistan Public Speaking Championship 2024, which united top speakers in a groundbreaking hybrid format. Months of preparation culminated in fierce competition across five categories, flawlessly executed by our dedicated volunteers.

Reflecting on this success, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities provided by Toastmasters International. This event was more than a competition; it was a celebration of human potential and unity. Delivering four major events in five weeks, including the three-city conference and championship, is a testament to our commitment and teamwork. Just years ago, such a mega event seemed impossible to me.

Toastmasters International has empowered us to step out of our comfort zones and achieve the extraordinary. Thank you to all members who played pivotal roles. We have set a new standard for future leaders. I look forward to your support in the upcoming Toastmasters year, for which your leadership has set ambitious targets.



# Message

I want to commend all the leaders of our district who have shown exceptional vigor and resilience in facing every challenge throughout the year. The year began with the news of a fee increase, which impacted regions worldwide, including ours. Coupled with the high inflation in Pakistan, the fees for our members rose significantly.

Despite this challenging situation, our district is one of the few in our region with less than 10% negative growth in the paid clubs category. A highlight of the year from the CGD desk was the organization of the first-ever Corporate Event.

I am confident this will become a flagship event for our district in the coming years. Many clubs faced membership challenges due to the substantial fee increase. With the support of many esteemed leaders, we successfully realigned numerous clubs from one division to another. Notable examples include The Creative Speakers, DHA Lhr Club, and WAH Club.

**Syed Azam Ali, DTM**  
 Program Quality  
 Director, D122P  
 2024-25



## A highlight was the first-ever corporate event

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the leaders of all clubs and the district. It is remarkable that some clubs have experienced upward growth, including ICAP ISB, ICMAP ISB, Emumba, Zenith, Express, and Husn-e-Khitabat. Kudos to their leadership. I am pleased to share that multiple clubs, including Nayatel TMC, Social Vocalist TMC, and ICMA Students, are nearing success.

Additionally, work on a few leads is ongoing. I firmly believe the worst is behind us, and we are poised for magnificent growth in the coming year.



# Message

Congratulations to all the leaders who have been elected to office in club executive committees, area council, division council and district executive committee. Together, we have a responsibility to serve at different levels. The basic entity in our organization at all level is a member.

Member sits at the top of the hierarchy. So, when we perform your duties in serving the clubs, areas, divisions or district, lets keep our focus on member's success instead of DCP success. The former is a process and the later, the outcome.

How do you prioritize your focus towards Member's success is a million dollar question. But surprisingly, the answer is very simple. It is ABC.

- **A**ctively engage with members through listening to their needs. Hearing the unheard is the quality of a true leader.
- **B**e empathetic with our club and team members. Quite often they are through difficult times and are not able to meet deadlines or being proactive in communication. We must lend them a helping hand.
- **C**ommunicate effectively to clear the obstacles and establish heart to heart connection with everyone in the district.

## Member sits at the top of the hierarchy

There should be no barrier to smooth and open communication between leaders and members that we serve. For that we have to follow the rule "praise publicly, criticize privately".

Whenever in doubt, we must ask the concerned person. We must not assume anything as "assumption is the mother of all evils". I have high hopes and firm believe in all of you that together we ll create a resonance effect and hit the magical number of 60 clubs to become a full district in the galaxy of Toastmasters International.

**Ali Amjad , DTM**  
 Club Growth Director,  
 D122P  
 2024-25



**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



**District Trio**  
**2024-25**

District 122 P

**Stronger Together**



**Ali Amjad, DTM**  
Club Growth  
Director

**Zaid Kaliya, DTM**  
District  
Director

**S. Azam Ali, DTM**  
Program  
Quality Director

# New



## DISTRICT 122P TOASTMASTERS PAKISTAN

TM MUHAMAD TAHIR  
DIVISION-A  
DIRECTOR

TM AUGUSTINE GILL  
DIVISION-B  
DIRECTOR

TM ABRAR WANI  
DIVISION-C  
DIRECTOR

DTM ALI AMJAD  
CLUB GROWTH  
DIRECTOR

DTM ZAID KALIYA  
DISTRICT  
DIRECTOR

DTM AZAM ALI  
PROGRAM QUALITY  
DIRECTOR

DTM ATIF IRFAN  
IP DISTRICT  
DIRECTOR

TM AKASH KUMAR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
MANAGER

TM YASIN MIAN  
FINANCE  
MANAGER

TM MOIZ NAEEM  
ADMIN  
MANAGER



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

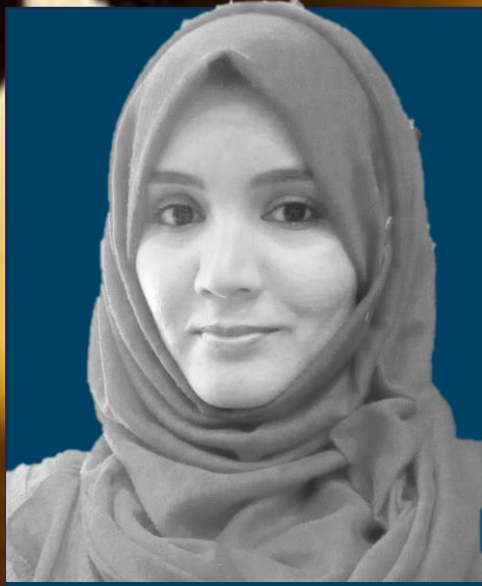
2024-2025

Together We Can!

# Leadership







TM Gul-e-Zehra

This beautiful poem  
was first recited at a  
meeting of WordWise  
Advanced  
Toastmasters

# What is life, if not letting go?

## WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO

Do I believe in it —  
the art of letting go?  
Subtly through the fingers  
as the sand slips one's palms  
or the water that flows through

## WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO

of the ghosts of the past  
that echo in my heart  
and when I hear those voices  
so soothing so intimate  
it crosses my head  
why! once I knew them  
or so I thought  
Oh, then what changed?  
nothing, and yet everything did  
And then I wonder  
voices or ghosts  
past or present  
why do they turn up?  
here in broad daylight  
or night time  
uncalled, uninvited  
they never disappeared  
yes subsided, never quite gone  
existed underneath routine  
In me  
Yes the friends  
they call themselves  
yes they look like them  
I imagine  
No, I believe  
They are them  
But no I can't know them  
Undecided, I not at them  
Absentmindedly  
Don't have the heart to turn them out  
It's unlike me  
But  
Do they excite  
and ignite the passion  
the vividness once there  
No they dont  
They are haystacks  
Rag dolls  
Up for burning  
On the pretense of being there  
Nowhere they are!

## WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO

look at the stars  
point out the biggest one to me  
no but they all look the same  
from where we stand  
down on the earth  
those twinkling masses of fire  
as if they are nothing but tiny fireflies  
lighting up the whole sky  
pick up one  
and hand it to me  
if you may  
the dazzling light will blind me  
and then would I see them in my head  
decorating my horizon?  
Yes I'd  
Sit and think  
or ponder if you may  
Aristotle or Socrates you think you are?  
but then they are dead  
but I'm not  
Here I'm  
In my youth  
O the cherished fountain of all!  
Yes alive  
The very word for it  
breathing n feeling  
everyday in  
through the mind that  
knows nothing yet clings on  
to flimsy ideas  
randomness in existence  
Yes here I'm!  
not sitting  
not thinking  
not pondering  
merely lying  
in the bed  
in cold winter nights  
surrounded by...  
the comfort of my own imagination

# What is life, if not letting go?

**WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO**

when the crisp autumn begins  
trees no longer green n plump  
don their yellow cloak  
letting go of the old  
but not of the hope  
round the bend waits spring  
bidding its time  
while the wind plays tunes of  
*sweet melancholy*  
parting songs of love once harbored  
between the arbor and the leaves  
that drifted away  
rustling on avenues  
far from home, that once existed  
and leaving it barren  
all this time  
that gay little player called spring  
awaits its turn  
watching the play unroll  
as it always does  
with steps light n enchanting  
it casts a spell  
turning back the wheel of time  
or winding the clocks forward  
the tide reverses  
yellow turns green  
barren becomes bloom  
so silently it blows a whisper  
over the landscape

**WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO**

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**WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO**

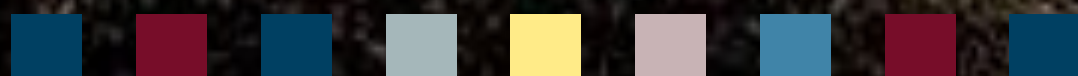
the fear that chokes  
the very life from a being  
fear of life or honor  
fear of being torn apart  
from the beloved  
or that of being left behind  
fear o the adversary!  
so detested  
so despised  
yet always present  
in one form or another  
stopping me in my tracks  
giving my heart a nudge  
appearing at my doorstep  
unceremoniously  
out of turn  
always lurking around the corner  
lying in ambush  
and why do you think  
I won't let go of the fear  
so I call it by name  
why cower  
why hide  
why seek  
simply pass by it  
in the street  
in the backyard  
in the porch  
wherever I move  
I pass it with nose n head held high  
and never warrant a look  
at the thing called fear  
but I turn to face it and smile  
to say that I have let go of you  
simply like that!

**WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO**

of what holds me down  
pegged to a peg  
my heart like a thing  
slave to the laughter  
or the sorrows  
to moments  
or memories  
Take away all that if you will  
I will then be free to live  
void of the so called  
**feelings** you say  
better not live  
with houseful and space  
cramped and moldy  
let them leave my heart  
so the rays will shine  
through the gaps  
left behind

**let them leave my heart  
so the rays will shine  
through the gaps  
left behind**

**WHAT IS LIFE IF NOT LETTING GO**





[COVER STORY]

The joy of being together



Across Pakistan, we learned, we listened, we laughed, and we loved each other's wisdom and friendship. PAKTAC 2024 truly proved to be a nexus of dreamers





# Islamabad



The Islamabad chapter of PAKTAC 2024 took place at the spectacular stage of ICMA Islamabad. The insets show attractive branded merchandise available to attendees.



District Director, PQD and Division Director Division C along with DTM Saif Ali Shaikh



Club Growth Director, DTM Syed Azam Ali, takes the stage



Director Division C, TM Ahmed Suleman Zahid



MoCs, TM Mehr Tanvir and TM Mazhar Hussain, light up the stage



An engrossed audience



Gaveliers represent an integral part of the community





# Islamabad



MOCs, role players and guests together with District Leadership, Conference Chair, Chief Guest, honored guest speakers



Chief Guest, President, ICMAP, Shehzad Ahmed Malik, takes the stage



Motivational session by Yasir Masood Afaq



MOC, Club Presidents, Area Directors and roleplayers, beaming after a great event



DD 2023-24, DTM Atif Irfan, takes the stage



Conference Chair with Chief Guest, and Guest Speaker Mr Kamran Rizvi



All smiles: A test of compatibility between President and VPE



LAHORE  
May 11, 2024

# Lahore



PAKTAC Lahore Chapter was marked by Crescent School's impressive 3D recreation of the conference logo. As always, there was a host of standees, banners and awards



Conference Chair, TM Sofia Qadir Khan



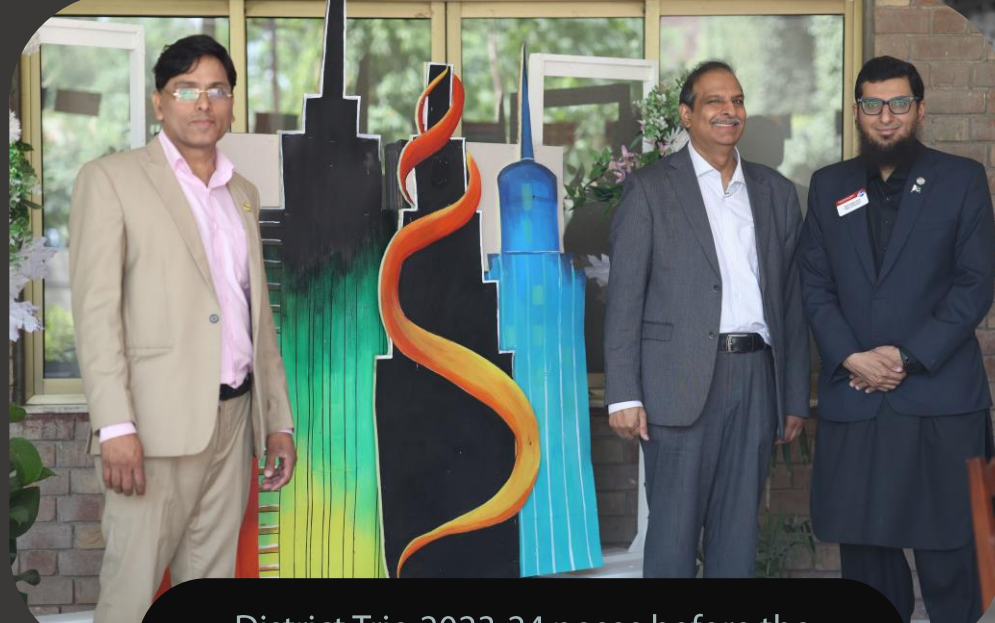
Motivational Speaker Dr Dania Qazi



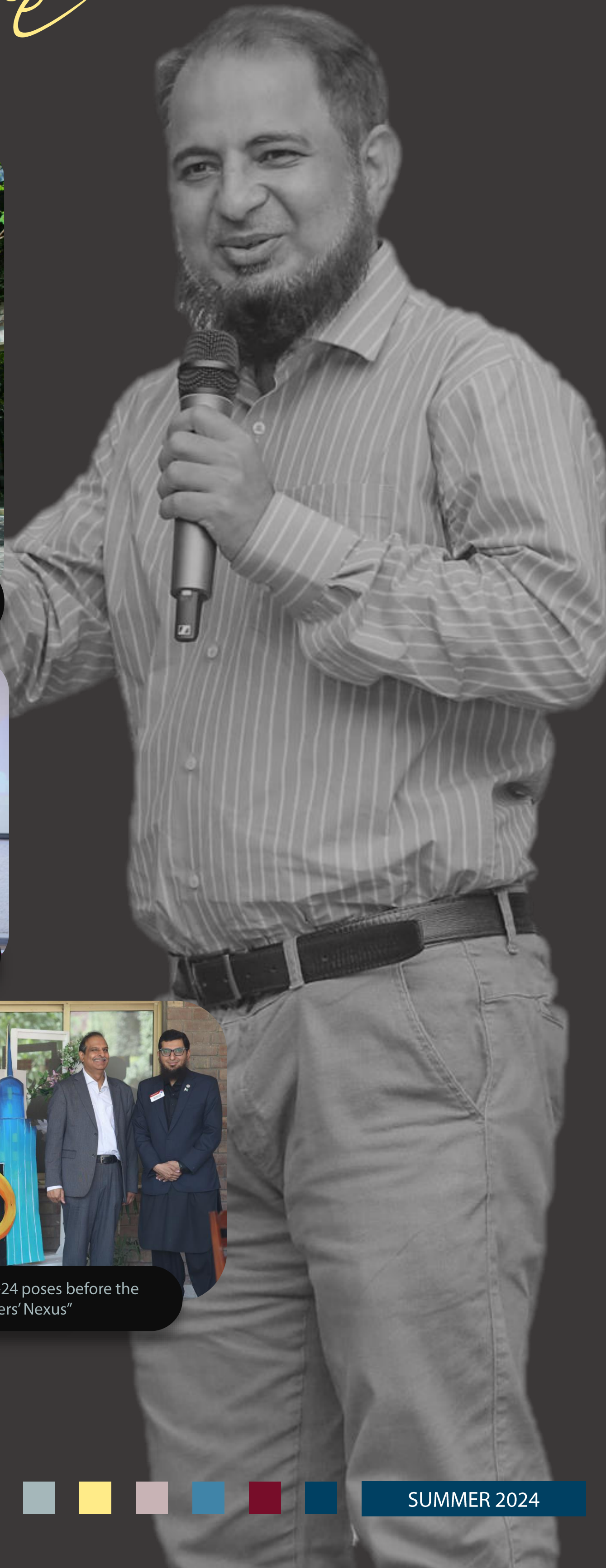
Motivational Speaker Adeel Imtiaz



DD Atif Irfan, with DTM Saif Ali Shaikh and DTM Masood Said



District Trio 2023-24 poses before the "Dreamers' Nexus"





LAHORE  
May 11, 2024

# Lahore



AD Ahmed Shakoor checking out the compatibility of Presidents and VPEs



Chief Guest, Mr Altaf Saleem, being interviewed by DTM Ghulam Abbas



Jubilant members of Crescent Speechweavers Club



Schoolgirls performing on stage



Prizes and recognition was awarded to clubs excelling during the program year



DTM Irfan Farooqi receives a certificate of excellence

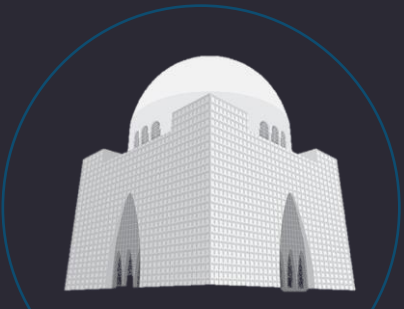


All rise for our national anthem



So many dreamers. So much love. One stage. One nation.





KARACHI  
May 18, 2024

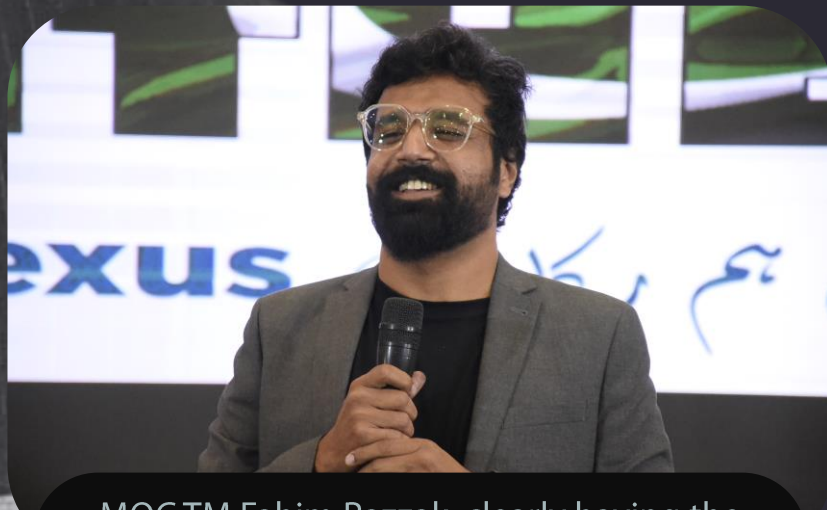
# Karachi



PAKTAC Karachi Chapter was held at ICAP Head Office, Karachi. Against the beautiful garden, one can see the logo wall, pins, shields and the brochure



DD & PQD, along with DTM Saad, pointing to a bright future



MOC TM Fahim Razzak, clearly having the time of his life!



All rise for the national anthem

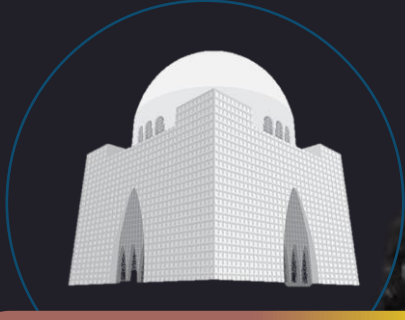


DTM Saif Ali Shaikh flew in especially from Lahore



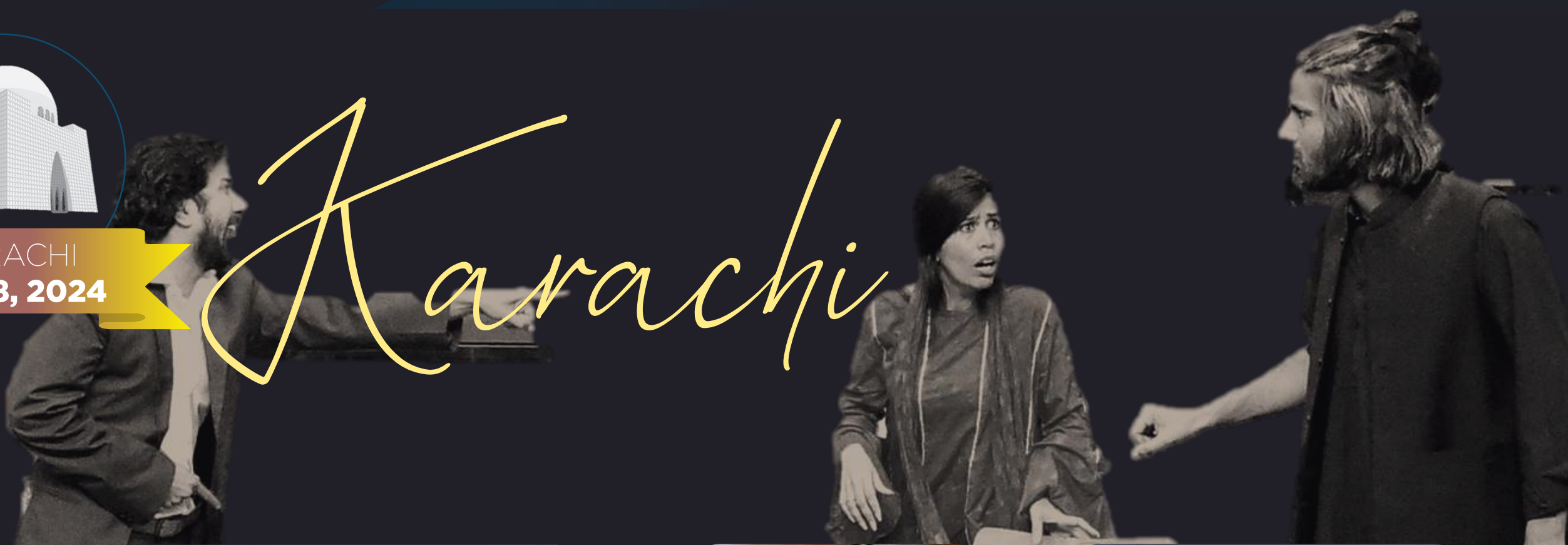
TLI Chair DTM Farooq, along with MOC, TM Saba Anjum, deep in discussion





KARACHI  
May 18, 2024

# Karachi



PQD in action



President ICAP, Farrukh Rehman, interviewed by TM Anum Qadri



TM Imran Rana presenting a spellbinding spiritual rendition



DTM Sarfaraz Nazir delivers an enthralling keynote



Guest Speaker Veqarul Islam



Jubilant Conference Chair, TM Marya Hareem



Clubs were recognized for their excellence. CA Toastmasters Club Karachi seen here



MOCs, TM Farooq and TM Natasha



"Marriage Proposal" - Play by NAPA students



Panel discussion on Embracing Tomorrow's Challenges Today



TM Obaid Bilgrami receiving an award from DD Atif Irfan, DTM



Karachi Gavel Club Gaveliers with President TM Hinna Ali



All together on one stage!

ALL-PAKISTAN

# PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP



## The Results

The entire country watched with bated breath as Toastmasters District Annual Speech Contests took place simultaneously at three stages in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. The participants, contestants and judges saw it all on the stage, or online.

It was an unprecedented spectacle that unfolded spectacularly and made us all proud.

**TALL TALES  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**

**TABLE  
TOPICS  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**

**EVALUATION  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**

کل پاکستان  
اردو تقریری  
مقابلہ

**INTERNATIONAL  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**



ALL-PAKISTAN  
PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
CHAMPIONSHIP



# The Champions

## INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST



2nd Place  
TM MEHR TANVIR



1st Place  
DTM ERUM RIZVI



3rd Place  
TM LATIF MANSOORALI

## کل پاکستان اردو تقریری مقابلہ



دوئم  
ٹوسٹ ماسٹر مظہر حسین



اول  
ٹوسٹ ماسٹر سید فراز انجم



سوئم  
ٹوسٹ ماسٹر صبا انجم غوری



ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

*The Champions*



**EVALUATION  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**



2nd Place  
DTM ERUM RIZVI



1st Place  
TM HIRA ZAINAB



3rd Place  
DTM IRFAN FAROOQUI

**TALL TALES  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**



2nd Place  
TM AISHA IJAZ



1st Place  
DTM ERUM RIZVI



3rd Place  
TM IRFAN QURESHI

**TABLE  
TOPICS  
CONTEST**



2nd Place  
TM HASSAN AKRAM



1st Place  
DTM ERUM RIZVI



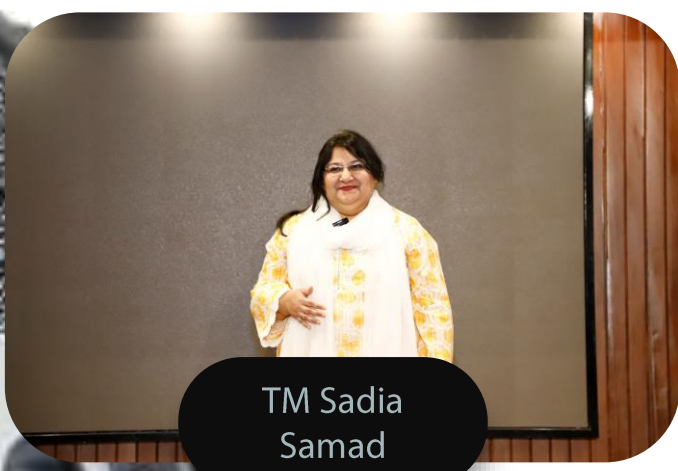
3rd Place  
TM SABA ANJUM GHOURI

ALL-PAKISTAN

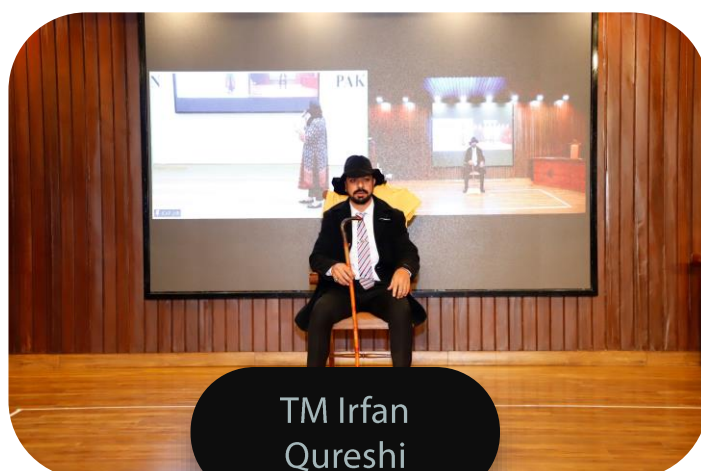
# PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP



# Islamabad



TM Sadia Samad



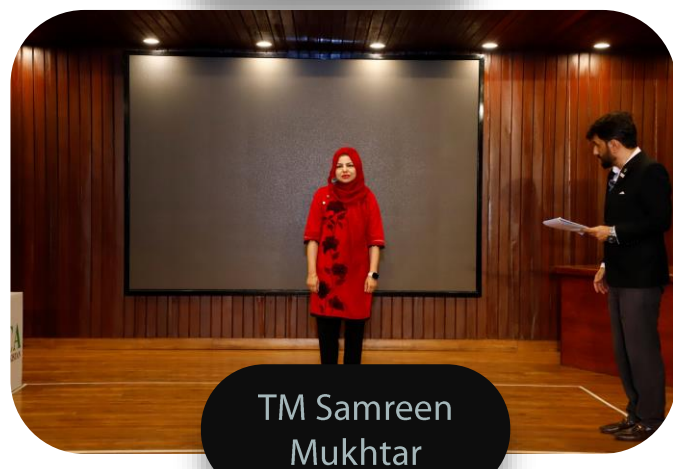
TM Irfan Qureshi



TM Arsalan Arshad



TM Mehr Tanvir



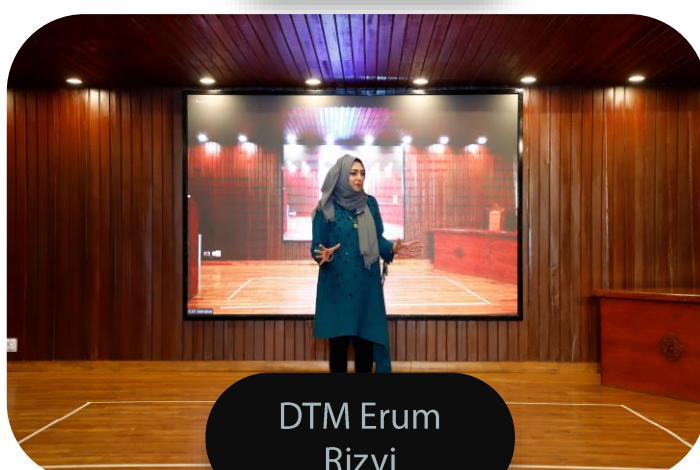
TM Samreen Mukhtar



TM Humayun Kayani



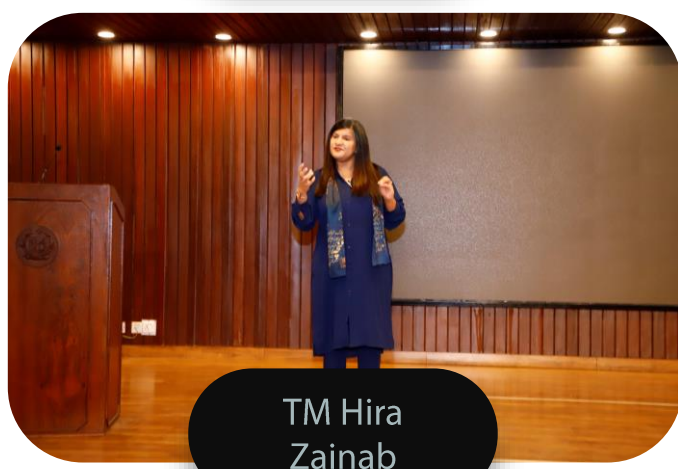
TM Mazhar Hussain



DTM Erum Rizvi



TM Humayun Kayani



TM Hira Zainab



ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



# Laahore



TM Aisha Ijaz



TM Hussain  
Faiz



DTM Irfan  
Faroqui



TM Syed Faraz  
Anjum



TM Abubakar  
Taj



TM Waqas  
Arshad



ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



# Karachi



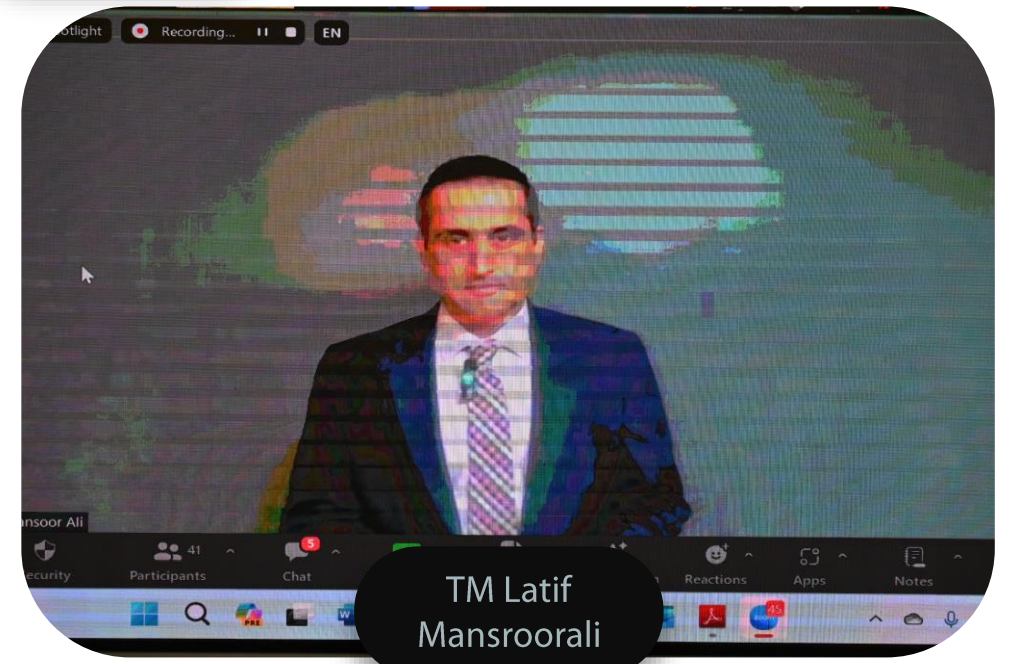
TM Obaid  
Bilgrami



TM Saba  
Anjum Ghouri



TM Safina  
Shahid



TM Latif  
Mansoorali



TM Hiritik  
Kumar

ALL-PAKISTAN

# PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP



*The Champions  
Speak*





ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**1)What are some key techniques or strategies that you use to prepare for a speech?**

When preparing for a speech, I always keep the end in mind before writing. It's crucial to have a clear vision of the message I want to leave with my audience. I often choose a social topic that resonates with me personally, especially those subjects we don't freely talk about. My aim is to show people that I am as vulnerable as they are; it's okay to be weak or face challenges. The key is how we take these experiences into the future. By sharing my personal stories, I hope to connect with my audience on a deeper level, encouraging them to embrace their own challenges and grow from them.



# DIGGING IT!

**An interview with Pakistan's National  
Champion of Public Speaking 2024,  
DTM Erum Rizvi**

Interviewer: TM Umna Salman



**Erum Rizvi, DTM**

Winner, International Speech Contest 2024  
Winner, Table Topics Contest 2024  
Winner, Tall Tales Contest 2024  
Second Place, Evaluation Speech Contest 2024



ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC  
 SPEAKING  
 CHAMPIONSHIP**



**My biggest challenges were avoiding filler words and being scared of pauses.**

**2) What advanced rhetorical techniques do you find most effective in captivating and persuading an audience?**

Humor and storytelling are the advanced rhetorical techniques I find most effective. Storytelling, especially when it includes a scene common to everyone, helps create a strong connection with the audience. It's important to weave a narrative that resonates with them, making the speech relatable and engaging. Humor, when used appropriately, can lighten the mood and make the message more memorable. Throughout the speech, maintaining a connection with the audience is key to keeping them captivated and persuaded.

**3) Can you elaborate on your process for managing impromptu speaking situations and turning them into opportunities for impactful communication?**

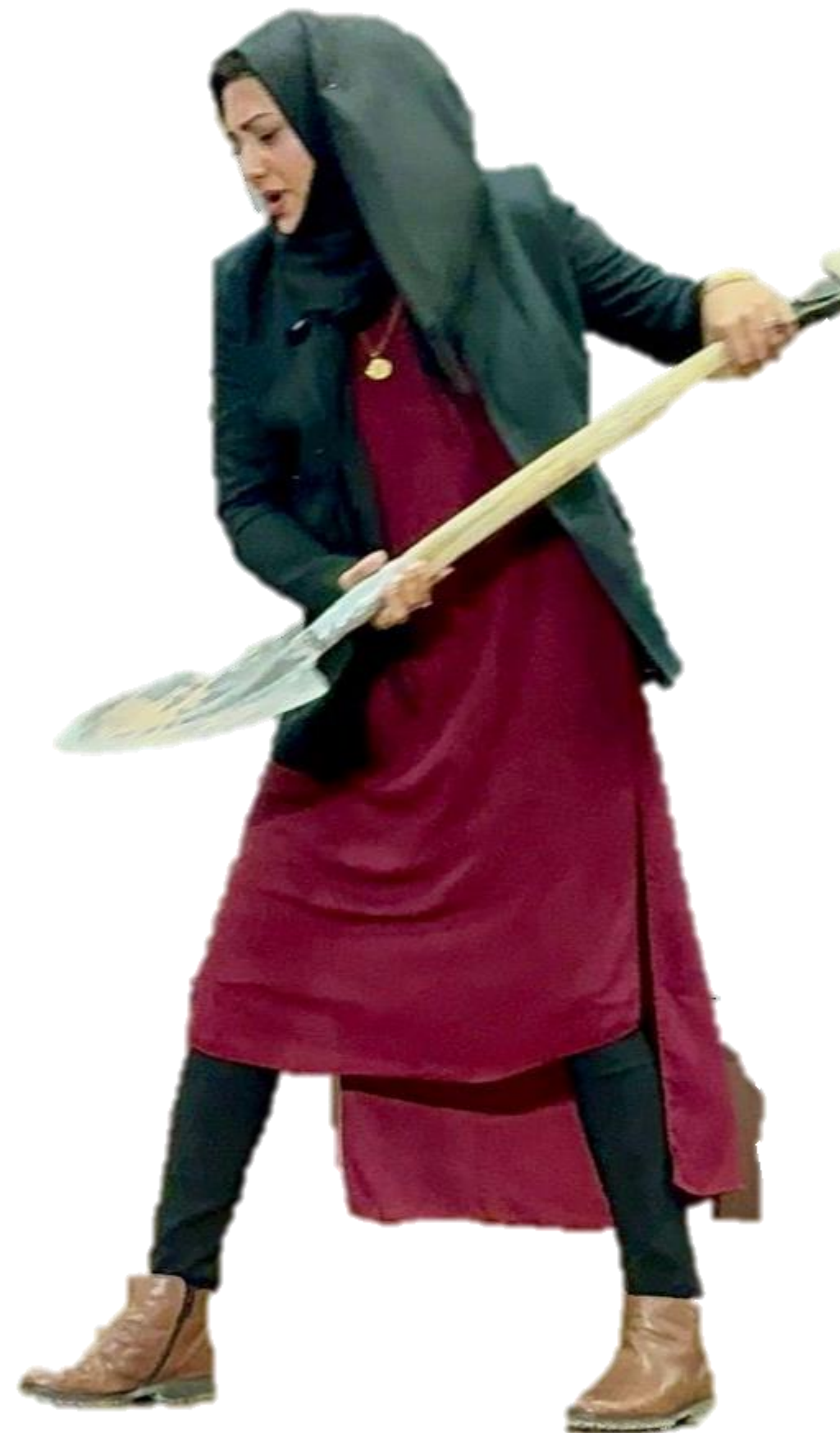
The best way to manage impromptu speaking situations is practice, practice, and more practice. If you have attempted 50-60 table topics, you've likely conquered the art of speaking on your feet. Each impromptu speaking experience is a learning opportunity. Taking feedback seriously and using it to refine your technique will turn impromptu speaking situations into opportunities for impactful communication.

**4) What were some of the biggest challenges you faced early on in your public speaking journey, and how did you overcome them?**

My biggest challenges were avoiding filler words and being scared of pauses. It took a lot of practice to understand that pauses are our friends, not enemies. Pauses give us time to think, emphasize important points, and allow the audience to absorb the message. Overcoming this fear involved continuous practice and shifting my mindset to see pauses as powerful tools in public speaking. Remember, every pause adds weight to your words and enhances your delivery. "Music happens between the notes".

**5) What are some common mistakes you see new speakers make, and how can they avoid them?**

A very common mistake I notice is that newcomers often think it's better and easier to have a personal mentor rather than following the Pathways guide. The combination of both is amazingly effective. Following the coursework and then getting a mentor's final view saves time, energy, and provides a better understanding for new speakers. Directly contacting a mentor without engaging with the material can waste a lot of effort. The structured guidance of Pathways, complemented by personalized mentorship, is the best approach



ALL-PAKISTAN

# PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP



## 6) What are the emerging trends in public speaking that aspiring speakers should be aware of and prepare for?

Emerging trends in public speaking include the increasing use of vocal variety and dramatic elements. Vocal variety involves changing pitch, tone, and pace to keep the audience engaged and emphasize key points. Adding dramatic elements, such as expressive body language and theatrical pauses, can enhance the storytelling aspect of a speech, making it more captivating and memorable. Aspiring speakers should practice these techniques to create dynamic and impactful presentations that resonate with their audiences.

## 7) How do you see the role of public speaking evolving in the digital age, particularly with the advent of virtual and hybrid events?

I'm thrilled with how public speaking is evolving in the digital age! With so many of us working online, platforms like Zoom offer fantastic hands-on experience. But let's be honest, nothing beats the energy of a live stage. My ultimate dream? Seeing speakers on a single stage through holograms, just like Iron Man or those sci-fi movies.

## I am thrilled with how public speaking is evolving in the digital age!

Imagine the excitement and connection we could create! The blend of virtual and in-person experiences can make public speaking more dynamic and engaging than ever. The future looks bright, and I can't wait to see where this tech takes us! (Here my Quantum Leap Advanced Toastmasters Club membership spoke) :)

## 8) What is your vision for the future of Toastmasters in Pakistan, and how do you plan to contribute to its growth and evolution?

I plan to expand outreach by promoting Toastmasters in schools, workplaces, and community centers. Leveraging digital platforms, I aim to make participation accessible through virtual meetings and webinars. Additionally, I'll foster strong networks between clubs and advocate for diversity and inclusion. By developing robust mentorship programs and engaging youth, we can ensure a supportive environment for all members. Through these initiatives, I hope to see Toastmasters in Pakistan flourish and transform lives through effective communication and leadership.



ALL-PAKISTAN  
**PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP**



# TM Mehr Tanvir



Second Place, International Speech Contest 2024

**Q1: What is your biggest learning from your participation?**

Participating in contests truly accelerates your learning in a myriad of ways. My biggest takeaway was understanding the importance of intention. Clarifying and knowing your “why” is the key to overcoming challenges that inevitably appear on any journey. For me, it was to tell an inspiring story and connect with people; to take them on an inner trek of fear, hope and confidence – and leave a lasting impression to support them in their own aspirations.

Being clear about intention harnesses the strength to act, and as we learn by doing, we catalyze the power of resilience and perseverance, an equally transformative and potent lesson gained from the experience. Thus, from writing and delivering emphatic and impactful speeches, to navigating unexpected moments on stage through focus and improvisation, I've learned to trust in my ability to step into any arena, adapt and grow.

**Q2: What is your favorite moment in your Toastmasters journey so far?**

There are so many memorable anecdotes and recollections, it’s difficult to select one! One of the most special moments, however, was the instance I realized I had found my voice. It was during the Division contest, where I had shared a personal story. Seeing the nodding heads and smiling faces of the audience, I felt humility and fulfilment, knowing that we had connected on a deeper level. The most poignant occurrence was when a dear colleague came up to me afterwards, to tell me he had been moved to tears. This is the beauty of the Toastmasters community.

Finding your voice is like discovering a secret superpower: knowing how to create a bond of shared emotions with strangers and friends alike. It comes through courage, trial and error. Toastmasters is truly not just about public speaking, but about self-discovery and making a positive impact on others.

**Q3: What is more important to be a good public speaker: natural talent, luck or skill?**

I firmly believe that impactful public speaking is a skill that can be learned and polished through persistent application. With the right training and support, dedicated practice, effective feedback and a willingness to learn, anyone can develop the skills necessary to engage, inspire and motivate audiences.

This encompasses not only the technical aspects of public speaking, such as voice modulation and body language, but also the ability to craft compelling content, connect with diverse audiences, and adapt to unexpected situations. While it may be argued that natural talent condenses the learning curve, and luck finds you the right mentors and environment, Toastmasters has liquified and bottled the sparkle of good fortune by democratizing opportunities, and levelling the playing field, to a great extent. With a global community of mentors, an international platform and innumerable resources at your fingertips, your passion is truly the key to creating the right circumstances you need to achieve your goals.

Step into the clearing, as poet Tara Mohr would say: “Then allies and energies will come to you like fireflies swirling around a light.”



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# TM Latif Mansoorali



Third Place,  
 International Speech Contest 2024

**Q1: What is your biggest learning from your participation?**

Value of mentoring, commitment towards goal, execution and practice are my learning.

**Q2: What is your favorite moment in your Toastmasters journey so far?**

The support and freedom given to me to execute my vision for club success as VPE during my 4 consecutive years at Bhavan's TMC, Kuwait.

**Q3: What is more important to be a good public speaker: natural talent, luck or skill?**

Skill, would like to add must have willingness for upgrading and courage to implement



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CHAMPIONSHIP**



# TM Syed Faraz Anjum



Winner, Urdu Speech Contest 2024

**Q1: What is  
your biggest  
learning  
from your  
participation  
?**

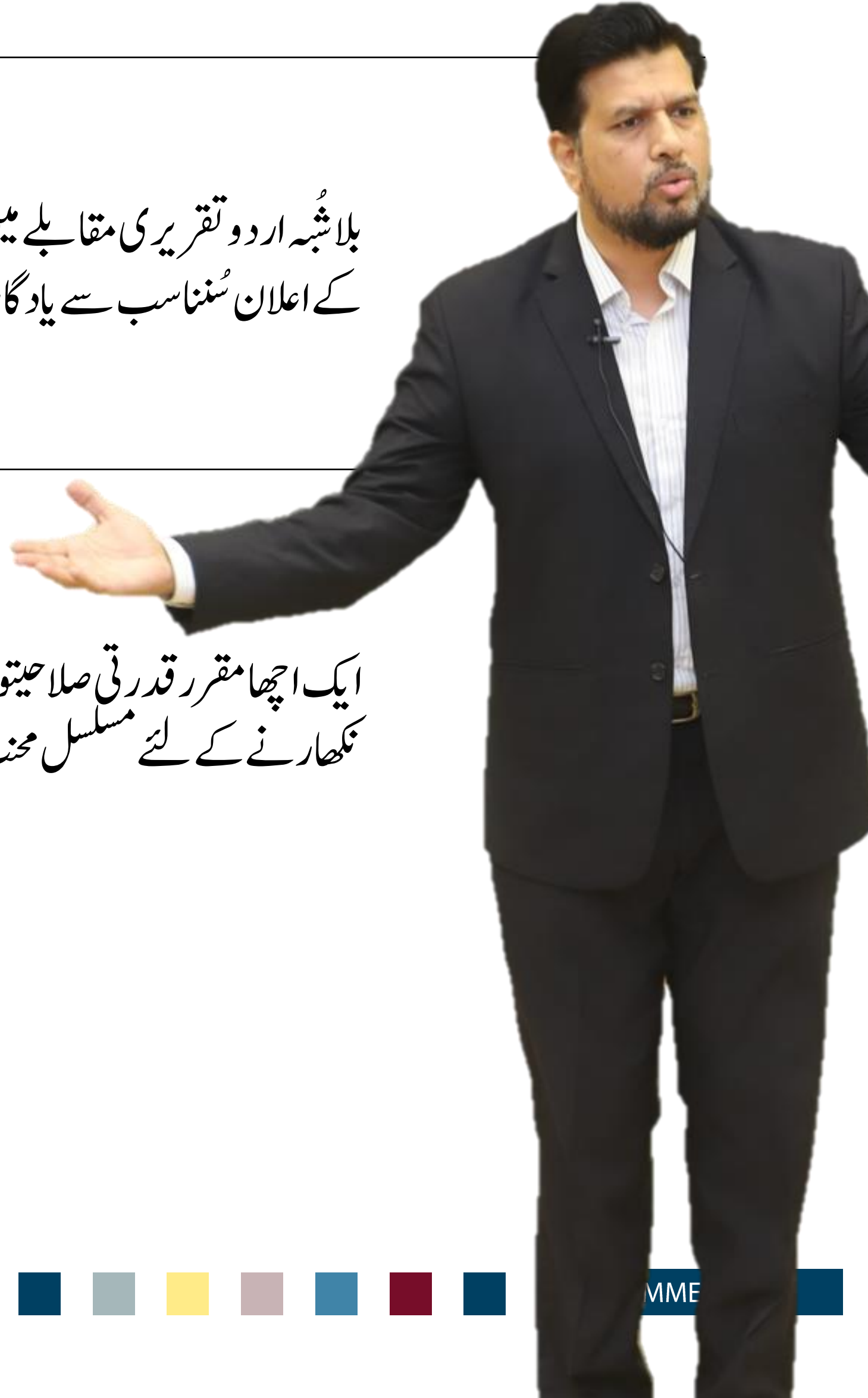
اس مقابلے نے میرے دماغ پہ چھائی دھند دور کرنے میں بہت اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ میں ان بہت سارے لوگوں میں سے ایک تھا جو اپنی صلاحیتوں کو جاننے کے باوجود ان کو آزمانے سے ڈرتے ہیں۔ الحمد للہ ٹوسٹ ماسٹرز کی بدولت مجھے اپنی صلاحیتوں کو نکھارنے اور ان کا اظہار کرنے کا موقع ملا۔

**Q2: What is  
your favorite  
moment in  
your  
Toastmasters  
journey so  
far?**

بلاشبہ اردو تقریری مقابلے میں پہلے انعام کے لئے اپنے نام کے اعلان سُننا سب سے یادگار لمحہ تھا۔

**Q3: What is  
more  
important to  
be a good  
public  
speaker:  
natural  
talent, luck  
or skill?**

ایک اچھا مقرر قدرتی صلاحیتوں کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنے فن کو نکھارنے کے لئے مسلسل محنت بھی کرتا ہے۔



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CHAMPIONSHIP**



# TM Mazhar Hussan



Second Place, Urdu Speech Contest 2024

**Q1: What is your biggest learning from your participation?**

A plethora of learnings. Some are highlighted below;

1. Pressure is handled best when you go right through it
2. 2. Practice, practise and practise
3. 3. Readiness and acceptance to alter and amend the speech in several phases
4. 4. Cutting down the text is the most difficult part
5. 5. Time management is an asset, those who have it they thrive (not only in contests but also in life)
6. 6. Delivery is far more important than content, quality is far more significant than the quantity 7
7. . In this world there is no better alternative to story telling

**Q2: What is your favorite moment in your Toastmasters journey so far?**

I joined Toastmasters fraternity last year and the best phase has been when the contest season started. Interactions between the clubs and within the area/divisions increased, so many new connections and a lot of learning opportunities. Thoroughly enjoyed that phase. Looking forward to the next one. 😊

**Q3: What is more important to be a good public speaker: natural talent, luck or skill?**

In my humble view, it's the skill because it surely can be developed over time and once you have it, consistency and compounding further strengthen the skill set to take you places.



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# TM Saba Anjum Ghouri



Third Place, Urdu Speech Contest 2024  
 Third Place, Table Topics Contest 2024

**Q1: What is  
 your biggest  
 learning from  
 your  
 participation?**

We can develop our skills as fun  
 loving activity in an encouraging  
 environment.

**Q2: What is  
 your favorite  
 moment in  
 your  
 Toastmasters  
 journey so  
 far?**

Being member of Excom.  
 When every one says you can  
 DO this!

**Q3: What is  
 more  
 important to  
 be a good  
 public  
 speaker:  
 natural talent,  
 luck or skill?**

Skill





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# DTM Irfan Farooqui



Third Place, Urdu Speech Contest 2024

**Q1: What is  
 your biggest  
 learning from  
 your  
 participation?**

For the contest - practice and rehearsals are the most important aspects of preparations

**Q2: What is  
 your favorite  
 moment in  
 your  
 Toastmasters  
 journey so  
 far?**

Meeting various Toastmasters in annual meetings

**Q3: What is  
 more  
 important to  
 be a good  
 public  
 speaker:  
 natural talent,  
 luck or skill?**

Skill is the most important thing but it hones your natural talent (if you have one). The role of luck relates to events and not to skills.



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# TM Aisha Aijaz



Second Place, Tall Tales Contest 2024

**Q1: What is  
your biggest  
learning from  
your  
participation?**

That fear can be tackled strategically

**Q2: What is  
your favorite  
moment in  
your  
Toastmasters  
journey so  
far?**

Telling stories like they were  
real and networking with  
fearless public speakers.

**Q3: What is  
more  
important to  
be a good  
public  
speaker:  
natural talent,  
luck or skill?**

Public speaking is a skill that  
needs to be learned and improved  
even if it comes naturally to  
someone



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# TM Hassan Akram



Second Place, Table Topics Contest 2024

**Q1: What is your biggest learning from your participation?**

Biggest learning is to experience the entire journey of sharing floor with other winners. At the end of the day it's not about winning or losing it's about experience and learning

**Q2: What is your favorite moment in your Toastmasters journey so far?**

Coming 2nd at district level in table topics

**Q3: What is more important to be a good public speaker: natural talent, luck or skill?**

Skills you can grind and polish yourself to become a great speaker. It requires alot of hard work and good mentorship



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 CHAMPIONSHIP**



# TM Irfan Qureshi



Third Place, Table Topics Contest 2024

**Q1: What is your biggest learning from your participation?**

My biggest learning from participating as a district champion is the importance of resilience and continuous improvement in achieving success.

**Q2: What is your favorite moment in your Toastmasters journey so far?**

Placing in the finals of the district championship and feeling the culmination of hard work and dedication recognized by peers.

**Q3: What is more important to be a good public speaker: natural talent, luck or skill?**

Skill is the most important to be a good public speaker, as it can be developed and refined through practice and experience





# [FLYER CONTEST RESULTS]

The last contest of the year was something unique: one between flyers announcing Club ECs. Without question, this contest some of the most creative and elegant flyers we have witnessed. Here are your winners.



1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Century Paper Toastmasters**  
(Designer: TM Imran Rana)



2<sup>nd</sup> Place

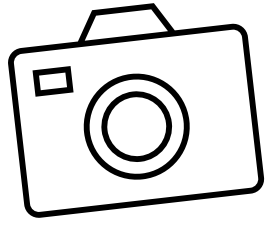
**Express Toastmasters Club**  
(Designer: TM Abeeha Obaid)



3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**ICAP Toastmasters Club Islamabad**  
(Designer: TM Fawad)





# Looking back THE YEAR IN FLYERS

Jul '23

pm, pkt	SEGMENT	BY
8:00	Introduction	MOC (TM Talha bin Hamid)
8:05	Recitation of Holy Quran	TM Imran Rana
8:08	National Anthem	Zoom Host
8:10	Words of Wisdom	ID DTM Ali Shahbaz Ali
8:20	Oath Taking Ceremony District Trio	ID DTM Ali Shahbaz Ali
8:25	Oath Taking Ceremony Division Directors	ID DTM Ali Shahbaz Ali
8:30	Oath Taking Ceremony Area Directors	ID DTM Ali Shahbaz Ali
8:35	Words of Wisdom	RA DTM Nikki Quinn
8:45	Message from IPDD	DTM Malik Omair
8:50	Message from DD	DTM Atif Irfan
8:55	Message from PQD	DTM Zaid Kaliya
9:00	Message from CGD	TM Azam Ali
9:05	Floor for the Audience	
9:15	End of Town Hall	

NEW YEAR. NEW TEAM. SAME DREAM.

District 122P

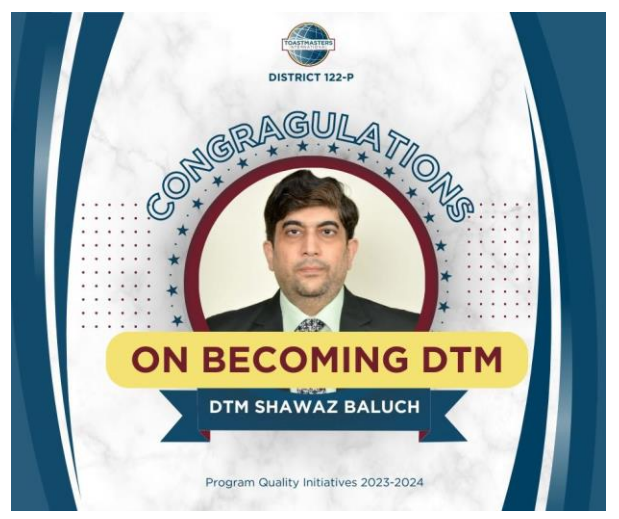
Aug '23



DTM Zaid Kaliya flies the Pakistani flag at the Annual Contention, making us all proud of him and the flag

The year kicked off with a Town Hall, boasting the International Director, Region Advisor, and District Leaders

Sep '23



Oct '23

The first half saw a spate of newly minted DTMs, illustrious individuals who more than earned the title



Nov '23

PDD DTM Omair also kept the flag flying high, being appointed as Logistics Manager of D79, KSA

Under the renewed TLI Leadership under DTM Farooq, Club Officers Training Round 1 launched with the theme "Embracing the Brilliance"

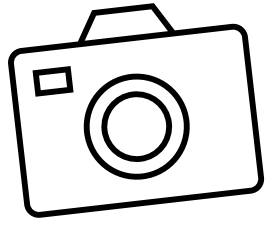
D122P once again saw one of its members place on the podium at the Toastmasters International Video Speech Contest



Dec '23

**Anum Qadri**  
Video Speech Contest  
Second Place Winner





# Looking back THE YEAR IN FLYERS

Jul '23



Club Officers Training continued with in person sessions across three cities



Aug '23

Sep '23



Public Relations Team held a Branding Workshop, covering Brand Manual, PowerPoint and Canva

Express Toastmasters Club celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Oct '23



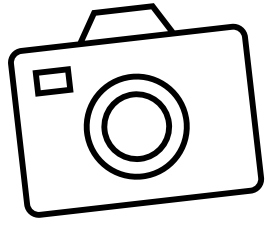
Club Officers Training boasted an illustrious line up of speakers

WordWise Advanced Toastmasters held a joint meeting with Husne Khitabat Toastmasters, bringing together the worlds of Urdu and English Literature

Nov '23

Dec '23





# Looking back THE YEAR IN FLYERS

Jan '24

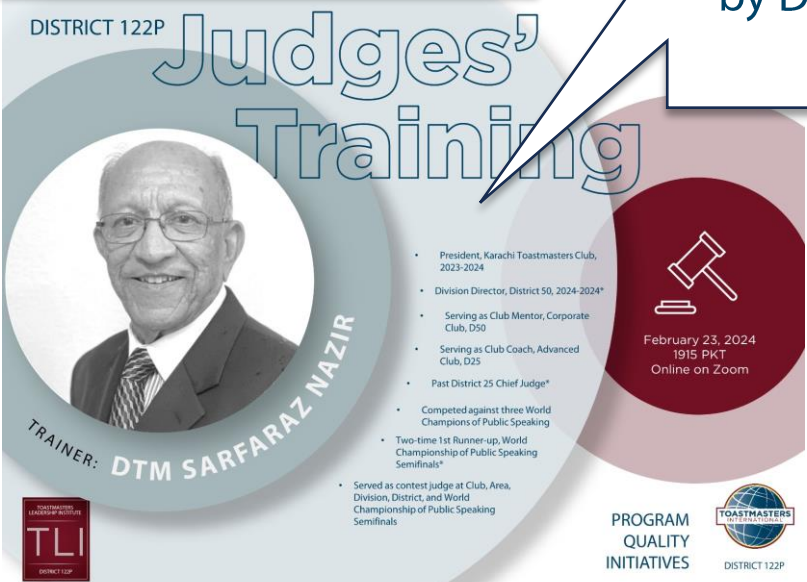


For the first time, a Pakistani club hosted a session consisting of the Japanese art of Rakugo performed by TM Kimochi Honno



The logo and theme for the Annual Conference 2024 was unveiled in March 2024

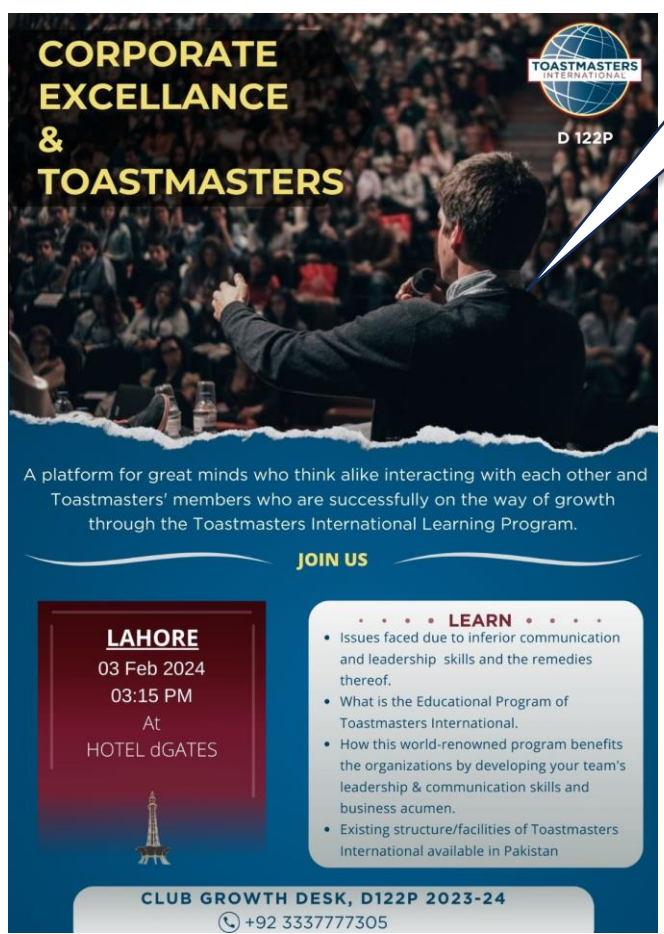
Feb '24



The much awaited Judges' training was conducted under the TLI by DTM Sarfraz Nazir

Corporate outreach events were held in 3 cities for the first time

Mar '24



Apr '24



Karachi Toastmasters Club celebrated its 1100th Meeting

Club Officers Training Round 2 was held in 4 cities, along with online catchup sessions

May '24



Gamification initiative generated significant excitement

Jun '24

Tireless efforts brought the District to Distinguished Status in terms of Distinguished Clubs

District Speech Contests received undivided attention and resulting rise in attendance and quality







# Celebration

## DISTINGUISHED CLUBS 2023-24



- Crescent Speech Weavers Toastmasters Club
- CA Affiliates TMC LHR
- The Centurions Toastmasters Club
- Contour Lahore Toastmasters Club
- Century Paper Toastmasters Club
- CA Toastmasters Club Lahore
- Crescent Toastmasters Club



- Karachi Toastmasters Club
- Zenith Toastmasters Club
- Express Toastmasters Club
- Contour Karachi Toastmasters Club
- Husne Khitabat Toastmasters Club



- ICAP Toastmasters Club, Faisalabad
- ICAP Toastmasters Club Islamabad
- Emumba Toastmasters Club
- ICMAP Toastmasters Club
- Rawalpindi Toastmasters Club
- Islamabad Toastmasters Club
- Contour Islamabad Toastmasters Club





# Celebration

## DISTINGUISHED AREAS AND DIVISIONS

Select Distinguished



President's Distinguished



Distinguished



Distinguished



# Epilogue

## A Bittersweet Farewell and New Beginnings



**EDITOR**  
TM Uroosa Kanwal



TM Imran  
Rana



TM  
Naureen  
Fatima



TM Umna  
Salman



DTM Talha  
bin Hamid

Well, here we are at the end of an era – Crescendo 2023-2024's grand finale!

As we explored various design concepts for this final chapter, we found ourselves unexpectedly reflecting on all the remarkable stories, quirky anecdotes, and more than a few spelling errors (we're looking at you, auto-correct). Crescendo has been more than just a collection of articles – it's been a space of connection, learning, and growth for all of us.

This newsletter began with a simple goal: to create a platform where stories would inspire. Along the way, we've laughed, learned, and probably eaten way too many snacks.

Now it's time for our team to retire our capes and superhero masks- and hand over the reins of Crescendo to the new Newsletter Crew. We're confident you're going to love what they have in store!

### Stay Connected

Even though we're stepping back, here's how you can keep in touch with us:

- **Follow Toastmasters Pakistan:** Crescendo is the premier publication of Toastmasters Pakistan. Stay connected on FB, Instagram and LinkedIn for updates.
- **Welcome the Newbies:** Show the new team some love! They're about to embark on an exciting adventure, and your support means the world.
- **Let's Stay Friends:** Got a joke, a story to share, or want to say hi? We're just a message away. Let's keep the conversation going.

### A Heartfelt Thank You

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to every one of you. Your support has been the foundation of this community, and we're incredibly thankful for the journey we've shared.

As we close this final chapter, we look forward to our new adventures. Thank you for being a part of our story. Here's to staying curious, keeping the laughs rolling, and embracing whatever comes next.

With love and appreciation,  
**The Crescendo Team**

