From Topi to the World Finals: 2024 ICPC Asia Topi Regionals Recap

The GIK Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, in collaboration with ICPC Asia Topi, successfully organized the prestigious **2024 ICPC Asia Topi Regional Onsite Contest** from **1st to 2nd February 2025**. This multi-site contest was held simultaneously at **GIK Institute, FAST-NUCES Lahore, and FAST-NUCES Karachi**. The International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), recognized globally as the premier team-based programming competition, fosters problem-solving, programming, and teamwork skills among university students, earning the reputation of the "World Cup of Computing."

Contest Overview

The competition spanned two days, with a mock round on 1st February 2025 to familiarize participants with the contest environment, followed by the main contest on 2nd February 2025. A total of **101 top teams**, comprising **303 skilled computing students** from **14 universities across Pakistan**, competed to solve nine intricate programming problems within a constrained timeframe. These teams were selected from an initial pool of **244 teams** through the **2024 ICPC Asia Topi Online Preliminary Programming Contest** held in **November 2024**.

Held across cutting-edge computer labs at GIK Institute, FAST-NUCES Lahore, and FAST-NUCES Karachi, the contest challenged participants in teamwork, algorithmic efficiency, and problem-solving. The competition featured 45 teams at GIK Institute, 46 at FAST-NUCES Lahore, and 10 at FAST-NUCES Karachi.

Top Performers & Winners

After nearly five hours of intense problem-solving, **Team Proxima from FAST-NUCES Karachi** emerged as the champions. The team, mentored by Dr. Muhammad Rafi, demonstrated exceptional programming expertise. The second gold medal was secured by **Team Code Paladins from Habib University**, led by Dr. Waqar Saleem. **Team 3AM from NUST**, under the mentorship of Mr. Faisal Shafait, clinched the third gold medal. The fourth gold medal was awarded to **Team Codist from FAST-NUCES Karachi**, also mentored by Dr. Muhammad Rafi.

The top four gold medal-winning teams will advance to the **ICPC Asia West Continent Finals**, a multi-site event where they will compete against teams from **India, Bangladesh, Iran, and Afghanistan** on **March 7-8, 2025**.

Participating Universities

SN	University Name	SN	University Name
1	FAST-NUCES, Lahore	8	IBA Karachi
2	FAST-NUCES, Islamabad	9	Habib University, Karachi
3	GIK Institute	10	University of Education
4	NU-FAST Karachi	11	FAST-NUCES Faisalabad
5	Information Technology University, Punjab	12	Punjab University and College of Information Technology
6	National University of Sciences and Technology	13	NED University of Engineering and Technology
7	Bahria University, Islamabad	14	University of Gujrat

Judging Panel

A distinguished panel of nine judges, consisting of national and international experts, oversaw the contest. **Dr. Usman Habib** (Chief Judge, FAST-NUCES Islamabad) led the panel, joined remotely by **Mr. Sauban bin Usman** (Bolt, Estonia) and **Dr. Raja Hashim Ali** (University of Europe for Applied Sciences, Germany). Other esteemed judges included **Dr. Syed Fawad Hussain** (University of Birmingham), **Dr. Muhammad Hanif** (GIK Institute), **Dr. Arshad Islam** (FAST-NUCES Islamabad), **Dr. Syed Atif Mehdi** (Educative), **Mr. Adeel Ashraf Cheema** (FAST-NUCES Faisalabad), and **Mr. Mutahrib Ayub** (Motive, Islamabad).

Closing Ceremony & Keynote Addresses

The closing ceremony featured a keynote speech by **Dr. Masroor Hussain**, Director of ICPC Asia Topi, who emphasized the importance of improving graduate quality to enhance Pakistan's IT industry and its global competitiveness. He also highlighted the steady improvement of Pakistani teams in the ICPC World Finals and announced the upcoming ICPC Asia West Continent Finals.

Guest Speakers and Awards Ceremony

Dr. Yasir Niaz Khan, CTO of Punjab Safe Cities Authority, served as the **Chief Guest**, commending GIK Institute and ICPC Asia Topi for their dedication to competitive programming. **Prof. Dr. Qadeer-ul-Hasan**, Pro-Rector (Academics) and Dean FCSE at GIKI, emphasized the need for strong problem-solving and computing skills to compete on a global scale.

Renowned **Dr. Yonghui Wu** (Associate Professor, Fudan University, China) delivered an insightful talk on problem-solving strategies for excelling in the ICPC World Finals. He

provided invaluable guidance on advanced algorithms and strategic approaches to optimize contest performance. **Dr. S. M. Hassan Zaidi**, Rector of GIK Institute, lauded the competition's role in advancing the IT sector in Pakistan and extended appreciation to all participants, judges, and collaborators.

Acknowledgments & Gratitude

ICPC Asia Topi extends its heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated individuals who played a crucial role in ensuring the success of this event. We sincerely thank **Dr. Mubashir Baig, Dr. Farhan, and Mr. Ehtisham Hassan** for their exceptional administration and support at the **FAST-NUCES Lahore site**. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to **Dr. Muhammad Rafi and Dr. Iffat Maab** for their tireless efforts and outstanding management at the **FAST-NUCES Karachi site**, which significantly contributed to the event's seamless execution.

We also recognize and appreciate the unwavering commitment of the core organizing team at GIK Institute, led by Dr. Masroor Hussain (Director of ICPC Asia Topi), Sarah Sajjad (Deputy Regional Contest Director), Ali Shaukat (Marketing Chair), Usman Haider & Shakir Ahmad (Systems Co-chairs), and Sagheer Khan**.** Their dedication, meticulous planning, and leadership were instrumental in delivering a well-organized and impactful event.

A heartfelt thanks to the **judging committee** for their dedication, as well as to **Dr. S. M. Hassan Zaidi** (Rector, GIK Institute), **Prof. Dr. Qadeer-ul-**Hasan (Pro-Rector, Academics & Dean FCSE), **Sardar Aminullah Khan** (Pro-Rector, Administration & Finance), and the **Director of IT**, whose continuous support was instrumental in the event's success.

Sponsors & Supporting Organizations

ICPC Asia Topi extends sincere gratitude to its sponsors, whose generous contributions made this contest possible. The **Ministry of IT and Telecommunication**, **Pakistan Software Export Board**, **Forbmax**, **Geniteam**, and **Arkhitech** played a vital role in ensuring the success of the event. Special recognition is also given to **ACM Islamabad & GIK Chapters**, whose support was instrumental in the event's overall success.
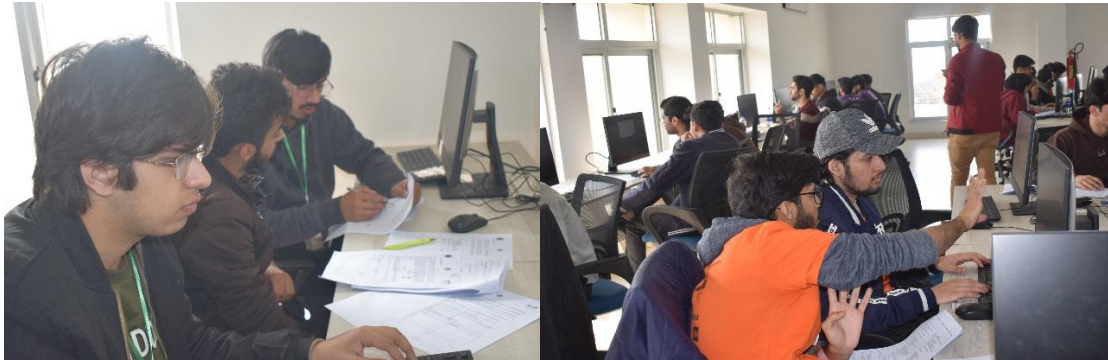
Conclusion

The **2024 ICPC Asia Topi Regional Onsite Contest** was a resounding success, reinforcing Pakistan's presence in the global competitive programming community. The event not only fostered innovation and problem-solving excellence but also inspired the next generation of tech leaders. The journey continues as the top teams now prepare for the **ICPC Asia West Continent Finals**, carrying forward the spirit of excellence and determination!

"From Brainstorming to Breakthroughs: The ICPC Experience in Frames"

Lab view of teams participating from GIK Institute

Behind the Scenes: Unfiltered Moments from FAST-NUCES, Karachi

The ICPC story in images from FAST-NUCES, Lahore

Judging Committee from GIK Institute

Celebrating Achievements: Closing Ceremonies at GIK Institute & FAST-NUCES, Kharachi

Champions in the Spotlight: Gold Medal Winners (FAST-NUCES, KHI, Habib University, NUST)

Best Coach Award (Dr. Waqar Saleem)

Scoreboard View: Top 12 teams of the contest

Results for ICPC Asia Topi 2024 Onsite Preliminary

Awards

Place	Team	Award	Solved problems	Total time	Time of last submission
1	Proxima	Gold Medal	7	562	165
2	Code Paladins	Gold Medal	7	776	240
3	3AM	Gold Medal	7	840	242
4	The Codists	Gold Medal	6	561	145
5	Purple hat	Silver Medal	6	709	217
6	Rumbling	Silver Medal	6	873	263
7	Data Pirates	Silver Medal	6	902	222
8	CodeX	Silver Medal	6	955	238
9	Hollows	Bronze Medal	5	327	102
10	Data Strugglers	Bronze Medal	5	525	198
11	0 or 1	Bronze Medal	5	587	171
12	CTZNs	Bronze Medal	5	923	269