

NEWSLETTER



IBA CICT Expanding Horizons Through Learning & Industry Engagement Across Pakistan

As IBA CICT grows, our learning and training initiatives are reaching new cities across Pakistan, bringing industry-relevant skills closer to learners. With a focus on client-specific programs and B2B trainings, we are expanding our impact, fostering collaborations, and creating opportunities for professional growth beyond traditional boundaries. Leveraging expert faculty, hands-on experiences, and cutting-edge technology, we empower professionals and students to thrive in Pakistan's evolving digital and business landscape.



01ST OCT

October 2025: Cyber Awareness Month at IBA CICT

This October, IBA CICT proudly launched Cyber Awareness Month with campaigns and activities focused on promoting digital safety and cybersecurity awareness. Through workshops, seminars, and interactive initiatives, we aimed at educating & empowering our community, & building a more informed and cyber-resilient Pakistan.



03RD OCT

IBA CICT hosted an engaging Cyber Awareness Session

To mark Cyber Security Awareness Month, IBA CICT conducted an engaging Cyber Awareness Session. Mr. Imran Haider from PKCERT shared actionable guidance on safeguarding personal data, identifying cyber threats, and fostering a strong security culture. The session helped participants understand how to better protect themselves and their organizations in an increasingly complex digital landscape.



07TH OCT

Welcoming the new Cohort of Data-Driven Storytelling & Visualization Program.

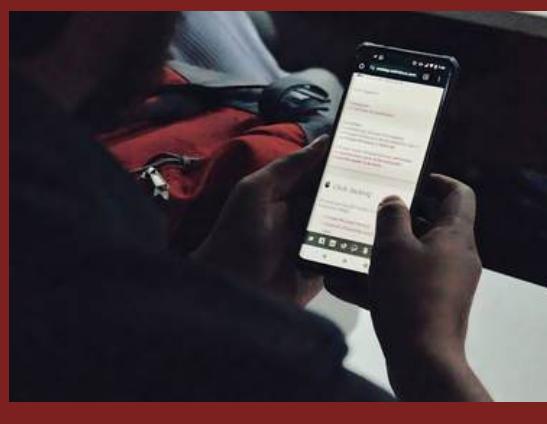


IBA CICT welcomed a new batch to the Data-Driven Storytelling & Visualization Certificate Program. Led by Sir Kashif Hussain, the cohort explored how effective visuals transform data into compelling stories that inform, engage, and persuade.

16TH OCT

The Privacy Paradox

As part of Cyber Security Awareness Month, this October, IBA CICT conducted two interactive sessions titled *The Privacy Paradox: Living Safe in a Transparent Digital World*. Led by Abdul Majid Jamil, the sessions guided participants through real-life examples of online data exposure, practical steps to secure devices and accounts, and essential tools for maintaining strong digital hygiene. The training equipped learners from diverse fields with the knowledge to protect their online presence and enhance their overall cyber resilience.



17TH & 21ST OCT

Training on Generative AI for Bank Alfalah Ltd.

IBA CICT, in collaboration with Bank Alfalah Limited, initiated an in-house training led by Dr. Faisal Iradat, focusing on practical and responsible adoption of Generative AI in banking. The session highlighted real-world applications, ethical considerations, and strategies to enhance efficiency and prepare financial operations for the future.



Karachi Cohort 1



Karachi Cohort 2

24TH OCT

IBA CICT Leads Professional Web Application Training for SECP in Islamabad



IBA CICT delivered a 3-day workshop on Web Application Development & JMeter for SECP in Islamabad, led by Dr. Faisal Iradat. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises to develop, test, and optimize web applications, strengthening their technical skills in modern software environments.

29TH OCT

IBA CICT Hosts a Focus Group on Advancing Cyber Security

IBA CICT hosted a focus group titled "Step Forward in the Field of Cyber Security", bringing together experts from IBA CICT, YOTTABYTE, and Titanium SOC. The session encouraged collaboration between academia and industry, exploring innovative strategies to tackle emerging cyber threats and strengthen digital resilience.



07TH NOV

IBA CICT Hosts Industry-Focused Session on Cyber Security

IBA CICT recently hosted Mr. Syed Rehan ul Hassan, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Bank Islami, for an insightful guest session titled "Cybersecurity for Business." The session provided trainees with an enterprise perspective on cyber risk, covering areas such as AI-driven threats, deepfakes, ransomware, cloud security, and governance. Participants gained practical insights into how a strong cybersecurity posture supports trust, resilience, and business continuity, while reinforcing the importance of risk mitigation and organizational cyber awareness.



12TH & 14TH NOV

IBA CICT x Bank Alfalah: Generative AI Goes Nationwide

IBA CICT, in collaboration with Bank Alfalah Limited, continues to strengthen AI capability across Pakistan through its in-house Generative AI Training Program. The 3rd & 4th Cohort brought together professionals working at Bank Alfalah in Lahore to develop advanced AI skills aligned with innovation and digital transformation. Extending this momentum nationwide, the Islamabad cohort (5th Batch) was successfully conducted under the leadership of Dr. Faisal Idrat, with a strong focus on practical Generative AI applications, automation, and responsible innovation—enabling data-driven decision-making within the evolving digital banking ecosystem.



Lahore Cohort 1



Lahore Cohort 2



Islamabad Cohort

19TH NOV

Modern Software Architecture & Kubernetes Training in Islamabad for SECP.

IBA CICT conducted a comprehensive training program for SECP in Islamabad on Modern Software Architecture, Containerization, and Kubernetes. The program focused on practical approaches to designing scalable systems, deploying container-based applications, and managing Kubernetes clusters, helping participants build a strong foundation in modern DevOps practices.



20TH NOV

SOC Lifecycle & Cyber Resilience Session



IBA CICT organized an online session with Mr. Norman Qureshi (Cyber Security Manager, dnata), who joined all the way from London, covering the complete SOC lifecycle. The session explored SIEM, EDR, SOAR, threat detection, attacker psychology, and methods to build proactive, always-on cyber defense mechanisms.



27TH NOV

Professional Identity and Presence in Cybersecurity

IBA CICT hosted another insightful cybersecurity session led by Ms. Wasla Zainab Awan. The discussion focused on cyber identity, highlighting the importance of visibility, credibility, professional branding, and digital presence. The session contributed meaningfully to participants' understanding of building a responsible and impactful cybersecurity presence.



04TH DEC

IBA CICT Extends Generative AI Learning Beyond In-House Programs



Building on a successful in-house Generative AI training for Bank Alfalah, IBA CICT offered the program through an open-enrollment workshop at IBA Karachi. Led by Dr. Faisal Idrat, the session brought together professionals from diverse corporate backgrounds, fostering cross-industry learning & collaboration. The workshop highlighted practical Generative AI applications, automation, & responsible adoption.

10TH & 11TH DEC

IBA CICT Continues Generative AI Training for Bank Alfalah in December

IBA CICT, in collaboration with Bank Alfalah Limited, conducted the 6th and 7th batches of its in-house Generative AI Training Series in Karachi. Led by Dr. Faisal Idrat, participants gained hands-on experience with AI applications



Karachi Cohort 3



Karachi Cohort 4

14TH DEC

IBA CICT Concludes Data-Driven Storytelling & Visualization Program Batch II with Alumni Joining as Jury

Data Visualization Program at IBA CICT concluded, participants showcased their final projects under the guidance of Mr. Kashif Hussain. The jury—Dr. Sohail Imran and Daniyal Khan (Program Alumnus and Assistant Director, Financial Inclusion Division, SBP BSC Karachi)—brought valuable academic and industry perspectives. From hands-on Power BI projects to discussions on real-world impact and career pathways, the session reflected IBA CICT's commitment to practical, outcome-driven learning.



20TH DEC

From Certificates to Qawwali: A Night of Celebrating Achievements of Trainees at IBA CICT.

Milestones & Melodies, the Certificate Distribution Ceremony at IBA CICT, celebrated the achievements of 350+ participants from its Diploma, Certificate, and Skills Development Programs across hi-tech domains including Data Visualization, Business Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing, Advanced Web Applications, and more. The ceremony featured opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Khoja, Head – IBA CICT, who highlighted the importance of continuous learning and industry-aligned upskilling. The ceremony concluded on a high note with a soulful Qawwali Night, blending academic accomplishment with cultural expression.



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20TH DEC

IBA CICT Awards GCC Lucky Draw Winner



IBA CICT awarded Yusra Maroof, who successfully completed her Google Career Certification (GCC), as the lucky draw winner. She received her tablet at the Certificate Distribution Ceremony from Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Khoja and Dr. Asad Ilyas, celebrating her achievement and dedication.

23RD DEC

Generative AI for Shariah Compliance

As part of its Generative AI Training Series with Bank Alfalah, IBA CICT conducted a focused in-house session for Shariah Compliance professionals, led by Dr. Faisal Iradat, highlighting the responsible understanding, governance, and application of Generative AI within compliance frameworks.



23RD - 24TH DEC

IBA CICT x House of Habib: Advancing AI-Driven Workforce Capability

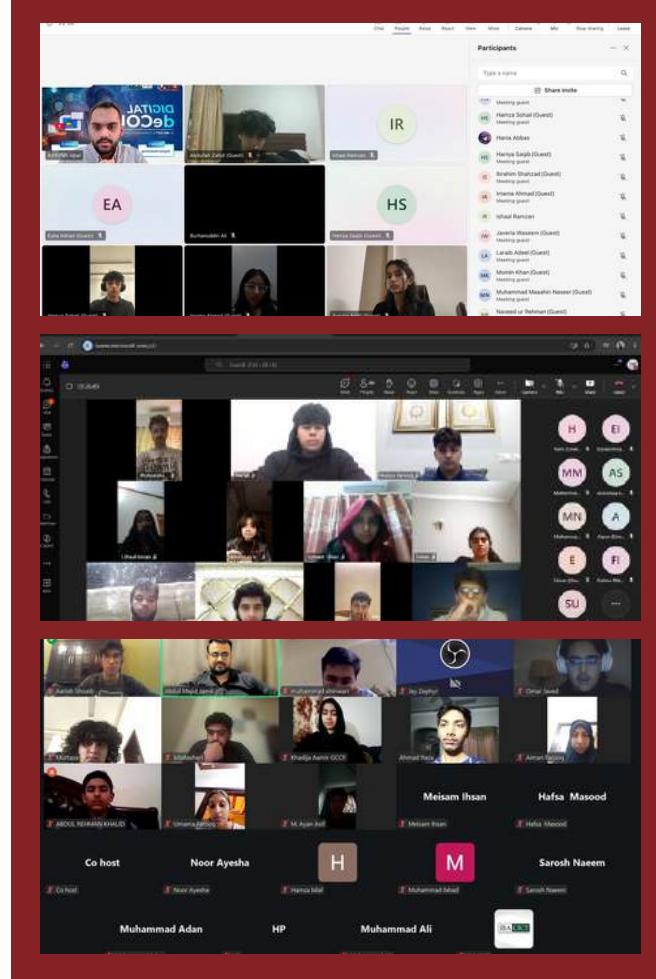
In December 2025, IBA CICT further expanded its industry engagement horizon through a strategic B2B collaboration with House of Habib, delivering a series of hi-tech, AI-focused trainings for its professionals. Designed and delivered by a blend of academic thought leaders and industry experts, the programs covered critical areas including AI for Process Optimization, Business Analytics, Managerial Productivity, Supply Chain 5.0, and AI-driven QC & QA. The initiative reflected IBA CICT's strength in translating advanced technologies into practical, business-relevant learning—reinforcing its role as a trusted partner for organizations navigating digital transformation through structured, industry-aligned upskilling.



27TH DEC

IBA CICT and Beaconhouse Join Hands to Build Digital Skills of Youth Across Pakistan

IBA CICT officially launched Digital DeCode, an online training program equipping Beaconhouse students across Lahore, Faisalabad, and Multan with future-ready skills. Covering Digital Marketing, Cybersecurity, and Data Science, the program provides practical knowledge while fostering the confidence to navigate Pakistan's evolving digital economy. Focused on the Northern Region, it empowers the next generation of digital leaders through interactive, skills-based learning.



IBA CICT on Screen: Insights, Experiences & Inspirations

Click on each screen to hear experiences and stories from IBA CICT.



ARTICLE

Digital Transformation Fails Without People Transformation

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MANAGER PROGRAMS - IBA CICT

Organizations everywhere are investing heavily in technology to stay competitive, efficient, and ready for what lies ahead. Cloud platforms, artificial intelligence, enterprise systems, and cybersecurity tools are rolled out with high expectations and ambitious goals. Yet, despite these investments, many initiatives fail to create the impact they promised. The problem is usually not the technology itself, but rather what people do or don't do when using it.

Technology does not exist in isolation. How it is perceived and used is deeply influenced by leadership. When leaders treat digital initiatives as purely technical upgrades, the rest of the organization follows; however, when leaders have a clear direction, remain engaged, and consistently communicate the purpose of change, participating actively, and reinforcing its importance it creates momentum, people feel more confident, uncertainty reduces, and teams are more willing to move out of their comfort zones. Real transformation takes place when leaders don't just approve change, but visibly champion it.

One of the most common reasons technology investments fall short is inadequate training. Too often, training is treated as a checkbox brief sessions conducted after a system goes live, with little follow-up. Effective training is much more than learning features or clicking through screens. It is about building confidence, developing capability, and creating clarity. Without continuous & role-specific learning, employees struggle to use systems effectively. Errors increase, inefficiencies creep into daily operations, decisions remain intuition-based

instead of data-driven, and cyber and operational risks rise due to misuse or lack of awareness. When people understand not just how to use a system, but why it matters to their role and the organization, adoption becomes meaningful and engagement naturally improves.

Culture also plays an equally powerful role. Even the most advanced tools struggle in environments where experimentation is discouraged, mistakes are punished, and collaboration is limited. In contrast, organizations that value learning, adaptability, and continuous improvement allow technology to become a true enabler. In such settings, employees feel safe exploring new tools, improving processes, and growing with change rather than resisting it.

There is also a widespread assumption that once a new system is installed, transformation will automatically follow. This belief overlooks a simple truth: technology changes the way people work. It introduces new processes, responsibilities, and ways of thinking. When these changes are not managed properly, employees feel overwhelmed instead of empowered. Systems are used at a basic level, workarounds become routine, and the real benefits of the investment never fully materialize. Transformation does not happen at installation—it happens through adoption.

True digital transformation occurs when organizations invest in people as much as they invest in technology. Equipping teams with the right skills, aligning leadership around a shared vision, and fostering a culture that embraces learning are not optional—they are essential. In the end, success is not measured by the tools an organization owns, but by how effectively its people use them. Technology may power transformation, but it is people who make it real. Because transformation doesn't start with systems—it starts with people.

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