



The  
Dawood  
Foundation



# The Dawood Foundation Newsletter Q4 2024

Science is for everyone!

# Message from the CEO

*“ Shaping a Bright Future with Science. ”*



2024 has been a year of remarkable growth for The Dawood Foundation (TDF). Over the past six decades, TDF has consistently committed itself to fostering education, innovation, and social upliftment.

As the new CEO of TDF, I am both humbled and excited to lead this world-class institution. Stepping into this role, I am continually inspired by the impact we have made on countless young minds and the communities we serve. To be at the helm of such a remarkable institution is both an honour and a responsibility I deeply hold.

In 2024, we focused our efforts on delivering accessible science learning experiences, through transformative projects that have brought TDF's mission closer to realisation, while enriching the social and educational landscape of our country.

TDF's MagnifiScience Travels Thar Exhibition, held at the Engro Campus in Mithi, Tharparkar, was a truly remarkable experience to engage with such a dynamic audience and explore the wonders of science together. Over the course of two days, the event attracted an impressive 23,000 visitors from across Tharparkar.

The inauguration of STEAM Lab at the Government Higher Secondary School in Hussainabad, Khairpur Mirs, Sindh, in collaboration with the US Consulate is dedicated to inspiring innovation and nurturing curiosity. This state-of-the-art facility, awarded as a prize for winning the MagnifiScience Drama Competition 2024.

Moreover, our commitment to fostering scientific inquiry has been further advanced through several significant programmes, including the Goethe Institut's Science Film Festival 2024, MSC Children's Market, World Space Week 2024, Junior Internships, and STEM Weekend Programmes. These initiatives have continued to inspire young learners to explore, innovate, and grow.

At TDF Ghar, we hosted a number of workshops, open mic sessions, drum circles, and exhibitions, offering visitors hands-on opportunities to explore new skills, express their creativity, and deepen their appreciation for various art forms and culture.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support, which has been instrumental in making 2024 such a fulfilling year. Your commitment to our cause has been crucial in advancing our vision and helping us achieve our goals.

Looking ahead to 2025, we reaffirm our dedication to empowering individuals, nurturing potential, and ensuring that innovation, exploration, and learning remain at the heart of everything we do.

**Favad Soomro**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Dawood Foundation





# Special Visits at MSC

1. Mr. Marc Piton, the Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs from the Embassy of France in Pakistan
2. Ms. Natalie Baker, Deputy Chief of Mission and Ms. Anamaria T Karrels, Public Diplomacy Officer, from the U.S. Consulate General Karachi
3. Dr. Goranka Horjan, Dr. Darko Babic from ICOM-ICTOP, and Ms. Zahida Quadri from ICOM Pakistan
5. Sayed Rasool Bux Shah, Executive Director STEDA, Dr. Fouzia Khan, Chief Executive Advisor at School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh
4. Dr Stephen M. Lyon, Inaugural Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Aga Khan University



6. Mr. Zahid Ali Abbasi, Secretary, School Education & Literacy Department Government of Sindh

# Thanking Our Sponsors

*We extend our heartfelt thanks to the American Chemical Society (ACS), Matrix Pharma, and Naveena Denim for their generous sponsorships, which have made it possible to offer enriching educational experiences for students, ranging from interactive science exhibits to hands-on learning opportunities.*

Students from TCF "Riaz Tata Campus" were given the chance to visit the MagnifiScience Centre, courtesy of Naveena Denim Limited (NDL). Thanks to the generous support of the American Chemical Society (ACS), Career Excellence college students also had the opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of science at TDF's MagnifiScience Centre.

In addition, thanks to Matrix Pharma, students from Kiran Foundation's DCTO Campus had the chance to visit the MagnifiScience Centre, where they explored interactive displays that brought scientific concepts from physics, biology, and mathematics to life in an engaging, hands-on way. We would like to offer a special thank you to Ms. Shafaq Arbab of Kiran Foundation for her commitment to organising this invaluable trip.

## Ms. Sabrina Dawood's Generosity

Ms. Sabrina Dawood, Vice Chair of The Dawood Foundation (TDF), played a pivotal role in sponsoring a memorable visit to the MagnifiScience Centre for children from various foster homes. Her unwavering support brought immense joy to the children, providing them with an educational and enjoyable experience.

We are deeply grateful to Ms. Sabrina Dawood for her contribution to this event, which left a lasting impact on the children. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the participating institutes and their representatives.

*These collaborations are having a lasting impact on the students' educational journeys, sparking curiosity and fostering innovation for a brighter future. Together, we are making a positive difference in our community, and we look forward to continuing this journey to provide even more transformative experiences.*

## Support a Child's Visit to MSC

'Science is for Everyone'

**Cost of sponsoring a Child's Visit to MSC: Rs.2,500**

(Including Meal and Transportation)







## Goethe-Institut's Science Film Festival 2024

The Goethe-Institut hosted the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Science Film Festival at TDF's MagnifiScience Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024, centred on the theme "Net Zero and the Circular Economy."

The event was attended by Mr. Andreas Schiekofer, Director of Goethe-Institut Pakistan, and Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, Director of TDF's MagnifiScience Centre. Both speakers highlighted the significance of scientific literacy, urging students to explore innovative solutions to tackle climate-related challenges.

Over 250 students from various schools, including a large number from disadvantaged backgrounds, attended the ceremony. The morning began with a healthy buffet breakfast, followed by the screening of a local documentary titled Plastic Pollution.

The documentary addressed the urgent issue of plastic waste, particularly in Pakistan's coastal regions, aiming to raise awareness about the necessity of preserving marine ecosystems for future generations.

Attendees also had the opportunity to explore the exhibits at the MagnifiScience Centre and present their science projects, all centred around the theme of sustainability. Their efforts inspired students to think creatively about solutions for a more sustainable future.

In Pakistan, more than 6,592 participants from over 60 schools took part in the Science Film Festival. 'Through the Smog', a documentary that provided a poignant look at the daily struggles of individuals living in a smog-ridden city, emerged as the most popular. The film emphasised the severe challenges posed by air pollution.

The Science Film Festival 2024 took place globally from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> December, featuring 132 films from 36 countries. A celebration of science communication, the festival, in collaboration with local partners, promotes science literacy and raises awareness of contemporary scientific, technological, and environmental issues through international films and accompanying educational activities.







## Empowering Future Innovators Inauguration of STEAM Lab

at Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the US Consul General, Mr. Scott Urbom, the CEO of The Dawood Foundation, Mr. Favad Soomro, and the Director of MagnifiScience Centre, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, officially inaugurated a state-of-the-art STEAM lab at Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad, Khairpur Mirs.

The school emerged as the winner of the Science Drama Competition, which saw the participation of 53 schools. As part of their prize, the STEAM lab will now be available to both current and future students at the school.

This new facility, made possible through the grant of the US Consulate, will inspire students to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in exciting and dynamic ways.

*"Today marks a significant milestone in shaping the future of our students. The STEAM lab at Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad is not just a space for learning, but a gateway to innovation, creativity, and the sustainable solutions of tomorrow. With this initiative, we are empowering young minds to explore, experiment, and lead the way in science and technology."*

– Mr. Favad Soomro, CEO TDF



## MagnifiScience Drama Competition

The MagnifiScience Drama Competition, a collaborative initiative between TDF and the United States Consulate General in Karachi, was designed to enhance students' understanding of science through the integration of the arts. Open to schools across Sindh and Balochistan, the competition provided students with a unique platform to combine scientific concepts with artistic expression, extending learning beyond the traditional classroom setting.



## STEAM Teachers' Training for Higher Secondary School Hussainabad

Following the inauguration of the STEAM lab, TDF's MagnifiScience Centre organised a six-day training programme on STEAM education for four teachers from Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad, Khairpur Mirs, which ran from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The training focused on TDF's specialised bilingual STEAM modules, available in both English and Sindhi, equipping teachers with the skills to effectively manage and utilise the newly established lab.

During the programme, the teachers participated in conceptual learning and hands-on activities, further enhancing their teaching abilities and preparing them to inspire students in STEAM subjects.





# MSC Children's Market

## *Little Entrepreneurs in Action*



Young minds filled with creativity and entrepreneurial spirit took centre stage at the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the MSC Children's Market. This October, TDF's MagnifiScience Centre was transformed into a vibrant hub of enterprise, where children from across Karachi showcased their unique crafts, delectable treats, and innovative products. Each stall was a testament to the talent, hard work, and resourcefulness of these budding entrepreneurs, delighting visitors with their originality and enthusiasm.

Beyond presenting their creations, the event provided a valuable learning experience, teaching young participants essential business skills such as customer interaction, pricing, negotiation, and collaboration. The market buzzed with excitement as families and friends explored the diverse offerings, creating an atmosphere of community and support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, vendors, and visitors whose enthusiasm and support made this event a remarkable success.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all our generous sponsors: Haleon, Shell, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Ismail Industries Limited, Abbott Laboratories, Meezan Bank, and Hilton Pharma for their contributions to the success of the Children's Market.









# Thar Exhibition 2024

In collaboration with the Thar Foundation, MagnifiScience Travels organised TDF's MagnifiScience Thar Exhibition 2024 in Mithi on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December. The exhibition featured seven interactive themes, showcasing over 100 exhibits and experiences.

*Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister of Education for Sindh, honoured the event with his presence. Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, he remarked, "TDF's MagnifiScience Thar Exhibition is a remarkable initiative that brings the wonders of science to the heart of Tharparkar. This collaboration between the Thar Foundation and MagnifiScience Centre is an inspiring example of how education and innovation can empower communities. By engaging students and visitors in hands-on learning, we are nurturing the curiosity and creativity of future leaders, ensuring that science and knowledge reach every corner of Sindh."*

*"At MagnifiScience, we believe that science has the power to inspire and transform communities. The Thar Exhibition is a testament to the incredible curiosity and potential within Tharparkar, and we are proud to bring this interactive experience to the region, fostering a deeper connection with knowledge and innovation."*

*— Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, Director, MSC*



Held at the Engro Campus in Mithi, Tharparkar, the event spanned two floors with 22 rooms, each fully equipped to deliver science-based knowledge and promote interactive learning. Over the course of two days, the exhibition attracted an impressive 23,000 visitors from across Tharparkar, highlighting the region's enthusiasm for science and education.





# School of Tomorrow (SoT) Conference

Embarking on a Journey of Discovery MagnifiScience Travels, in collaboration with the Beaconhouse School System, brought its innovative approach to science education at the prestigious School of Tomorrow Conference. The exhibition, designed to bring a "Mini MagnifiScience Centre" on the go, served as a platform for exploring scientific concepts that encourage creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in young minds.

MagnifiScience's interactive exhibits were perfectly aligned with SoT's vision, featuring a range of engaging displays that covered both fundamental concepts and advanced scientific topics across four key themes:

Brainstorming, Animal Superpowers, Physics, and Mathematics. With over 5,000 visitors, the event left a lasting impact, sparking curiosity and creative thinking among attendees.



## World Space Week: Reaching for the Stars

TDF's MagnifiScience Centre, in collaboration with Cosmic Tribe, marked World Space Week 2024 by transforming the Centre into a celestial wonderland. The event featured an array of exciting space science and astronomy activities, including the creation of planetary maps and an exploration of the Powers of 10. These interactive experiences captivated participants, igniting their curiosity about the vast universe and leaving young astronomers with lasting memories of the wonders of space.



# Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

*Training with ConnectHear*

In celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, The Dawood Foundation, in collaboration with ConnectHear, organised a leadership training session on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 for TDF and DPS employees with diverse abilities. The event brought employees together through engaging team-building activities, focusing on the importance of their rights and recognising their invaluable contributions to the organisation.

Participants embraced the dynamic programme, which fostered collaboration, improved communication, and boosted confidence, all aimed at advancing their careers and personal development.

## Mental Wellbeing Workshop



The Dawood Foundation hosted an insightful session on Nutrition and Lifestyle Strategies for the mental wellbeing of its employees, led by Mr. Anis Alam, Director of Strategic Partnerships - Diagnostic Services at Indus Hospital & Health Network. Mr. Alam highlighted the profound impact nutrition has on mental health, emphasising the importance of healthy eating, regular physical activity, and effective stress management for overall wellbeing.

The discussion also explored key factors influencing mental health, such as sleep quality, social connections, and emotional resilience. This interactive session provided TDF employees with the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and reflect on how small lifestyle adjustments can lead to positive improvements in mental wellness.







### Breast Cancer Awareness Session

As part of our ongoing commitment to health and well-being, The Dawood Foundation, in collaboration with Aga Khan University Hospital Pakistan (AKUH), hosted an Educational Session on Breast Cancer Awareness on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The session featured Dr. Rubia Farid, Consultant in Family Medicine at AKUH, who emphasised the critical importance of early detection. She discussed key topics such as recognising symptoms, prevention strategies, and the importance of self-examinations and regular mammograms for timely diagnosis and treatment.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, offering participants valuable insights into risk factors and the latest advancements in cancer treatment.



### Bring Your Kids to Work Day

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, The Dawood Foundation marked Children's Day with a memorable event titled "A Day in Science Centre," as part of the Bring Your Kids to Work Day initiative. This special occasion gave TDF employees the opportunity to bring their children to workplace, offering them a unique insight into their parents' professional lives.

The day was filled with engaging activities, starting with an exciting Nature Scavenger Hunt that ignited children's sense of adventure. The children's journey continued with an interactive STEM workshop, where they unleashed their creativity through hands-on activities such as crafting simple circuits and building windmills.

After a delightful lunch, the children began a guided tour of the MagnifiScience Centre. To enrich their experience further, a screening of TDF's Nature Series documentary, "Desert Dwellers of Tharparkar", was organised to educate them about the flora and fauna of the Tharparkar desert, as well as its ecological changes.

The day concluded with appetising snacks and a reflection on the memorable experiences. Filled with curiosity, laughter, and inspiration, the event created lasting memories for the young visitors and strengthened the bond between families and TDF.

# TDF's MagnifiScience Centre 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



TDF's MagnifiScience Centre celebrated its third anniversary with a lively "Jeeto Pakistan"-themed dinner to mark this special occasion. The evening featured heartfelt speeches that reflected on the Centre's journey and its achievements in sparking scientific curiosity. From interactive exhibits that inspired young minds to educational programmes that encouraged a love of learning, the Centre has had a lasting impact on the community.

*"As we celebrate the third anniversary of the MagnifiScience Centre, I am incredibly proud of the journey we've undertaken and the impact we've had on inspiring curiosity and a love for science within our community. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our team and the incredible support from everyone involved. Our mission to make science engaging, accessible, and fun for all continues to drive us, and we look forward to inspiring many more generations to come."*

— Syed Fasihuddin Biyabani, CEO TDF



The atmosphere was joyful, with a special "Jeeto TDF" segment where staff took part in fun activities. The event was a celebration of the team's hard work and dedication to make science both exciting and accessible to everyone. As the evening came to an end, the Centre looked forward to the future, eager to continue inspiring future generations.





# Junior Internship Programme

TDF's MagnifiScience Winter Junior Internship Programme 2024 provided a season of growth and discovery for young minds eager to explore new opportunities. This two-week programme offered 43 talented junior interns the chance to enhance their communication skills, engage in hands-on learning, and explore a wide range of possibilities across various departments.

The participating departments, including Exhibit Development, Research and Content, Social Media Marketing, Corporate Communications, Sustainability, and Design, provided valuable insights and prepared the interns for their future professional journeys.

Interns also took part in specialised STEM workshops, where they worked on real-world projects such as a Facial Recognition System, a Bluetooth-Controlled Car, and a Moisture Detection System for plants. Additionally, a communication workshop helped them develop essential verbal and non-verbal skills, which are crucial for self-expression and teamwork.



The internship programme not only inspired the interns to build confidence and broaden their knowledge but also offered them a transformative experience, making the most of their winter break. With increased creativity and self-assurance, the interns left well-prepared for future challenges, thanks to TDF's Junior Internship Programme.



# Weekend Programmes



The MagnifiScience Centre offers a range of exciting STEM weekend programmes designed to spark curiosity about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). These interactive workshops give participants the chance to engage in fun experiments, build creative projects, and explore scientific concepts in an enjoyable and hands-on way. The programmes are aimed to make learning exciting and accessible while encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

## Friction in Action – October

In October, the MagnifiScience Centre launched a thrilling exploration of friction and resistance with dynamic demonstrations. Participants delved into the principles of friction, discovering how it influenced movement and behaviour. They also analysed how friction varied across different materials and observed how it could change the way objects moved or stopped.

## Mysteries of Smoke – November

November brought the Mysteries of Smoke programme, which fascinated visitors as they unravelled the secrets behind smoke forming into rings. They discovered how carbon dioxide in smoke helped put out a candle flame and learned how the smoky infusion of burning coals could enhance the flavour and aroma of food, making it an unforgettable sensory experience.



## Air Pressure – December

In December, participants explored the wonders of air pressure through a series of fun challenges. They saw how air pressure made a balloon grow bigger as the difference between internal and external pressure increased. They also experienced atmospheric pressure firsthand and watched in awe as smoke floated and dispersed in the air.

The MagnifiScience Centre continues to inspire young minds through its engaging STEM weekend programmes, offering fun ways to discover the exciting world of science.



# TDF GHAR

TDF Ghar hosted a series of creative workshops, open mic sessions, drum circle, and exhibitions, offering visitors hands-on opportunity to explore new skills, express their creativity, and deepen their appreciation for various art forms.

## Workshops

### Sign Language

In celebration of International Day of Sign Languages, TDF Ghar, in collaboration with ConnectHear, hosted a workshop where participants learned basic sign language, key phrases, and communication techniques. The session promoted inclusive communication and enhanced participants understanding and appreciation of sign language.



### Sculpture Art

TDF Ghar hosted an inspiring sculpture art workshop, allowing participants to explore their creativity through clay modelling and shaping. This hands-on experience encouraged self-expression and emotional connection, with attendees creating unique sculptures.



## Resin Art

At TDF Ghar, participants embarked on a vibrant journey of resin art, transforming blank canvases into stunning masterpieces with colourful strokes and resin layers. From swirling patterns to captivating designs, the workshop highlighted the endless creative possibilities.



## Textured Art

The Textured Art Workshop at TDF Ghar was a vibrant explosion of creativity, where aspiring artists delved into the world of textures to create their own distinctive masterpieces.

In a supportive and encouraging environment, participants learned the essential techniques of textured art, leaving with their personal creations and a deeper appreciation for this expressive medium.



## Open Mic

*A Night of Expression & Inspiration*

TDF Ghar came alive with creativity and camaraderie during a captivating Open Mic Night, bringing together performers, visitors, and an eager audience. The evening featured heartfelt prose, soulful poetry, mesmerising songs, and poignant personal stories. Each performance celebrated individuality and artistic expression, creating a rich tapestry of emotions and inspiration.

A huge thank you to everyone who shared their talent, passion, and energy, making the night truly unforgettable. Stay tuned for the next Open Mic Night, where another evening of art and connection awaits visitors.





# Drum Circle

## *A Night of Rhythmic Bliss at TDF Ghar*

Beats, drums, and laughter filled the air at TDF Ghar for a vibrant celebration of rhythm, unity, and joy. Drum King Mohsin Kazi led an electrifying evening, where the lively beats of drums wove a symphony of creativity and connection. Everyone joined in, using their hands to create rhythms that echoed a shared spirit of togetherness.

The night wasn't just about music; it was an interactive journey where every beat told a story, every rhythm sparked joy, and every participant became part of something truly unforgettable.



# Exhibitions

## **Spotify Pakistan's "House of ICONS" Exhibition**

Spotify Pakistan's "House of ICONS" exhibition, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at TDF Ghar, celebrated the nation's rich musical heritage. The exhibition paid tribute to legendary artists whose music has shaped generations, spanning from the golden 1950s era to the unforgettable hits of the '90s and early 2000s.

Attendees relived timeless classics, explored the stories behind beloved songs, and immersed themselves in the melodies that continue to resonate today. While the exhibition concluded on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024, its enduring impact continues to inspire future generations to cherish our musical history.





# From Borders to Belongings: Karachi's Journey Through Migration

TDF Ghar concluded the year with the captivating Winterfest, which spanned three days and featured thought-provoking exhibitions and an evocative theatre play. The exhibition "From Border to Belonging: Karachi's Journey of Migration" explored how the 1947 Partition reshaped Karachi, transforming it into the vibrant and diverse city it is today.

Through a blend of captivating personal narratives and historical perspectives, the exhibition highlights migration as a driving force behind Karachi's inspiring journey of transformation and resilience.

*"Karachi's history is woven with stories of resilience, diversity, and transformation. Through this exhibition, we honour the journeys of those who shaped this city, and inspire visitors to connect with its rich heritage. I encourage everyone to visit and rediscover Karachi's remarkable past."*  
- Ms. Sabrina Dawood, Vice Chair TDF



*"Karachi is a city of stories—of courage, resilience, and the extraordinary human spirit. Through this exhibition, we hope to provide a platform to explore and appreciate the profound impact migration has had on Karachi's identity. I encourage everyone, especially the youth, to visit and immerse themselves in the rich history that continues to shape our city's vibrant present and promising future,"*  
- Mr. Favad Soomro, CEO TDF







## Theatre play: Kiraye K Liye Khali Hai

The play Kiraye K Liye Khali Hai added emotional depth, depicting personal and societal struggles during a turbulent era. This powerful drama reflected on human nature and the complexities of relationships, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

Winterfest wasn't just an event; it was an emotional journey through history and humanity, honouring the resilience and stories of those affected by Partition.



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