

Obituary

Prof. Dr. Q. K. Ghori (1932-2009)



Prof. Dr. Q. K. Ghori left us for the eternal abode on May 17, 2009. He was an eminent Mathematician of Pakistan and was elected Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1974. He obtained M.Sc. degree from Karachi University in 1952 and Ph.D. degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, in 1960. When I joined the University of British Columbia as a graduate student in 1961, the names of two Pakistani students, Q. K. Ghori and Ishrat Hussain, were held in high esteem amongst the community of students, Canadian as well as Indo-Pakistanis. Needless to say that this was a source of immense pride for the Pakistani students there.

Prof. Ghori started his professional career as Lecturer, D. J. Government Science College, Karachi, in 1952, and stayed there until 1955 before moving to Sindh University, Jamshoro. Following his return from Canada, he joined Quaid-i-Azam University as Associate Professor of Mathematics in 1961, and soon became full Professor in 1966. During his stay at Quaid-i-Azam University, he served as Acting Director of National Institute of Modern Languages (1970-72), Professor in-charge of Computer Center (1968-73) and Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences (1973-75).

Dr. Ghori remained professionally active until his death. He spent several years abroad as Professor at Garyounis University, Libya (1979-82, 1983-84) and at KFUPM, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (1988-94). In 1994, he was invited to join Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Topi, where he served as Professor

(1994-2000), Dean, Faculty of Engineering Sciences (1996-98) and Pro-Rector (1999-2000). At the time of his untimely demise, he was serving as Advisor, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, and at the same time, held the position of Treasurer at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He was recipient of Sir Shah Suleiman Memorial Prize in 1975. He was Past President of All Pakistan Mathematical Association, Associate Secretary of this Association (1960-70), and Member of Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science, Pakistan Scientific Society, Punjab Mathematical Association, Karachi Mathematical Society and Pakistan Association for History & Philosophy of Science.

It was Prof. Ghori's administrative and academic eminence that earned him the kind of national and international recognition reflected in the above narrative of his achievements. In spite of his current responsibilities at COMSTATS Institute, he maintained keen interest in affairs of Pakistan Academy Sciences and in advancement of Mathematics, and Science in general, in Pakistan. He hardly ever missed attending the evening lectures and seminars held on monthly basis at the Academy.

Ghori sahib was a soft spoken person with modesty written all over his face. His face was invariably adorned with a smile, often a prelude to some witty remark, as and when he greeted his colleagues. The week before he passed away, he was in constant contact with me regarding some task that he had assigned to me. The last I heard from him two days earlier was a reminder, and a

promise to visit the Academy the next day. On Friday, the 15th of May, I waited for him. Little did I know that come May 18, I would still be waiting for him. What awaits us all from moment to moment is best known only to Allah Almighty and what is preordained is beyond control of mortals.

Prof. Ghori was proud father of two sons

and three daughters, of whom he talked with an immense sense of pride. His passing away is an irreparable loss to the entire family. May Allah give the family the strength to bear this loss. The Fellows at the Academy remember him with fondness and will miss him much.

Prof. Dr. M. A. Hafeez
Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences