



Press Release

TALK AT ITU ON “LIFE IN SOLAR SYSTEM” ON FRIDAY

Lahore, November 16, 2017

A talk is being organized by Lahore Astronomical Society (LAS) in collaboration with Information Technology University (ITU) on, “The Search for Life in the Solar System” by Dr. Nozair Khawaja a PhD from the University of Heidelberg and is currently a Postdoc Researcher on Planetary Science by Space Missions at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Heidelberg on Friday November 17, 2017 from 7 p.m to 9 p.m at ITU auditorium of Arfa Software Technology Park, 6th floor, Lahore.

The talk will focus an overview of the current research in the field of astrobiology - the search for life in space, to look for extraterrestrial life in the Solar System in search of water, an energy source and organic molecules on other planetary bodies. Until the 1990's, it was claimed that there is no liquid water except on Earth. However, the Galileo and Cassini-Huygens space missions have changed this prevailing view. Liquid water is suspected on Jupiter's moon - Europa and found on Saturn's moon - Enceladus, where the surface temperature is below -100°C. Liquid water exists in the form of oceans lying under icy crusts of these moons.

With the discovery of icy plumes on Enceladus, the general view on the habitability of the outer solar system has changed. The Cassini-Huygens mission analyzed the composition of icy grains ejected from the moon and discovered the subsurface salty oceans, organic compounds, hydrothermal activity and tidal heat as an energy source. These discoveries have made Enceladus a potential candidate for extraterrestrial life in the Solar System. Future space missions are currently in the preparation phase to look for signs of extraterrestrial microbial life on Europa and Enceladus.

Outsiders interested to attend must register by filling the form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/n02zilEwwAv03kxu2> otherwise they will not be allowed to enter the premises.