Brief History of AACP

Hadrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) stressed the need for using computers in Jama’at offices while addressing office bearers of International Association of Ahmadi Architects and Engineers (IAAAE) in June 1982, in Rabwah. Hadhur suggested contacting experts of Information Technology (IT) within the country (Pakistan), bringing them to Rabwah and assigning them the task of “Data Compilation”. Some efforts were made in this regard, particularly in Tahrik-e-Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan. Tahrik-e-Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya became the first Jamaati organization to purchase computers and train staff. Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Ahmad joined Tahrik-e-Jadid in 1989 as the first computer programmer/analyst.

In 1993, Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Ahmad Shaheed, had the opportunity to request Hadrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) to allow the formation of an association of Ahmadi computer experts. Hazur graciously approved the idea. Hence, Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Sahib founded the Association of Ahmadi Computer Professionals (AACP).

AACP is now fairly well established in Pakistan, and has six local chapters in Pakistan. They are Rabwah, Lahore, Wah Cantt, Islamabad, Karachi, and Rawalpindi chapters.

Constitution

Initial milestones for the Association were to build a comprehensive database of IT professionals and formulate a constitution for the proposed Association. Initially 29 computer professionals came forward and were enrolled as prospective members of the Association. It was decided to hold a meeting to propose a constitution of the Association.

Nine (9) members attended the first meeting, which was held on December 1, 1995 in Rabwah. Mirza Ghulam Qadir Ahmad Sahib chaired the meeting. In this meeting constitution of the Association was framed which was subsequently approved by Hadrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) on March 20, 1996. Hadrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) appointed Mirza Ghulam Qadir Sahib as the first “Patron” of the Association.

The instructions of Hadrat Khalifatul Masih are binding on all members of the Association and are above the by-laws of the constitution.

In 2004, Hadrat Khalifatul Masih V (at) approved changes to the constitution of the association, which were recommended by a special committee and duly voted by the general body of the association.
First Elections
On Sep 6, 1996, first elections of the Association were held at the Khilafat Library Rabwah, in which 42 members participated. Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Sahib Shaheed was elected as the “Chairman” of the Association. Since then elections of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) are being held every two years.

Annual Conventions and Magazines
By the grace of Allah, AACP has held eight (8) Annual Conventions in Rabwah. These conventions were held in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2005. The most recent was held in March 2005, in Eiwan-e-Mahmood Rabwah. The Association has also had the opportunity to publish Annual Technical Magazines since 1999.

AACP Website and Mailing List
AACP has, with the permission from Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah Sahib – Chairman Worldwide Ahmadiyya Internet Affairs Committee, launched a website (www.aacp.info), which is primarily restricted to members of the Association.

AACP also has a moderated mailing list (aacponline@yahoogroups.com), which has more than 400 members. Mails from members can be posted on the mailing list on the following topics:

- IT Job Postings
- IT Job Requests
- Technical Queries
- Information and Knowledge Sharing Postings
- Student Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Announcements (Seminars, Conventions, Lectures, Meetings, Etc.)
- Occasional News

Seminars and Regional Conventions
Association’s local chapters hold seminars and regional conventions on technical and management issues, for professionals and students of information technology. These seminars are held on a regular basis in different chapters. These meetings provide opportunity to IT professionals and students to meet with each other and share knowledge and expertise. Local chapters publish Newsletters to communicate with AACP members within the chapter.

IT Support to Local Jamaats
Local chapters of the Association provide IT support to local Jamaats to meet their IT needs.
**Guidance to Students and Professionals**

AACP provides a very effective platform for the guidance and counseling of IT students and professionals. AACP had conducted two surveys of institutions providing good IT/computer sciences education in Pakistan. These surveys were printed in daily Al-Fazal and were made available to the members through the AACP mailing list. Additionally, AACP also provides guidance to those students who wish to study in the USA and Europe.

**AACP Logo**

Below is the logo of the Association of Ahmadi Computer Professionals. This logo was selected after a competition among the members of the Association.

![AACP Logo](image)

**Aims and Objectives of the Association**

AACP is purely a Professional and non-political Association with the following objectives:

a. To promote the cause of Islam and Profession of computer science and engineering.
b. To interpret and correlate the scientific research in the light of the Holy Quran and to substantiate the Quranic truth with the modern discoveries.
c. To provide assistance to the Ahmadiyya Jama’at to meet its computer related needs.
d. To promote research work, writing of research papers and exchange knowledge with similar other organizations.
e. To provide guidance to the students of computer science and engineering in their career planning and other professional activities.
f. To assist its Members in the acquisition of the latest techniques and knowledge and to inculcate confidence, courage and spirit to attain distinction in professional and personal conduct of life.
g. To infuse in its members the spirit of extreme devotion, dedication, honesty, truthfulness and hard work, and to seek light and guidance of Allah in all professional and personal matters.
Central Executive Committee
The affairs of the Association are managed by a Central Executive Committee (CEC), which is typically elected. The elections are held after two years during a General Body Meeting, and are, typically, chaired by Patron of the Association. The results of the elections are then submitted to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih for approval. However, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih has the authority to appoint any (or all) members of the central executive committee without elections.

The CEC consists of the following office bearers:

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. General Secretary
4. Finance Secretary
5. Auditor
6. Three (3) Representatives from **Members**\(^1\)
7. One Representative from **Associates**\(^2\)
8. One Honorary\(^3\) Member

Please consult the AACP Constitution for details about the CEC.

AACP Patron
AACP has a Patron, who is appointed by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih. He exercises his powers as delegated to him by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih. In a recent letter, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V\(^{\text{(atba)}}\) has instructed that there will be only one Patron, who will work with associations in different countries of the world. This instruction has also been included in the Constitution of the Association.

Syed Tahir Ahmad Sahib, Nazir Taleem, Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan, serves as the Patron of the Association. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV\(^{\text{(ra)}}\) appointed him at this post after the *shahadat* of Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Sahib.

Conclusion
In the end, I would like to request special prayers for AACP, its members, and office-holders. May Allah enable us to serve His cause as He wishes, with the prayers and guidance of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V\(^{\text{(atba)}}\). Aameen. I would also like to request prayers for the Founder, First Patron, and First Chairman of the Association: Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Qadir Shaheed. May Allah elevate his status in paradise. Aameen.

\(^1\) See Constitution for membership categories

\(^2\) See Constitution for membership categories

\(^3\) This is not an elected member