

PAKISTAN INNOVATION FORUM 2014

INNOVATION NATION

The Promise and Challenges of creating an innovation ecosystem



A Conference Report



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Pakistan Innovation Forum 2014

Innovation Nation™ – The Promise and Challenges of Creating an Innovation Ecosystem - was a one of its kind platform that successfully brought together the captains of the business, academia, and government along with young and emerging innovators and entrepreneurs to think about the challenges and opportunities of creating an innovative milieu and to showcase, reward, and recognise innovation in Pakistan.

The Conference featured **Eminent Keynote Speakers**; panels on **Corporate Innovation, Development Innovation, and Educational Innovation** that engaged thought leaders; **Ignite talks** by emerging innovators, and an **Innovations Showcase** featuring some of the most interesting stories of innovators engaged by PIF over the last 12 months.

Pakistan Innovation Forum™ showcased 12 months of hardwork by PIF and the hundreds of innovators that it engaged and was a way to show and tell; say thank you for the trust and opportunity it got in 2014; and a welcome to a bold new world of innovation and innovative entrepreneurship that is Pakistan's future.

PIF 2014 was only made possible by the immense generosity and foresight of our partners and sponsors.

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Introducing Pakistan Innovation Foundation...

Pakistan Innovation Forum™ 2014 started with an Introduction to Pakistan Innovation Foundation and its core objectives of creating a prosperous and innovative Pakistan.

Mr. Saad Amanullah Khan, Chairman of the Board, PIF presented an overview of the need for innovation in the Pakistani society and corporate mandate to help drive this process. He reiterated the importance of innovation for the purpose of progress and prosperity, stating that a country that does not innovate eventually ages and dies.



CEO PIF Dr. Athar Osama presenting progress report

Dr. Athar Osama, Founder and Chief Executive, PIF presented a report card of the organisation's activities since its inception in March 2013. He outlined the range of activities carried out by PIF under its three pronged strategy of awareness **building, rewarding and recognising innovation, and research and advocacy**. He provided an overview of various activities, namely, Idea Labs, National Ideas Contest, and the National Grand Challenge.



Chairman Mr. Saad Amanullah Khan addresses the audience in his welcome speech

The stage was set to celebrate Pakistani innovation and disseminate as well as document the journeys of our innovators in the hope to learn, promote and inspire a revolutionary and innovative mindset within the society.

Forum Sessions: Creating Room for Dialogue

With a line-up of panelists comprising corporate powerhouses, development specialists, education leaders and policy experts, the forum paved the way for fruitful dialogue in all areas of innovation by putting forward problems, identifying potential solutions, and creating the space to discuss impact-oriented ideas, and sustainable and scalable solutions.

▪ Corporate Innovation



Coordinator General,
Comstech
Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan



Chief Executive, Rastgar
Industries
Imtiaz Rastgar



Private Sector Innovation
Coach
Rumman Ahmed



Executive Director, The
Indus Entrepreneurs
Murtaza Zaidi

The corporate innovation session focused on highlighting the need for an enabling ecosystem that encourages and assists the spread of innovation; most significantly the element of state support is essential. From a corporate perspective it was noted that there needs to be a clear cut organizational culture that harbours creativity which in turn brings in a stream of ideas that can be used to source innovation.

Session Highlight!

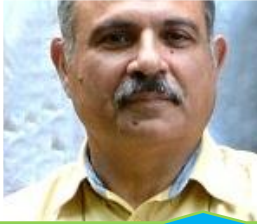
There exists a common misconception that science is like a magic wand that leads to innovation. You need a certain degree of social capability and while innovation takes many forms, it cannot flourish without state support whether it be state funding or state policy – these elements are crucial.

*- Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan,
Coordinator General COMSTECH*



Dr. Shaukat Hameed and Mr. Imtiaz Rastgar indulge in the corporate innovation debate

Development Innovation



Chief Knowledge Officer,
LEAD Pakistan

Hasan Rizvi



Senior Group Head,
PPAF

Shahnaz Kapadia



Former CEO, Aga Khan Rural
Support Programme

Izhar Hunzai



Managing Director,
Enclude, Pakistan

Omer Ghani



CEO, White Rice
Communications

Raheel Waqar



Comm. Specialist, USAID and
Founder, DSF

Aisha Sarwari

Key Takeaways

- Responsive public sector + Creative Private Sector + Competent Civil Society Sector = *Sustainable Development*
- There has been considerable progress towards improving the state of women – and innovation can help – but still a lot needs to be done
- There needs to be a shift from the existing program/project mindset to a sustainability/scalability mindset



Panelists for the development innovation panel discuss creation of a sustainable social impact

Session Highlight!

Philanthropy has not impacted the world like we thought it would. And the development world has now evolved from a philanthropic model towards a social impact model which we believe is more sustainable. You give someone money to feed him today, who will feed him tomorrow? You set him up a business today and he will be able to feed himself, his family and perhaps the community around him. Just giving capital to the community is not sufficient; you also need to combine it with capacity building.

- Omer Ghani, Managing Director, Enclude - Pakistan

▪ Educational Innovation



Executive Director, LUMS
Centre for Entrepreneurship
Khurram Zafar



Chief Executive, Roots
Millenium Schools
Faisal Mushtaq



Team Leader, Ilm Ideas
Zehra Zaidi



TV Host/Political Columnist
Fasi Zaka

Session Highlight!

I'm a firm believer that if you want change, you will have to take action yourself. And you'll have to be the trailblazer for that change. I've done some advisory work for the government and what I've found is that at the end of the day, political capital or the political bottom-line of projects overshadow any kind of social benefit. So I would like to believe that if a massive social change would come about even in the education sector, private sector individuals take the lead and rely less on the government.

- Khurram Zafar, LUMS Centre for Entrepreneurship

Key Takeaways

- Concepts of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) have now transformed to CSI (Corporate Social Innovation)
- Modes of teaching and tools for learning can evolve however, emphasis on content remains critical.
- Technology does not have to be the answer to educational innovation; training must be provided to teachers in imparting knowledge in more productive ways
- The human element (teacher), at least at primary level education, must continue to exist only *assisted* by technology



Moderated by the ever provocative Fasi Zaka, the Educational Innovation panel discussed the merits and demerits of a technological and non-technological innovation...



The Policy Forum

Amidst all the ideas, problems and solutions that were brought forward at the Pakistan Innovation Forum, there was consensus that there was no dearth of talent in Pakistan i.e. there is a plethora of bright ideas and brighter thinkers but what is lacking are facilities, funding, organizational structure, and other resources needed to foster and promote innovation.

The panel for the Policy Forum largely agreed that there isn't exactly an absence of policies; policies exist but implementation does not. From intellectual property rights to more sophisticated instruments, policies do exist but are seldom implemented because the government often lacks the capacity to and the institutional flexibility to carry out any future looking policy.

Speakers of the Forum, however, noted that Government's role cannot be ignored or wished away and that private sector and government must work together to achieve optimal policy focus.



‘The importance of networks provides both a focus around which policy may be framed and increases the number of avenues for policy action. We can all be potential innovators and participants in this process; this view of innovation moves the locus of interest from the nation to the locale or region’ thus enabling contribution towards innovation and policy on behalf of individuals’

-Dr. Steven Popper – Professor of Science & Technology Policy at



(L-R): Mosharraf Zaidi (Alif Ailaan), Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Former Advisor to CM Punjab M. Ibrahim Qureshi, Dr. Athar Osama, CEO, PIF and Australian High Commissioner H. E. Peter Hayward at the Policy Forum.

Budding Innovators take the stage

▪ Igniting Innovation

Pakistan Innovation Foundation ran three Innovation Challenges in 2013-14, namely, Toyota Manufacturing Innovation Challenge, PPAF Agri+Rural Innovation Challenge, and Ilm Ideas' IlmAppsChallenge. Some of the most promising aspiring innovators took the stage to share their ideas, challenges, and inspire the audience with their innovation journeys. Our Ignite Speakers included a mix of IlmAppsChallenge and NIGC Contestants...



▪ Innovation Showcase



Khurram Zafar watches 3D printed products at the Innovation Showcase



An exciting display by School of Art, Design & Architecture (University of Gujrat) was an attraction

A number of innovations by those who had worked with the Foundation such as a semi-automatic handloom (*khaddi*), an indigenous automotive smartphone-enabled anti-theft device, a 3D printer, automatic smartphone based irrigation control system, and several innovative e-learning solutions including ones by Knowledge Platform and MS-ITE (NUST), as well as the design portfolio of SADA at the University of Gujrat were on display.

Innovation – Past, Present, and Future

Earlier, Former Caretaker Federal Minister for Science and Technology and Founder of Heartfile, **Dr. Sania Nishtar** delivered a powerful keynote in which she highlighted the policy challenges and options faced by Pakistan. She noted that there needs to be a broader understanding that innovation does not occur in a vacuum; proper ecosystems are required for its enhancement and subsequent sustenance. She stated that new governments come in with new visions but a lack of standardized uniformity creates a lag in policy creation and implementation.



Other speakers included **Dr. Alex Dehgan**, former Science Advisor to the USAID Administrator; **Tris Dyson**, Head of Center for Challenge Prizes at UK's National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts (NESTA), and **Marc-Andre Franche**, Country Director for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Marc-Andre Franche drew on UNDP's experience to provide a donors perspective on development innovation and policy and the how he saw the future of development innovation around the world.



Closing the Forum, Chief Guest Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reform, urged collaborative efforts on behalf of corporations, the state, academia and individuals in helping pave a new roadmap for Pakistan: one which is steadfast in innovating and exceeding in excellence on all fronts



Rewarding Innovation

The final moments of the Pakistan Innovation Forum 2014 were the most anticipated ones with the Winners of the National Innovation Grand Challenge and IlmAppsChallenge being declared in an Oscar-style Ceremony chaired by Minister Ahsan Iqbal who gave away the prizes. This marked the end of a journey of several months – and the beginning of a new chapter for many NIGC and IAC contestants.

Session Highlight!

- **> PKR 3.5 Million in Innovation Prizes won by 7 Winners of National Innovation Grand Challenge**
- **Upto PKR 20 Million in Innovation Funding won by 4 Winners of IlmAppsChallenge**
- **Plus lots of kudos, contacts, and encouragement**

The Winners of NIGC are:

Dr. Tariq Mahmood (IST) – PKR 1,000,000
PPAF Agri+Rural Innovation Prize

Dr. Akhtar Khalil (iFahja) – PKR 1,000,000
Toyota Manufacturing Innovation Prize

Student Prizes of PKR 500,000 ea. went to Shabnam Javed of Punjab University and Arslan Afzal of University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Special Prizes of PKR 200,000 ea. went to Team Innofy, Rubina Kausar, and Abdullah Soomro and Team of GIKI.

The Winners of IlmAppsChallenge who receive funding for pilot testing are:

Knowledge Platform, Arbisoft, MS-ITE (NUST), and Team Amal of Karachi.

