

## Media Coverage

### AGM & Conference 3<sup>rd</sup> Day November 24, 2021



## Four days conference kicks off

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 15th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), on "Opportunities to Excel Now & the Future", hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), was inaugurated today in the IMSciences auditorium.

The AGM and Conference of the PSDE was inaugurated by Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, President and CEO of HBL. The Conference is being sponsored by the World Bank Group, CPEC Center of Excellence, the Bank of Punjab, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Limited, NFO Pakistan, HBL, PPAF, Saf Group of Companies, FBR, and the Bank of Khyber.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haq, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and president of the PSDE, in his presidential address, expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming participation and magnificent support from IMSciences. Dr. Nadeem said in this Conference we would not talk about macroeconomics, IMF, poverty, aid, taxes, welfare, equality and so on. These ideas are kind of obsolete when we talk about "opportunity". What is meant by opportunity?

Each Pakistani, especially the youngsters should reflect on it. We don't think of creating an opportunity. Shouldn't we focus on self-realization and self-actualization? We care only about earning, why not about learning the means? The government talks about welfare but not the opportunity. Why don't we as a nation ponder over these though provoking questions? Why we have a feeling of dependency? VC PIDE asked these questions, giving enough food for thought to the participants to think and debate. He also asked, is opportunity only getting low-quality education and ending up not getting a job? Dr. Nadeem said that even for low-level jobs, there are a very high number of applicants, often overqualified.

He said that according to official statistics, the overall unemployment rate is very low at 6.9 percent.

However, if we unpack the numbers in the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS), a very different picture emerges. For example, 79 percent females and 32 percent males are out of the labor force. So, should we take the official 6.9 percent unemployment rate figure seriously, or should we dig deeper? There is also an extremely high unemployment rate among the Pakistani youth. Similarly, a high proportion of workers in the labor force, especially females, who are unpaid. Most people are stuck in low-end jobs, evident from the fact that most of the workers get wages that are lower than the current minimum wage of PKR 25,000.

Dr. Haque further said that the returns to education in Pakistan are also very low, as 50 percent of graduates with a university degree do not gain much by getting higher education. The question then arises, what are the opportunities that we are offering our youth. These factors are resulting in highly discouraged workers and significant dropout rates. Vice-Chancellor, PIDE said that opportunities for the youth are squeezed because the government is present everywhere and in every market. He apprised the audience that according to PIDE research, the government's footprint on the economy is approximately 60-80 percent of the economy. He said that we need to focus on "opportunity now" for our youth. Building further on his ideas,

In his inaugural address, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, President and CEO HBL, expressed his immense happiness to be able to come to the Conference and support this initiative. Coming all the way from Karachi just to attend this conference is worth it, he remarked. Mr. Aurangzeb, while contextualizing HBL services, talked about the opportunities HBL is providing to the youth, especially in the rural areas.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Director welcomed PIDE team and all the participants to the Conference and assured PIDE its full support till the closure. The Director was particularly overwhelmed by the bold decision of VC PIDE to hold a conference this time in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr.

Khan looked forward for more such future collaborations between PIDE and IMSciences and hoped that this event should turn into a mutually beneficial relation. Moreover, he introduced IMSciences and what it envisioned at the time of its inception. Dr. Idriss Khurwaja, Secretary PSDE, presented the secretary's report of the PSDE. He welcomed all the participants to the 15th AGM and Conference of the PSDE and PIDE, hosted in collaboration with IMSciences, Peshawar. He told the audience that the sub-themes include: (a) Nurturing Ideas and Accessing Opportunities, (b) State for the 21st Century, (c) Sludge - Frictions, that Consume Activities and Growth, (d) Making Markets Work, (e) Inclusive Cities: People and Place and (d) Political Economy of Information.

## KP body on energy meets

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's Standing Committee on Energy and Power chaired by Lajp Muhammad Khan Tuesday discussed progress of ongoing power generation projects in the province. The meeting was also attended by Chief Minister Aide on Energy, Taj Muhammad Tarand, MPAs including Inayat Ullah, Faheem Ahmad, Shara Afron, Shabbad Khoso, Shafiq Afridi, Humana Khatoon, Secretary Energy, Syed Imtiaz Hussain, Chief Executive Officer, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation, Engr. Nazeem Khan and concerned officials.

Taj Tarand told the meeting that KP province was richly endowed natural resources that can be utilized to generate affordable energy. He told that among 356 small energy generating projects majority have been completed while some are in final stage of completion. It was said that disabled, females and minority community members would be recruited in energy department according to approved quota. Taj Muhammad Tarand also informed the meeting that work on 672 small energy generation projects would start in next phase.

**PESHAWAR**

# 35th AGM: KP to start robotics education at school level



By [News Desk](#)

Posted on November 23, 2021



PESHAWAR: Addressing the 35th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Yahya Akhunzada said that government is planning to start robotics education at the school level.

Akhunzada said that the program will be started in the collaboration of National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) in near future to create opportunities to enable capacity building in Pakistan.

The panelists of 35th AGM and PSDE conference called for bringing learning and practice at global standards to compete with the rest of the world. The conference was

titled 'Opportunities to Excel: Now & the Future', hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences).

The Conference was sponsored by the World Bank Group, CPEC Center of Excellence, the Bank of Punjab, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Limited, National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan, HBL, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Saif Group of Companies, Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC), Engro, and the Bank of Khyber.

The agenda for the second day included lecture Dr Arshad Ahmed, VC LUMS, the Sir Syed Ahmed Khan Lecture was delivered by Mahboob Mehmood, CEO, Knowledge Platform, a panel discussion on "Opportunities to Excel", Special Invited Lecture delivered by Hans Timmer, Regional Chief Economist, the World Bank, and the Mahbub Ul Haq Lecture, delivered virtually by Professor Dani Rodrik of the Harvard University. Besides lectures and the panel discussion, the agenda also included technical sessions in which research papers on the topics of productivity, entrepreneurship, and sludge; political economy; and aspirations, opportunities, and labor market were presented.

The speakers said that since we are competing at the global level, learning and practice have to be up to the global standards. It implies that one needs to be aware of what is happening at the global level. "Technology is progressing rapidly and becoming central of our lives," Mahboob Mahmood, the Chief Executive Office of Knowledge Platform, said.

The panel discussion on "Opportunities to Excel" was chaired by Dr Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairperson, the Planning Commission. The panelists included Yahya Akhunzada, Secretary Education, KP, Jehan Ara, Katalyst Lab, Shimal Daud, Former President Rawalpindi CCI, Adnan Jalil, Former President, Small CCI Peshawar, and Asif Hanif, the Bank of Khyber.

<https://mashriqtv.pk/en/2021/11/23/35th-agm-kp-to-start-robotics-education-at-school-level/>

پائید اور آئی ایم سائنسز کی مشترکہ منعقدہ کانفرنس کا دوسرا روز

نوجوانوں کے تعلیمی معیار میں اضافے سے پاکستان کا روشن مستقبل وابستہ ہے: مقررین

پشاور (جنرل رپورٹر) پائید اور آئی ایم سائنسز کی مشترکہ منعقدہ کانفرنس آئی ایم سائنسز یونیورسٹی میں دوسرے روز بھی جاری رہی جسمیں نیشنل اور بین الاقوامی مندوبین نے شرکت کی۔ اس سال پی ایس ڈی ای کی کانفرنس کو ورلڈ بینک، بینک آف پنجاب، سی پیک سنٹر، این پی او، ایچ بی ایل، پی ایم آئی سی، اینگرو اور خیبر بینک کے مالی تعاون سے منعقد کرایا گیا۔ سیشن کا آگ آزلز کے وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر ارشد محمود کے قائد اعظم لیکچر سے کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے ڈاکٹر ندیم الحق کی کوششوں کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ اعزاز صرف پائید کے وائس چانسلر ہی کو حاصل ہے کہ وہ سینکڑوں کی تعداد میں وی بینار منعقد کرا چکے ہیں۔ ان وی بینارز کے ذریعے ملک کو درپیش مسائل پر روشنی ڈالی جاتی ہے اور ان کے حل کے لیے مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والے ماہرین مباحثہ میں حصہ لیتے ہیں۔ کانفرنس کے مختلف سیشنز میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے دیگر مقررین نے کہا کہ اس وقت ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ مسلسل ترقی کے اہداف کو حاصل کرنے کے لیے تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز کو ملکر کام کرنا چاہیے اور روایتی سوچ کو بدلتے ہوئے مستقبل کے لیے لائحہ عمل بنایا جانا چاہیے۔ اس سال کانفرنس میں ملک کے نوجوانوں کی ترقی اور ان کو بہترین مواقع مہیا کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا گیا اور مستقبل کی منصوبہ بندی کے لیے مربوط حکمت عملی کی تیاری کے لیے مختلف پہلوؤں کو زیر بحث لایا گیا۔ ماہرین نے مختلف سیشنز سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے نوجوانوں سے کہا کہ وہ سیکھنے کے مواقع سے استفادہ حاصل کریں، اساتذہ سے مدد طلب کریں۔ اب مشینی دور کی وجہ سے روزگار کے مواقع جہاں کم ہوئے ہیں وہاں پر آگے بڑھنے کے لیے نئے موضوعات اور ٹیکنالوجی بھی متعارف ہوئی ہے۔ پی ایس ڈی ای کی یہ کانفرنس اگلے دو دن تک جاری رہے گی۔ جس سے ملک بھر سے اور بیرون ملک سی تعلیمی ماہرین خطاب کریں گے۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان بھر سے مختلف یونیورسٹیز کے سینکڑوں طلبہ اور طالبات شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ مقررین کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سٹوڈنٹس ایسی کانفرنس میں شرکت کر کے اپنے لیے مستقبل کے مواقع ضرور تلاش کریں۔ نوجوانوں کے تعلیمی معیار میں اضافے اور ان کی صلاحیتوں میں بہتری سے ہی پاکستان کا روشن مستقبل وابستہ ہے۔





پشاور: پائیز اور آئی ایم سائنسز کے تحت پی ایس ڈی کی سالانہ کانفرنس کے موقع پر انتظامات میں شریک طلباء اور طالبات کا گروپ فوٹو



## پائیڈ اور آئی ایم سائنسز کی مشترکہ منعقدہ کانفرنس کا دوسرا روز

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