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PIDE conference to be formally kicked off from tomorrow

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad is hosting the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) in collaboration with Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Peshawar, which will be formally inaugurated from November 22 (Monday).

The four-day Conference on the theme "Opportunities to Excel: Now and the Future" will be continued till November 25 (Thursday) at IMSciences Hayatabad Peshawar, the organisers said.

They elaborated that the conference will comprise three distinguished lectures, four-panel discussions, and nine technical sessions. More than thirty research

papers will be presented by eminent international and national economists and other social scientists in the technical sessions.

The organisers said PIDE firmly believes that there should be opportunities for everyone irrespective of the social fabric. This will be the second time that the AGM is being held outside Islamabad. Walking the talk, PIDE aims to hold the next rounds across all regions of Pakistan, starting with the provincial capitals at first.

They said the institute, to make the conference more inclusive, has also invited and is facilitating students to participate from different regions of the country.

According to the organisers, Professor Doni Rodrick and Professor Cass Sunstein from Harvard University, Cambridge USA, will also be speaking on 'Technology, Globalization and a Need for

a New Model of Development' and 'New Frontiers in Behavioural Science: Scarcity, Nudge, Sludge, and Social Norms', respectively.

Besides these, renowned speakers from diverse backgrounds will also be joining. These include Arshad Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); Hans Timmer, Regional Chief Economist, World Bank; Tochen Hippler, Country Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Dr. Hafiz Pasha, the former Federal Minister, and many others.

Other prominent and well-known personalities of the country from all walks of life including Taimoor Saleem Khan Jhagra (Finance Minister KPK), Yahya Akhonzada (Secretary Education KPK), Zahoor Ul Haq (VC Abdul Wali Khan University

Naseem Zehra (Journalist), Fasi Zaka (Columnist), Pervez Hoodbhoy (Educationist), Muhammad Aurangzeb (President HBL), Khalid Mahmood (Deputy Commissioner Peshawar), Hijab Fatimah (Designer/Artist/Director), Haya Fatima (Filmmaker), Sarmad Khoosat (Artist/Director), Wajahat Malik (Documentary Filmmaker) will also participate in the 04 days International conference.

It is pertinent to note that, for the first time, PIDE is giving space to case studies and start-ups. The aim is to explain to everyone, especially the youngsters that one has to discover or create the opportunity; the ingredients are available, we just have to look for the opportunity with passion, dedication, and out-of-the-box thinking.