



Punjab Information Technology Board
Communication Unit
Lahore

Press Release

BOSTON CONFERENCE ATTRACTS PITB's SMARTPHONE APPLICATION IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE PROGRAM

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The delegates from a number of countries around the globe attending the Boston moot expressed keen interest to replicate the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)'s Smartphone application immunization program in their respective countries terming it an innovative efforts undertook by Dr. Umar Saif in Pakistan for the use of technology for the development and progress in the health sector. The work was termed as the shining beacon of innovation for the developing countries, in particular.

Dr. Umar Saif, Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) while delivering his keynote address at the international conference on using on using technology for development, jointly organized by MIT and USAID at Boston, Massachusetts, USA, elucidated the salient features of the PITB's system for using smartphone applications and sophisticated satellite imagery analysis to totally turn around the vaccination program in Pakistan's Province of Punjab, says a message received here today. The same program is being replicated in Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa, Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan, with the help of DFID, he added.

Dr. Saif who is also Vice Chancellor of Information Technology University, Lahore focused his keynote address on his work on designing technology for the developing-world, especially his work in using technology to enhance coverage of immunization for the children in Pakistan. Due to the technology platform, Punjab's immunization coverage has risen from 15% to 88% in the past 20 months, he disclosed.

The event was attended by over 100 global innovators, policy makers, researchers and NGOs from all over the world, including the President of MIT, Head of Innovations at USAID and Chief Scientist of USAID and professors from MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley and University of Washington.

Dr. Saif also held meetings with USAID Chief Scientist Dr. Caroly Shumway and USAID Director for Global Development, Ticora Jones along with MIT's head of Development Lab Amy Smith and discussed a global alliance for using technology that enables grass root innovations in the developing countries.

Dr. Umar Saif in his recent visit abroad has also delivered his keynote address on the invitation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Abu Dhabi on, "Low cost, open loop and interoperable payments system in Pakistan.

The VC, ITU and the Chairman PITB is also scheduled to deliver host of keynote addresses at Boulder, Colorado, USA on the invitation of ATLAS Institute, University of Colorado on, "Impact, challenges and opportunities of using technology in developing countries, at Seattle, Washington, USA on the invitation of University of Washington on, "Challenges of measuring socio-economic impact of projects in the developing world", on the invitation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Seattle on, "Program on financial inclusion of farmers in Pakistan", on invitation from Chatham House, London, UK on, "Role of technology platform for scalable efficiency in developing countries" and on the invitation from Oxford University, UK on "Devising technology for Developing Countries".