



Press Release

CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS TO HELP FIVE BILLION PEOPLE OF DEVELOPING WORLD-Dr. Umar Saif

Lahore, November 17, 2016

Currently the cutting-edge technology is designed primarily for the one Billion people living in the developed world and not for the 5 Billion people of the developing-world while the advent of affordable smartphones, researchers can now design software specifically aimed at developing-world problems. Dr. Umar Saif Vice Chancellor Information Technology University (ITU) and Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) said in his keynote address at the University of Washington Seattle about the use of technology in development, says a message received here today.

Dr. Umar Saif is the first ever Pakistani invited to deliver the prestigious keynote address at University of Washington and introduced at the event as a pioneer in the field of ICTD whose research is impacting lives of millions of people. Considered equivalent to the lifetime achievement awards, distinguished lectures give opportunity to the world experts in different fields of study to share their research and vision for the future. Dr. Umar Saif a preeminent expert in the World of technology for development will be chairing the annual international conference on ICT for Development (ICTD)) next year.

The main focus of his lecture at Washington University was to draw the attention of computer science, economics and policy researchers to the unique challenges of the developing-world.

Later, Dr. Umar Saif was invited to the headquarters of the Bill Gates Foundation in Seattle to discuss innovations that would enable financial inclusion for people who don't have access to the digital money. Using smartphones and mobile payment mechanisms, countries in Africa have been able to extend financial inclusion to the people otherwise not considered "bankable". Dr. Saif also presented his vision for setting up a center at ITU, Punjab, Pakistan for research in Financial Technology (FinTech).

Dr. Saif is due to be a part of the panel discussion at the Chatham House, London being held on November 17, 2016. The panelists will put forward the innovative models

devised to fight corruption in addition to the challenges associated with using technology to fight corruption.