



Press Release

Dr. Saif Signs Historic Agreement In The United States

MOU establishes Science City and Innovation Partnership between Lahore and Austin

Lahore, March 10, 2017

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on Friday by Dr. Umar Saif Chairman Punjab Information and Technology Board (PITB) and Mr. Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin to establish Lahore and Austin as science cities, says a message received here from Austin today.

Dr. Umar Saif who is also founder Vice Chancellor of Information Technology University (ITU) Punjab is currently on an official visit to USA. During his visit he held meetings with senior US officials, academia and Mr. Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin and discussed PITB's flagship programs E-rozgaar, Wifi Hotspots, E-Learn, Digital Inclusion and Smart Transport solution

While giving an overview of the MOU Dr. Umar Saif said that under the MOU it is agreed to cooperate in the initiatives like organizing bi-lateral trade, economic development, and exchange missions to each city. Promotion of capital exchange and investment, development of joint educational programs and exchange opportunities between Austin universities and ITU will enable both sides to prepare students for the future, he said.

He stated that the other salient features of the MOU includes development of business-focused cultural exchange projects between the creative industry sub-sectors of both cities, broker international relationships between individuals and organizations within the areas of: innovative high-technology, advanced manufacturing, creative industries, professional services, as well as other industry sectors identified for economic development.

Linkage of the financial and investment sectors in an effort to promote foreign direct investment in both communities, expansion of workforce development and education opportunities for the next generation of employees in the high-technology, creative industry, and rapid growth employment sectors, including programs focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) are the other important aspects of the MOU, he added.

The MOU covers establishment and promotion of joint resources to strengthen entrepreneurs, and small and mid-sized companies to export or import to/from the partner community, facilitation of trade by establishing business-to-business meetings or connections, including video conferencing, exchanges of knowledge and best practices in business incubation, acceleration, and other supporting resources for high-technology start-ups, identification and promotion of business-to-business ventures between the two communities. It will also identify and make available of soft-landing, co-working, and incubation space in both communities. Dr. Umar Saif extended invitation to Mr. Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin to visit Lahore in near future.