



Press Release

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PUNJAB IT POLICY DRAFT CONCLUDES

GOVT ENSURES PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT POLICY LEVEL- Dr. Umar Saif

Lahore, December 7, 2016

Punjab's Information Policy draft, which was made available online at www.policy.pitb.gov.pk after the 3rd PITB Roundtable Conference, held on October 25th 2016 for any interested individual to access the policy draft and submit feedback/suggestions, received an encouraging response while Information Technology Board (PITB) has now concluded its further public consultation on the draft of the Punjab IT Policy 2016.

"This is a landmark moment in the way policies are envisioned and formulated in the country. Government of Punjab has endeavored to not only increase transparency in its execution of different projects, but also increase public involvement in determination of government's priorities at a policy level", said Dr. Umar Saif, Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab on IT, VC, ITU and Chairman PITB. "We have made a sincere effort to bring all stakeholders on board during the preparation of this document. Our approach has been met with great enthusiasm and we have received quality feedback, which is currently being incorporated in the final draft."

The draft had been opened for public consultation with the purpose of making the policy-making process more inclusive and transparent, while at the same time soliciting improvements in the draft of the policy.

During the public consultation period, PITB's TechHub Connect's team also organized public consultation meetings and panel discussions with members of industry and academia across Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. More than 100 industrialists, entrepreneurs, academicians, students and concerned members of the civil society were part of these deliberations and provided valuable feedback on the policy. Moreover a number of feedback entries were received through the online feedback portal.

The draft will be revised in the coming weeks based on the feedback received through the public consultation, after which it will be sent to the provincial cabinet for approval by the end of December.