



Press Release

Whizkids – an initiative of PITB holds First ever Exciting Makeathon for Kids

Lahore, January 16, 2017

Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)'s initiative Whizkids held the first ever Makeathon for students from the ages of 10 – 18, parallel to Plan9's Launchpad Season 9, with the aim to give the kids a taste of practicality and the makers-space community. The 2 day event included diverse range of workshops and competitions in place for the participants, and with names like Makeistan, DIY Geeks and PakWheels running those activities. Students from Beaconhouse TNS, Lahore Alma, Roots International and Alma Mater as well as kids from the PITB family actively participated in the event.

Dr. Umar Saif, Chairman PITB while supporting the WhizKids initiative, remarked that "Opening up the minds of young kids to endless possibilities in technology is one step closer to their successful future. WhizKids is an attempt to make kids independent and to help them test out their creative side."

WhizKids, an initiative of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) stems from the belief in the talent, ability and potential of Pakistani youth. The program integrates school kids from every background to the technological entrepreneurship ecosystem by preparing future entrepreneurial leaders. Under the umbrella of WhizKids some of the most inspiring activities were witnessed.

The Makeathon planned 9 activities for the participants' with integrated three stages including Ideation, Visualization and Implementation. With exciting gadgets and activities the first day kicked off with a big Hello to the students, followed by an Idea Mining activity run by the talented team of Makesistan. The activity had the students come up with the wildest ideas from the smallest stimulus and ended with a wall of ideas. This was followed by a Stick At It activity run by the highly motivated and energetic team of DIY Geeks. The students had sticks, glue and their imagination to make structures. There was also a Paper Planes activity which resulted in colorful paper planes flying around Arfa Software Technology Park. It concluded with an exciting Drone Race - drones sponsored by Riaz Bottlers, Pvt. Limited, the bottlers for Pepsi, Dew, 7Up and Miranda.

Final day kicked off with an introduction to Arduino IDE by Makeistan, followed by a "Do It Yourself" activity by DIY Geeks. The most exciting part of the 2 days was the Robotic Car Race powered by PakWheels.com. The day ended with a prize distribution ceremony.