

UPCOMING TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan: Learning from Best Practices



Organized by

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

in Collaboration with

**Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF),
Germany (Pakistan Office)**



**Date:
September 9-10, 2015**

**Venue:
Shamadan Hall, Serena Hotel,
Islamabad**



The Institute

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) is an autonomous think tank. It is dedicated to undertaking research, analyses and evaluations of important national and international politico-strategic issues and developments affecting Pakistan and the region. One of the prominent areas of activity of the institute is organizing national and international seminars/conferences. To know more about IPRI, you may visit our website, www.ipripak.org

Concept Outline

Since the middle of the second half of the 20th century the world has witnessed a knowledge revolution where seeking, dissemination and use of knowledge, especially higher and technical education, industrial technology, innovations, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have gained prominence that is impacting all spheres of human activity including the socioeconomic development of countries. Knowledge has, therefore, become the key driver of economic growth taking precedence over traditional drivers of growth, such as physical capital and low skill labour. In this context, countries that had taken the lead in using the knowledge for their economic development have progressed rapidly leaving behind others. Thus, this trend of seeking, dissemination and use of knowledge in economic development by some countries gave rise to the concept of a Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE), as opposed to Agricultural and Industrial Countries respectively.

Although a number of general definitions of KBE are available, in the descriptions of the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the US and Canada, the term KBE is defined as an economic structure that has the ability to create, store, share and analyze knowledge through networks and communities making predominant use of ICT. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR), UK has defined the KBE as the economy where economic success is increasingly based on the effective utilization of intangible assets, such as knowledge, skills and innovative potential, as the key resource for competitive advantage. Therefore, in the modern age, in knowledge based economies, human skills, innovation and ICT are acknowledged as key drivers of growth and economic development.

Recent developments put Pakistan in a favourable position to build up structures pertaining to knowledge economies. Its economic development should be based on the four pillars of a knowledge economy, which are:

- Economic incentives and an institutional regime to provide incentives;
- An educated and skilled population;
- An efficient innovation and technology adoption system;
- ICT infrastructure.

Presently the Government of Pakistan has reduced the budgetary deficit from 8 percent of GDP to 5 percent, inflation rate from 10 percent a year to 5 percent and enhanced the foreign exchange reserves from \$ 11 billion to over \$17 billion. The IMF has projected real GDP growth of Pakistan to rise from current 4.24 percent to 4.7 percent in 2016. In future, Pakistan's growth rate is likely to further rise due to the expected rise in investors' confidence because of Pakistan Army's recent successes in the war on terror, improving relations with Afghanistan and Chinese investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). A recent US Government report prepared by its National Intelligence Council has also included Pakistan in the "Next Eleven Economies," which will collectively overtake EU-27 in global power by 2030. These favourable economic developments go hand in hand with one of the youngest populations in the world, which commands an increasing degree of education.

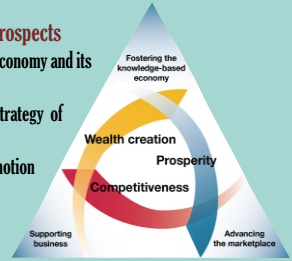
In this context, it is a good sign that the successive Governments in Pakistan during the last ten years have realized the significance of making Pakistan's economy as knowledge-based. For instance, in 2005 and 2007, the Government had charted a roadmap of making its economy knowledge based for which Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF), 2005-10, Vision 2030 Approach Paper and IT Policy were prepared and sanctioned. Similarly, the present Government has also geared up and approved the Pakistan Vision 2025 which outlines the vision and strategy to transform Pakistan's economy as a knowledge based economic system. To implement Pakistan Vision 2025, Pakistan government and relevant public and private sectors and institutions require to devise and carry out a comprehensive and time bound action plan. To succeed in developing Pakistan's economy as knowledge-based, the Ministry of Science and Technology and Higher Education Commission have to play a critically important role. Moreover, in the light of the devolution of subjects done to provinces vide 18th amendment 2010, while there is a need to make the economic growth all inclusive, it is also necessary to preserve a sense of ownership through out the society.

Best practices from other countries should complement Pakistan's aspirations in becoming a KBE. To achieve the objective of transforming Pakistan's economy into a knowledge-based economy, the Government and private enterprises would certainly appreciate policy inputs from the country's think tanks. With this aim in mind, the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), together with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Germany (Pakistan Office) is organizing a two day national conference on "Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan: Learning from Best Practices" on 9-10 September 2015 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The objectives of the conference are to initiate an informed debate on the subject and suggest plausible recommendations to the Government to facilitate transformation of Pakistan's economy into a KBE. Renowned economists, technical experts and policy professionals of Pakistan will participate in this conference.

Sessions Themes and Topics for the Speakers

Session-I: Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan: Potential and Prospects

- Topic-1:** An Overview of Pakistan's Economy: Current use of Four Pillars of a Knowledge Economy and its Further Promotion
- Topic-2:** Significance of using Knowledge in the Economy: Current State and Future Strategy of Knowledge Management and Dissemination
- Topic-3:** Transforming Pakistan's Economy as Knowledge-Based: Existing State and Promotion of Role of Research and Development (R&D) in Science and Technology and ICT
- Topic-4:** Considering Local Dimensions in Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan



Session-II: Imperatives of Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan

- Topic-1:** Enhancing the Role of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Innovation
- Topic-2:** Boosting Growth Rate and Export Earnings: Application of Information, Computer and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Topic-3:** Capacity Building of Human Resource and Services Sector: Improving Education and Technical Skills, using Innovations and ICT

Session-III: Building Knowledge-Based Economy in Pakistan: Modernizing Important Sectors of the Economy

- Topic-1:** Revolutionizing Agriculture: Increasing use of Knowledge, Science and Technology and ICT
- Topic-2:** Modernizing Industry and Trade Regime: Using Modern Technologies, Innovations and ICT through Public and Private Partnership
- Topic-3:** Reforming Energy Sector: Exploring Fresh Sources of Energy Production using Modern Technologies and Innovations

Session-IV: Building a Knowledge-Based Economy: A Way Forward

- Topic-1:** Use of Foresight in Formulating and Implementing a National Policy
- Topic-2:** Turning Pakistan into a Competitive Knowledge-Based Economy: Suggested Strategy and National Action Plan including Building an Institutional Regime to Provide Technical Advice and Incentives
- Topic-3:** Learning from Best Practices: Economy of Denmark
- Topic-4:** Learning from Best Practices: Chinese Economy

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