

WELCOME SESSION
Expert Forum Meeting on
‘Mobile 2.0 Applications and Conditions’
Islamabad, Pakistan, April 26th, 2010

Address by: Mr. Sardar Muhammad Latif Ahmed Khosa,
Advisor to Prime Minister on IT

Chairman Pakistan Telecom Authority, Dr. Muhammad Yaseen, Dr. Rohan Samarajiva CEO LIRNEasia, Dignitaries, Distinguished participants, representatives of telecom & IT industry ladies and gentlemen

Asalam O Alaikum

It gives me immense pleasure to be here tonight and part of this occasion of Welcome Ceremony of Mobile Expert Forum Meeting. First of all I would like to congratulate PTA and LIRNEasia on taking such an initiative proactively. Telecom sector of Asia has shaped in such a way that it has become exemplary even for the west, however, there remains a dearth of research and learning activities among ourselves. Efforts like these would go a long way in building stronger relationships among countries and provide a platform for sharing each other's experience and learn from them. Being a representative of Government of Pakistan and on behalf of President and Prime Minister of Pakistan I assure you of our sincere cooperation and best wishes for a successful and fruitful meeting

I have very recently taken over the assignment of Advisor to The Prime Minister of Pakistan on Information Technology and I consider myself fortunate to have this immediate interaction with international telecom

experts, researchers and intellectuals. I look forward to gain from the proceedings of this meeting.

As you all are aware Government of Pakistan has been taking keen interest in the development and growth of Telecom sector of Pakistan and is taking every possible step to take it to even better position. In this regard we are working strenuously on policy making and are taking initiatives especially for broadband proliferation and beyond voice services in Pakistan. We are targeting far flung areas of Pakistan for provision of Broadband services and very recently President of Pakistan has inaugurated a broadband project in an underserved district of Pak Patan. Also, a number of Fiber Optic projects are underway and we have recently introduced services like easy payments and IP TV for local telecom users. One of the most important areas is tariff and probably Telecom is the only one sector in Pakistan whose tariffs are continuously dropping. PTA has a pivotal role in all such achievements of telecom sector of Pakistan. Only last month I inaugurated Urdu version of PTA's website which is a step towards local content development and subsequent ICT developments in Pakistan. To sum it up ICT especially Mobile sector of Pakistan has become a role model for many due to its tremendous growth and quality services.

In the end, I would again extend my heartiest congratulations to both PTA and LIRNEasia for hosting this meeting in Pakistan. My commendations especially to the PTA team for organizing such an event and would like to urge them to take similar initiatives in future. I wish to extend all possible

support to foreign delegates and wish them a very pleasant stay in
Pakistan.

Thank you and Pakistan Paind-abad