Role of Information Technology and Telecommunication in Economic Development – Linking the Future

(Kindly note that no more submissions are being accepted for this panel. This panel is now closed).

Technological revolution is heralding a new economic order characterized by the development and exploitation of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in all spheres of human life. The knowledge and information economy has emerged as a means to address economic development, poverty driven challenges, and job creation. This phenomenon is not only giving rise to information and knowledge-based economies but is also pushing traditional economic, industrial and commercial activities towards processes that are driven by ICTs.

ICTs are now offering developing countries a chance to gear up their struggle to make for the lost time and transform their economies into value-added information and knowledge based economies.

A unique characteristic of ICTs is that they do not distinguish between urban and rural dwellers. Through e-services, like e-education, e-health, e-governance, e-commerce, etc., ICTs enable the government services to be delivered to all the people, at their doorsteps. This not only helps inclusive economic development but also has far reaching impacts on as diverse fields as prevention of rural-to-urban migration, women empowerment and even climate change.

Is Pakistan using ICTs to the above mentioned potential or is it only earning revenues by taxing ICTs? Have we kept pace with the new technologies that could improve our economic health? Has a major part of population been able to reap the fruits of ICTs? Are ICTs playing any part in making us economically stronger? Have we been able to set in motion ICT policies and plans that would catapult us into the new world of knowledge and information?

The speakers, in the panel on Information and Communication Technology, will look into the above questions and make policy recommendations and deliberate on the sub-theme titled “The Role of Information Technology and Telecommunication in Economic Development – Linking the Future”.

Panel organizer:

Brig (Retd.) Mohammad Yasin
Senior Advisor, SDPI for Capacity Building

Email: Yasin@sdpi.org