



Press Release

“ASSISTIVE DEVICES & TECHNOLOGIES” TO IMPROVE CAPABILITIES OF SPECIAL PERSONS-Dr. Umar Saif

Lahore, August 8, 2017

“Assistive Devices & Technologies” for need of persons with disabilities for independent life can improve capabilities of special persons enabling them to utilize their talent and to contribute to the society. Dr. Umar Saif founding Vice-chancellor ITU, Chairman, PITB and Advisor to the CM Punjab said while addressing the distribution of Wheelchair & White Cane ceremony, held here today by Information Technology University (ITU) Punjab in collaboration with Team DREAMS.

Dr. Saif said that more initiatives would be taken to establish a research center for assistive technologies at Arfa Karim Software Technology Park.

He further said that the assistive devices and technologies with a primary purpose to maintain or improve an individual’s functioning and independence to facilitate participation and to enhance overall well-being could make the special persons as useful component of the society. Technology could play lead role for the uplift and exposure of such persons by spreading awareness and empowering such persons, he added.

According to WHO report, only 5-15% of people who require assistive devices and technologies have access to them. The assistive devices and technologies include wheelchairs, prostheses, hearings aids, visual aids, and specialized computer software and hardware that increase mobility, hearing, vision, or communication capacities.

These active Wheelchairs are not typical hospitalized wheelchairs but are customized Wheelchair made according to disability; height, length & weight of person with disability and White Cane is necessity for a visually impaired person to walk around independently.

Brigadier (Retd) Bilal a social activist and founder of Akhtar Saeed Trust urged the authorities to make it legally mandatory in the Punjab province to ensure ramps in all public buildings and market places. Later wheelchairs and white canes among the special persons were distributed.