



Press Release

Punjab Offers Vast Investment Opportunities in Health Sector- Dr. Umar Saif

Lahore, September 11, 2017

There exists vast investment scope in the health sector of Pakistan's Province the Punjab. Dr. Umar Saif founding Vice-chancellor ITU, Chairman, PITB and Advisor to the CM said while addressing a Health Roadshow in London to seek investment opportunities and possibilities of collaborations in Punjab. Among the attendees were Pakistani expatriates, doctors, investors, DFID, businessmen, and medical practitioners who were encouraged to help improve health systems in Pakistan, says a message received here from UK.

He said that PITB has corroborated with Punjab Health Department on several occasions in the past for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of health to common Pakistanis. Whether it is about overcoming the deadly epidemic of Dengue or successfully implementing vaccination programs. PITB continues its efforts to invent and digitize innovative health initiatives and has a number of health projects in the works. Polio Control Information System is an attempt to eradicate polio from the province using smart monitoring for worker's profile management and activities.

Dr. Saif shared insights from PITB on current digital health initiatives. Application and potential implementation of successful interventions in Pakistan was also deliberated. Dr. Saif apprised the participants of major initiatives taken by the PITB to improve health sector in Punjab. Dengue Tracking System is the smart phone based application that helps monitoring of Dengue Tracking Staff and larva killing activities. The Disease Surveillance Program collects data of 26 communicable diseases from all public hospitals of the province and also publishes a weekly bulletin. e-Vaccs program has won local and global recommendation as it has remarkably improved the administration of vaccine to the kids through smart technology. The program has been replicated in other provinces such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. Our Medicine Inventory Management System is bringing transparency in the procurement and distribution of medicines for public hospitals.”

Dr. Saif, added that more initiatives were being taken to establish a research center for assistive technologies at Arfa Karim Software Technology Park (ASTP). Assistive devices and technologies are those whose primary purpose is to maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence to facilitate participation and to enhance overall well-being. They can also help prevent impairments and secondary health conditions. Examples of 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. In many low-income and middle-income countries, only 5-15% of people who require assistive devices and technologies have access to them. The participants took keen interest in the Health initiatives undertaken by the Punjab Government and assured for collaboration.