



Press Release

e-Rozgaar Program Receives 12,428 Applications for Third Cycle

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In line with the official digital policy of newly inducted government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) at Federal and the Provinces of the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Youth Affairs, Sports, Archeology & Tourism (YASAT)'s joint project, "eRozgaar Program" invited applications for the third phase for freelancing training program in technical, non-technical and creative design areas to transform Pakistan into a knowledge economy making IT the top contributor to Pakistan's exports and by empowering the jobless educated youth.

For the third phase a number of 12,428 applications have been received, which include 7744 male and 4684 female applicants. Currently 23 such centers are operational across the province of the Punjab in various universities and educational institutions duly equipped with labs, among these centers three centers are dedicated for females, which were started in mid-2017 while 3,584 graduates have been passed out including 1,590 females and 3,584 males who have earned on training foreign exchange to the tune of Pak Rupees four crore eleven lac and eighty-two thousand (Rs. 41,182,000/-). For current cycle 2,208 applicants have been enrolled while for all phases so far 65,390 applications were received.

Pakistan being the World's 6th largest country, having the best faculties and remarkable resources, better than many institutions around the globe, possesses excellent youth potential to move forward and to grab the economic opportunities through freelancing under the e-Rozgaar program. Dr. Umar Saif founding Vice Chancellor of Information Technology University (ITU) and Chairman, PITB is of the view that the program empowers the youth to create jobs for themselves in technical, non-technical and creative areas rather than to seek for it. In freelancing Pakistan stood third among the World community by earning around US \$ One Billion, which would increase to the tune of US \$360 Million through the earning of US \$100 per day per person by the 10,000 trainees selected for three-month program for freelance self-employment. Facebook has developed a specialized course track as per the needs of e-Rozgaar.

The PTI government as per its digital policy also aims to transform Pakistan into knowledge economy by investing in human capital while the Prime Minister Imran Khan in a video message said that PTI would leverage technology to create jobs, increase exports and curb corruption. The party has set ambitious target of increasing Pakistan's IT exports to US \$ 10 billion over the next five years.