



# **RAHBAR KISAN INTERNATIONAL**

## **HUAWEI ENVISIONS PLAN FOR DIGITAL CORRIDOR IN**

## **PAKISTAN; PLANNING MINISTRY TO MATERIALIZE DIGITAL**

## **ECONOMY COLLABORATION Islamabad: May 3rd , 2024**

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A delegation of Huawei Pakistan led by Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan; Mr. Ahmed Bilal

Masood, Director Subsidiary Board & Deputy CEO; Mr. Yushaoning, Vice CEO; and Mr. Ahmad

Mehboob, Senior Manager Government Affairs called on Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal in his office on Friday. “Pakistanis are the second biggest nationality employed in Huawei,” stated the delegation to highlight Pakistan’s potential to emerge as a key player in the competitive digital economy. It is projected that developed economies will witness a significant surge in their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stemming from digital advancements. According to leading experts, more than 30% of the GDP of developed nations is expected to be driven by digital innovation and infrastructure by the coming decade, as expressed by CEO Huawei Pakistan. During the meeting, discussions revolved around various projects to be included within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase II project list, along with collaboration opportunities concerning Pakistan’s Digital Economy Strategy. Both parties explored future ventures in digital economy transformation under CPEC, recognizing Pakistan’s significant potential for growth in this sector. As Pakistan’s digital landscape is evolving rapidly, both parties shared views on the requirements for fostering a conducive environment for sustainable growth. Four key pillars were identified for establishing a robust digital corridor: connectivity, data centers, firewall protection, and smart governance. “These elements are essential to fueling economic growth and ensuring global competitiveness in the digital age,” the minister stated. The Minister stressed on establishing a Digital Corridor, acknowledging Pakistan’s role as a prime ground for digital economic expansion.

Moreover Ahmed Bilal Masood Deputy CEO Huawei Pakistan assured Pakistan can become a big trading zone for the large user-base of Middle Eastern countries. Emphasizing the pivotal role of digital advancement in shaping the future of Pakistan's economy, Minister asserted, "The only path to sustained economic progress for our nation is through comprehensive digital transformation. Embracing digital technologies and infrastructure is not just an option; it's a necessity if we are to thrive in the global marketplace." Moreover, notable investments are already underway to bolster the digital infrastructure and technological capabilities of Pakistan. The establishment of a Huawei manufacturing setup in Pakistan was also discussed. It will not only foster employment opportunities but also facilitate reduction in smartphone prices. The Planning Minister proposed to initiate Islamabad as a model smart city, emphasizing the importance of digital infrastructure provision for the new age economy. Furthermore, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the establishment of an Innovation Center at UET Narowal, inviting Huawei to be a technology partner in this endeavor. Mr. Ethan expressed that Huawei's keen interest in collaborating with Pakistan on the proposed initiatives, reaffirming Huawei's dedication to fostering technological innovation and economic growth in Pakistan.

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