

Ambassador Olson's Keynote Remarks
Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation Program Symposium
National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)
Wednesday, January 31, 12:00 p.m., 10 minutes

Secretary Tarar

Chairman Laghari

Acting Executive Director Gilani

Pakistani and U.S. researchers

AssalamuAlaikum

I am delighted to be here today at the very first Pakistan-United States Science and Technology Symposium to support Pakistan's economic growth through technology transfer.

I would like to thank the Higher Education Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology for their efforts to organize

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this event. I would also like to thank our colleagues at the National University of Sciences and Technology for hosting us.

The United States has a long-standing commitment to science and applied research – a commitment that has paid tremendous dividends in economic growth. Advances in science and technology are responsible for over half of the growth of the U.S. economy since the mid-1940s.

Accordingly, U.S. President Barack Obama expressed his commitment to double funding during his second term for key U.S. research agencies to support scientists and entrepreneurs, and strengthen our science, technology, and innovation capacity. This commitment is the foundation of a high-tech knowledge-based economy.

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International science and technology cooperation is essential. We do not live in a bubble; we live in a globalized world faced with challenges that cross borders and require innovative solutions. As Secretary Clinton said, “Building scientific partnerships is an important tool in addressing global challenges.”

Supplying potable water, adapting to climate change, creating alternative energy sources, and ensuring food security – among other challenges – cannot be solved by one country or one scientist alone. The global challenges we face today require international cooperation and the free exchange of ideas.

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In that vein, the United States Embassy is supporting science, technology, and innovation partnerships in Pakistan in numerous ways, and we appreciate the continued leadership from the government and universities of Pakistan in this regard.

This year, we celebrate 10 years of successful science collaboration between the United States and Pakistan under our Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement. Over the last decade, we have jointly funded over 35 million dollars worth of Pakistan-U.S. scientist-led research projects from over 40 different institutes and universities in both countries. The program supports over 70 projects that seek to solve Pakistan's greatest challenges.

These projects include increasing healthcare access through telemedicine, providing new cancer treatment through the use

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medicinal plants, transforming solid waste to alternative bioenergy, and enhancing Pakistani dairy production through improved breeding techniques. I'm sure we'll all learn about many more projects during this two-day symposium.

This symposium addresses some critical questions: how do we move this important research out of the laboratories and universities into the hands of the 180 million Pakistanis who need it? How do we turn this research into projects that can fuel economic growth in Pakistan?

This symposium can help provide some answers to these questions. This symposium provides researchers with information

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about intellectual property rights, technology transfer, how to craft an elevator pitch, and how to access finance.

It also introduces researchers to private sector partners who can help develop products that millions in Pakistan and around the world can use. I hope that the information exchange and relationships built during this conference do not end here. This is only the beginning of an important collaboration among researchers and scientists, government, and the private sector.

Let me tell you a little more about what the United States does to support science, technology, and innovation to spur economic growth in Pakistan. We have developed the

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Khushhali ka Safar program to highlight the many ways the United States is supporting Pakistani entrepreneurs. One way is through the U.S. State Department-funded Global Innovation in Science and Technology (GIST) initiative, we support entrepreneurs in Pakistan. We identify, coach, and fund the most promising entrepreneurs through competitions, start-up acceleration services, online social media platforms, and interactive mentorship programs.

A Pakistani nanoscience entrepreneur came in third among participants from 44 different countries in a business plan competition held at the most recent Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Dubai. This is an example of the success that is possible when universities, the private sector, and the government work together.

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Through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law and Development Program and Pakistani universities, the U.S. government is encouraging economic development through supporting Pakistan's technology incubation centers, one which is housed here at NUST. This initiative is another way that we are connecting academia and industry via technology and business training and resources.

We are also supporting three Centers for Advanced Studies at universities in Sindh, Peshawar and Punjab, one of which will be right here at NUST and focus on energy. These Centers are part of a five-year, \$127 million program funded by the U.S.

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Agency for International Development that will use applied research, training, university linkages, and public private partnerships to support the development of Pakistan's water, energy, and agriculture sectors. One of these centers will be right here at NUST, and it will focus on energy issues.

Like this symposium, the Centers will bring the best minds in academia, government, and the business community to seek solutions to some of Pakistan's greatest challenges.

I mentioned earlier how the U.S. government is committed to increasing funding for U.S. science and technology-related agencies and science partnerships internationally.

Here are a few concrete examples:

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In November 2012, Secretary Clinton announced three new Science Envoys, one of whom is Dr. Bernard Amadi, the founding president of Engineers Without Borders and member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. He will travel to Pakistan this spring.

An additional science fellow from the U.S. Geological Service and a scientist and professor from a prestigious U.S. university will travel to Pakistan this year to foster new relationships with Pakistani counterparts and discuss potential areas of collaboration on water sector challenges.

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To help foster new directions in science, technology, and innovation, I am excited to announce that the Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation Program will sponsor two competitive seed grant programs during 2013 for activities that break new ground in Science and Technology-related research. You will learn more about the seed grant application process during tomorrow's sessions.

Once again, thank you for putting together a timely and important conference that brings together academia, the private sector, and government leaders to support Pakistan's economic growth through innovation. I look forward to deepening our existing science, technology, and innovation partnerships and I know we will see even more results over the next 10 years. Thank you.