

Secretary IT speech on GALA DINNER 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2008

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

AOA,

I am indeed very happy to be a part of this wonderful event and I take pride to be amongst our most esteemed guests, delegates, investors, exhibitors and corporate executives who are attending the 8<sup>th</sup> ITCN ASIA 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend my heartiest compliments to Ecommerce Gateway for organizing ITCN Asia 2008 and providing the IT and Telecommunications Industry with an international platform.

It is encouraging to see that ITCN Asia attracts thousands of visitors every year to witness the latest developments in the IT and Telecom sector and provides a platform for the stake holders to benefit from the views of experts. The growing interest of this event reflects the thriving IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan.

The IT and Telecom sector is a priority sector for the government as it contributes to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and the Ministry of IT and Telecom is striving to facilitate the IT and Telecom industry and address the barriers in its way to meaningful growth.

The IT & Telecom sector has emerged as the most promising sector in Pakistan bringing in substantial revenues and creating remarkable job opportunities for the country's youth and I laud the efforts of our experts in promoting this Industry on an international level.

The Government of Pakistan is also working towards providing efficient and effective services to its citizens by promoting e-Governance culture in the country. E-Government is one of the core areas of importance recognized globally as necessary means for good governance in the new millennium. The Government is well aware of this growing reality and therefore E-Government is a priority area.

As a step towards developing a globally competitive ICT sector, the Government of Pakistan is also committed in promoting and supporting research and development initiatives and enhance Pakistan's capacity to develop and produce ICT products and services. To achieve this objective, National ICT R&D fund is working to transform Pakistan's economy into knowledge based economy by promoting efficient, sustainable and effective ICT initiatives through synergic development of industrial and academic resources.

I am confident that the benefits of IT & Telecom revolution would be transferred to the citizens at large in the form of better services delivery, job creation and poverty alleviation. On behalf of Ministry of IT & Telecom, I would like to invite the local and international investors to take full benefits of the government's investment friendly policies and the opportunities available in Pakistan's IT & Telecom sector.

I compliment ITCN Asia's efforts for providing the IT and Telecom Industry with an international platform to converge, network and interact with the world's leading and influential IT and Telecom experts. On behalf of the Ministry of IT & Telecom, I appreciate the tremendous efforts of the event organizers and co-sponsors in organizing the show each year. It is a commendable achievement indeed.

Thank you all!