

**Welcome Note of MD PSEB for GALA DINNER - 11th August
2008**

Honorable Chief Guest, Delegates, Exhibitors, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

AOA,

I have been privileged to welcome you to the 8th ITCN Asia Gala Dinner. I am very delighted to be a part of this wonderful gathering. I express my gratitude to the Honorable Chief Guest for gracing this occasion and enlightening the audience about the potential of IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan.

I am thankful to the Ecommerce Gateway for organizing ITCN Asia for the eighth consecutive year.

Ladies & gentlemen,

ITCN Asia has become a truly mega IT & Telecom event that attract investors, professionals and techno-preneurs from Pakistan and all over the world. It provides an effective platform to Pakistan's IT & Telecom sector to highlight its potential to the local and international business community and exchange dialogue with investors, experts, entrepreneurs and policy makers eager to implement IT for the economic growth of Pakistan.

ITCN ASIA has been instrumental significantly in promoting Pakistan IT industry potential to the international market.

I believe, ITCN ASIA will continue help the Pakistan IT & Telecom Industry to forge strategic partnership with international outsourcing community and create greater synergies for the sustained growth in the years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen,

IT is amongst the most vibrant sector of the economy and is constantly changing the digital landscape of our country. Pakistan IT annual exports have consecutively increased over 45-50 percent for the last six years. It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that Pakistan IT exports for the FY2007-08 have been registered at 168 million US Dollar and surpassed the set target of 162 million US Dollar. I congratulate Pakistan IT industry in achieving this landmark.

I strongly believe that the IT sector has great potential and the figure of 168 million US Dollar is just a fraction of this. If we maintain the current growth of exports, INSHAALLAH, by 2013, IT exports would exceed US\$1 Billion. I also believe that if true potential of this most promising sector is fully nurtured, it would bring in massive economic and commercial benefits to the country and the international business community.

PSEB is playing an instrumental role to ensure sustained growth of this sector and take Pakistan IT industry to the next levels. PSEB has introduced a series of programs in the strategically focused thrust areas including infrastructure development (physical, legal, regulatory, technical, logistics), human and intellectual capital development, international marketing & image building, public policies, company

capability development and certifications, industrial automation and promotion of innovation and technologies. I urge IT industry and the international outsourcing community to take full advantages of PSEB's programs and the government investment friendly policies 100% equity ownership, 100% repatriation of capital and dividend, corporate income tax exemption till 2016 are just few incentives to highlight.

I would like to apprise you that as a result of our investment friendly policies and conducive business environments, seven multinational brands (IBM, Oracle, Cisco, Teradata, Microsoft, NCR Corporation, Bearing Point and ZTE) have established their development centers and operations in Pakistan and many more are planning to land on our shores in the near future.

Ladies & gentlemen

I am very optimistic about the future of Pakistan IT industry. I look forward to your support and guidance to uplift our industry to the next levels and make it an ideal destination for international outsourcers.

I would like to thank all of you for your presence and appreciate the efforts made by Ecommerce Gateway team in making this event a great success.

I am sure that you will enjoy the extravaganza of the ITCN Asia gala dinner and splendid performance of selected local and international performers at this great occasion.

Thank you.