



Pakistan Venture Connect 2024
"Connecting Innovators, Igniting Collaboration"
Azerbaijan | Kazakhstan | Pakistan
10 October 2024
Islamabad, Pakistan

Event Agenda:

Pakistan Venture Connect 2024 10 October 2024, Islamabad (6 th Floor, Nazara Hall, Serena Hotel, Islamabad)	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and Networking
09:30 – 09:50	Opening Remarks Ms. Samar Ihsan , Additional Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova , Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration of Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:50 – 10:00	Keynote Speech Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja , Minister, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation and Award Ceremony for the Winners of CAREC University Startup Generator 2024. By Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja , Minister, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan Moderator: Mr. Khalid Umar, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration of Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Shahma Aroob, CEO, Filtresha, Pakistan• Ms. Abeer Rizwan, CEO, Genesis (Nature Nest), Pakistan• Ms. Anika Akram, CEO, Louq, Pakistan
10:30 – 10:50	Group Photo and Coffee Break



10:50 – 11:20	<p>Presentations: Incubation Program Showcase Representatives from Azerbaijan and Pakistan, will present their incubation programs, highlighting their facilities, program structures, key statistics, and successes and facilities offered to regional startups who would like to move there.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Naveed Durrani, CAREC Secretariat</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Shayan Yar, Founder and CEO, OVentures, Pakistan• Mr. Vusal Karimli, CEO at Gamepons Incubator, Next Step Innovation Center, Azerbaijan
11:20 – 12:30	<p>Presentations: Venture Capital Insights and Investment Goals</p> <p>Participating VC representatives will share their Fund size, investment strategies, market forecasts, growth objectives, and areas of potential collaboration.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Naveed Durrani, CAREC Secretariat</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Faisal Aftab, Chief Executive Officer, Zayn VC, Pakistan• Ms. Rohma Labeeb, Country Director, Accelerate Prosperity, Pakistan• Ms. Romanna Dada, Shark @ Shark Tank Pakistan, Managing Partner- Vitality Capital UAE• Mr. Mammad Karim, Managing Partner, Caucasus Ventures, Azerbaijan• Ms. Alya Abbaszada, Executive Director, Technovate-Sabah Angel Investors Club, Azerbaijan• Mr. Ziyadkhan Khankishizade, Fundraising and Investor Relations Manager, Technovate Investment LLC, Azerbaijan• Ms. Zulfiya Aitkali, Project Manager, Astana Venture Club, Kazakhstan
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:20	<p>Presentation on the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and ongoing initiatives</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Naveed Durrani, CAREC Secretariat</p>
14:20 – 15:05	<p>Panel Discussion: Catalyzing Success through Collaboration and Talent exchange</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nasruminallah MIAN, ADB PRM</p>



	<p>Representatives from Azerbaijan and Pakistan will discuss strategies to foster greater collaboration within the region's incubator programs and talent exchange initiatives. The discussion will explore how the region can work together to overcome challenges, bridge the digital divide, and share knowledge, experience, and resources to build a stronger, more cohesive startup ecosystem.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Muhammad Bilal Abbasi, General Manager, IGNITE National Technology Fund, Pakistan• Mr. Vusal Karimli, CEO at Gamepons Incubator, Next Step Innovation Center, Azerbaijan• Mr. Naveed Iftikhar, Founder, Atomcamp, Pakistan• Mr. Shayan Yar, Founder and CEO, OVentures, Pakistan <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the most effective entry points for establishing collaboration between regional incubators and accelerators?2. How can we benchmark success and evaluate whether our collaboration is delivering the expected outcomes? What metrics or indicators should be used?3. What are the challenges that incubators in your region face when trying to collaborate with counterparts in other countries, and how can these challenges be addressed?4. What are the benefits of working together as a region, and how can sharing experiences, knowledge, and resources contribute to startup success?5. How can regional collaboration help reduce the digital divide, and what are the specific areas where resource-sharing can have the greatest impact?
15:05 – 15:25	Coffee Break & Networking
15:25 – 16:10	<p>Pannel Discussion: Regional Investment Synergies: Unlocking Collaboration and Opportunities</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief Research Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Leading VCs and investment experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan, will explore investment strategies, market forecasts, growth objectives, and opportunities for collaboration within the startup ecosystems of the participating countries. This panel will offer valuable insights into the current investment landscape, highlight the most promising opportunities, and examine how collaboration can unlock synergies across borders.</p>



	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Faisal Aftab, Chief Executive Officer, Zayn VC, Pakistan• Ms. Rohma Labeeb, Country Director, Accelerate Prosperity, Pakistan• Ms. Alya Abbaszada, Executive Director, Technovate-Sabah Angel Investors Club, Azerbaijan• Mr. Ziyadkhan Khankishizade, Fundraising and Investor Relations Manager, Technovate Investment LLC, Azerbaijan• Mr. Mammad Karim, Managing Partner, Caucasus Ventures, Azerbaijan• Ms. Zulfiya Aitkali, Project Manager, Astana Venture Club, Kazakhstan <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do your investment strategies align with investing in startups with regional growth focus? What sectors or industries show the most potential for regional growth?• What role do cross-border investments play in creating an enabling environment for startups and increase their market access, and how can these partnerships drive mutual success for the investors?• How can we establish frameworks for stronger regional collaboration between VCs, accelerators, and startups to maximize investment synergies?• What challenges exist in creating cross-border investment pipelines, and how can we overcome these obstacles to facilitate smoother transactions and partnerships?
16:10 – 16:55	<p>Fireside Chat: Driving Innovation: Policies for Growth and Investment</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Fasih Mehta, Director, Epic Games, Pakistan</p> <p>Participant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Muhammad Bilal Abbasi, General Manager, IGNITE National Technology Fund, Pakistan <p>Key Discussion Focus: Pakistan’s Investment-Friendly landscape Sector Opportunities in Pakistan Support for Foreign Businesses Market Access</p>
16:55 – 17:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration of Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p>



19:00 – 20:30	Networking Dinner Venue: Serena Hotel Islamabad