

Islamabad CCI Hosts Global Entrepreneurship Week

On November 16, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted Global Entrepreneurship Week in collaboration with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), the Kauffman Foundation and Junior Chamber International.

The Islamabad event was attended by over 80 chamber members, diplomatic community, young entrepreneurs and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yassar Sakhi Butt, President of ICCI, said that our youth possess immense potential and talent that must be exploited in the right way to harness their skills and capabilities. He related that ICCI has established an Entrepreneurship Development Center with the support of CIPE for providing guidance to prospective business starters and expanding existing businesses.

Mr. Shaban Khalid, Former Vice President and Chairman of the ICCI Young Entrepreneurship Forum highlighted the activities of Youth Forum ICCI and said that celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week was another effort of ICCI to promote a

culture of entrepreneurship which would ultimately generate a wave of entrepreneurship development across the country.

Mr. Hammad Siddiqui, Deputy Country Director, CIPE highlighted the role of CIPE in promoting entrepreneurship and said that CIPE has been actively engaged with chambers and associations to promote entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan. He said that due to the prevailing economic situation, job opportunities were lacking so there was dire need to encourage youth to enter into the entrepreneurship field.

Key impediments to entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan were discussed at the panel discussion. Participants agreed that a tough regulatory regime, corruption and discouragement towards taking entrepreneurial challenges are the major concerns.

The role of academia was also highlighted at the discussion; Participants suggested that college and university-level mentorship could progress with assistance from chambers and associations. ■



Participants in the Global Entrepreneurship Week gather for a group photo in Islamabad.