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## **Consultative Session on IT Graduate Employability and Curriculum Reform Held in Islamabad**

Islamabad, September 18, 2025: Under the European Union Funded TVET Sector Support Programme, British Council in collaboration with The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), convened a high-level consultative session titled, “From Campus to Career: Reimagining IT Education for Pakistan’s Digital Future” with leading representatives of Pakistan’s IT industry at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The session focused on enhancing the quality, relevance, and employability of over 75,000 computing and IT graduates produced annually across the country.

The event brought together senior officials from European Union, HEC, MoITT, Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), and key academic and industry stakeholders.

Key themes under discussion included:

- **Restructuring Final Year Projects (FYPs):** Transforming traditional university projects into industry placement-based models to provide students with hands-on, real-world exposure.
- **Centralized ICT Graduate Test:** Exploring the feasibility of a national-level assessment to benchmark graduate employability and support industry recruitment.
- **Curriculum Revision:** Incorporating industry feedback on emerging technologies, globally recognized certifications, and essential workplace-ready skills into the upcoming National Curriculum Review Committee (NCRC) deliberations (September 29 – October 3, 2025).

British Council’s Country Director, Mr. James Hampson said, “At the British Council, we believe education must evolve alongside the digital economy. This consultative session is an important step in bringing academia and industry closer together, so that Pakistan’s IT graduates are not just employable, but ready to lead. By integrating real-world projects, professional certifications, and hands-on experience into learning, we are helping shape a generation of graduates who can drive Pakistan’s digital future.”

Speaking at the session, the Executive Director of HEC emphasized the government’s commitment to aligning higher education with industry needs in light of the Prime Minister’s directives

Quote by ED: “The Higher Education Commission is committed to working closely with its IT industry and government partners to align our academic programs with market needs. This consultation provides valuable insights that will help us strengthen the curriculum, improve the quality of Final Year Projects, and better prepare our graduates for meaningful employment opportunities”

Industry representatives highlighted their readiness to collaborate in supervision, mentorship, and certification integration, provided effective partnership models and incentives are introduced.

The consultative session concluded with consensus on actionable recommendations to be presented at the NCRC later this month. These reforms are expected to significantly strengthen Pakistan’s IT talent pipeline, bridging the gap between academia and industry, and enabling graduates to contribute more effectively to the country’s digital economy.

**ENDS.**

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