

News Flash

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Pakistan Joins Innovation Journalism Program at Stanford

10/11/2005, Hong Kong. Omar Ayub Khan, Pakistan's Minister of State for Finance, in his keynote address at The Competitiveness Institute 8th Annual Conference in Hong Kong, announced that Pakistan is joining the Innovation Journalism Program at Stanford University. Innovation Journalism Fellows from Pakistan will participate in the program starting in 2006. The program is run by Stanford's Center for Innovations in Learning and VINNOVA.

"As an integral part of our competitiveness initiative, Pakistan has become one of the participating countries in the Innovation Journalism Fellowship program at Stanford University," said Omar Ayub Khan. "Our goal is to increase public focus on innovation and competitiveness, business and technology through news and improving communication within the productive sectors and clusters generating economic growth."

"The Government of Pakistan's wish is to build networks between leading Pakistani innovation journalists and their peers from other countries, in order to strengthen the Pakistani awareness of innovation in other countries, as well as make the other countries more aware of Pakistan."

"Stanford, being the heart of Silicon Valley, is clearly the right place for journalists from all parts of the world to meet in order to learn and exchange thoughts on the best practice of innovation journalism."

The Pakistani Innovation Journalism Program will be organized by the Pakistan Competitiveness Support Fund, headed by Mr. Arthur Bayhan, a former OECD director. It will receive initial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Pakistan. The Competitiveness Support Fund organizes Pakistan's competitiveness initiatives, improving the overall competitiveness of the Pakistani economy.

Pakistani Fellows will join Innovation Journalism Fellows from other countries to work in leading newsrooms covering innovation stories, participate in Stanford workshops and present papers at the Third Conference on Innovation Journalism at Stanford, April 5-7, 2006.

Stanford researcher and Innovation Journalism Program director David Nordfors launched the Innovation Journalism concept two years ago. He is special advisor to the Director General of the Swedish Government Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, that started the first program and supported Stanford in developing the concept.

[The full speech of Omar Ayub Khan is available here \(click\)](#)

[Photos of Omar Ayub Khan making the announcement is available here \(1\) \(2\)](#)
(Photos: Jan Sandred) (click)

Contact: Dr. David Nordfors, Senior Research Scholar, Program Director Innovation Journalism, Stanford University; Special Advisor to the DG, VINNOVA; nordfors@stanford.edu +1-650-804-5184

Innovation journalism covers of the introduction of new ideas into the marketplace. The international Innovation Journalism Fellowship Program at Stanford started 2005.

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