

## Promoting Triple Helix through Innovation Summit<sup>12</sup>

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### Abstract:

Invention to Innovation Summit is jointly planned by industry, academia and government to promote innovation culture in the society of Pakistan. The summit was piloted in one province and offered now in four provinces of Pakistan. Total 18 summits are organized till mid of 2019. It is a two-day innovation plate form presents innovation ecosystem for three helixes of society to interact, exchange and collaborate.

More than 100 organizations from academia, industry and government jointly organize these summits. 1000s of technologies are presented to industry and society for feedback and adoption. Innovation stakeholders interact with each regularly and realign themselves according to each other's needs. The innovation summit presented technology sessions, technology expo, technology awards and many other interaction opportunities.

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<sup>2</sup> *Case Owners*: Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) [www.irp.edu.pk](http://www.irp.edu.pk) has been established to provide services in research related activities to promote quality research culture in the universities and corporate sector of Pakistan. IRP is a non-profit organization working under the leadership of academics and industrialists. IRP has academicians, researchers, scholars, corporate consultants and institutes/organizations associated of international repute, and in various disciplines. IRP is helping researchers of universities and managers of industry to sit together and meet today's challenges together by conducting research individually and collectively. IRP regularly conducts seminars/symposium/exhibitions on indigenous technologies, providing a common stage to researchers of academia and executives of corporate sector. At IRP platform, new ideas, experiences and technologies are shared and new ways of R&D collaborations are discussed. IRP has facilitated numerous research papers, doctoral level theses and industrial research projects in the areas of social, economic, pure and applied sciences. The studies facilitated by IRP are presented at national and international level forums/conferences and published in scholarly journals of international repute. IRP is in regular process of technology identification, marketing and commercialization of indigenous R&D. Number of local technologies are in process of commercialization and being transferred to industry. IRP serves in trainings, surveys, data management, publishing, research commercialization and institutional building for R&D.

IRP has made the innovation summit sustainable and replicable for other countries too. The innovation summit is backed by IRP portal, IRP commercialization services and IP management.

**Keywords:** Triple helix; Innovation summit; University-industry-Government (UIG) links; Pakistan

**Geographic Coverage:** Pakistan

### Strategic Aims:

IRP has facilitated numerous research papers, doctoral level theses and industrial research projects in the areas of social, economic, pure and applied sciences. The studies facilitated by IRP are presented at national and international level forums/conferences and published in scholarly journals of international repute. IRP is in regular process of technology identification, marketing and commercialization of indigenous R&D. Number of local technologies are in process of commercialization and being transferred to industry. IRP serves in trainings, surveys, data management, publishing, research commercialization and institutional building for R&D.

### Case Overview and Track Record:

Pakistan is struggling for its development and facing many crises due to its political inconsistency (Adnan and Fatima, 2018). However, general society including industry, social sector and education sector is trying hard to cop up with growing developments around the world. Therefore, society at large has grown up and shown progressed in many years. There are many good examples from some government institutions also. Based on IRP working for innovation eco system and technology transfer in Pakistan, the concept of innovation summit is coined. The innovation summit is a unique model which exercise and promote triple helix in Pakistan leading to culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. As Danson & Todeva (2016) mentioned that triple helix model is guiding principle that is often used and industry specialisation and stakeholders are emerging through this. The innovation summit is started in 2012 and term invention to innovation summit is coined by CEO IRP, Mr. Abid H K Shirwani who is also president South Asia Triple Helix Association.

Here are few triple helix characteristics of the Innovation Summit:

- The Ideation of Innovation Summit IRP being a private organization presented the idea of innovation summit to Government organization called Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan. Then Chairman, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Husain Soomro appreciated the idea of innovation summit and jointly presented to vice chancellor University of the Punjab, Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran. The heads of three organizations from industry, academia and government sat together, did brainstorming and finalized decision to organize innovation annually. The challenge was how to connect academia, industry and government for innovation. The innovation summit was designed to respond to this challenge of triple helix model of working. The innovation summit was planned by three helixes and executed by three helixes too. The following fundamental characteristics were planned to respond to triple helix challenges;
- The innovation summit will be a two days event presenting innovation ecosystem;
- The summit will be joint effort of organizations from academia, industry and Government;
- The summit will be financially supported by organizations from academia, industry and Government;
- There will numerous activities covering multiple aspects of innovation;

- The various activities will be conducted by three helixes as industry, academia and government;
- The innovation summit will be an overall two days platform where three helixes can interact, exchange and collaborate for future projects;
- The summit will include technology sessions, policy sessions, technology expo, awards and other promotional activities;
- The Triple Helix Design of Innovation Summit – The Country Wide Technology Cover The innovation summit started in Lahore in the province of Punjab, Pakistan. After two years of piloting it expanded to other three provinces of Pakistan. Now the summit is organized regularly in four provinces of Pakistan. The triple helix model exercised in one province is expanded to all over Pakistan. The academia, industry and government of four provinces connected to each other's and across the provinces too. The summit gave the opportunity to industry, academia, and government to meet each counterparts of each province once in year. Here are three examples of cross the provinces working of innovation summit.

The remarks of Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan after hosting innovation summit in Balochistan reflects this development. *“Our province is terrorism-affected where world listens news of bomb blasts every day. We are the province known for killing, death and shooting. This summit has created different news of research, innovation and creativity from our Province Balochistan. We are afraid of sitting together and standing together. This summit made us living together for two days. Ministers, Director generals, secretaries, industry executives, academic deans and heads, social activists and students smile together, laugh together and think together for innovation in the province. We are thankful to summit as it brought us together and make us work together”*. Dr. Anwar ul Hasan Gilani Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology said; *“I represent the premium policy body of Pakistan which custodian of science and technology in Pakistan. I see many colleagues from government joining here in the summit. We while living in Islamabad never had been together like we are here together discussing science and technology issues. Thanks to Summit for connecting us”*.

Dr. Mirza Habib Director Research, Pakistan Science Foundation said: *“I run funding program of 2 billion plus. Similarly, my friend from Higher Education Commission also 2 billion program of technology funding. Living in same city and working for same government we never met each other. We met first time here in the summit”*. The innovation summit has become technology tourism as stakeholders from each province participate in the summits of other provinces, interact with each other's and plan collaborations.

- The Triple Helix Design of Innovation Summit – Technology Sessions The innovation summit includes various sessions related to commercial technologies, policy reforms, start-up ideas, business productivity and academic reforms. The sessions are organized jointly by academia, industry and public sector organizations. The sessions are also attended by people from various sectors and walks of life. In technology sessions, academics present viable technologies and industry provide feedback on technology diffusion and revision. In policy sessions, policy advocates present policy revision and government representatives provide feedback and response on its implementation. In funding session government funding agencies present funding opportunities for industry and academia for collaborative research. Triple helix actors interact with each other and participate in each other's activities during two days of innovation summit every year in each province. Here is a model example Riph Institute of Public Policy- RIPP is a specialized institute for research and teaching on public policy issues. RIPP planned to contribute in industrial sector through policy reforms and revision. RIPP selected gems and jewellery sector for the years 2016-2017 and organized policy sessions in the innovation summit. RIPP collaborated with the industry

of gems and jewellery to conduct industrial policy sessions in the innovation summit. The four policy sessions are organized in four provinces and attended by related industry, government representatives and university scientists/students.

The actors of three helixes in gems and jewellery sat together, discussed development issues, proposed revised policy measures and finalized future growth agenda based on common interest. This was a unique exercise in Pakistan where three stakeholders jointly planned a sector development and policy reforms. RIPP has collaborated with Pakistan Institute of Development Economic and South Asia Triple Helix Association to jointly develop a final policy reform draft. The industry and Government has actively participated in the industrial policy development work. The policy proposals are finalized and policy advocacy has been started to motivate concern public sector department to implement the proposals. The sessions of innovation summit has responded to another challenge of joint working in Pakistan. The most of policy reforms and interventions are failed due to absence of industry or academia as these are made by public sector only. The stakeholder engagement in public sector polices seriously lacks in Pakistan. The next agenda of RIPP policy sessions in innovation summit is "Policy Reforms for Urban Planning and Smart Cities".

- The Triple Helix Design of Innovation Summit – Technology Expo The innovation summit presents a triple helix demonstration of technology expo. This is the place where three helixes demonstrate their strengths, services, innovations, potentials and offerings. Following are prominent examples:
- Academic Stalls – The innovators of universities and R&D organizations display their new ideas, innovations, technologies, prototypes, and other developments as output of their labs and laboratories. The visitors from industry and society visit academic innovations, give feedback and exchange ideas on discussion and utilization of academic technologies. University faculty made lot of collaborations with industry and society through these displays. R&D organizations, S&T laboratories and research institutes of public sector also put their stalls in technology expo and offers technologies to industry.
- Industry Stalls – Industry is also invited to display their innovative products and services. Industry presents their current developments and future business needs for technologies. The brief academics about collaboration opportunities and available support from industry for academic research. Academic scientists visit industry stalls and explore joint R&D options.
- Government Stalls – The government services and facilitations departments also put their stalls and showcase. They mostly showcase testing services, standards services, vocation training services, instruments offers and IP related services. The funding agencies showcase their funding opportunities and guide academia and industry on how to avail the state funding.
- Startup Stalls – The summits also include a pavilion for start-up ideas. The entrepreneurs initiating new ventures are given opportunities to show case their business ideas. The start-ups generate new customers, create lot of referrals and test their ideas through wide demonstration. The start-ups meet lot of potential investors and partners in the summit.
- The Triple Helix Design of Innovation Summit – Innovation Awards The summit includes a big range of awards of various categories given to various triple helix actors as token of appreciation.
- SATHA Innovation Award- The awards are given on executive dinner by high profile personalities from Government of Pakistan. The awards are promoted all the years in all over the country and applications are received. The SATHA award target those contributors who significantly improve people and organizations life in their respective fields. The applications are collected from industry,

academia and social sector. The SATHA award has become the pride for winners. The SATHA award appreciate those contribute significantly in their respective fields and do innovations.

- Cash Awards – The cash awards are announced by various donors from academia and government. These awards are given to viable technologies presented in the innovation summit. The industry gives awards in search of some potential technologies. For example, SRC is a chemical producer. They give cash award to a potential technology related to chemistry. They evaluate awarded technologies for investment and commercialization. ECOSF is inter-governmental organization serves the science objectives of 10 ECO countries. They promote development to respond to SDG millennium goals. They give cash award to technology related to SDG 06- Water and sanitation. Similarly, Akhuwat is a social development organization provides interest-free microfinance and number of other services related to education and community development. They give cash award for technology making social impact. The case awards are also given to startup ideas and newly created ventures.
- Technology Awards - The technology awards are given to students' ideas displayed in the technology expo of innovation summit. Around thirty technology awards are given to displayed posters and technologies. The exhibited technologies are assessed on the factors like import substitution, export potential, utilization of local resources, solution to potential problems and overall social and economic impact.
- The Triple Helix Design of Innovation Summit – Innovation Stars Program

Innovation summit presents opportunity to schools' students to bring their models and display along with higher education students. A partner organization AFAQ leadership club conducts a competition in schools for model development and innovation. The selected innovative models are invited for display in the summit. The students are given cash prizes, certificates and appreciation lectures. Many schools' kids are invited to visit models and stalls of other universities and industries.

Innovation summit plays active role in developing future innovation leaders.

### Tangible Impact:

The innovation summit is organized by more than 100 partners from academia, industry and government in four provinces of Pakistan. This reflects triple helix working and sustainable collaboration of many partner geared by the innovation summit. Around 40 industrial sectors are offered viable technologies by session organizers which attract 100s of new industries toward academia. Around 50 innovative technologies are awarded cash awards by various organizations with to hope adopting these projects once completed after revisions and modifications. Many projects are initiated based on interaction between academia and industry during the innovation summits. Many projects are applied to donor agencies after getting briefing from donor during the summit.

### Intangible Impact:

Pakistan lacks a platform seriously where triple helix actors can start interactions and exchange perspectives for collaborative development. The innovation summit has become a strong platform to interact and connect. The summit has country-wide coverage as organized in four provinces of Pakistan every year. Now the academia has platform to display their innovations for industry and society. The industry got the platform to visit and interact with academia and see potential business solutions. They government found the place to interact with both academia and industry for offering their services and introducing new opportunities. The message of summit reaches to millions of people

in Pakistan through social media, emails, digital and non-digital publishing and through physical media like seminars, conferences and meetings. This message itself a very strong ambassador of triple helix and inspires people for entrepreneurial research culture. The summit is organized jointly by three helix actors and by design creates a sense of collaboration in the society for science, technology and innovation.

## Transferability and Lessons Learned in Triple Helix Cooperation:

The innovation summit is replicated from one province to four provinces of Pakistan. The summit design is standardized and sustained over many years. The summit is backed by IRP services of commercialization. IRP is looking for opportunities to offer the summit in other countries to promote triple helix culture in the hosting countries. The other countries can also learn and organize the same summit in their countries. The summit participants are referred to IRP portal of technologies to see potential problems of industry and bring solutions in the summit.

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