



الغرفة الإسلامية للتجارة والتنمية
Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development
Chambre Islamique de Commerce et de Développement



BEST OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (BOE Asia 2025)

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OUTCOME REPORT



24 SEPT
2025



KARACHI EXPO
CENTER PAKISTAN

The Second Edition of the Best of Entrepreneurship (BOE) Asia Conference 2025, convened under the theme “*Techpreneurship: Strategy, Innovation and Leadership*” bringing together stakeholders from seven OIC member countries across Asia, the Middle East, and the wider Asian OIC region

Organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), in partnership with Al Baraka Bank (Strategic Sponsor), and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) (Strategic Partner) and ITCN (Strategic Partner), the conference featured 16 distinguished speakers and panelists, including entrepreneurs, policymakers, institutional leaders, and innovation experts.

As a flagship initiative, BOE Asia Conference served as a dynamic regional platform for advancing dialogue, knowledge exchange, and South–South collaboration among technology-driven enterprises and ecosystem enablers. Over the course of the event, participants engaged in **8** keynote addresses, **2** expert panels, and **3** specialized workshops, offering an exceptional diversity of insights on entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and ecosystem development.

The discussions underscored how innovation, leadership, and digital inclusion can drive more resilient, sustainable, and competitive economies within the OIC region, with particular emphasis on youth empowerment, equitable access to technology, and stronger cross-regional linkages.

MEDIA COVERAGE & IMPACT

The event achieved substantial media exposure, generating **26** total hits across print, digital, and electronic platforms.

Coverage extended to leading English and Urdu publications as well as technology-focused digital outlets, effectively conveying the conference’s key messages on techpreneurship and regional economic growth to an estimated **6.3** million combined print and digital readers.

The campaign reached an Advertising Equivalent Value (AEV) of approximately PKR **8.8** million, with placements in prominent national media such as Business Recorder, Pakistan Observer, Pakistan Today, Daily Khabrain, and Aaj News, among others.



The outcomes of the Best of Entrepreneurship (BOE) Asia Conference 2025 highlight measurable progress in advancing ICCD’s mandate to strengthen public–private collaboration across the OIC region. The event attracted wide participation from chambers of commerce, technological advancement agencies, financial institutions, and academic networks, reflecting a collective commitment to advancing the digital economy.

The majority of participants represented senior leadership, including CEOs, founders, directors, and ministerial or diplomatic representatives. This strong leadership presence affirmed the event’s positioning as a high-level dialogue platform for strategic decision-makers and ecosystem enablers.

The event reaffirmed ICCD’s role as a convening platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange within the OIC entrepreneurial landscape. Deliberations underscored the importance of building linkages among regional innovation ecosystems, promoting youth-focused entrepreneurship programs, and fostering an enabling policy environment that supports technology adoption and startup development.

Overall, the conference generated valuable insights and actionable recommendations that will inform ICCD’s ongoing efforts to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable private-sector growth across the OIC region.

Emerging Themes

BOE ASIA CONFERENCE 2025

Reinforced technology’s role as a strategic catalyst for inclusive and innovation-led growth across OIC economies.

1

Highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration and ecosystem alignment among governments, private sector, academia, and development institutions.

2

Underscored the need for an entrepreneurial mindset shift prioritizing customer validation, originality, and proof of value over investor-first approaches.

3

Recognized youth, women, and SMEs as pivotal drivers of the OIC region’s innovation and economic transformation.

4

Emphasized the centrality of leadership and coherent policy frameworks to sustain entrepreneurship ecosystems.

5

Advanced practical pathways for scaling innovation, focusing on digital infrastructure, market access, and mentorship as key enablers.

6

The conference commenced with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an and the national anthem, setting a dignified tone for the proceedings. This was followed by welcome and opening remarks from senior dignitaries representing the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), government authorities, and partner organizations.



H.E. Mr. Yousef Khalawi
Secretary General
Islamic Chamber of Commerce
& Development - ICCD

His insightful remarks underscored ICCD's mandate to represent and connect private sector voices within the OIC framework — fostering partnerships that translate business innovation into sustainable economic growth.

He emphasized that the Best of Entrepreneurship (BOE) series has emerged as one of ICCD's flagship initiatives, showcasing success stories from across the OIC region while providing a practical forum for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and partnership building.

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“Technology and entrepreneurship are not parallel tracks, they are now the twin engines that can power sustainable growth, create opportunity for youth, and build prosperity across our member countries.”

Opening statements were also delivered by distinguished representatives of partner institutions and government bodies, who reaffirmed their support for advancing innovation, private sector competitiveness, and youth empowerment within the OIC community. Each emphasized the value of regional collaboration, digital inclusion, and cross-border partnerships as key enablers of sustainable growth.

The inaugural session concluded with expressions of appreciation to participating organizations, speakers, and delegates, marking the start of two days of dialogue and knowledge exchange on the future of entrepreneurship and technology within the OIC region.



H.E. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon

Senior Vice President, FPCCI

"We must instill an entrepreneurial mindset that turns professionals and students into visionary leaders capable of competing globally."



Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif

CEO, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Ltd.

"Pakistan's demographic advantage is our strength. Harnessing youth talent through technology and entrepreneurship can make the country a hub for regional collaboration."



H.E. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary

Coordinator General, COMSTECH

"Unlocking the potential of young minds is the first step toward regional leadership in technology and innovation."

THE OPENING ALSO INCLUDED REMARKS FROM



H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali

Ministry of Foreign Affairs representing
the Economic Diplomacy and SIFC Division,

“Empowering young innovators and strengthening digital linkages are crucial. BOE Asia is setting a cornerstone for entrepreneurial unity and regional economic growth.”

Collectively, the opening dialogue positioned the BOE Asia Conference as more than an event — as a structured platform for aligning policy ambition with innovation. It reinforced the value of continued coordination between OIC institutions, national authorities, and private-sector leaders to translate dialogue into tangible regional cooperation.

Keynote Speech



Jawaid Iqbal, Member
Special Technology Zones Authority
(STZA), Pakistan

“The way forward for emerging markets lies not only in trade agreements, but in establishing a new tech order that drives sustainable growth.”

PANELISTS

Moderator



Dr. Wael Eldesouki Bedda
Secretary General, SKSEED



Ivan Sandjaja
Managing Director, Global
Entrepreneurship Network Indonesia



Raffles Chan
CEO, GITP.Asia (Malaysia)



Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram
CEO & Co-Founder, Sehat
Kahani (Pakistan)



Kiran Afzal
Senior Private Sector
Specialist, The World Bank

PANEL SUMMARY

Panel 1 explored strategic approaches to building entrepreneurial ecosystems that are sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive. Drawing on lessons from Indonesia, Malaysia, and China, the discussion emphasized bridging the gap between vision and execution, connecting innovation with markets, and scaling startups across borders. The session highlighted the importance of policy alignment, networks, mentorship, and customer validation as key enablers of ecosystem success.

Panelists discussed strategic approaches to building sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Ivan Sandjaja shared Indonesia's experience in fostering public-private collaboration and policy coherence, noting that these were the key lessons others should replicate.

Raffles Chan emphasized that startups must plan for globalization, not just localization, while Dr. Sara Saeed highlighted that balancing long-term vision with day-to-day realities is a constant startup challenge.

Kiran Afzal underscored that women entrepreneurs and SMEs must be central to innovation and post-crisis recovery.

PANEL 1 – KEY TAKEAWAYS:



Connect innovation to market access through networks, mentorship, and partnerships.



Focus on customer validation and proof of value over investor-first models.



Ensure inclusive participation of women, youth, and SMEs in ecosystem growth.



Scale globally viable solutions anchored in local strengths.

Keynote Speech:



Muhammad Anwar Khan

Founder and President, Pak Angels Inc

(prior to Panel 2) set the stage by highlighting the importance of open innovation platforms and digital infrastructure:

“Hackathons and payment platforms create the spaces where innovation thrives only unique ideas can lead the next wave of transformation.”

PANELISTS

Moderator:



H.E. Natavan Mammadova

Secretary General, MNFWEE



Syed Ahmad
CEO DPL (Pakistan)



Faisal Jamil
Managing Director, LMKR (Pakistan)
Jana Krimpe — Founder & CEO
BEST Solutions (Azerbaijan)

PANEL SUMMARY

The panel explored leadership, policy alignment, and ecosystem strategies for accelerating innovation. Jana Krimpe shared how Azerbaijan allocates half of its innovation budget to education and startups, demonstrating how sustained investment mainstreams digital innovation. Syed Ahmad urged a mindset shift away from outdated industrial paradigms, while Faisal Jamil pointed to the need for stronger incubation infrastructure, noting that Pakistan has only eight centers compared to China's 16,000.

PANEL 2 – KEY TAKEAWAYS:



Visionary and adaptive leadership is essential for innovation-driven growth.



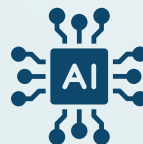
Strengthen digital infrastructure and incubation capacity.



Foster inclusive ecosystems that empower women, youth, and SMEs.



Promote education and mentorship as foundations for future-ready innovation.



Encourage responsible AI adoption for scalable and ethical entrepreneurship.

The BOE Asia Conference 2025 featured three interactive workshops focused on actionable strategies to scale businesses, validate ideas, and leverage technology for entrepreneurial impact.



Mr. Talha Shaikh

Digital Transformation Specialist at ICCD

**“THE REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY:
TURNING POTENTIAL INTO PROGRESS”**

Talha Shaikh highlighted how AI tools and digital toolkits are critical for modern entrepreneurs seeking to transform potential into measurable progress. He emphasized the need for startups to understand market dynamics, adopt data-driven strategies, and leverage technology to scale regionally.



Dr. Wael Eldesouki Bedda

Secretary General, SKSEED

**“BOOTSTRAPPED BUT GLOBAL:
CONVENTIONAL VS ENTREPRENEURIAL
MARKETING”**

“We don’t need money only for starting business it’s the right strategy that is required. Once you have market research-based evidence, your ideas will be accepted globally.”

He emphasized that strategy and validation matter more than capital, explaining that market research and proof of value drive global competitiveness.



Ivan Sandjaja

Managing Director,
Global Entrepreneurship Network Indonesia

**“SEA STARTUP ECOSYSTEM:
CHASING THE INNOVATION FRONTIER CASE
STUDY: INDONESIA STARTUP ECOSYSTEM”**

Ivan focused on the importance of linking startups with broader markets, strategic networks, and cross-border opportunities. He emphasized that regional connectivity and collaboration allow startups to scale efficiently and sustainably.

“Expanding beyond local markets requires regional networks that reduce barriers to scaling.”

KEY OUTCOMES FROM WORKSHOPS:



Startups gained practical tools for regional and global scaling.



Reinforced the need for customer validation over investor-driven models.



Highlighted the value of regional networks and mentorship.



Stressed that strategy, not capital, drives sustainable growth.

- Expand digital infrastructure and connectivity to enable inclusive access for innovators and entrepreneurs.
- Establish cross-border platforms for innovation, mentorship, and knowledge exchange.
- Integrate AI, fintech, telehealth, and innovation-driven skills into education and vocational training.
- Promote targeted support for women, youth, and SMEs to access financing, mentorship, and incubation.
- Support customer-led innovation and validation to ensure market relevance and sustainability.
- Develop agile and trustworthy governance frameworks for emerging technologies with a focus on ethics, data privacy, and security.
- Strengthen strategic leadership through multi-stakeholder innovation councils.
- Provide incentives for research, innovation pilots, and scaling startups to access regional and global markets.

CONCLUSION

The BOE Asia Conference 2025 reaffirmed itself as a regional platform for innovation, strategy, and leadership in the OIC region. The conference built momentum for a transformative era of Techpreneurship one rooted in youth empowerment, cross-border collaboration, and customer-centered innovation.

The conference closed with a united commitment to transform potential into progress leveraging strategy, innovation, and leadership to build a sustainable future for Pakistan and the broader OIC Asian region.



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