Pakistan's IT Industry: Way Forward

Conduct comprehensive market research to develop strategies for expanding into new territories.

Encourage and incentivise academia/research institutes and startup businesses to collaborate for research and development (R&D) for startup innovations in new trending domains.

Diversify of IT Exports across a Broad Range of Markets

Encourage Variety of Domestic IT Startups

Offer additional incentives and government or private sector support mechanisms to entrepreneurs and startup businesses that innovate/ intend to innovate in new startup domains that are in high demand.

Encourage and incentivise like-minded startup businesses and entrepreneurs to collaborate for innovations in new trending domains.

Encourage and offer capacity building programmes to individual IT companies to increase the development of products and platforms that can be scaled to different countries.

Expand Basket of IT Products

Skills Alignment

Periodically conduct a survey of the IT industry's skill requirements.

Maximise students' exposure to the IT industry during study years.

Expand the scale of the current skill development programmes for upskilling/reskilling the large pool of existing human capital.

Increase investment in telecom infrastructure, make arrangements for infrastructure sharing, instal more submarine cables for meeting increasing demand, add more spectrums for internet use, and invest in optic fibre to increase connectivity.

Engage local bodies/organisations to address the digital illiteracy divide in their respective areas by developing tailored strategies.

Improve Access to the Internet

Facilitate in Ease of Doing Business

Increase access of IT businesses/ startups to non-collateralized loans.

Simplify and fast-track procedures for availing tax incentives.

Simplify and minimise regulatory/ administrative processes for licences, permits, trade, and custom approvals.

Investigate organisation-specific factors contributing to employee turnover in the IT industry.

Foster Brain Gain

Policy Consistency

Ensure policy continuity for the IT sector and take industry takeholders on board while planning policy changes.

Discourage IT businesses from utilising/buying foreign IT products from states that pose the biggest cyber threats.
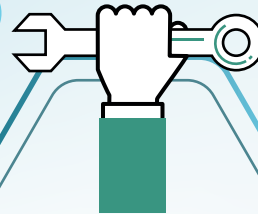
Strengthen Cyber Security