

Project Title	StartUps Connex
Project Summary	Connect start-up incubators in Peshawar, Pakistan with U.S. counterparts to exchange best practices on start-up development.
Country	Pakistan
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	N/A
Post	PESHAWAR
Section	POL
Number of Interns	1

Project Description

Peshawar, Pakistan has a lively tech start-up scene, including several incubators – see illustrative list below. This project seeks to provide these incubators with useful, two-way connections to U.S. counterparts. The intern would:

- research types of tech start-up incubators in the United States, cataloguing the different services provided, and assessing the pros and cons of different models across different sectors;
- network with U.S. and Peshawar-based incubators and start-ups to explore the possibility of mutually-beneficial connections to the Pakistani start-up scene;
- facilitate such connections;
- document successes and difficulties of such partnerships or exchanges.

Desired Skills Interests

Skill

Facility with on-line and cross-cultural communications

Background in business, business administration, computer science or computer programming

Expertise in start-ups or tech sector in the United States

Additional Information

Some organizations on the Peshawar start-up scene are:

Peshawar 2.0

Peshawar 2.0 is a social enterprise aimed at building a startup community in Peshawar. It has hosted TEDxPeshawar, Startup Weekend, Peshawar Civic Hackathon, Global Entrepreneurship Week and country's biggest tech conference, the Digital Youth Summit that hosted 28 sessions and 66 speakers over two days.

The Mentors

The Mentors is connected to the Institute of Management Sciences university and its Enterprise Development Cell, and works with students on tech startup skills.

Smile SN

SmileSN is a social networking service for users to meet, talk, share or start listening to their interests via their mobile phone, with over 1.3 million subscribers. Smile can be used on any device from simple to a well-featured smart phone, laptop or PC. SmileSN is working with the provincial government on traffic updates, monitoring and evaluation, and a public complaint record and feedback mechanism.

Hiwaas

Hiwaas.com develops apps and websites for new businesses. Some examples are: Waycool, which does keyword searches in Facebook; Extractor Pro to pull emails from facebook IDs; and FBK-VA, to post keyword-determined relevant content to a page; and Place SMS, which auto-sends SMS when you enter or leave a specific location.

Placeme.Pk

PlaceMe.pk is a website and app to let students search for accommodations across major cities of Pakistan.

Language Requirements

Language Speaking Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Importance
Urdu	Minimum professional proficiency	No practical proficiency Nice to Have