

SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONES AUTHORITY (STZA)

STZA PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEARBOOK OF CABINET DIVISION

FY 2022-2023



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Cabinet Division
Special Technology Zones Authority



INTRODUCTION

Background

The emergence of knowledge clusters across the globe triggered countries across the globe to initiate special legislations and regimes to enable and protect the growth of knowledge and innovation ecosystem and follow the path of wealth creation through knowledge-driven solutions and services. One of the most effective policy tools in this regard was to enable development of technology parks/zones/clusters.

The world saw an acceleration in the growth of such innovation and knowledge clusters in the 80s. As a result, United States now hosts 115 clusters while China 169, UK 63, India 23, Iran 16, Egypt 3, Malaysia 5, while Pakistan stands at 0. In 2001, India had US\$ 1 Billion as IT exports with zero knowledge clusters. In 2022, India hosts 23 clusters with more than 100 technology parks and US\$ 150 Billion IT exports.

Pakistan also, now, has the opportunity to emulate that success and embrace the pro-innovation mindset. Our country can no longer rely on a 'bricks and mortar' system at a time when the technology sector has become a centerpiece for countries around the globe towards ensuring sustainable economic growth and other critical elements of national security. Pakistan's economic prosperity and future progress depend on its ability to build a knowledge-based economy by focusing on technological innovation and creating a tech-enabling environment for our youth, entrepreneurs, and local and foreign investors.

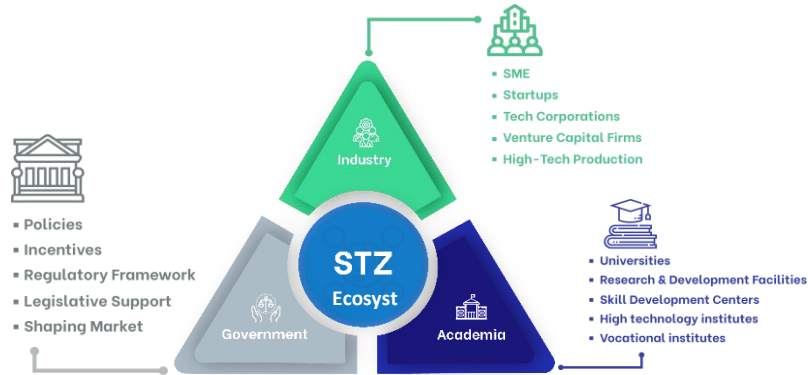
Pakistan has seen significant growth in the tech sector, especially the IT industry has grown 30% year on year and contributed US\$ 3.5 Billion to Pakistan's GDP (over 1%) with a projected growth of 100% in the next 2-4 years. There are over 2000 registered IT companies in Pakistan employing over 300,000 IT experts, with around 30,000 IT-related graduates entering the job market. The IT exports have crossed US\$ 2 Billion, excluding the earnings of freelancers (the world's fourth-largest freelancer population) and Pakistani companies registered abroad. Pakistani Startups joined the big league in 2021 raising US\$ 365.87 Million which is 450% higher than in 2020. The number of deals also jumped to 82 from 49 the year before, witnessing a surge of 67%.

Against this backdrop, the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), an autonomous body, was established under the Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan, with the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan as the President of the Board of Governors (BoG) of the Authority. STZA has been mandated to attract foreign direct investments, incentivize futuristic entrepreneurship, enable job creation, and build a knowledge economy.

Introduction to STZA

The Special Technology Zones Authority Act was passed in October 2021. STZA is established with a mandate to provide world-class digital and physical infrastructure through setting up Special Technology Zones (STZs) across the country and putting Pakistan on the global technology map. The Authority aims to build a technology ecosystem for entrepreneurship, R&D, and tech-driven innovation in the country for the youth by providing institutional and legislative support, and ease of doing business along with special fiscal and monetary incentives to facilitate and promote technology sector.

The genesis of Special Technology Zones is based on Triple Helix Model of Innovation, connecting and clustering together the Technology Industry, Government & Universities/Training Institutes to foster the culture of innovation, Research and Development and developing the ecosystems which contribute towards increase in tech exports of the country.



STZA is mandated to provide institutional and legislative support for the technology sector with the aim to develop internationally competitive and export oriented structures and eco-systems, to attract foreign direct investment, develop collaboration eco-system connecting academia, research and technology industry, to initiate innovation in production system and products, to increase the standards and quality of technology goods and services, to increase productivity and decrease the costs of production through high -tech interventions, intensive innovation and futuristic entrepreneurship, to enable job creation, to commercialize technological knowledge.

Key Objectives

The Authority aims to build a technology ecosystem for entrepreneurship, R&D, and tech-driven innovation in the country by providing institutional and legislative support, ease of doing business along with special fiscal and monetary incentives to facilitate and promote the technology sector.

- i. Streamline and harmonize legal and regulatory framework for Special Technology Zones
- ii. Enabling the Establishment of Special Technology Zones
- iii. Promoting Ease of Doing Business in Special Technology Zones through development of One Window Portal
- iv. Enablement of investments in the Special Technology Zones



Development of 3-Years Strategic Plan for STZA

STZA has developed a 3-years strategic plan through a logical framework methodology and submitted to Finance Division to connect budget with the KPIs and outcomes of the Authority. The 3-year strategic plan provides a detailed map of policy goals in the STZA Act 2021 and relevant KPIs, outputs and outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability related to its performance and expenditure incurred by STZA in each financial year.

STZA has drafted its Strategic Plan using the logical framework methodology, a structured approach designed to ensure clarity, coherence, and accountability in program planning, management and implementation. This systematic framework outlines the plan's objectives, activities, outputs, outcomes, and indicators, providing a solid foundation for effective decision-making, evaluation and accountability. By employing this methodology, STZA aims to enhance its organizational efficiency and better align its actions with its overarching mission, ultimately driving positive impact and effective public service delivery.

A. STREAMLINING AND HARMONIZING LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONES

In order to elevate the landscape for innovation and business growth, the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) is undertaking comprehensive measures to streamline and harmonize the legal and regulatory framework governing Special Technology Zones. This approach is centered around ensuring an efficient, responsive, and clear regulatory environment that can adapt to the rapid pace of technological advancement and business requirements.

STZA's streamlined regulations aim to reduce regulatory redundancies and inconsistencies, making it easier for businesses to navigate regulatory requirements. Furthermore, the harmonized framework aligns the interests of all stakeholders - investors, developers, businesses, academia, government and regulatory authorities - creating a unified and coordinated strategy to drive growth in the technology sector. To achieve this, following are some steps STZA has undertaken:

Development of Legal and Licensing Framework

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) is steadfastly focused on enhancing the operational effectiveness of technology zones. Its vision is to create an environment marked by an equitable and transparent legal and regulatory framework, reinforced with rigorous enforceability and accountability measures. STZA's ultimate goal is to heighten licensee satisfaction and ensure that businesses operating within these zones can thrive in a regulatory environment that is both supportive and fair.

Continuing on this mission, STZA has been diligently working on a suite of regulations. The latest updates on these impending regulations are as follows:

1. **STZA Authority Regulations:** The draft of the Authority regulations has been submitted to the Ministry of Law & Justice for review. These regulations provide a comprehensive framework for the functioning of the STZA.
2. **STZA Fee Regulations:** The draft for these regulations, which outline the fee structure for businesses operating within the special technology zones, is ready for final approval. These regulations will ensure financial transparency and predictability for all zone participants.



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3. **STZA Licensing Framework Regulations:** The draft of these regulations is ready for approval. They will provide a clear and fair process for obtaining and maintaining business licenses within the technology zones, contributing to an environment of ease and transparency.
4. **Form of Development Agreement for Existing Infrastructure:** This draft agreement, designed to be executed between STZA and Zone Developers with existing infrastructure, is ready for approval. This agreement outlines the obligations, rights, and responsibilities of both parties, ensuring a symbiotic relationship that is beneficial to the zone at large.
5. **Form of Development Agreement for New Zones:** This draft, which is also ready for approval, outlines the relationship between STZA and Zone Developers for new zones. It aims to provide a robust framework for development, fostering an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual growth.

These impending regulations underscore STZA's commitment to a meticulous and fair legal framework that bolsters operational effectiveness within technology zones. The resulting environment is anticipated to be conducive to investments, promising a bright future for technology-driven growth in Pakistan.

Establishment of Better Regulations Unit at STZA

STZA is an integral part of the Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI), which is focused on facilitating the ease of doing business in Pakistan, with special attention to the technology sector. Therefore, STZA has laid the foundation for the Better Regulations Unit (BRU) at STZA that plays a critical role in ensuring inculcation of PRMI's regulatory philosophies and principles, making a tangible contribution to creating a regulatory environment that facilitates business growth and innovation while ensuring compliance and governance standards are met.

Under the BRU, STZA is collaborating closely with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to integrate APIs, thus working towards the implementation of a unified registration system designed specifically for IT & ITeS (Information Technology and IT-enabled Services) on the SECP e-services portal. Moreover, BRU participate regularly in the events and workshops coordinated by the Federal agencies such as BOI, SECP and other relevant regulatory authorities to exchange ideas and knowledge and establish linkages/collaborations to improve the regulatory systems in technology sector.

Development of Draft Provincial Framework

The development of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) Provincial Framework has been a collaborative and consultative endeavor, involving significant engagement with provincial authorities to ensure a comprehensive, viable, and equitable licensing evaluation process across the provinces. The draft framework provides a solid foundation for the evaluation of licensing applications. STZA's objective has been to ensure a standardized, fair, and transparent process that accommodates the diverse interests and specific contexts of each province.

Following the initial drafting phase, the proposed framework was distributed among the provinces to solicit their feedback, insights, and suggestions. Having received and duly incorporated the feedback from the provinces, STZA arrived at the final version of the Provincial Framework. The refined document, reflecting the collective wisdom and consensus from our consultations with the provinces, has been disseminated to the provinces for their final consent.



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Once the final consents have been secured, the Provincial Framework will be presented for approval to the STZA Board. This progression marks a pivotal step in our mission to create a unified, efficient, and entrepreneur-friendly regulatory environment for Special Technology Zones across Pakistan.

B. ENABLING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONES

About Special Technology Zones

STZs are ring-fenced areas, approved and notified by STZA, through which the technology-driven knowledge ecosystem will be supported and special incentives for investors will be provided. These areas may be new parcels of land notified for the development of STZs, existing infrastructure that can be declared as an STZ, or expansion of STZs in any region. STZs aim to attract the technology sector by providing fiscal and tax incentives as envisaged under the STZA Act 2021 to attract foreign direct investments, incentivize futuristic entrepreneurship, enable job creation, and commercialize technological knowledge.

Zone Developers (ZD) are infrastructure development companies, public or private, that will be responsible for development, operation and or management of the whole STZ, or a part of the whole STZ, and licensed by the Authority.

Zone Enterprises (ZE) are responsible for driving the innovation culture within STZs by operating and managing a technological enterprise within the zone. ZEs are involved in either technology businesses or supporting technology businesses and may be a high-tech production unit, a software house, a university, a venture capital fund operator, and alike.

Updates on Special Technology Zones notified across Pakistan

For the increased availability and accessibility of modern technology infrastructure and services across the country, STZA has been working to implement its National Rollout Plan. This will result in the growth and development of technology driven industries, creation of employment opportunities, and enhanced economic competitiveness of Pakistan.

Sr.#	Technology Zone	City	Area	Current Status
1	New State Life Tower	Islamabad	300,000 SFT	1. Zone notified by STZA on 10th June 2022 2. Operational and fully occupied with nine (09) Zone Enterprise Licensees
2	University of Agriculture (Agri-Tech Zone)	Faisalabad	225 Acres	1. Zone notified by STZA on 31st August 2022 2. Operational and accepting applications
3	PAF-IAST	Haripur	10 Acres	1. Zone notified by STZA on 10th June 2022 2. Operational , accepting applications and licensees being operationalized.

4	Islamabad Technopolis	Islamabad	140 Acres	1. Zone notified by STZA on 10th June 2022 2. 140 Acres land allotted by Federal Government 3. 80 MW Load approved by IESCO 4. Environmental Impact Assessment submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval. 5. Layout plan and building bylaws submitted to CDA for approval. 6. 1.5 MGD/day Water supply approved by Irrigation Department from Rawal Dam. 7. Traffic Impact Assessment study prepared. 8. PC-I uploaded on iPAS for release of funds through PSDP.
4	Pakistan Digital City	Haripur	10 Acres	1. Zone notified by STZA on 10th June 2022 2. Zone Developer: KPITB 3. Development work in progress by NLC & KPITB
6	Lahore Knowledge Park (Lahore Technopolis)	Lahore	800 Acres	1. Zone notified by STZA on 10th June 2022 2. Zone Developer: Lahore Knowledge Park Company
7	Pakistan Maritime Science & Technology Park	Karachi	7 Acres	Zone notified by STZA on 31st August 2022
8	National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP)	Rawalpindi	20 Acres	Operational with 77 technological companies

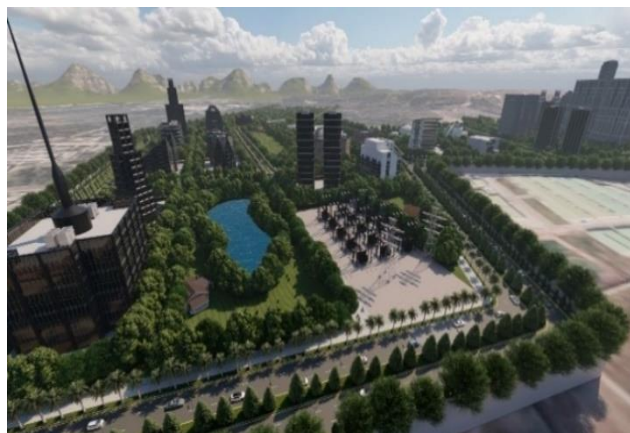
Islamabad Technopolis (Special Technology Zone)

Islamabad Technopolis is the flagship project of STZA which has been envisaged to provide world class physical and digital infrastructure to the national and international companies to accelerate the development of emerging technologies in Pakistan while creating job opportunities for the youth, human capital development and capacity building to enhance exports, substitute imports and transfer technology in line with STZA's core strategic objectives.

The PC-I of the project has been completed and uploaded on 28th February 2023 at iPAS of Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives to be included in PSDP of FY 2023-24. STZA has also prepared and submitted the layout plan & building bylaws for Islamabad Technopolis to CDA for approval, which has been approved on 14th November 2023.

STZA also participated in the multiple meetings of the Pre-CDWP and CDWP for the development budget of the Islamabad Technopolis and got the in-principle approval for the project subject to revised development scope of the Islamabad Technopolis.

Project Updates on Islamabad Technopolis		
Sr.#	Components	Details of Project
1.	Project Name	Islamabad Technopolis
2.	Land Area	140 Acres
3.	Land Status	Land Allotted by CDA. Possession with STZA.
4.	Project Location	Near National Institute of Health (NIH), Park Road, Islamabad.
5.	Completion Time	18 Months (From date of commencement)
6.	Total Cost of Project	PKR 7.338 billion
7.	Consultant	National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) (Master Planning, Infrastructure Design, EIA & Construction Supervision)
8.	Master Plan	Approved by CDA Board
9.	Supply of Electricity	Secured approval of 80MW load and construction of independent 132kV Grid Station by IESCO
10.	Supply of Water	1.5 MGD/day approved by Punjab irrigation department.
11.	Environmental Impact Assessment	Submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval
12.	Access	Conducted Traffic Impact Assessment to finalize detailed design of road connectivity with Islamabad Technopolis. Coordinated with CDA for construction of 150 ft wide access road for Islamabad Technopolis. (In progress)
13.	PC-I Status	Uploaded on iPAS of Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives to be included in PSDP of FY 2023-24

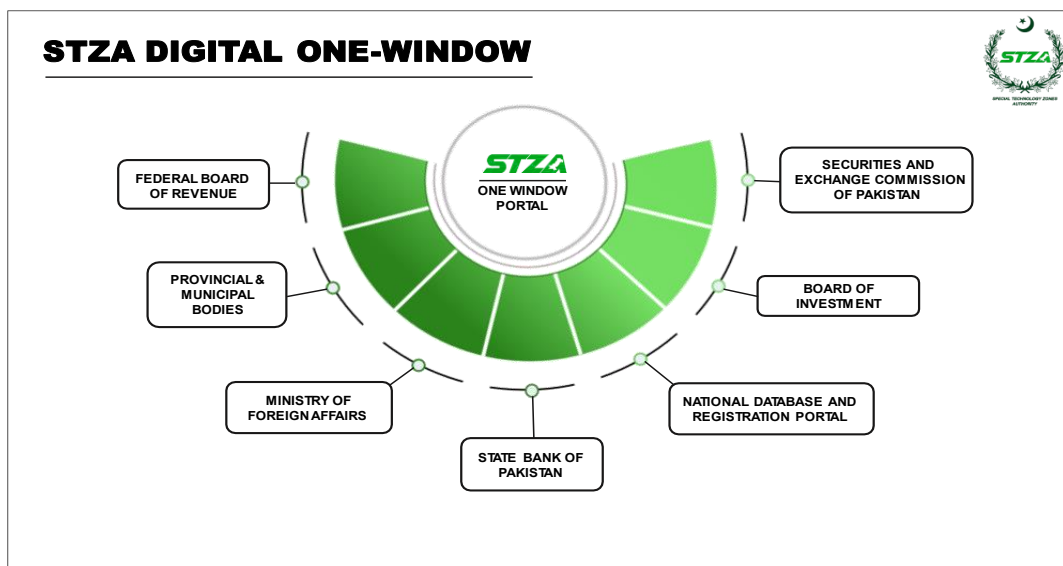


C. PROMOTING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF ONE WINDOW PORTAL

STZA One-Window Portal

“an automated single-entry centralized hub for paperless end-to-end on boarding process

STZA’s One Window Portal is intended to increase the ease of doing business for licensed domestic and global technology companies working in Special Technology Zones of Pakistan. The activity is a key component of the STZA’s overall vision of developing a scientific and technological ecosystem through development of zones to accelerate technology development in the country. The Portal will enable electronic collection and sharing of STZA licensee data with relevant Government authorities/agencies for enablement of their fiscal and regulatory incentives and grant of necessary authorizations.



The Authority is in process of a phased rollout of the One-Window Portal Enterprise System to expeditiously facilitate the expanding International Investment Pipeline. The phased approach is detailed as follows:

Phase-I

One Window Portal (OWP) Phase-I will assist Zone Enterprises as well as Zone Developers to apply for required licenses including all initial required documents. All applications will be received and processed through the Portal and licenses will be issued electronically in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Phase-I of the project is under user application testing (UAT) phase.

STZA’s target is to finish Phase I by August 2023. Infrastructure provisioning, including the establishment of the STZA Datacenter, deployment of secure hosting servers, virtualization solutions, and robust backup systems, has been accomplished. Furthermore, STZA has enhanced security with network security tools like firewalls, VPNs, SSL,



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Cloudflare, and Network Access Control (NAC). STZA remains dedicated to the successful delivery of the One-Window Digital Portal within the specified timeline.

Phase-II

In Phase II, One Window Portal (OWP) will be seamlessly integrated with different other public regulatory authorities i.e., FBR IRIS for the issuance of FBR related certificates, FBR Customs (PSW) for exemption of custom duties, SECP, 1Link & Banks for relevant services according to approved policies.

Phase-III

In the Phase III, the sphere of integrations will be further expanded to include other relevant federal and provincial entities to facilitate and accommodate technology business operations in the Zones. These include Federal and Provincial Board of Investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior for required visa support, verifications or certificates as per approved policies.

Integration and collaboration with other government agencies

- **Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP):** Agreement for integration of IT services between STZA and SECP was signed in December 2022. The agreement allows online sharing and verification of company data/details between STZA and SECP. It further enables technology companies registering themselves with SECP to applying for STZA licenses. Development of the relevant services considering the agreements have been completed by SECP and is currently under testing by the Authority.
- **Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL):** PRAL is a subsidiary of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and is responsible for managing Pakistan's national income tax database system-IRIS. STZA signed integration agreement with PRAL in June 2023. The said integration will enable STZA to electronically share its licensee data with FBR for information, facilitation and enablement of incentives granted to STZA under the relevant taxation and custom laws. Progress on development of the necessary APIs currently stands at 50% completion.
- **Pakistan Single Window (PSW):** PSW is a subsidiary of FBR responsible for the management of Pakistan's national customs computerized network. Technical engagements between STZA and PSW led to the discovery of services that can be integrated between the two organizations. Detailed MOU/agreement for integration of STZA's OWP with PSW is in process of finalization. The integration is aimed at facilitating sharing of data between STZA and PSW for certification and subsequent clearance of capital goods of STZA licensees and application of exemptions granted to STZA under the Customs Act, 1969 and in accordance with the applicable SRO 744(I)/2023 dated 19th June 2023.
- **1Link/Commercial Banks:** STZA is in process of signing integration agreements with 1Link and commercial banks to facilitate prospective applicants and licensees by providing offline and online options for depositing their relevant fees and dues to the Authority.

Operationalization of STZA Incentives

The Authority is working with relevant Government stakeholders to operationalize incentives for tech investors/enterprises in the true essence and spirit as envisaged under STZA Act, 2021 and remove all possible legal and regulatory barriers to technology businesses in the country.



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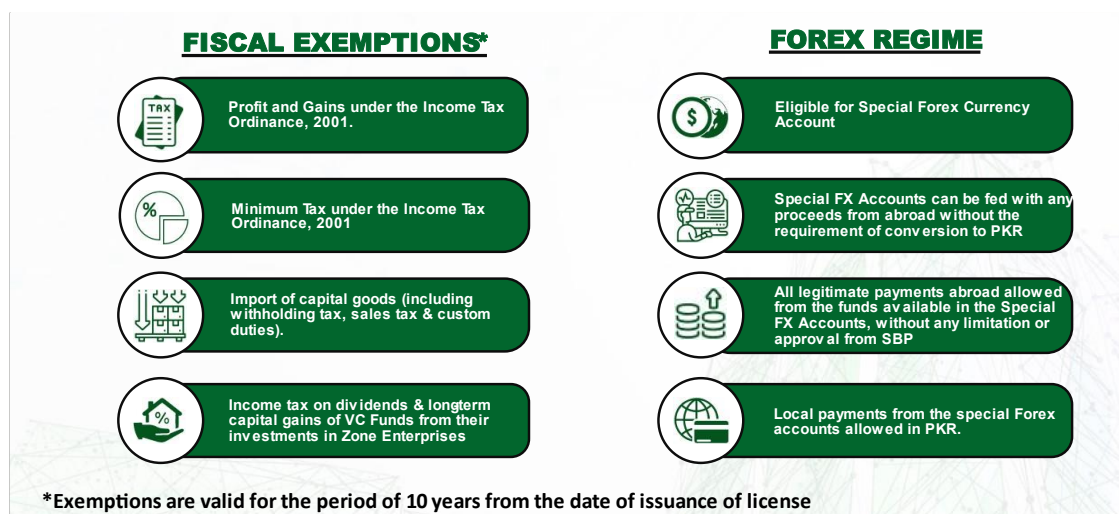
In this regard, engagement with FBR, Cabinet Division, State Bank of Pakistan, Board of Investment and various Ministries and Divisions of the Federal Government led to achievement of important milestones aimed at facilitating the technological enterprises and help foster the required ecosystem in Pakistan.

Amendments in **Customs Act, 1969** have been incorporated for waiver on customs duty on import of Capital goods by Zone Developers and Enterprises for consumption within the Zone as envisaged under STZA Act, 2021, if they are not manufactured locally. Provisions for STZA are inserted under PCT code 9917 para 4(i) & (ii) and have been uploaded in the WeBOC system. Subsequently, statutory rules elaborating the procedure to be adopted for clearance of capital goods under STZA was issued by FBR vide SRO 744(I)/2023 dated 19th June 2023. The issuance of the SRO completed the legal requirements and arrangements for automation are underway.

Amendments in **Sales Tax, 1990** have been incorporated to exempt withholding of sales tax on imports of capital goods under 6th Schedule, Table. I, Sr. 161 of Sales Tax Act, 1990

Amendments in **Income Tax Ordinance (ITO), 2001** have been incorporated to waive taxes on dividend income, profit and gains and long-term capital gains of Zone Developers and Zone Enterprises as per STZA Act, 2021, under section 126 EA and 103D of Part I, section 60DA and clause 11A subclause (xliii) of Part-IV of 2nd Schedule of ITO, 2001.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued **special forex regulations** to allow opening and maintaining special currency accounts to Zone Developers and Zone Enterprises. These special forex accounts allows STZA licensees to receive and maintain their foreign revenue without conversion to PKR. Moreover, funds available in the said forex account can be utilized for international payments without any limitation or authorization from the State Bank of Pakistan.



D. ENABLEMENT OF INVESTMENTS IN THE SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONES

Strategic marketing and branding nationally and globally to attract investments through partnerships and alliances

- An MoU was signed between STZA and the Center for Executive Education (CEE), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi covering various areas of cooperation such as joint leadership development,



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diploma programs, international qualifications, annual joint conference, industry research and consultancy initiatives and other learning and development initiatives.

- An MoU was signed between STZA and the National Electronics Complex of Pakistan (NECOP) to initiate a long-term strategic cooperation.

STZA Outreach Activities

STZA has made considerable efforts in engaging stakeholders and fostering a thriving technology ecosystem across Pakistan. Our outreach activities span several channels and are designed to maximize the impact of our communication, foster collaboration, and build long-term relationships with stakeholders. Below are some key highlights of these efforts:

Local Outreach via Correspondence: In a bid to spread awareness about STZA's objectives, plans, and projects, we have embarked on a widespread local outreach initiative, disseminating over 100 letters to various entities including trade bodies, public sectors, defense entities, and other relevant stakeholders. These communications serve as personalized introductions, aiming to foster dialogue, build relationships, and cultivate a favorable perception of STZA's activities within the technology sector.

One-on-One Engagements: Recognizing the value of personal interactions, STZA has been actively engaging with stakeholders, prospective applicants, and ecosystem partners on an individual basis. These conversations emphasize the importance of relationship building, mutual growth, and collective efforts towards shared objectives, thereby fostering a culture of collaboration and synergy.

Social Media Engagement: To amplify our reach and engagement with our target audience, STZA has been leveraging various social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Through relevant content, conversations, and targeted advertising, we aim to bolster our online presence, increase brand visibility, and foster meaningful interactions with our digital audience.

Press Releases: To ensure we communicate effectively with the media and the public at large, STZA regularly issues press releases in both Urdu and English. These official statements, strategically crafted and distributed, serve to announce significant updates, news, or events. Through this approach, we aim to generate media coverage, increase brand visibility, and shape public perception, thereby consolidating our presence in the technology sector.

Stakeholder Engagements for Investment Enablement

- Formation of JWG with Pakistan Embassy in Beijing to facilitate Chinese Technology Enterprises to funneling investments into STZs.
- Policy framework design, and consultation with regulators and VC firms to facilitate venture capital investments in technology startups in Pakistan.
- Consultative sessions and cooperation with World Economic Forum to enable investments in Pakistan's digital economy.
- Collaboration with World Bank Group and International Finance Corporation to facilitate ease of doing business and improve regulatory environment in Pakistan.
- Cooperation with Google (Asia Pacific) to streamline relevant investment opportunities pertaining to electronic devices and hi-tech manufacturing.
- Strategic engagements and consultations with Amazon Web Services and Huawei to formulate investment-friendly policies for cloud computing.

- Strategic engagements with Pakistani Investment Counsellors to attract relevant organizations from North America, Europe, United Kingdom, Middle East and Asia for through establishment of liaison offices and joint working groups.
- Creation of cooperation frameworks with stakeholders including universities, training institutes, multinational corporations, incubation centers, venture capital firms and trade bodies.

Engagements with China for Technology Investment Facilitation

China Pakistan Technology Investment Conference

To create new linkages with the technology sector in China and pave the way for Pakistani and Chinese technology players to cooperate in field of technology, China-Pakistan Technology Investment Conference was hosted jointly by STZA, Pakistan Embassy in Beijing and Zhongguancun Belt and Road Association. The event was attended by over 4500 representatives of the Chinese technology ecosystem including science and technology parks high tech production enterprises technology companies investment organizations research and development centers and Chinese state owned infrastructure companies.



Inauguration of China Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Center

The Chinese Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) and Pakistan's Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) jointly launched the 'China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Center' in Beijing.

More than 3,000 Chinese technology companies virtually attended the inauguration event held at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistan's ambassador to China, said that the "technology sector emerged as a cornerstone of China-Pakistan cooperation during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to China". The two neighbours have also formed joint working groups on science and technology (S&T) and Information Technology (IT) under the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



Cooperation with Shenyang National Economic and Technology Development Area

STZA conducted a cooperation event with SEDA to boost technology sector cooperation. SEDA hosts the largest manufacturing facility for BMW in the world while 84 Fortune 500 companies from all over the world are operating at SEDA. Both parties agreed to collaborate in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital development and digital economy through the integration of science, technology and economy. The participants highlighted that Pakistan's technology sector due to its rapid growth offers globally competitive opportunities for Chinese partners and investors.



Stakeholder Relations and Events

STZA actively seeks partnerships and participates in a variety of digital and on-ground events, conferences, and trade shows to engage with stakeholders. These platforms allow STZA to exchange ideas, share the narrative of STZA, and lay the groundwork for future communication and collaboration. Some of the events participated and partnered-in includes International Centre of Excellence, Global Innovation & Leadership Summit 2022 by BlocTech Solutions, Plus92 Disrupt, ITCN Asia, +92 Disrupt, PSEB, NIC Fintech Hackathon, Metrix Tech Summit Community Partnership etc., CxO Global Forum, Integrated Data Solutions, Atomcamp, NASTP, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, IBA-CEE, MICADR, NTC, Endeavor, Katalyst Labs, USAID, P@SHA, 22nd ITCN Asia Inauguration Event, Webinar of State-Owned Enterprises

Technology Report – Enhancing Mobile Phone Manufacturing in Pakistan

STZA Research and Market Intelligence department has drafted a long form report on “Enhancing Mobile Phone Manufacturing in Pakistan” (approx. 80 pages). This report focuses on the international market, the local market, development of local industry, international policies for enhancing mobile manufacturing, Pakistani policies, and recommendations. This report is currently under review in STZA and will be unveiled in the near future. A preliminary presentation on the findings from this report were presented by Director R&MI during the “Mobile Device Manufacturing Summit” held on January 24th, 2023. The event was attended by Minister of Industries & Production and representatives from Engineering Development Board, Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, and Mobile Assemblers & Manufacturers.



MoU between STZA and NECOP

A Memorandum of Understanding between the National Electronics Complex of Pakistan (NECOP) and Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) was signed. The MoU will promote collaboration between the two organizations in creating awareness and promoting Artificial Intelligence, Information Security, IoT, Cyber Security, Semiconductors and any other areas of mutual interest through conducting Joint Events, Workshops, Seminars and Trainings.



Semiconductor Industry Awareness Session at NECOP

STZA has collaborated with National Electronics Complex of Pakistan (NECOP) to gather the semiconductor design industry practitioners in Pakistan. This collaboration has led to two consecutive events being held at the NECOP. The most recent event, which took place on 13 January 2023, was attended by representatives from semiconductor design companies, government bodies, and academia. Semiconductor design companies are predominantly export oriented companies which earn greater foreign exchange on a per capita basis and have a technological sophistication beyond standard electronics design and software design firms.



E-Governance

STZA attended a panel discussion on e-Governance organized by the Ministry of IT & Telecom. The event was held at Serena Hotel Islamabad and attended by representatives of various Ministries, Authorities, and IT association (PASHA). On behalf of STZA, Dir (R&MI) was a panelist. The panelists discussed how e-Governance can be enhanced in Pakistan and shared the initiatives of their respective organizations.

