

First Industrial National Innovation Survey (FINIS) Launched in Pakistan

Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST); an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology mandated to advise the government on science, technology and innovation policy issues, has launched the First Industrial National Innovation Survey (FINIS) in the country.

This first-ever national-level industrial innovation survey has been launched at a time when the fourth industrial revolution is rapidly advancing, and it is being speculated that it will change everything; the way we live, play, work and do business. Innovation is being considered as one of the main pillars of economic growth and development in the age of fourth industrial revolution. But unfortunately, Pakistan is lagging way behind other nations in Innovation as depicted by Pakistan's position in the Global Innovation Index 2019, where Pakistan is ranked 105th out of total 129 countries that have been included in the Index. Many of the Central and Southern Asian countries like India (52nd), Iran (61st), Kazakhstan (79th), Sri Lanka (89th), Kyrgyzstan (90th) and Tajikistan (100th) are ranked above Pakistan.

This benchmarking innovation survey will be conducted using a comprehensive questionnaire which has been designed to obtain information about the innovation rate, types of innovation activities (product, process, management, marketing), reasons & motivations for carrying out innovation activities, sources of ideas and information for undertaking innovation activities, extent of cooperation and collaboration among firms, relationship between innovation and performance of the firm, diffusion of ICTs across different industrial sectors, industry perspective on government support to innovation and barriers to innovation in different industrial sectors.

It is expected that the survey will provide insights into the innovation process in the industrial sector of Pakistan which would form the basis for recommendation of appropriate policy measures to the government for promotion of innovation in various industrial sectors in the country. Further, the survey will benchmark the innovation status of various industrial sectors which would help in assessing level of success of future innovation policies of the government.