



Bridging the Gap Between
Youth and Policy Makers

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PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, November 05, 2019: Youth Economic Forum signed a Memorandum of Understanding with STEP to include the differently able youth of Pakistan as they are equally talented and enthusiastic about policy making. Youth Economic Forum extends the invitation to the differently able youth of Pakistan to participate in YEF roundtables/sessions/events.

A number of 20 million (10% of total population) in Pakistan is considered differently able. The mainstream population/youth often overlooks the hidden potential by not including this major chunk which can be very helpful in creating a progressive Pakistan. Youth Economic Forum strives to build an inclusive environment with equal opportunities for all to grow in their lives. Considering this, Youth Economic Forum signed a MOU.

Mr Malik Shaharyar Khan, Founder Youth Economic Forum, was invited by Mr Atif Sheikh, Associate Director STEP, to sign a MOU document. The MOU enabled both parties to join hands in conducting research and creating an inclusive environment. Youth Economic Forum has collaborated with STEP to ensure the part played by differently able young minds to contribute/participate in policy making. Moreover, Youth Economic Forum has allocated 2 dedicated vacancies to STEP nominated differently able young minds to take part in The Future PolicyMakers Summer School 2020. Both parties discussed to mutually build an opportunity for young people to build a progressive Pakistan.

Mr Atif Sheikh further added how the mainstream population ignores differently able neglecting their skillset and education. He further admired the work Youth Economic Forum is doing for the youth of Pakistan and he expressed his full support in building an inclusive environment with equal opportunities for all, mainstream and differently able youth of Pakistan.

Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) was conceived and initiated by persons with disabilities themselves in 1997. Being a cross disability organization, STEP is committed to mainstreaming disability in development through empowering individuals and organizations of persons with disabilities as well as sensitizing society about rights based approach.

Youth economic forum is the Pakistan's first youth-run policy think tank which strives to bridge the gap between the youth and the policy makers. Its mission is to make policies that are more youth inclusive. This session was in alignment with its vision and presented the youth of the country to connect with the policy makers on a much deeper level.