PAKISTAN PRIORITIZES SAFETY FOR ITS CITIZENS

Abrar Hussain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology, Government, Pakistan, described some of the challenges facing Pakistan's cities and the government's smart city vision.

"Terrorism is the largest threat in Pakistani cities," he noted. Between 2000 and 2015, there were 85,000 citizen deaths from terrorism in Pakistan. Ninety percent of these deaths occurred in the six major cities.

Hussain said, "We are a country that has scarce resources; we don't have unlimited funds…Therefore, the government has prioritized the setting up of safe cities in major urban areas."

Hussain explained how the safe city initiative provides "…the basis for the smart city of the future. We are starting this initiative with the hope that…sometime in the near in the future, we will be able to set up smart cities."

He also said that the government would work with businesses and the not-for-profit sector in public-private funding initiatives to provide citizens with better, cheaper services faster.

PAKISTAN: CITY CHALLENGES

POPULATION: **180 MILLION**

HALF POPULATION CLUSTERED AROUND **8 CITIES**

MOBILE CONNECTIONS: **133.2 MILLION**

2025: HALF OF COUNTRY EXPECTED TO LIVE IN CITIES

BROADBAND CONNECTIONS: **32.5 MILLION**

9 PAKISTANI CITIES HAVE **1 MILLION+ PEOPLE**

URBANIZATION **INCREASING 2X RATE** OF POPULATION GROWTH

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES: TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES, SECURITY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SUPPORT FOR THE AGED, GOVERNANCE

The first phase of the safe cities initiative is a pilot project in the capital city of Islamabad.

The way forward
The safe cities initiative will be rolled out across other major cities in Pakistan, with Lahore City already underway, Quetta City scheduled for the first half of 2017 and Gwadar City for the second half. In early 2018, work will begin on the next five cities. Coverage of 15 major urban centers is planned by 2020.

Hussain said, "Along with setting up the safe city projects, we are trying to integrate elements of smart cities…based on their objectives."

Challenges and inspiration
Hussain also spoke about the challenges Pakistan's safe and smart cities initiatives face, such as financing, "weak local government institutions and HR issues", "multi-tiered governance systems" and a historic "lack of city master plans".

He concluded saying, "We have been excited to be here in Yinchuan, and Yinchuan offers a way forward for smart city novices and enthusiasts alike. There are companies within China like ZTE which we can collaborate with in areas such as civil administration, traffic control, waste management, public security and community services, as we saw [during the tour of Smart Yinchuan]. I hope we will be able to replicate some of these innovations in the near future in Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan."

His closing statement echoed the theme of collaboration which was loud and clear throughout the event. He said, "On this journey to provide better services to the citizens, we hope to partner with and seek the collaboration of Yinchuan City government, ZTE and all of you present in this hall."

ISLAMABAD: SAFE CITY PILOT

POPULATION: 1.5 MILLION

1,900 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER

REAL-TIME MONITORING OF PEOPLE AND VEHICLES AT CITY ENTRANCE AND EXIT POINTS, ROADS, COMMERCIAL AREAS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES ETC.

1,000 CITY **POLICE PERSONNEL** BEING TRAINED

"The safe cities initiative will be rolled out across other major cities in Pakistan, with Lahore City already underway, Quetta City scheduled for the first half of 2017 and Gwadar City for the second half."