

Six Projects of Telemedicine Launched

Islamabad Oct 13: six projects were approved in the first ever meeting of the telemedicine forum of the ministry of science and technology here on Saturday. The projects are about training doctors in information technology (IT), storing the country's health data in computers, designing a website on health related issues, linking the health institutions for teleconsulting. From Balochistan to Gilgit for tele psychiatry, in Sindh for radiology (hala project) and by linking the rural health centers with king Edward medical collage Lahore for dermatology.

The telemedicine forum was established by ministry of science and technology to oversee and push forward the use of IT in the field of medicine.

The objective was to improve the health care services in the country and provide the people of backward areas with quality and timely medical treatment.

Telemedicine coordinator Dr Asif Zafar Malik explained that telemedicine was the electronic transfer of medical data from one geographical location to another by using tools of telecommunication like the Internet.

He said telemedicine had a great potential for rural people who did not have direct access to medical specialists.

He appreciated the government's decision of establishing the forum for a better promotion of telemedicine nationally.

Advisor to the science ministry, Salman Ansari hoped the forum would be tremendously useful in providing specialized medical services to the poor and deserving people.

The concept of telemedicine was introduced by a non-government organization (NGO) telmedpak, for the first time in Pakistan, said Dr Faisal Murad the NGO's consultant, while speaking at the forum.

The forum comprises Dr Zubair Hussain, Dr AA Durrani, Dr Faisal Murad, prof Arbab Ghulam Rasool, Dr Ahmad Fawad, Dr Zaki ud din, Dr khalid mehmoood, prof charles Amjad, prof Changez Hakim Khan, Dr Sadat Ali Khan, Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, and the representative of the Pakistan telecommunication company limited, the Health department of Northern areas, the internet service provider association and the ministry of health.