

**PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)  
PRESS WING**

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**Islamabad; May 23, 2019:** President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that the universities have a crucial role in human resource development and economic growth of the country.

The President said this during a presentation by Rector, International Islamic University, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Thursday.

The President pointed out that new technologies of 4th Industrial Revolution are powerful agents of change. However, new ideas and initiatives from educational institutions are required to meet the requirements of technological advancements, he added. He emphasized that only Research & Development activities can enable Pakistan to join the ranks of technologically advanced countries. In this context, he said that work needs to be done on commercial use of emerging technologies. He also underlined the importance of creating linkages between academic research and public policy formulation process. He stated that Open Distant Learning programs can be immensely helpful in expanding people's access to education. He stressed that in addition to academic achievements, universities must also focus on the character-building of the students. In the end, he assured every possible support to the academia.

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