‘Modern technology robs individuals of the right to privacy’

By Asif Ditta

Karachi

Every cliché we invent, every person we visit, every place we go, is being monitored by third parties, totally in contravention of the principles of the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, the natural right of every human being, otherwise enshrined in the constitution.

Our identities help third parties monitor our movement, minute to minute, ‘thanks’ to the unutilized reach of modern technology.

“We can’t even send a letter across without everybody is the chain of transmission being aware of the contents.”

These views were expressed by Mr. Irfaan Ryder, Dean of College of Business Management (CBM), while presiding over a session titled “Upgradation in technology and environment.”

The session was held on the second and final, day of the two-day fifth International Conference on Business Management at the UMT campus on Thursday afternoon.

He said security agencies of the developed world were trying to break telephone codes while Facebook was being closely monitored.

Our personal e-mail correspondence and communications were also being constantly monitored by servers around the world.

Speaking next, Dr. Asif Burney, a professor at Institute of Business Management, didn’t quite agree with Ryder and said the power of mind was supreme over all things and nothing could compare with the human mind. ‘Your mind is the best form of intelligence,’ he said. ‘We are consumers of technology and as we cannot dispense with its fruits, Modern transactions and all financial operations today depend on technology and we could never dispense with that. Technology explores but the mind doesn’t.’

The director of FASE-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences Prof. Dr. Zubair A. Sheikh had his own views on the issue.

“We become privacy conscious when we are scared, when we have something to conceal,” he said. However, he could not counter Ryder’s view that modern technology was a boon on our personal affairs.

French consultant Michel Saez, said despite the fact that Pakistan had tremendous potential, due to faulty policies and extreme anarchy, over 50 percent of the masses didn’t even have access to potable water.

He said that the private sector was growing much quicker than the public sector. Being totally profit-oriented, the private sector would invest only in projects which are financially lucrative, while the welfare of the masses is the sole responsibility of the public sector.

He stressed the concept of agro-ecology and is that regard called for strict curalling of the use of pesticides and chemicals in addition to refraining from genetically modified seeds or products.

Mohammad Ashraf Amarsi, the president of Engro, had a non-optimistic outlook on things. He foresaw a major boom in Pakistan on the premise that as population grew more people would be coming into the workforce which would aid to production. He said in due time, between 60 and 70 percent of the country’s population would be in the middle-class category and to cater to the needs of this class, research and production would be spurred.

He said that the energy crisis was the easiest to solve. “But unfortunately,” he said. “The government has gone around in circles. The biggest crisis is that of water where the government keeps ignoring.”

PJ