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巴基斯坦建筑和采石杂志

November 2019

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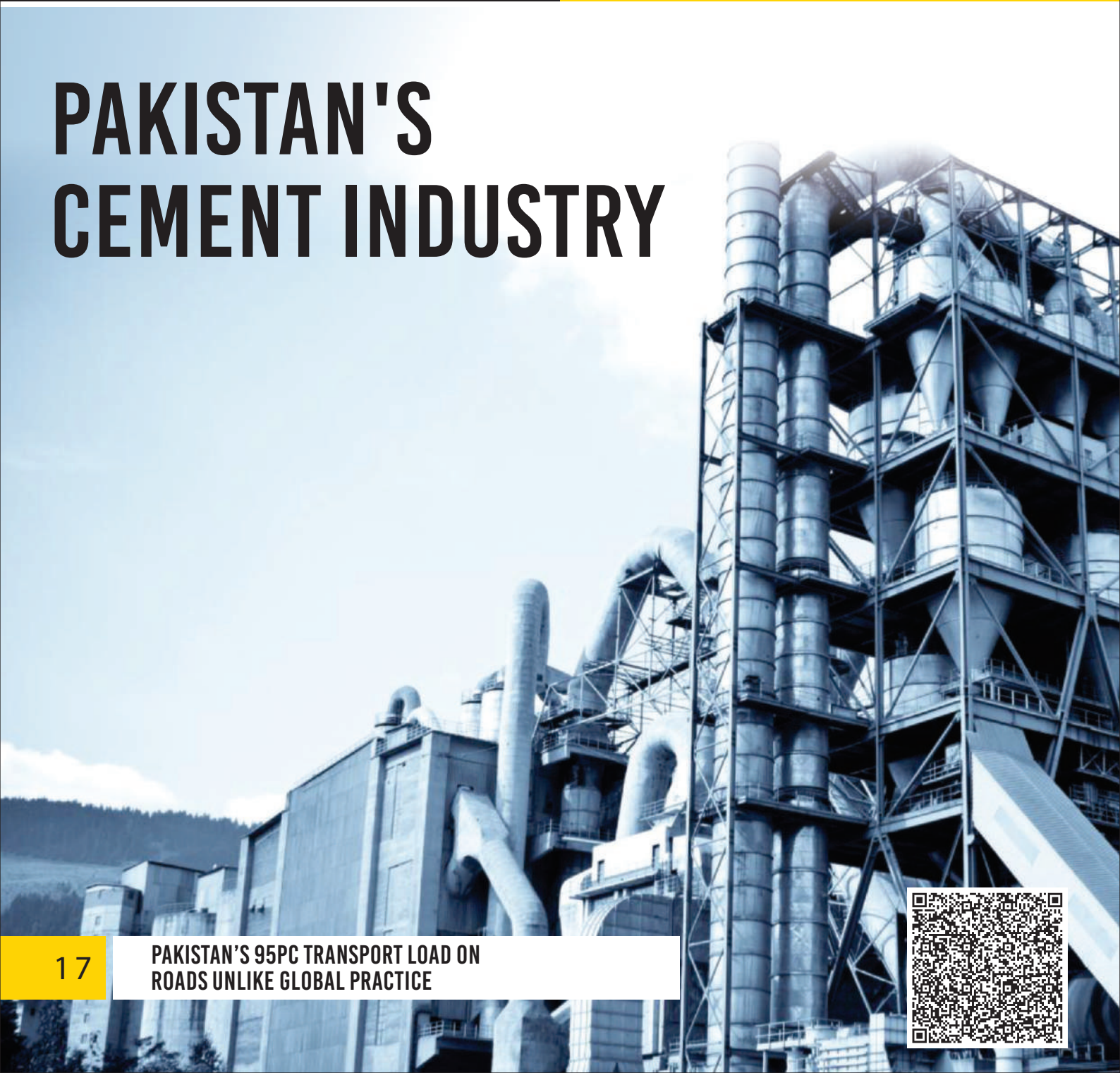

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PAKISTAN'S CEMENT INDUSTRY

Cement is undoubtedly the most important, and widely used, building material in the modern age. It's used in homes, in office buildings, roads, bridges and infrastructure in general. The amount of cement consumed in a country each year is an indicator of its pace of socio-economic development and progress.

Nevertheless, its per capita cement consumption at 140kg is on the lower side in its immediate region (with China & India around) and much lower when measured against a global consumption average of 400kg. On a positive note: it indicates that the industry has significant potential to see growth with the development of the country.

Cement production in Pakistan is estimated to be between 46- 49 million tons, with an expected expansion to 76 million tons by 2020

It is widely accepted in the world that the quality of Pakistani cement is second to none. Pakistan is the country, which has been exporting cement to the cement manufacturing countries such as India. It is a fact that the Indians appreciate the quality of the Pakistani cement compared to their own.

Pakistan, a cement exporter to South Africa, Iraq, India, Afghanistan etc., does not heavily rely on export of cement since the domestic requirement is more than sufficient to make the Pakistani cement manufacturers go for more and more investment and expansion plans. At the same time, export is an advantage never to be missed. Out of 159 cement producing countries and territories, Pakistan is one of the leading manufacturers in terms of quality.

Data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics shows that cement exports grew by 40% year-on-year to 6.41Mt in the financial year to the end of June 2019 from 4.56Mt in the same period in 2018

Local demand of cement in Pakistan could never be satiated since urbanization is quite rapid and the infrastructure development plans are on the go due to burgeoning population. China is the largest cement producer in the world by installed capacity and production with over 2,500 million metric tonnes of cement. India produces over 280 million metric tonnes of cement. The USA being the third largest cement produces over 83 million metric tonnes. Iran is one the leading global cement producers with over 80 million metric tons. Pakistan is also considered one of the leading cement manufacturers with around 49 million tonnes and the expansion plans do suggest that Pakistan would be producing over 70 million tonnes in a couple of years.

Pakistan's housing backlog reaching ten million suggests that there are promising prospects for the cement industry to grow in the days to come since houses in Pakistan are made of concrete unlike some countries where houses are built of wood, the USA being the prime instance. In addition to it, the infrastructure development plans of the incumbent government along with the industrialization process bode well for the cement manufacturers.

CEMENT INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

The cement industry contributes billions to Pakistan's economy. In 2016, it contributed approximately Rs. 20 billion to the national exchequer alone, over Rs. 40 billion is added to country's GDP annually. The Karachi Stock Exchange lists 21 companies in the cement sector with the net worth of these companies around Rs. 25 billion. Some of the companies operate multiple plants in various cities. As per APCMA, there are currently 24 cement plants in Pakistan.

Over 50% of the demand for cement is by the builders for multifarious housing projects whereas the rest comes for infrastructure development. Pakistan's road network and its development is of core significance since over 90% national passenger traffic and freight movement takes place by land so the requirement of more and more roads is always there. Pakistan's domestic consumption stands at 41.147 metric tonnes currently, which is set to witness a surge owing to CPEC in particular and investment from the Gulf countries in general.

In 2016, cement industry contributed approximately Rs. 20 billion to the national exchequer alone, over Rs. 40 billion is added to country's GDP annually

The economic slowdown in China, which consumes over 60 percent of the world's cement may bring export opportunities for the Pakistani cement manufacturers.

Further, the US economic sanctions on Iran might open doors for the Pakistani cement manufacturers to export cement in substantial quantity to Afghanistan and the African countries.

Pakistan, the world's 14th largest cement producer, has promising business opportunities in the days to come since the investors from across the world are eyeing Pakistan for the untapped opportunities.

GOVERNMENT EYES 8,000MW OFRENEWABLE ENERGY

ISLAMABAD: The government aims to add 7,000 to 8,000 megawatts of renewable energy to the grid system within the next four years, a minister said on Wednesday.

Minister of Economic Affairs Hammad Azhar said governments in past have been importing coal for cheap energy production. "Nonetheless, the transportation cost of that coal was so high that the cost of electricity generation soared almost two times," Azhar said. He was addressing the annual international conference of Applied Economics Research Centre.

The renewable energy policy envisaged a score of incentives for investors who plan to set up alternative energy plants. The objective is to bring up share of renewable electricity generation into energy mix from the present less than 2%. Foreign investors expressed interest in exploring investment opportunities in the sector.

Denmark has offered to transfer micro/mini power technologies

Denmark has recently offered Pakistan micro/mini power plant technologies. They want to help the country achieve energy security through shedding reliance on costly thermal power generation. The minister further said the reduction of circular debt addition to zero is also under progress. He shared some facts which highlighted the resurging economy during the past year. The minister informed the audience about the major reasons behind Pakistan's stunted economic growth.

"Major reasons why Pakistan had been facing higher revenue to expenditure gap were low tax to GDP ratio, narrow tax base, and undocumented economy," he said. "The present political regime has been working on these three most pressing challenges."

Azhar said the kind of tax collection done presently by the incumbent government is qualitatively different than the ones done in the past. Previously, the major chunk of tax collection was exacted through withholding taxes which are a form of indirect taxation. "However, the aim of the present government is to ensure maximum collection through direct taxation."

World Bank's latest Ease of Doing Business Index 2020

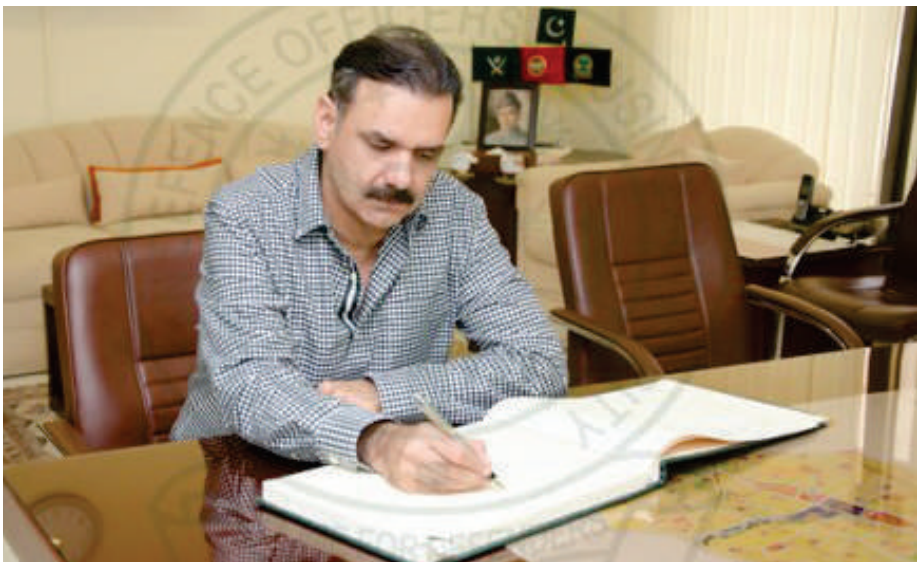
The minister said the country has emerged as one of the biggest improvers in the World Bank's latest Ease of Doing Business Index 2020. We have jumped up 28 places on the index and clinching the 108th position compared to 136th last year.

"External and fiscal deficits are narrowing, inflation is expected to decline and growth, although slow, remains positive," he said. "However, sustaining sound economic policies and advancing structural reforms remain key priorities to enhance resilience and pave the way for stronger and sustainable growth."

The minister said budgetary collections are growing despite the ongoing compression in imports. Inflationary pressures are expected to recede soon, measures to strengthen the social safety net are being implemented and development spending is being prioritized."

Azhar said the current account deficit has also gone down by approximately 73 percent compared to last year. Exports, during the past year, have gone up from $45 billion to $65 billion. He emphasized data-based research in the universities of Pakistan.

LT GEN(R) ASIM SALEEM BAJWA TO HEAD CPEC AUTHORITY AS CHAIRMAN



ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to appoint former Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) chief Lt Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa as the head of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA) for a period of four years.

President Dr. Arif Alvi had promulgated an ordinance for the establishment of the CPECA in Oct. The authority is aimed at accelerating the pace of CPEC-related activities, will find new drives of growth, unlock the potential of the interlinked production network and global value chains through regional and global connectivity. In Aug, Prime Minister Imran Khan had announced that the government was forming a 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA)' to ensure timely completion of corridor's projects.

Presiding over a meeting at the Prime Minister Office, PM Imran had said: "To ensure uninterrupted progress on CPEC projects, CPEC Authority is being formed." A summary pertaining to the appointment of Lt Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa as the CPEC Authority's chairperson has been sent to the Cabinet Division. The summary was prepared by the Prime Minister's Office.

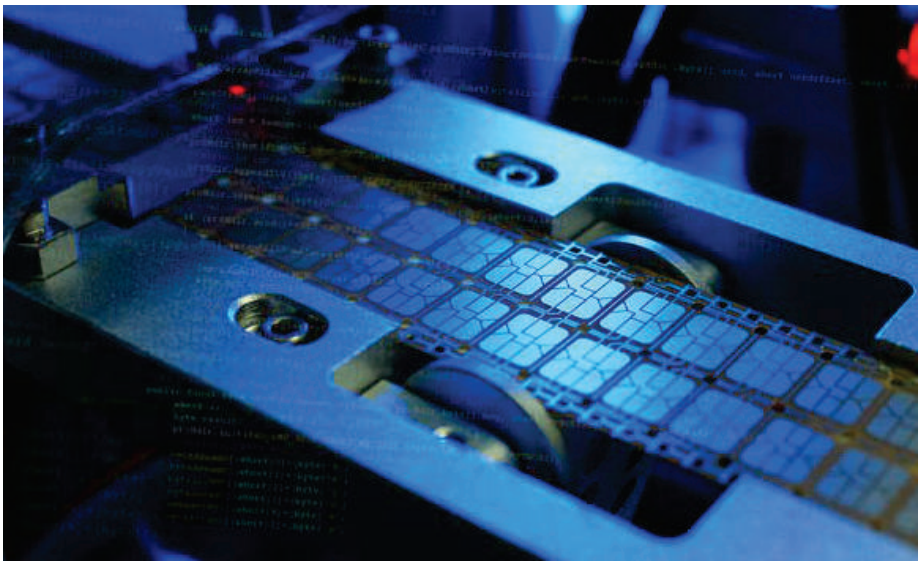
It is expected that the approval of the summary to appoint Lt Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa as the CPEC Authority's head would be given in the Cabinet's upcoming meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday next week.

Prime Minister Imran Khan would preside the Cabinet meeting. He said the CEPCA would help ensure coordination among the departments concerned. "The completion of CPEC will not only benefit Pakistan and China but also the entire region," the prime minister had said.

MOIT WILL SOON START MANUFACTURING OF SIM AND SMART CARDS LOCALLY

Ministry of Information Technology will now actively start manufacturing SIM and smart cards locally. On the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the ministry has finalized the design of locally made SIM cards and will start the manufacturing process very soon. In the past, SIM cards and smart cards were imported from China and other countries. Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) has acquired the technology to manufacture these items in Pakistan, which in the long run will save Pakistan millions in imports, make the telecom sector more efficient and self-sustaining. Guidelines have also been issued by the Ministry for telecommunication firms, regarding strict quality standards and price standardization for the consumers.

Ministry has completed its homework in this regard. Also, the final design of locally manufactured sim cards has been prepared. For this, all relevant stakeholders were taken on board. Earlier, these items were imported from China and other countries. The technology was acquired by MoIT to manufacture the cards in Pakistan. This would help in reducing the import bill of the telecom industry.



7 years ago, KWICK High Tech & Solutions became Pakistan's first SIM and Smart Card manufacturer. The SIM and smart card manufacturing facility was inaugurated by the German Ambassador in Pakistan on May 07, 2013 in Islamabad. However, due to various reasons and incompetence on the previous government's part, the manufacturing could not start.

PAKISTAN AND CHINA'S MAJOR TYRE COMPANIES JOIN HANDS NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Lahore: Pakistan's leading tyre manufacturer, Service Industries Ltd., and Chinese giant, Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co. Ltd., signed a Joint Venture Agreement to manufacture All Steel Radial Truck & Bus Tyres in Pakistan.

Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co.

Ltd. was established in January 2003, after purchasing the original Liaoning Tyre Group Co. Ltd. which was established in 1966, with all-steel radial tire production lines. After a period of immense success and growth, they currently export their products to over 90 countries.

Service Industries Limited was established in 1961 and is Pakistan's leading footwear and tyre company. Servis is a market leader in bicycle, motorcycle and three-wheelers. Most recently Servis has entered the tractor tyre market. The company is Pakistan's leading exporter of footwear and tyres.

Under the agreement, Service Industries Limited will own 51% and Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd will own 49% of the newly formed company, Service Long March Tyres Pvt. Limited. $100m Investment in Sindh Phase 1 of the $250 m projects will begin with a $100m investment in SITE Sindh. Land for the project has been purchased and design of the plant has been initiated.

Read Also: Pakistan Railway submit a summary of $9.2 billion to Planning Commission

Mr Arif Saeed, CEO of Service Industries Limited said "We have 50 years of experience in the tyre industry, and we have the most recognised brand and largest distribution network in the country.

In Long March we have found a top-notch partner, with leading technology and a vision similar to ours. Together, we will complement each other and intend to build a world-class company."

Mr Li Qingwen, Chairman, Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd, while speaking at the JV signing ceremony said "Long March is a global brand. For our expansion, we looked at many countries and decided that Pakistan offered the best opportunity with a sizeable domestic market, investor-friendly policies and a good, skilled workforce.

I am very excited to be working with Service Industries Limited as our local partner. Their experience and the 3,000 skilled workers they have will be a huge asset for the JV company. We look forward to exporting tyres around the world from our new factory."

Mr Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor Commerce, Industries, Textile and Investment, was the Chief Guest. The signing ceremony was also witnessed by Mr Long Dingbin, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Mr Zubair Gilani, Chairman BOI, members of the business community and media.

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PAKISTAN RAILWAY SUBMIT SUMMARY OF $9.2 BILLION TO PLANNING COMMISSION

The Ministry of Railways has sent a summary of $9.249 billion to the Planning Commission for PC-1. For the expansion and reconstruction of the existing line ML-1. The project is related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). After the approval of PC-1, phase 1 is expected to be completed in four years, phase 2 in five years and phase 3 will be completed in seven years. China will be providing the loan for the project for 30 years.

After #CPEC, the speed of trains will be 160 kilometers per hour and the number of passenger trains will also be increased to 30 by 2024, and 40 by 2030. Similarly, the number of cargo trains will be 18 by 2024 and 30 by 2030. The first PC-1 was sent to the Planning Commission in 2016 and three years were wasted waiting for approval due to some objections.

The #CPEC ML-1 will pave the way for a Karachi–Peshawar track stretching 1,872 kilometers while the speed of the train would be 160 kilometers per hour. A summary of speed up-gradation of trains will also be sent to the Planning Commission. Around $2.368 billion will be spent on CPEC project phase-1. While phase 2 will cost $3.267 billion and phase 3 will cost around $3.676 billion.

Also Read: PM inaugurates Shah Maqsood to Mansehra section of Hazara motorway

The CPEC project head in the ministry of railways is Basharat Waheed. He has prepared the feasibility report and has sent it to Planning commission and the government of China.

Projects and Phases

In phase 1, the Kaluwal track will be upgraded to 52 kilometers along with the construction of a dual-track. The track between LalaMusa to Rawalpindi will be upgraded. While the track from Peshawar to Naushehra and the railway Walton academy will be upgraded.

It also decided that the distance of 183-kilometers between Rohri and Nawabshah will be covered by upgrading the speed of the train to 160-kilometers per hour. In phase-2 the 339-kilometer track between Multan and Lahore will also be upgraded to run trains up to a speed of 160-kilometers per hour.

A new track will be constructed between Lahore and Lala Musa. While the 182-kilometers track between Keamari to Hyderabad will also be upgraded, alongside constructing a dry port in Havelian. In phase 3, a new track will be constructed besides upgrading the 174-kilometers track between Rawalpindi and Peshawar. The upgrading of 749-kilometers double track between Multan and Hyderabad, the purchase of locomotives and cargo carriages are included in this phase.

Tenders will be called upon after the approval of the PC-1. The timeframe will be set for three months and afterward the project will be implemented fully.

KE, ENGRO SIGNED MOU TO DEVELOP FIRST WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT

Karachi: Aimed at reducing climate change impact by converting Karachi's municipal solid waste into indigenous and renewable resources of energy. K-Electric and Engro Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a 50MW Solid Waste to Energy Plant at an estimated cost of US$ 175 million. The MoU was signed by Moonis Alvi, CEO-KE, and Ahsan Zafar Syed, CEO-Engro Energy at KE's head office.

Through the project, Karachi's municipal solid waste will be reduced by 3,000 tons per day to generate electricity, which will play a key role in addressing the municipality's waste issue and simultaneously contribute to meeting the city's growing power needs.

Also Read: Wapda Rs52b contract with Chinese Companies for Dasu hydropower project

According to Moonis Alvi, CEO KE said, "KE is committed to providing clean, reliable and affordable energy for the sustainable development of the city. Signing of this MoU today is yet another testament of our efforts towards a cleaner and greener Karachi. We are hopeful to complete this project asap with the right facilitation from all concerned quarters and regulatory approvals. As per reports, Karachi produces around 12,000 to 15,000 tons of solid waste daily. Therefore has the potential to generate more than 200MW of electricity. Successful commissioning of this project will encourage development of more such projects in the future. To address the pressing waste disposal issues while also resolving the problems of limited landfill spaces and gas emissions."

Clean energy

Ahsan Zafar Syed, CEO of Engro Energy also spoke and said, "Engro is always at the forefront of solving the pressing issues of our time. One such challenge that our country faces is waste management in our Cities. This collaboration with Karachi Electric signals our resolve to find a solution around the waste management issues of one of Pakistan's major cities. Karachi is home to a populace of over 20 million people. The waste-to-energy plant will not only add clean energy to K-Electric's energy mix but will also provide a sustainable way to manage solid waste. Which is important for the environment whilst improving livability index of Karachi."

Going forward, project site will be identified through surveys. Keeping in view availability of solid waste as well as suitability for evacuating power from the plant. Simultaneously, studies will also be undertaken to develop solid waste supply chain with concerned authorities. To propose a suitable mechanism for its collection, sorting, and transportation to the project site. Construction of the plant will commence after land acquisition, tariff determination and other required approvals.

KE is actively working to diversify its fuel mix towards clean energy. In this regard, two 25-year EPAs with IPPs have already been signed for addition 100 MW of renewable energy to KE's system. Solar power has already commenced. Additionally, KE is also evaluating another 300 MWs of renewable projects. To further increase the share of renewable energy based on solar, wind and biogas, in its system. The power utility has always been a responsible and environment-friendly organization which is reflected in its environmental sustainability initiatives.

PHASE-II OF CPEC TO BRING SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE

ASAD UMAR

Newly appointed Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Friday said that the ongoing phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring about socio-economic benefits for the welfare of the people.

He was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, who called on the minister in Islamabad today, according to a statement issued by the planning ministry.

Umar during the meeting noted that the bilateral framework agreements between Pakistan and China have now entered the second phase. With a focus on poverty alleviation, agriculture, and industrial cooperation.

He said that CPEC offered "enormous potential" to boost the national economy and reduce poverty. The minister and the envoy also discussed future projects which can be brought under the CPEC umbrella.

Chinese Ambassador
The envoy "expressed satisfaction over the progress of CPEC projects, noting that the pace of CPEC projects has accelerated. After the incumbent government came into power", the press release said.

Also Read: PWDP approved six development schemes in Punjab worth Rs12.78b

Yao expressed the hope that the bilateral partnership between the two countries will further strengthen in the future.

Umar announced as the new planning minister last Monday in the latest shake-up in the federal cabinet. Seven months after he stepped down as the finance minister.
His predecessor in the planning ministry, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, was given the portfolio of minister for national food security. The ministry previously held by Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan.
A close aide to the prime minister, who did not want to be named, said that Prime Minister Imran wanted to give the planning ministry to Umar. Because the latter is good at project management and it's hoped that he can expedite work on CPEC projects.

Asked why the planning portfolio is taken from Bakhtiar, he said, the prime minister has some reservations over slow progress on the CPEC.

Commenting on his return to the cabinet, Umar had said that since the CPEC had entered its second phase. From infrastructure to agriculture, social sector, and industry. It required a robust approach in order to gain maximum benefits for the sectors and pass them on to people.

WATER AND SANITATION EXPERTS LAUD'S PAKISTAN INITIATIVES

Islamabad: Pakistan's strong political will to address water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) issues is visible. All it requires is right infrastructure, better governance capacity, and effective investment.

The views expressed by Chief Executive for WaterAid Tim Wainwright and Tim Clark, Chairman Board of Trustees WaterAid while talking to The News. WaterAid is a UK based INGO working globally in WASH sector and has several projects in the country including partnership with the government in the Clean Green School Programme (CGSP) and Clean Green Pakistan Index. Tim Wainwright and Tim Clark are visiting Pakistan to launch several initiatives with the government. Most prominent among those is the launch of Clean Green Pakistan Index, country's first-ever barometer to measure green character and cleanliness of cities.

Talking to The News, Tim Wainwright said that usually, WASH loses out to more visible infrastructure like roads and power. He gave examples of countries where there are shiny highways passing small towns but women walk for kilometres to fetch water. "However we see the realisation at the political level in Pakistan," he said. He expressed hope that social media would bring real change as it is bringing communities together and putting right pressure on the governments.

Also Read: 87% work on Peshawar BRT project completed: Minister

Talking about the barriers faced by WASH initiatives around the world, he said that there are two big shifts making it difficult to manage WASH governance including climate change and urbanization. "Climate change is making everything more extreme and people without water and sanitation are at greater risk." He said that extension of urban centers is usually unplanned and arteries are not put down for water and sanitation thus instead of improved facilities, such populations end up with poor access to WASH.

Behavioral change in government on WASH

He praised the political will and framing of WASH by the Government of Pakistan. Which includes a lot of words for behavior change. "India, on the other hand, is more infrastructure-focused," he said. While suggesting the government to make WASH a priority in the budget. "The government's interest, governance and investment attract foreign investment and donors to invest in the same sector."

Tim also advised the government to go for sustainable solutions. "People may want this to done quickly but lasting solutions take time. It's good to put pressure but putting too much pressure for quick solution can sometimes result in compromise on quality."

In his remarks, Tim Clark, Chairman Board of Trustees WaterAid, said that with sixth largest population and strong political will. Pakistan is one of the priority countries for WaterAid. He said that increasing population and urbanization Pakistan is prone to natural disasters too.

"There is a need to develop awareness and bring local communities on board too in WASH-related projects. Unless community is engaged and actually prepared to commit to looking after the facilities. No project can be sustainable," said Clark adding that clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene are basic human rights.

Both were of the opinion that Pakistan is a very important country in the world in this sector. "If Pakistan makes progress, it is good for Pakistan but it is good for all other countries too," they said.

As a result of rapid urbanization and traditionally lack of adequate investments in infrastructure in water and sanitation facilities. Around 79-million people lack decent toilets and more than 53,000 children under five years age die each year from diarrhea.

PM APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday approved, in principle, the establishment of Construction and Infrastructure Board. Which would be instrumental in addressing the issues faced by the constructors.

The prime minister also directed secretary planning to formulate a construction development policy for facilitating all stakeholders including contractors, clients, and consultants.

A delegation of Construction Association of Pakistan, headed by Eng. Arshad Dad Khan, called on the prime minister at the PM Office.

Minister for Planning Asad Umar was also present during the meeting, PM Office media wing in a press release said.

The prime minister observed that the present government was focusing on employing technology and making the processes digital. To reduce human interface, eliminate corruption and ensure transparency in all business activities.

Also Read: KE, Engro signed MOU to develop first waste-to-energy plant

The delegation included Asad Ullah Khan, eng. Kamal Nasir, Ayub Sheikh, eng. Attah Ullah Khan, Aftab Siddiqui, Ch. Habib Kanwal, Yaqoob Izhar, and Ikram Ch. The delegation appreciated the vision of the prime minister in approving the construction sector as 'industry'. Also, the steps being taken by the present government towards meeting the existing demand for low-cost housing in the country.

While briefing the prime minister about the issues faced by the constructors, the delegation proposed various steps to address these issues.

These included establishment of construction and infrastructure board, setting up of office of procurement ombudsman, capacity building of local construction industry, revisiting tax regime, review of laws and audit procedures and lack of standardization, etc.

The prime minister welcomed the suggestions and observed that the present government committed to providing an enabling environment for the construction industry.

MURAD SAEED: PAKISTAN'S 95PC TRANSPORT LOAD ON ROADS UNLIKE GLOBAL PRACTICE

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed Monday said, "the transport load of the country was 95 percent on roads, unlike the global practice."

"The transport load across the world was managed 50 percent, each on roads and railways. Which was five percent on railways and 95 percent on roads," he said this during question session in National Assembly.

In response to a question from a member of the National Assembly (MNA) Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha regarding the implementation of the Axle Load Control Regime in Pakistan. No installation of weighing scales at highways and motorways under the National Highway Authority. Murad Saeed said motorways had excel load and weighing machines. Adding, "We are going to convert all motorways across the country on ITS where all types of vehicles will be identified prior to reaching the weighing station."

Also Read: There are more-than 50 nuclear reactors under construction worldwide

It merits mention here that an intelligent transportation system (ITS) is an advanced application. This system is designed to provide innovative services relating to different modes of transport. It also manages traffic and enables users to be better informed and make safer, more coordinated and smarter use of transport networks.

Some of these technologies included calling for emergency services when an accident occurs. Also, include using cameras to enforce traffic laws or signs that mark speed limit changes depending on conditions.

THERE ARE MORE-THAN 50 NUCLEAR REACTORS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WORLDWIDE

When nuclear power makes the news, it's often for all the wrong reasons. The disasters at Chernobyl and Fukushima, aging infrastructure in current plants, the spiraling costs of building new ones, and the unsolved issue of nuclear waste.

And yet as the world looks for ways to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels to take action on climate change, some think nuclear power, which does not produce direct carbon dioxide emissions, could play an increasingly important role in the future power mix.

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report looking at various routes the world could take to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050 predicts an increase of nuclear power for electricity generation in most scenarios.

Also Read: PM Imran Khan reviews steps for the development of the construction sector

Last year, global nuclear power generation reached pre-Fukushima levels as China added capacity and Japan restarted four reactors. And in total there are currently 449 reactors supplying about 11% of the world's energy and more-than 50 nuclear reactors under construction. So where are they?

The top five

The United States has the most operational nuclear reactors on the planet – 96. Together they have a capacity of 97,565 MW, and last year nuclear energy made up about 20% of the country's electricity generation.

France is home to 58 nuclear reactors, which produce about 75% of the country's electricity. It has said it will cut this amount to 50% by 2035.

China (48), Japan (37) and Russia (36) make up the rest of the top five.

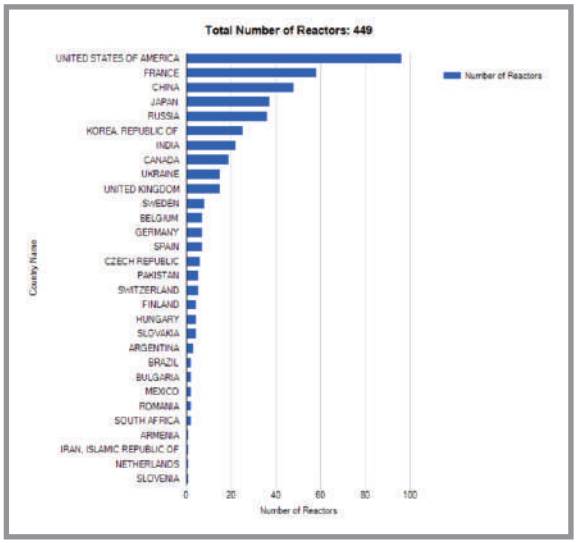
The future of nuclear

There are more-than 50 nuclear reactors under construction worldwide, mostly in China. There are two reactors under construction in Pakistan.

Still, as Japanese efforts to reduce the effects of radioactive contamination caused by the accident in Fukushima enter their eighth year, it seems nuclear power has work to do in cleaning up its reputation.

Industry body the World Nuclear Association says nuclear power is a safe means of generating electricity. The risk of accidents at plants is low and declining.

Anti-nuclear campaigners say the high cost of nuclear means the money would be better spent on renewables and energy efficiency.



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SIEMENS AND HARBIN ELECTRIC TO BUILD 900 MW PAKISTAN GAS PLANT

Siemens and Chinese engineering company Harbin Electric International have signed a deal with K-Electric. To build a $650m, 900 MW combined cycle power gas plant in Karachi.

The gas plant will be located at Bin Qasim Power and will be known as Bin Qasim Power Station 3 (BQPS-III). Work is expected to start by the end of the year and is due to be completed in 24 months.

Siemens will provide two of its SGT5-4000F gas turbines, steam turbines, generators and condensers. The turbines will be the first from Siemens to be added to K-Electric's power generation fleet. The gas plant is intended to bridge shortfall in power network that serves 15 million people in Karachi. It is Pakistan's largest city.

Also Read: Murad Saeed: Pakistan's 95pc transport load on roads, unlike the global practice

K-Electric chief executive Moonis Alvi said the plant "is essential in meeting Karachi's future energy demands. The aim is to commission the project in the fastest possible time. We are confident that with the right facilitation from all quarters. Power from the plant will be added to our supply as soon as the summer of 2021."

Karim Amin, chief executive of Power Generation at Siemens Gas and Power, said. "There is no doubt that adding 900 MW of reliable power generation capacity to the city of Karachi is a great source of pride. However, we are more proud of the partnership with K-Electric and Harbin Electric. We are determined to make this project a successful landmark for the people of Pakistan."

PAKISTANI ENGINEERING DEGREES ARE NOW ACCEPTED WORLDWIDE

The engineering degrees issued by local higher education institutions are now accepted worldwide. The Washington Accord is an international accreditation agreement that recognizes educational degrees of its signatory countries.

This is a positive development, job opportunities open for engineering students worldwide as Pakistan becomes a permanent member of the Washington Accord.

Pakistan Engineering Council has worked hard to gain this membership. It will allow Pakistani engineers to get jobs and admissions around the world without any additional qualifications.

Senator Rukhsana Zuberi made this announcement while addressing the Annual Dinner hosted by the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Karachi (KU).

Former chairperson of PEC Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi informed the audience that, all engineers, who are registered with the PEC will be internationally recognized. She praised the role of PEC in resolving the years-old problem and said that these days Pakistani doctors are facing a similar issue.

Also Read: Construction of multi-million dollar Gwadar hospital project to-begin

She believes that medical practitioners can solve this issue. If they follow the same procedure and approach the international body which gives accreditation to doctors.

Other speakers, including Engr Sohail Bashir, Haider Rizvi, Dr. Faurqan Ali, mentioned that a chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has been established at the KU Chemical Engineering Department. More than 80 students have been registered with the recently formed department.
This chapter will help students with engineering degrees get internships, on-hand training, and jobs.

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PCQ provides a unique opportunity to the major players of the construction industry for showcasing State-of-the-art technical advances in construction Equipment, Materials, Services and Techniques. Manufacturers can now also effortlessly introduce their top notch varieties in products and merchandise to their niche clientele. The magazine provides a promising platform for Construction machinery manufacturer, buyers, sellers, contractors, consultants, construction companies, architects etc. Most importantly, it provides an opportunity for B2B alliances, leveraging their mutual strengths to the regional corporate world.

Since its inception, PCQ has already attracted keen participation and interest from the Construction Industry. It is an ideal way to explore Construction business and identify investment opportunities, in turn encouraging various Housing & Construction companies from the sector to participate and seize the numerous opportunities.

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