

## Engineering sector; driving force of economic growth: Ali Raza

*Tuwairqi unveils its vision for 'Clean Energy'*

**Karachi – 23 April, 2010:** In an effort to streamline the local engineering sector and integrate it with the global market, Tuwairqi Steel Mills Engineering (TSMLE), a business unit of Tuwairqi Steel Mills Limited has formally inaugurated its Applied Research Center today. The inauguration was performed by Syed Ali Raza, President, National Bank of Pakistan, in the presence of M. Tariq Barlas, Vice Chairman & CEO of Al Tuwairqi Holding and Zaigham Adil Rizvi, Director (Projects), TSML.

The research center is poised to undertake research & development activities in the emerging technologies which could replace the conventional ones in future, with the underlying vision – to benefit the nation and to become the first engineering company of Pakistan to have patent research products of international repute to its credit. The dignitaries visited the research center, and appreciated the efforts of TSML professionals for pursuing the emerging technologies with local resources available.

Earlier a presentation on 'Clean Energy' was given by TSML team stating the vision and plans of TSML with respect to power generation through alternate modes like wind, hydel and solar resources. The guests were briefed about the progress made by TSML team towards the development of solar modules, solar cells and windmill towers etc.

According to the presentation, TSML is contemplating to set up a solar module manufacturing factory, capable of producing up to 12MW of solar modules initially, at a cost of US\$ 2.5 million at its Site, by the end of 2010. A solar cells manufacturing plant, will also be set up, capable of manufacturing up to 30MW of solar cells, in 2011 at an estimated cost of US\$ 15 million. Research studies are currently underway for setting up a pilot project for wind energy at an estimated cost of US\$ 30 million. As for hydel power generation, TSML professionals are capable of manufacturing hydel turbines of 100KW to 1MW in technical consultation with a European manufacturer.

During the inauguration ceremony, Syed Ali Raza, President, National Bank of Pakistan said, "We firmly believe that engineering sector, evidently, is the driving force of economic growth of a country, and Pakistan needs to invest in this sector and integrate it with the global markets." He highlighted the tremendous potential of Pakistani engineers and emphasized on providing resources and visionary leadership to them, so that they can aggressively and innovatively contribute to the economic growth of the country. He apprised that the present government is fully focused on its role for the development of this vital sector.

He quoted the examples of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore that have exploited their potential in the engineering sector, and said it is high time for Pakistan to also focus on this sector. "We are keen to see TSMLE and its Applied Research Center contributing in the development of the engineering sector in Pakistan", Ali Raza observed.

M. Tariq Barlas, Vice Chairman & CEO of Al Tuwairqi Holding informed that Pakistan has the potential to enhance its share in international exports in the engineering sector, which is at present a mere about US\$ 266 million per annum. "We must develop our engineering sector in order to get more share in the world market which is worth around \$6 trillion per annum," Mr Barlas said. "More exports in the engineering sector would be a tool for achieving sustained economic growth," he observed.

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