



مصانع الطويرقي للحديد المحدودة  
**TUWAIQI STEEL MILLS LIMITED**



## Time to change mindset: Tariq Barlas, CEO Al-Tuwairqi Holding

**Karachi – December 22, 2009:** A successful Pakistani businessman in the Kingdom's Eastern Province has exhorted his countrymen to leave politics aside and concentrate on raising the country's per capita income and the standard of living.

Tariq Barlas, vice chairman and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabia's largest private-sector steel producer, Al-Tuwairqi Holding Co., was speaking at a seminar organized by the Eastern Province chapter of the Institution of Engineers Pakistan (IEP) at Dhahran International Hotel. A large number of Pakistani businessmen, engineers, researchers, academics and executives were present at the occasion. Barlas is a chemical engineer but his success in the steel industry has endeared him to the Pakistani expatriate community in Saudi Arabia.

He tried to point at a new direction Pakistani expatriates need to take. "There will never be a time or period which we can describe as ideal. Our country has lurched from one crisis to another throughout its history. There is no point in complaining. We will get nothing out of it," he said in response to the incessant talk of political instability in the country. Barlas called for doing all that Pakistanis can to change their way of thinking. "Ever since I left college years ago, I have seen no change in the mindset of our countrymen. The world is marching ahead and we are lagging behind. There is no point in discussing politics. Leave that aside and let us all work at raising the per capita income of our country and, as engineers, let us create jobs," he said.

He believes that if we raise the per capita income in Pakistan to \$5,000, which is far less than the world average, we would create an economy worth \$900 billion; that kind of economy would lead to the creation of enormous numbers of jobs, decent jobs.

Barlas urged all Pakistani engineers and executives to visit the website of one particular South Korean steel company and learn from it. "If you have the time, do visit [www.posco.com](http://www.posco.com). You need to visit the website of this company for the sake of the future generation of Pakistan. POSCO started a steel company exactly 41 years ago, in 1968, with a capacity of merely 100,000 tons of crude steel. Today, this company makes 33 million tons of steel. Compare that with the total Pakistani production which is not even five million tons. Open your eyes and get down to business." He pointed out that we should combine the natural resources of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the human resources of Pakistan; this can work wonders provided we take the lead.

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**About Al Tuwairqi Holding (ATH):** ATH is the largest private-sector steel producer and the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Al Tuwairqi Holding's growth today has gone beyond the boundaries of Saudi Arabia and encompasses markets of Middle East, South Asia and Europe. For more information, please visit: [www.altuwairqi.com](http://www.altuwairqi.com)