

# Pakistan is ahead of India in fire protection - Muhammad Imran Taj

## Exclusive Interview of Founder of Passive Fire Prevention in Pakistan



### EU: Why you are called the founder of Passive Fire Prevention in Pakistan?

**Imran Taj:** Thought is the instrument of desire and desire bring us the vision. This is true I have the vision to bring fire prevention state of the art technology to Pakistan and Allah have given me the chance to brought full product range and trainings of Passive Fire Technology in Pakistan. There are many stories of the struggle and hard time to justify the success and fame today but, the word Founder in Pakistan, comes from England when they awarded the Shield in 2014 at Dover, Kent, UK for recognizing my struggle in this specialized field of Passive Fire Prevention.

**M**uhammad Imran Taj is well known name in Fire & Safety industry, not only as the representative of British Made Products of Envirograf UK but also the Trainer and Senior Consultant of NAFPI UK which makes the perfect combination fire protection Engineered Product and Management of its need and installation compliance. The long lasting journey of past decade for making building fire protected through fire stopping material was a real challenge but as for now, Engineers, Architects and consultant are adopting the fire stopping material. Following is the interview of Imran by Energy Update.

■ By Engr. Nadeem Ashraf

### EU: Now what next for Pakistan in field of fire protection?

**IT:** Pakistan stands above in Fire Safety and Protection from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc. after adopting the NFPA, USA as our Fire Safety Provision which is a part of the Building Code of Pakistan FSP 2016, Which means protected Pakistan.

### EU: Do our developers and engineers know the fire safety code and are they applying in practice?

**IT:** These codes are the part of Pakistan Engineering council, by law it has to practice a violation of code, meaning penalties and law suit, so engineers and architect are adopting, so as the developer, but only in new buildings, the challenge are the old buildings, as the code requires all old buildings to be upgraded and on compliance for which, risk assessment and fire safety audit is in practice by all safety and fire protection consultant and institutes.

### EU: What is Passive fire prevention?

**IT:** The passive fire prevention is to use fire stopping materials and fire barriers in building to stop the route of fire which comes in the shape coatings, slabs, curtains, fire retardant spray etc. As it is fire that operates passive fire products, no man power or electrical power needed.

### EU: What is the factor which measures the passive fire prevention needed?

**IT:** Hazard is the factor, building hazard identifies its need as the protected escape route is the code requirement, all the pathways to the exit must be isolated from other openings of electric or plumbing, so that all the penetration in escape route must be concealed by fire stopping material to protect the exit route from smoke and fire similar in high rise buildings, floors are built up with metals to reduce the weight on pillar as per compliance metal is the best conductor of heat it has to be fire proof, our most important and lifesaving object is fire door, which has to be fire rated, these are the few areas which identify the need.

### EU: What is your vision in field of fire protection in Pakistan?

**IT:** My vision is very clear that only we can achieve fire safety by awareness and practice for that I am associated with Government and non-Government institutes and association for the past 10 years and educating what I have learn from UK and in NFPA Codes. Plus on the top fire safety and protection latest



equipment and technology and a perfect solution is fire stopping materials.

### EU: COVID 19 in Pakistan is a challenge and pandemic emergency what code or standard help us to protect it?

**IT:** Thank you for taking my input on this as I have recently certified by WHO on one of the guidelines for protection as the source to follow is WHO as they are developing SOPs which are acceptable by all countries the major issues is to control the virus by spreading and one and only solution till now is quarantine and keep the social distance and its prove to be the best remedy. As now we are on the edge to reopen the businesses the SOPs must be follow to control the spread of virus. It's the responsibility of everyone to protect others lives as well.

### EU: Message to our nation?

**IT:** The only rule which makes a nation great is the social responsibility, that's what our Islam teaches, that's what developed societies' practice, that is the key of safety. Be responsible and change unsafe environment into safe environment not for you but for others. ■

## Rehan Shaikh appointed Standard Chartered Pakistan CEO



Rehan Shaikh has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan (SCBPL), according to a statement issued by the bank to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday.

Shaikh's appointment is subject to regulatory approval from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Shaikh is the current CEO of Islamic Banking at Standard Chartered, a position he has held since 2015, and is based in Dubai.

This is not the first time Shaikh will be working for Standard Chartered Pakistan; he was previously an employee at the bank's Pakistan offices between 1998 and 2007, in various roles managing corporate banking and client relationships. ■



**Mubeen ur Rehman from Al-Barjo Engineering receiving CSR 2020 Award from Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi.**