

# Government should declare compulsory for buildings to follow energy code -Khurram Malick

Exclusive interview of President HVACR Society, Pakistan

**G**overnment should make compulsory for all the new buildings in the country to follow the energy code, this was stated by Khurram Malick, President Pakistan HVACR Society, Energy Update recently interviewed him about the role of HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration) sector in the Pakistani economy and trade. Following are the important excerpts of his interview for our readers.

## Energy Update: What is the significance of your society in Pakistan?

**Khurram Malick:** Our buildings were not so much service-oriented for the last 15 years. Now our buildings have become service-oriented to a great extent with almost 50 per cent each civil work and mechanical work. Our sector of HVACR has been playing an important role in the modern buildings as we have now become a very energy conscious nation. All the national and multi-national companies, which have been coming up with new buildings in the country, are very much focused on the issue of energy efficiency. We are playing a big role in this regard. Ours is a society of consultants who design the buildings, it is society of contractors who execute the projects, it is also a society of manufacturers who manufacture the equipment and as it is also the society of distributors who are showcasing and selling all such products in Pakistan. We possess all kinds of membership from a senior engineer to the level of technician. We are focusing on the entire arena of HVACR.

## EU: What are the steps being taken by your society to reaffirm its commitment with the cause of environmental protection?

**Malick:** The HVACR Society signed a MoU with the Ministry of Climate Change of the federal government. Under this MoU, we organized a lot of programmes along with the ministry. We trained our technicians about good practices concerning refrigeration in three main cities of the country i.e. Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. For the purpose, we organized technical seminars lasting up to three days. Then we also celebrated the World Ozone Day. We have been actively working with Ministry of Climate

Change as we have been performing our role to safeguard the environment as much as we can.

## EU: In what manner the air-conditioning system could be used in the buildings to maximally protect human health especially in the context of ongoing COVID 19 pandemic?

**Malick:** As far as centrally air-conditioned buildings are required, it is a rule of thumb that they should carry the provision of 20 to 25 per cent induction of fresh air. All buildings in Pakistan with central AC system come with all kind of filtration options for constant air change.

## EU: What role HAVCR is playing in constructing new energy-efficient buildings in Pakistan?

**Malick:** For the cause of energy efficiency, we have been working with NEECA (National Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority). A draft document has been prepared for the energy code compliance. But the implementation of the energy code in the country is all dependent upon government's enforcement. Without the government's enforcement, like nobody would make any extra investment in their buildings to ensure the energy code compliance. Though, there have been some people in the private sector who without any compulsion, have taken it upon themselves to ensure due observance of the energy code in their new buildings.

## EU: What are the CSR-related activities of your society?

**Malick:** We established on our own a skill development centre in Lahore in



view of the shortage of skilled workers in the country. The centre has been conducting a course to train people to overcome the vacuum of skilled workers in our industry. Then we have also started the programme of students' scholarship. We have given over 100 scholarships to the students in the Northern Pakistan covering all their tuition fee expenses. One should know that the laboratories in the government technical colleges have not been in a position to handle the technology related education of the HVACR sector. We recently adopted a laboratory in the Government College of Technology in Rawalpindi to upgrade it for the purpose. Similarly, we also have a lab at Lyrari's College. These labs will be equipped with all the instruments and equipment related to air-conditioning. The purpose of this investment is that our students after graduating from these colleges and possessing the three-year diploma are qualified enough to work in the industry.

## EU: In what manner the cause of energy conservation could be promoted in the country?

**Malick:** The implementation of the energy conservation modelling should be done in the right manner as without it nothing is going to happen on the ground. First of all, the Customs should not allow inefficient electrical appliances to enter the Pakistani market. Pakistan should not become a dumping ground