

2ND INTERNATIONAL HYDROPOWER CONFERENCE - PAKISTAN 2022

Need stressed to generate more hydel, solar, other clean energies



Group Photo was taken at Inaugural session of 2nd Hydropower Conference Minister of State for Energy Hashim Notezai, MD PPIB Shah Jehan Mirza, DG Hydro Munawwar Iqbal, CEO Diamer Basha Dam Amir Bashir, CEO PEDO Engr. Naeem Khan, Team TNB Remaco, M. Naeem Qureshi, Engr. Nadeem Ashraf & Halima Khan are seen.

Energy Update magazine organised 2nd International Hydropower Conference in collaboration with Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and International Hydropower Association (IHA) in Islamabad at such a critical time when the government has been desperately trying to minimize power production in the country based on imported fuels. It was organized

Stringent measures like early closures of markets, wedding venues, and restaurants are being proposed to conserve energy for the survival of the national economy. Massive hydropower resource available in Pakistan is one of the effective indigenous means to make Pakistan self-sufficient in the energy sector in the least possible time. It is also the most effective way to generate electricity based on a clean energy resource for the improvement of environmental conditions.

The recent floods in the country also highlighted the importance of hydro resources

in the country. The federal and provincial governments, and all the relevant stakeholders should support each other and work together to develop the hydropower sector in the country.

Speakers at the International Hydropower Conference stressed the need to harness hydropower potential in the country in order to add more clean and green electricity to the national grid system for sustainable economic growth.

They were of the view that Pakistan was blessed with huge hydel and renewable energy (RE) generating resources and it was a dire need to exploit all those resources for generating clean and green energy.

The conference was organized to discuss more opportunities to produce cheap and clean energy from the hydro sector and to foster renewable energy resources in mitigating climate change.

Appreciating the efforts of the organizers of the conference, Minister of State for

Power Division Hashim Notezai said under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the incumbent government had a special focus to produce energy from indigenous resources, especially hydel, wind, and solar in order to minimize reliance of imported fuel.

Assuring full government support, he invited the investors to come forward and invest in clean and green energy. There were greater opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan and the investors should take benefits from it, he said.

Managing Director PPIB Dr Shahjahan Mirza said that his organization had successfully added over 18,000 Megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid so far through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which was around 50 per cent of the total installed capacity. PPIB was providing one-window facilities to the investors and lenders in this regard, he added.

According to him, currently, the hydel share in energy mix is 25 per cent, followed

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From R-L Chairman NEPR Tauseef H. Farooqi, DG Hydro Dr. Munawwar Iqbal, N.A. Zuberi Advisor CTG, Zafar Iqbal Watto Director RHC, Member Power WAPDA Jamil Akhtar, Head of Sustainability EU Halima Khan, Chairman Organizing Committee M. Naeem Qureshi, CMO EU Engr. Nadeem Ashraf, MD PPIB Shah Jehan Mirza, Minister of State for Energy Hashim Notezai & CEO Diamer Basha Dam Amir Bashir addressing at Hydropower Conference.

by six per cent solar and 69 per cent thermal. The government has now set a target of 62 per cent energy through renewable energy and hydel resources, he added.

Dr Mirza said the government also intended to increase the reliance on indigenous resources and wanted to induce more green energy in the system in the next 10 years. He said the private sector role in the hydropower sector at the global level was very limited.

"China's private sector has made a huge investment in the hydropower sector of Pakistan and the recent 720MW Karot hydropower project has been commissioned on June 29, 2022, with a cost of \$1.2 billion under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Work was also being carried out on the 1100MW Kohala hydropower project under CPEC," he added.

Shahjahan said that Pakistan had identified hydropower potential at 65,000

MW besides an additional 21,000 MW from Gilgit-Baltistan. However, he said GB has not yet connected through the national grid system of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and it would take around 5-6 years. He said PPIB had attracted huge foreign investment from the UK, Korea, and other countries in energy generating projects.

CEO Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Engineer Muhammad Naeem said Pakistan was blessed with surplus water and energy resources. However, he said we could not plan to exploit the hydropower potential in the country in the last 75 years. No doubt, climate change has some effect but we could mitigate its effects through proper planning, he added.

Naeem said that PEDO under a public-private partnership had planned various

small hydropower projects in remote areas having around 2,500MW capacity which would start power supply in the next 10 years. He said PEDO had completed the solarization of many mosques, schools, basic health units, and over 6,000 households so far in KPK.

Aamir Bashir, CEO of Diamer Basha Dam project said that WAPDA had tapped around 9,400 MW hydel generation so far and work on more mega projects was being carried out to store 11 million acre feet (MAF) water besides generating 16,000 MW electricity.

Chairman of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Tauseef H Farooqi while speaking on the occasion said that he was a big fan of hydropower projects in the country, adding that NEPRA was fully committed to promoting indigenous resource-based affordable electricity to the



Launching of forthcoming event solar energy conference & expo



Glimpse of Audience

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Minister of State for Energy Hashim Notezai presenting mementos to all sponsors.

consumers. He said currently the country's total installed power generation capacity stood at 43,000 MW, but it was mostly based on imported fuel.

Minister for Energy and Water Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Arshad said that the energy crisis could be overpowered by tapping more hydel potential in various parts of Pakistan and AJK. He said AJK had also huge hydropower energy potential which needed to be exploited for economic and agricultural growth.

CEO International Hydropower Association Mr. Eddie Rich said hydropower was growing but not at a fast pace globally. Hydropower was a clean and green energy that needed to be promoted at fast track, he said.

Earlier in his welcome address, chairman organizing committee of the conference, Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, said the conference was being organized to discuss the progress Pakistan and the adjoining re-

gion had achieved in the hydropower sector. He said the conference would prove to be a milestone in the promotion of hydropower not only in the country but also in the region.

The conference was informed that Sir Ganga Ram Hydropower Station of 1.1MW generation capacity at Renala built in 1925 and 9.6 MW Malakand Hydropower Station at Jabban built in 1937 were the two earliest hydro energy projects in the areas comprising Pakistan in the pre-independence era. In the pre-Wapda era from 1947 to 1958 three more projects were built that were 22MW Rasul Hydro Power Station, 20 MW Dargai Hydro Power Station, and 10MW addition at Malakand. All three proj-



Panel Discussion on Hydropower sector

ects were completed in 1952.

After the Wapda was established, 17 more hydropower stations were built in Pakistan. The total present installed capacity of 21 hydropower stations stands at 8,420MW. The total average annual power generation of Tarbela hydropower project stands at 16.7 billion kWh with revenue earning of Rs 547 billion.

The audience was also informed that 720MW Karot Hydropower project built under the CPEC regime has a life span of more



Stall setup of different companies.



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than 100 years. After 30 years of operations, the project will be transferred to the Punjab government.

Dr Munawar Iqbal, DG Hydro PPIB, Mohd Fauzi Bin Shafie, CEO, TNB Remaco Pakistan Pvt Ltd, Senior Advisor CSAIL NA Zuberi, Dr Tahir Masood, Managing Director, NESPAK, Imran Halim, Chief Engineer, PEDO, Khattar Abdul Khalek, Head of Business Development and acting GM for Aerodyne KSA, Muhammad Asad Imran, Country Manager, DOLSAR Engineering Pakistan, Fahd Bin Zafar, MM Pakistan (MMP), Sohail Butt, former DMD, PSO, and others also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of hydropower sector for sustainable development. ■



A group photo of speakers, panelists & organizers

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