



The Thar Coal Energy Board (TCEB) organized a stakeholder consultation session on utilizing indigenous coal resources to not only solve energy problems for Pakistan, but also drive industrial growth.

The session was attended by representatives from various industries, including textile, cement, power, and mining, such as Shanghai Electric, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, Sino Sindh Resources Ltd., etc.. A number of prominent energy, and economic experts, such as Mr. Akhtar Ali, Mr. Kaiser Bengali, and Mr. Pervez Tahir, among others, also attended the event, and provided valuable feedback on charting out the growth trajectory of the Thar Coalfields for the future.

The participants discussed the potential demand for Thar coal, and how it can substitute imported coal. Increasing production of coal from Thar, will not only provide affordable sources of energy, but also generate valuable jobs, and spur development of industry in the region. Furthermore, it will also save precious foreign exchange reserves, thereby enabling conservation of foreign exchange and enabling macroeconomic stability in the process.

The participants also provided valuable feedback regarding how technological innovation can enhance efficiency in Thar Coalfield, and enable greater production, and add value in the process. There was intense discussion on how it is possible to not just use coal for energy, but also for converting the same into petrochemical products, as well as natural gas. It is entirely possible to develop value-added products through Thar coal, and not just enable import substitution, but also open up markets for export.

The stakeholder session also emphasized how on it is critical to develop a thriving and competitive market for Thar coal. Over the years, necessary infrastructure to scale up coal production has been put into place, and execution risk has been reduced. It is now time to develop a competitive market and move away from a cost-plus pricing regime. The participants emphasized that it is possible to create a market for coal, while tying up with long-term contracts, that not only provides demand certainty, but also provides necessary impetus for growth, and enhancing efficiency.

The session concluded with an encouraging message from the Honorable Minister for Energy, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, who strongly reinforced, and reiterated that the Government of Sindh will go all out in enhancing energy security for the country, and is currently working on multiple projects to support macroeconomic stability of the country. The Honorable Minister also encouraged all participants to come up with innovative and technology driven solutions to maximize the value that can be generated from energy assets available in Sindh.

Going forward, stakeholder comments, and subsequently public comments will be incorporated to chart out a strategic growth trajectory for Thar Coalfields, creating a thriving market for Thar coal, and supporting energy security, and macroeconomic stability for Pakistan.