



Pakistan Engineering Council

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NEWSLETTER

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (MoC) BETWEEN PEC AND FFC

On January 19th, 2023, the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and the Office of Chief Engineering Adviser/Chairman Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Ministry Of Water Resources, Islamabad, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the aim of strengthening the Pakistan National Committee on Large Dams (PANCOLD). The agreement involves both parties working collaboratively



to enhance the value, sustainability and effectiveness of PANCOLD. The goal is to make PANCOLD a dynamic and fully operational entity that can effectively represent Pakistan's water-related issues, particularly those related to the planning, design, construction, operation, and management of large dams.

PLACEMENT ORDERS UNDER PEC OJT



Engr. Mukhtiar A Sheikh, the Vice Chairman of PEC Sindh, distributed placement letters to a group of selected engineers at the PEC Regional Office in Karachi. The engineers were chosen by Atif Nazar Associates, SAF International, and Karachi Shipyard Engineering Works Limited under the PEC OJT Program. Engr. Mukhtiar A Sheikh congratulated the chosen

engineers and encouraged them to work hard and make the most of this opportunity. He also updated them on PEC's latest initiatives for young engineers, such as the Capstone Project and Final Year Project Program. The young engineers praised the efforts of Engr. Mukhtiar A Sheikh and PEC Chairman Engr. Najeeb Haroon for their dedication to the development of young engineers.



FINAL EVALUATION OF 1ST COHORT OF ENGINEERING STARTUPS FOR PEC STARTUP SEED FUNDING ORGANIZED BY PEC INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE (ICE)

The Innovation / Entrepreneurship Committee (ICE) of PEC is promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to cultivate a culture of a knowledge-based economy among graduate engineers. As part of its initiatives, ICE is proposing to launch a seed funding scheme for engineering startups under the PEC platform, due to a lack of focused support or platform for such startups. Engr. Syed Abdul Qadir Shah and Engr. Dr. Zubair Ahmed Shaikh served as Jury Members for evaluation. The Chief Guest for the closing ceremony was Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman of PEC, who distributed certificates among the participants. The top three startups were also awarded a place in the finale of the Engineering Business Idea Competition, which is being organized by PEC ICE later this year.



INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE – TO ENHANCE STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH SKILL BASED LEARNING.

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has established an Academia/Industrial Linkage Committee (AILC) to encourage and facilitate the growth of local industry and to revitalize the branding of engineers. AILC organized an Industry Academia Roundtable Conference (IARC) with the objective of identifying the challenges faced by various industrial sectors and the necessary skill sets required in engineering graduates towards innovation, problem-solving, and a productive role in the industry. The conference was attended by CEOs and dignitaries from public and private sectors, as well as Vice Chancellors of top HEIs of Pakistan. Over ninety dignitaries from all major stakeholders attended the conference, endorsing PEC's initiative to uplift the skill level of engineering graduates.



03-DAY TRAINING ON E-COMMERCE FOR ENGINEERS ORGANIZED BY PEC INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE

PEC ICE developed a Training Need Assessment (TNA) form to collect data from graduate engineers across Pakistan for these specialized training programs. From the collected data, it was observed that the most demanded training by graduate engineers was in the field of E-Commerce / Affiliate Marketing & Freelancing. Keeping in view, PEC ICE decided to organize a series of trainings solely focused on imparting graduate engineers with the knowledge of



E-Earning. PEC ICE organized the first training at PEC Regional Office, Quetta for a cohort of 35 graduate engineers from Baluchistan who registered through the TNA form. Certificates were distributed among participants who successfully qualified and were also offered internship at BeOners Pakistan. The participants were highly appreciative of PEC and especially PEC ICE for organizing this training.

MoU BETWEEN PEC AND PPRA

PPRA has introduced the E-Procurement (EPADS) System to increase transparency and regulate the procurement process. As per the agreement between PEC and PPRA, PEC will provide company information to PPRA for online bidder verification of construction and operation contracts. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) includes sharing information such as completed works,



performance reports, and blacklisted firms from PPRA to PEC, which is crucial for the evaluation process of PEC. Having access to this data will significantly improve the evaluation process. Integration of PEC and PPRA through an Application Programming Interface (API) can enhance their efficiency, effectiveness, and capabilities, which is a valuable strategy for the success, productivity, and profitability of both organizations.

LAUNCHING OF PEC E GATEWAY

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has launched an E-Gateway to export the services of Pakistani engineers internationally, with the aim of promoting local engineering talent in the global market and minimizing brain drain. The initiative was launched by the Pakistan Development Committee of PEC, and the event was attended by renowned engineers and diplomats, including Senator Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi and Eric Hahn from the European Union. Engineer Mir Masood Rashid, Advisor to the Chairman PEC, emphasized the economic challenges faced by Pakistan and the need for such platforms.



SAFETY CONFERENCE PDC 2023

The Pakistan Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals recently hosted the 4th Safety Professional Development Conference in Karachi, where a number of organizations were invited to attend. These organizations included the International Labor Organization, Employers Federation of Pakistan, Labor Department Sindh, International Accord on Health and Safety in Textile and Garments Industry, NEPRA, K Electric, Oil and Gas companies, power sector companies, and textile and garment industry representatives.



During the conference, the Chairman of PEC delivered a keynote speech and presented shields to the conference organizers. He also extended an invitation to the ASSP team to collaborate with the PEC in developing a health and safety code specifically for the construction industry in Pakistan.

ADDRESSING PAKISTAN'S NEEDS: THE PEC AND HILL INTERNATIONAL

By Luke Carothers

ESTABLISHED BY an Act of Parliament in 1976, the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) with the purpose of regulating the engineering profession and the education of engineers. Since this time, the PEC has served the engineering profession in Pakistan, relentlessly following and succeeding in establishing a forum within the country that serves the entire engineering community. The PEC has become an effective bridge between the Pakistani government, industry, and engineering universities/institutions. It has also become a key driving force in the country's goals to achieve "rapid and sustainable growth in all economic, social, and national groups."

Najeeb Haroon is the Chairman of the PEC, having been elected to the position in 2021. Haroon has a vast wealth of experience in the construction industry, which began in 1987. This wealth of experience is supported by a Master's degree in Civil Engineering. A major part of Haroon's efforts since being elected have been focused on improving the quality of engineering education for institutions and professional systems. To achieve this, Haroon and the PEC have been at work synchronizing these institutions and systems with the best international standards and practices.

For Haroon, the Pakistani construction industry, despite recent strides, still needs to develop in many ways. Part of the challenge blocking rapid and sustainable growth is a lack of definition and recognition. Unlike in other countries, construction is not recognized as its own industry even as of 2023. For Haroon and the PEC, this presents tremendous challenges based on the close ties between engineering and construction. Because of this close link, the PEC is responsible for not only regulating the engineering profession but also the construction profession. Haroon notes that engineers are often the backbone of consulting and construction firms, and that the organization of the construction industry will only help elevate engineering.

When it comes to improving the engineering and construction professions in Pakistan, the stakes are high, but there is plenty of opportunity. Haroon is clear about the challenges that Pakistan and these industries face. Pakistan is severely lagging behind in terms of its infrastructure and housing. When speaking about Pakistan's infrastructure, Haroon is clear that this is a wide-ranging problem, with a need for all forms of infrastructure including dams, drainage ditches, water access, electrical grids, and roads. The situation is similar when speaking about Pakistan's housing sector where the country is lacking more than five million houses.

Despite these challenges, Haroon and the PEC are confident that better days are on the horizon. With the continued improvement of the engineering and construction professions, Pakistan can position itself to attract new international investors. Haroon cites examples of geographically similar countries such as Turkey and Malaysia, believing that as those markets become saturated, investors will search for new markets to enter. Said Mneimne, SVP of Hill International's Asia and Pacific region, further adds that one of the biggest challenges in attracting international investment is managing risk. Mneimne notes that nearly non-existent construction funding in Pakistan increases risk on the schedule and delivery of projects. One potential solution to managing this risk would be the establishment of a national construction bank that would guarantee construction bonds. Haroon is keen on the idea that, whatever solutions are developed to manage this risk and attract international investment, they must be Pakistan-specific solutions. By "putting [their] house in order", Haroon is confident that Pakistan can reap the benefits of this international investment.

While Pakistan faces significant challenges in their infrastructure and housing sectors, there is equal cause for optimism moving forward. As the engineering and construction professions continue to be organized and improved, the capital risk associated with improvement projects will likely decrease. Furthermore, Mneimne is confident that the country's strong engineering background can be harnessed to improve local projects. While Pakistan is known internationally as exporting skilled engineers, Mneimne believes that this process is a "brain drain" on the local economy. Thus, better organized engineering and construction professions as well as programs and improved living conditions can be a way of attracting these workers to stay or return home, which would in turn lead to a better trained local labor force.

Working with firms such as Hill International, the PEC has made significant strides towards improving not only the state of the engineering and construction professions in Pakistan but also the standard of living. Haroon says that they are not trying to reinvent the wheel to accomplish these tasks. Rather, by following similar examples and figuring out how the same processes can be customized to benefit local economies, Pakistan can improve and organize their engineering and construction professions which will have a cascading effect on the sectors that most need improvement.

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