

# PIDC approves Rs100m for technical training centre

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation Board on Tuesday approved funding of Rs 100 million to support a major public private partnership project of establishment of Technical Training Centre in Daharki District Ghotki to create trained manpower for the local industry.

Ministry of Industries, Production and Special Initiatives and Engro Chemical started work on establishing a Technical Training Centre in Daharki, District Ghotki, to provide skilled manpower from among the local population for the cluster of energy and chemicals industry located in Upper Sindh, says a statement issued here today.

Majority of funding shall come from private sector.

Engro Chemical Pakistan Limited has committed to contribute Rs. 44 million minimum, in addition to technical assistance, over the next few years to the project. Engro was chosen to champion the project by the Ministry. Conservative first phase capital cost, including land and campus, is estimated to be Rs 208 million, including running

cost of the first three years. Running cost is estimated to be some Rs. 15 million annually.

Other local private industry, including Descon, has also committed to provide funds. More funding shall be sought from other local industries. Running cost shall be borne by the industry.

This shall be the first such major modern public private partnership project of its kind in the Interior of Sindh.

More than ten industries located in the area need trained manpower but skilled local manpower is not available forcing companies to hire relatively more expensive personnel from other parts of the country.

Hiring of local skilled manpower would lower costs, reduce social frictions, improve community relations, and drive local economic development.

The meeting was chaired by Shahab Khawaja, Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production, CEO PIDC, Abdul Bari and other directors Ahmad Bux Lehrri, Viqar Rustam Bakhshi, Salman Burney, Iqbal Awan, Usman Waheed and Mr. Arshad Nasar were also present.

Running cost would be covered by grants from local and international donors, including government, fees, and revenues from short-term course. Loans and free concessions shall be offered to deserving students.

The TTC shall be governed by the Pakistan Chemical and Energy Sector Skill Development Company which shall make all decisions regarding recruitment, financing, curriculum, background of students etc.

Modern workshop and classroom facilities shall be provided with special focus on remedial course in Science and English for first year students. Centre shall, also offer hostel facilities in the second phase.

The Centre shall offer mechanical and chemical technologies to begin with. The Centre shall take Matric Science students and graduate 100 students every year with 50 each from two disciplines in three-year diploma courses recognised by Sindh board of Technical education. Short vocational courses shall also be offered to local industry.

First class is expected to begin in September 2010.