

THE NEWS

UNIDO for developing engineering institutes

By Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: The representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) on Thursday called on Pakistan to develop engineering institutes aimed at developing engineering products, and most importantly, better utilisation and management of potential natural and human resources for boosting economic growth.

UNIDO representative in Pakistan, Shadia Yousaf Bakhait, Eng, along with Younan Saadat, Gender Specialist UNIDO, visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) to discuss different issues with Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi, President of the chamber for collaboration of UNIDO with the Chamber.

Shadia Yousaf Bakhait said that UNIDO acts as a catalyst to help generate national economic wealth and raise industrial capacity, through its role as a worldwide forum for industrial development and to provide technical cooperation services.

She said that UNIDO harnesses the joint forces of the government and the private sector to foster competitive industrial production, develop international partnerships and promote socially equitable and environmentally friendly industrial production.

She informed that UNIDO, in collaboration with the European Union, is working on the project of energy conservation and transforming water into energy for small projects. She said that UNIDO is working on some projects in NWFP and Baluchistan on energy conservation and poverty alleviation. She said that UNIDO also provides assistance in technology up-gradation with the support of donor organizations.

Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), while welcoming the UNIDO representative, fully assured the cooperation of ICCI in the UNIDO projects.

He said that in Pakistan, not much emphasis is given to the

engineering sector.

Ijaz said that those countries that have grown fast, have greatly focused up on their engineering sectors, and their exports have increased tremendously.

He emphasized that the engineering sector must be promoted and the development of engineering institutes is bound to help many sectors, and will also enhance Pakistan's exports.

He highly appreciated the initiatives of the collaboration of UNIDO with ICCI, and said that the private sector, which is considered the engine of growth, must be involved in such projects, so as to achieve the desired results.

Abbasi said that Pakistan is short of skilled labour and technical institutes, and with the collaboration of UNIDO these areas must also be focused up on. This will not only help in generating employment in the country, but will also help in meeting the requirements of the industrial workforce, and in greater and quality production.

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