

## Pakistan's mining potential highlighted at PDAC event

### CPCoC hosts its 1st annual dinner

By a Staff Writer

TORONTO – Canada-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (CPCoC) celebrated its achievements at the first annual gala at Toronto's prestigious Royal York Hotel. It was attended among others by members of Pakistani delegation, including Mr. Naeem Malik, Additional Secretary, Minerals Wing, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Mr. John Gosal, Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian High

Managing Director of MEFT Pakistan (Private) Ltd., stressed the need for discovery of hidden treasure of Pakistan. Khan's MEFT Pakistan Ltd. is an industry leader in solar and wind energy in Pakistan as well as pioneers in deep sea fishing.

Earlier, Mehreen Javaid, President of Canada-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce welcomed the guests and said one year ago on March 7th, the CPCoC was officially launched with the support of the Canadian High Commission, the Government of Pakistan and the private sector.

CPCoC, she added, was created with the realization that there is a

need of a strong platform that can promote trade and commerce between the two countries – Canada and Pakistan. "The mandate of the CPCoC goes further to also assist companies that are encountering problems operating in Pakistan. The two way trade between the two countries is close to a billion dollar mark, with a substantial potential of growth provided there is more engagement of private & public sectors. The two countries have

also successfully completed two rounds of bi-lateral investment promotion agreement negotiations. "As the President of CPCoC, I would like to briefly review the activities of the Chamber in the last 12 months. In March 2012 we partnered with the Canadian High Commission, Pakistan's Board of Investment and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources to bring an 18-member delegation led by Senator Saleem Mandviwala & Dr Asim Hussein. With the assistance of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, World Bank & CIDA, we were able to get a strong representation from Federal & Provincial government officials".

The delegation found the PDAC convention to be an eye opener. The PDAC is the world's largest Mining Convention that draws over 30,000 delegates from all



Mehreen Javaid speaking at CPCoC dinner

Commission, Islamabad, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Coteau, Hon. John McCallum, MP for Markham-Unionville, Hon. Brad Butt, MP for Mississauga-Streetsville, Pakistani Consul General Nafees Zakaria and prominent members of Pakistani business community.

Mr. Irshad Ullah Khan, a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, was the keynote speaker on the occasion. He apprised the audience of Pakistan's enormous natural resources and deposits of several minerals, including coal, copper, gold, chromite, mineral salt, bauxite etc. He said Reko Diq is a large copper-gold porphyry mineral deposit on the Tethyan belt, located in southwest Pakistan in the province of Balochistan. Irshad Ullah, who is currently Chairman and



Canada-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce hosted the first official presence of Pakistan at PDAC with a half-day seminar which attracted a variety of international experts, companies, governments and media. Members of Pakistani delegation highlighted their country's enormous potential of natural resources.

over the world. The CPCoC President said it is unfortunate that Pakistan never got to highlight its mining potential on such a significant platform. Therefore, it was decided to start a Mining Working Group in Pakistan. "I am very grateful to the Canadian High Commission in assisting us by hosting working group sessions in Islamabad. What is important about this working group is that all provinces along with the Federal Government came on the same table to discuss the policy framework. We also invited Michael Stanley from World Bank to engage with the Government officials on policy matters and also capacity building. Since then World Bank has hosted two workshops on capacity building in Islamabad. A report was also prepared in consultation with all the Stakeholders," she said.

Mehreen Javaid disclosed that the collective efforts of CPCoC, the Canadian Government & Pakistan's Government & Provinces led to the launch of the National Mineral Policy 2013 which focuses on Institutional capacity building & clarity of Fiscal & Regulatory regimes in International competitiveness. The National Mineral Policy was recently approved by the Cabinet and ratified.

She also said that the CPCoC took a mining delegation from Canada to Pakistan to explore possibilities of joint ventures. "This year we made history by getting Pakistan visibility through PDAC country representation. I was pleased to see a strong delegation from Pakistan supported by the Canadian High Commission, World Bank, CIDA

& the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources. The delegation attended Prospects & Developers Association Convention (PDAC) in Toronto in the first week of this month.

She said Pakistan presentation at the PDAC event on March 3rd attracted a room-full of audience that had questions on the viability on doing business in Pakistan



Irshad Ullah Khan

under the current circumstances with the Reko-Diq case. "The case is under International arbitration, therefore, I will not comment on it. However, I would like to point out that I have seen a strong willingness from both sides to resolve the matter. Tim Livesey CEO of Tethyan Copper attended the Forum and shared his willingness to sit with the Government of Balochistan to find a resolution," she said.

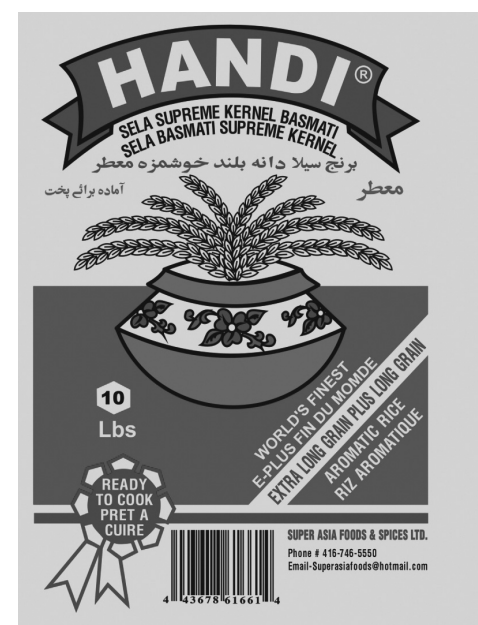
"It is important that we provide companies an open forum where they can have a candid discussion. I am hopeful that the two sides can sit on the table and come out with a solution that is mutually beneficial for both parties. In the past one year we have made numerous efforts to facilitate investors in an open transparent environment respecting the laws and the constitution of Pakistan".

The CPCoC, she added, will continue its efforts in its second year expanding its network and creating more working groups in other sectors such as IT, Agriculture & Infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Mehreen Javaid told *Canadian Asian News* that the recently concluded PDAC sessions in Toronto were a huge success from Pakistan's point of view as members of Pakistani delegation highlighted their country's natural resources. She said the CPCoC launched the first official presence of Pakistan at PDAC with a half-day seminar which attract a variety of international experts, companies, governments and media. The 2013 Pakistan delegation, she added, was broadly based with representatives from both federal and provincial governments, the private sector and consultants. At the seminar, John Gosal, Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission spoke on Pakistan minerals and mining: An assessment from a Trade Commissioner.



A view of delegates and media representatives attending CPCoC sponsored seminar in Toronto on March 3, 2013.



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