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 growth. With raising interest rate and expected rupee devaluation, the aggregated demand is likely to be curtailed, which is expected to slow down GDP growth.
PAGE: Kindly tell us about the cost of doing business in Pakistan:

Syed Farhan Karim: A key determinant of the cost of doing business is energy cost. In Pakistan, as per the World Bank, energy cost is around US cents 18.8 per KWh compared to 9.2 in Bangladesh, 12.7 in China, 14.9 in Afghanistan and 20.3 in India. So barring

India, our energy cost is uncompetitive regionally. Government focusing on renewable energy projects (including solar) Pakistan is expected to reduce it by 40%.

ORIENTATION CEREMONY IBA TALENT HUNT PROGRAM 2018 HELD

The orientation ceremony of the IBA Talent Hunt Program (THP) took place at the Gani Tayub Auditorium, IBA main campus. Representatives from the sponsoring organizations namely, Ihsan Trust - Meezan Bank Limited, OGDCL Pakistan and Community Development Program (CDP) - P&D Government of Sindh, attended the event along with the faculty and scholars of IBA-IT National Talent Hunt Program and IBA-CDP Sindh Talent Hunt Program. Dean & Director, Dr. Farrukh Iqbal, Director THP, Ms. Zeenat Ismail, General Administration Manager, Wg Cdr. (Retd) Aamir Shabbir and management team attended the ceremony.

Dr. Zeenat Ismail, welcomed the batch of 2018 and informed the audience that a select group of 170 students with 35% girls and 75% boys will be taught by the faculty for the Aptitude Test. Launched in 2004, the Talent Hunt Program (THP) is aimed at the students from far-flung areas of Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir, FATA and Gilgit Baltistan. The orientation program is an intensive two-month educational and training program that prepares students for the IBA's entry test.

Wg Cdr. (Retd) Aamir Shabbir, while presenting the vision and mission of the IBA, stressed upon the core values of the institution and their role in the nurturance of the IBA

community.

Expanding on the educational philosophy of the program, Dr. Farrukh commented that the IBA Talent Hunt Program caters to not only the financial gap but also the access to education. Acknowledging that the batch of 2018 is the largest one in the history of THP, he emphasized the significance of the diversity it will add to the IBA body.

Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Managing & Founder of Ihsan Trust, mentioned that Ihsan Trust is the interest free loan provider for the educational institutions in Pakistan and intends to expand its provisions in support to an even larger number of students with constraints.

Among other speakers were Mr. Pervez Akbar, Director UCBPRP, Government of Sindh, Mr. Iqbal Haider, Director AISEM & International College, Waseem ul Haq, Principal Cadet College Spiti, Wg Cdr. (Retd) Ur Rehman, Vice President Ihsan Trust, and Sajid Khan, NTHP Alumni.

The lead faculty members and mentors were followed by success stories of THP students. Dr. Farrukh Iqbal concluded the ceremony by presenting appreciation to the esteemed donor and guests.



"Construction is the art of making a meaningful whole out of many parts. Buildings are the ability to construct concrete things. I believe that the real core of all architectural construction. At the point in time concrete materials are assembled and erected, the architect looking for becomes part of the real world." - Peter Zumthor