

further deplete by 60 percent by the year 2027.

Hence, there is a dire need for accelerating exploration activities in Balochistan's potential areas on war-footing. Strategically located province is surrounded by the countries like Afghanistan, Iran, and Arabian Gulf states, which are rich in oil and gas reserves. While on one hand it is located in midst of oil and gas reserves, on the other the most important international sea routes pass by the Balochistan coast.

Present government is working on a multi-faceted strategy to accelerate oil and gas exploration activities in poten-

tial areas besides achieving self-sufficiency in crude oil refining. The officials claim that there are six projects, investment initiatives and proposals are in the pipeline in this regard. If the present government led by Prime minister Khan seriously takes the initiative of boosting drilling activity in the province, then it will be a game-changer initiative. If Balochistan has proven reserves of oil and gas, then why the exploration, production and drilling activities have so far been too slower in the province? Why does the country still lack a comprehensive program for on-shore and off-shore oil exploration in Balochistan? What

have been the snags, hurdles or constraints for tapping the energy resource potential of the province? Balochistan borders Iran, which is rich in oil and gas resources.

Some observers believe that discovery and drilling of oil wells in Balochistan may cause the Iran's oil to flow towards the province, which is physically located below the level of surface in Iran. Some independent analysts have even claimed that Pakistan is bound for not drilling oil wells in southern Balochistan under a secret deal with Iran, as the neighboring country would lose most of its oil for its flow toward lower landscape. ■

IBA KARACHI AND OXFAM IN PAKISTAN CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

The IBA AMAN Center for Entrepreneurial Development (AMAN-CED), in collaboration with Oxfam in Pakistan, celebrated International Entrepreneurship Day. Accomplished entrepreneurs, aspiring young entrepreneurs, students and civil society attended the session. The objective of the event was to bring Karachi's youth under one roof and to raise awareness about the scope of entrepreneurial ventures for the betterment of society.

Program Director IBA-CED Dr. Shahid Qureshi welcomed all guests and applauded the efforts of IBACED in instilling a strong entrepreneurial mindset among youth.

Country Director Oxfam in Pakistan Mohammed Qazilbash briefed the audience about the various programs through which Oxfam promotes entrepreneurship and the development of youth in Pakistan. The speeches of the young and experienced entrepreneurs about their entrepreneurial journeys further exposed the audience to the advantages of pursuing one's own business ven-



ture. The event included a panel discussion in which entrepreneurs belonging to diverse industries such as health, education, agribusiness, personal care and fitness shared existing business opportunities in these fields.

The dignitaries also shared their views and asked the young participants to pursue their dreams by setting up their own businesses. Chief Guest of the event, Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly Firdous Shamim Naqvi, shared his entrepreneurial journey of pursuing different ventures. He emphasized that money is not an obstacle for entrepreneurs who have passion, commitment and the skills to convert their business ideas into a reality. Other Guests of Honor included Member of the National Assembly Ghazala Saifi, and Vice Admiral (R) of the Pakistan Navy Arifullah Hussaini.

Acting Executive Director IBA, Dr. Sayeed Ghani distributed honorary shields and thanked the guests for their participation. ●

