



# Planet Green

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A group of award winner with Chief Guest Sindh Transport Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, President NFEH Naeem Qureshi, Gen. Secretary Engr. Nadeem Ashraf, Ruqiyah Naeem, Shamsul Haq Memon, DG EPA Naeem Mughal and others.

## 13th Annual Environment Excellence Awards and Conference **SEPA to prosecute municipal agencies in environmental tribunals for causing massive air, water pollution**



Minister Transport Nasir Hussain Shah speaking at the event.

The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has decided as a policy that local government's agencies in the province including KMC, DMCs, and KWSB will be subjected to prosecution in environmental tribunals for penalizing them in accordance with provincial en-

vironmental law for their unchecked practices as these municipal bodies have become biggest cause of air and water pollution especially in Karachi.

The SEPA Director-General Naeem Ahmed Mughal told audience of a conference on Wednesday that in future the local government's agencies would be put to prosecution as a matter of policy without giving them any exemption as

like cases against other public, private, and industrial institutions in the province were referred to environmental tribunals for their unsafe practices causing damage to environment.

The chief SEPA was speaking at the conference titled "Making our cities sustainable" organized by National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) in connection with its 13th Annual Environ-



From L to R: Mirza Ishtiaq Baig, Shamsul Haq Memon, Dr. Ejaz Talpur, Naeem Mughal, Hanif Gohar and Nadeem Arif



Saquib Ejaz, Naeem Qureshi, Dr. Samiuzzaman, Umair Jalia Wala, Shahbaz ul Islam and Minister Social Welfare Shamim Mumtaz addressing at the conference.

mental Excellence Awards. Sindh Transport Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah was chief guest on the occasion who gave away awards to 56 companies and organizations for adopting good practices for upkeep of environment.

Mr. Mughal said on that mere issuance of warnings and show-cause notices to local govt agencies would no more provide a workable solution to prevent practices of municipal bodies causing air and water pollution on a massive scale.

He said that owing to unchecked practices of municipal agencies, 450 million gallons of untreated waste water was being released into Arabian Sea while air pollution had been rapidly increasing owing to absence of any solid and municipal waste management system as district municipal corporations were engaged in burning of domestic waste instead of its safe disposal.

He expressed hope that with elected leadership taking charge of these municipal agencies across the province, proper strategies would be adopted by the local bodies for disposal of domestic and solid waste and treating of sewerage water before releasing it into sea.

He said that S-III plan to treat domestic sewerage water produced in Karachi had been readied while all industrial zones in the city would adopt the system of combined effluent treatment plants so to lessen the instances of marine pollution. He also lamented the constant discharge of industrial waste into fresh water bodies in rest of Sindh causing serious risk to human health.

The SEPA chief quoted a credible study by an international body, which estimated Rs 365 billion as annual loss Pakistan had been suffering owing to the issue of constant environmental degradation as public health sector accounted for having biggest share in such a colossal loss of Rs 01 billion every day to govern-

ment's exchequer.

Ijaz Ahmed Khilji, an expert of mass transport systems, said that 42 per cent population of Karachi had been dependent on public transport system but it was unfortunate that passenger buses and other public carriers accounted for only 4.5 per cent of total number of motor vehicles in the city creating situation of serious stress on existing passenger vehicles plying on roads of Karachi.

He said the only solution to such a sorry state of affairs related to heavy volume of vehicular traffic could be reached through building the system of mass transit as the most feasible option to this effect is revival of Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) which along with the proposed Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) would massively facilitate commuters in the city.

Mr. Khilji said KCR had the advantage that right of way on land reserved for the project was available to the government along with single-line railway track on which earlier intra-city local train service was used to ply. He said the KCR would be built on dual-track railway line of total 43 Kilometres length as in its peak days 104 trains had been used to ply in KCR service in a single day during its peak period when population of Karachi was not more than a few million people.

Sindh Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Mir Aijaz Hussain Talpur said the Sindh had been actively pleading its case that 220 Megawatts generated by it through alternative source of energy on the land of Jhimpir wind corridor should be evacuated on a preferential basis through transmission lines giving connectivity to national power grid instead of waiting for completion of the solar power project in South Punjab. He said the evacuation of electricity generated through wind power for its transmission till national grid was one of the

points raised by Sindh chief minister when he had met in the previous day Federal Water and Power minister in Islamabad on energy issues concerning the province.

In his concluding remarks, Sindh Transport Minister Nasir Hussain Shah said the present Sindh govt of Pakistan Peoples Party was fully committed to resolve public transportation problem of people of Karachi for which BRTS service was being constructed in Karachi. He said that in a coming few days, he would fly to China for signing there the MoU for building Yellow Line as another component of BRTS. The provincial Transport minister claimed that Sindh govt on its part had completed all the pre-requisites and formalities regarding revival of KCR in Karachi and now it was up to JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) to make progress for building the circular railway service in Karachi. He said the PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had directed the provincial authorities concerned to give another chance to JICA to make progress towards revival of KCR as otherwise Sindh govt should go for the option of availing services of a renowned Chinese firm to build circular railway service. He said the Sindh govt was fully committed to the cause of environment mitigation as for this reason the scope of provincial Environment Department had been expanded to include subject of Climate Change and also that the CM himself was holding the additional portfolio of Environment department.

Shamim Mumtaz, Minister Social Welfare Sindh, Shmasul Haq Memon, head of jury of environment awards, Naeem Qureshi of NFEH, Hanif Gohar Chairman Abad, Mirza Ishtiaq Baig, Shahbaz Islam, Umair Jaliawala and others also spoke on the occasion. ■

## Top 10 Award Winners



Archroma Pakistan Limited



Bestway Cement Limited Chakwal



Kot Addu Power Company Limited



National Refinery Limited



Novartis Pharmaceuticals Pakistan



Oil & Gas Development Company Limited



Pak-Arab Refinery Limited



Pfizer Pakistan Limited



Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited



Qarshi Industries (Pvt.) Limited

## Tree Plantation Award Winners



Saylani Welfare Truist



GO GREEN DHA Karachi



Asian Food Industries Limited

## Winners of 13th Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2016



Asian Food Industries Ltd.



AVM Chemical Pvt Ltd



Bestway Cement Ltd.



Clariant Chemical Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd.



Crown Group Of Companies



D.G. Khan Cement Company Ltd



Dawlance (Pvt.) Ltd.



Diamond Jumbolon Board Symbol Industries



Dr. Essa Laboratories & Diagnostic Centre



Ecobags



Engro Fertilizers Zarkhez Plant Karachi



Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Ltd.

## Winners of 13th Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2016



Fauji Oil Terminal & Distribution Company



Feroze1888 Mills Ltd.



Ghani Engineering System



Global Environmental Management Services



Green Crescent Environment Engineering



Hub Power Company



K-Electric Company



KSB Pumps Company Limited



Lotte Chemical Pakistan Ltd.



Lucky Cement Ltd



Martin Dow Ltd.



Nazaria-e-Pakistan Centre

## Winners of 13th Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2016



Novamed Healthcare (Pvt.) Ltd.



OBS Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd.



Pakcem Ltd



PATEL HOSPITAL



PharmEvo Pvt Ltd



PTV



Rafhan Mazie Products Co. Ltd.



Rainbow Hi Tech Engineering Company



Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd.



Thal Engineering



Thatta Cement Company Ltd.



UCH Power (Pvt.) Ltd.