

## **EDB COMPLETES COMPETITIVENESS IMPROVEMENT EXERCISE OF ENGINEERING SECTORS 2020- 2 1**

Engineering Development Board completed the annual competitiveness and efficiency improvement exercise for the budget year 2020-21 with basic objective to generate proposals specifically focusing on improving competitiveness of local industry. CEOEDB met with various Companies, Associations and Industrial Clusters at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) to discuss their proposals. Rana Sikander Azam Khan, Chairman, FCCI highlighted the important role of the SME sector of Faisalabad in the national economy. He was of the view that the industry at Faisalabad has come a long way of development since start of industrial activity in the country. A number of companies representing engineering, textile machinery, agricultural implements, battery manufacturing, and foundry sectors participated in the meeting. CEO-EDB highlighted the role of Engineering Development Board in supporting the SMEs in engineering sector. Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Head R&D Committee of FCCI informed about projects and linkages created with local academia for development of engineering sector of Faisalabad and the country at large. The need for formulation of a national engineering vision and e-commerce policy for development of the sector as well as government's role in promoting Industry 4.0 was stressed upon for keeping pace with the global technological developments. EDB also held

similar exercise at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) with stakeholders of engineering industry sub-sectors and respective associations wherein representatives from Home Appliances, Power Sector, Glass Sector, Pakistan Steel Re-Rolling Mills Association, Pakistan Steel Melters Association, Pakistan Steel Line Pipe Industry Association, All Pakistan High Carbon Steel Wires Manufacturers Association, Engineering Equipment & Machinery Industry, All Pakistan PVC & Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association and National Steel Advisory Council participated. During the consultative sessions at Gujranwala, a large number of representatives from manufacturing companies and industry associations turned up representing major industries in this cluster. The participants of the meeting emphasized on promotion of indigenization, imports substitution and more importantly export enhancement. They also pointed out various anomalies in their respective areas and constraints in managing their cash flows which are affected by pending tax refunds and input materials leading to serious issues in cost of doing business; besides, the rising energy cost remains a major impediment. Regarding exports, the participants were of the opinion that lack of local testing facilities, certification and technological constraints in certain areas was an impediment in achieving international competitiveness. In the light of recommendations forwarded by relevant parties, proposals were forwarded to

National Tariff Commission for inclusion in the budget.