

**SYMPOSIUM ON
“MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION – PRESENT & FUTURE”**

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

BY

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Honorable Chief Guest!

President Pakistan Engineering Congress!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan Engineering Congress holds Seminars / Symposia on topics of national importance. It has held so far 35 seminars on various topics.

The Executive Council of Pakistan Engineering Congress decided after detailed deliberations to hold the Mid Term Seminar on “Means of Transportation – Present and Future”. Communication and Transportation has a direct role in the development of the Country. Eight papers on Roads, Railways, Truck Transport, Inland Navigation, GIS, GPS System for Rail Operation and Transport Models were received printed and would be presented in this seminar. I would not preempt the findings of the authors.

Sir, Pakistan inherited an elaborate network of Railways from British Government. The Railways has been on decline since start of 1970 because of unfavourable policies. Recently an effort is underway to revive the railways.

Little work has been done to develop Inland Navigation in Pakistan although it is the cheapest mode of transportation but difficult to implement because of Hydro-Logic problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan’s main thrust has been on roads. Farm to market (village roads) have been built to bring the agriculture produce to the cities and market.

Pakistan started Motorways in Nineties. Motorway M1 Peshawar to Islamabad, M2 Islamabad to Lahore are functional and M3 Faisalabad to Multan is partly complete and the remaining under construction. It is planned to construct Motorways upto Gwadar. Another Motorway / Expressway is planned from Lahore to Karachi. National Highways from Lahore to Karachi and Lahore to Peshawar have been upgraded. District roads have been improved. Coastal highways have been built.

Sir, Punjab Government has completed many underpasses, overhead, bridges, Express Ways, Metro Bus route in record time in Lahore. Metro bus line connecting Rawalpindi to Islamabad is under construction.

Key Note Address

Because of the ever growing population, increasing number of vehicles, congestion on the roads, rising cost of fuel, the Government should consider the underground mass communication system in big cities Karachi, Lahore etc. No doubt it is cost intensive and long gestation but it would be economical, congestion and pollution free. The metro track should be convertible to mono rail track. India has underground railway system in Delhi, Bombay, Kolkatta and recently it has built in Ajmer also. Most of the world's mega cities have underground railways which is the ultimate solution. Pakistan must start planning and design of underground railways in big cities. It would take many years to construct.

Sir, in seventies Pakistan built Kara Kurram Highway (KKH) on the historical Silk Route upto khunjrab, China Border, with the help of Chinese which was known as the 8th wonder of the world. Recently Pakistan Government has concluded an agreement with China on China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). This CPEC \$ 45.6 B China investment includes \$ 5.9 B for road projects and \$ 3.7 B for railway projects to be developed by 2017. During the recent visit of Afghan President an agreement to build highway from Islamabad to Jalalabad has been made. Pakistan can become regional hub for transportation in Asia. Better communication and transportation system would increase the trade manifold and usher an era of prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am sure you would benefit from the presentation of the learned speakers. Pakistan Engineering Congress would compile the recommendations and forward to Government of Pakistan for consideration and implementation. I thank the authors for preparing the papers and presenting them on the Pakistan Engineering Congress forum. I thank the Chief Guest for gracing the occasion with his presence.

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