

Chinese Delegation's Visit to Faisalabad: An Appraisal of Weaving Sector

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Research and Development Center – FCCI with coordination of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company – (FIEDMC) has facilitated visit of Chinese experts and consultants in weaving sector at Faisalabad last week. The delegation belonged to engineering & consultancy in weaving machines while the purpose of visit was to explore a strategy for the up-gradation and modernization of Small and Medium weaving units situated in Faisalabad. After the thorough analysis of prevailing conditions in local weaving segment, a comprehensive policy for the revival of sick units can be suggested and negotiated with Government bodies.



Figure 1; Meeting with Dr. M Osama Nasim Mirza, Dean Faculty of Management Sciences

Engineer Ahmad Hassan who is the Chairman of Research & Development and CPEC Committee has emphasized the local manufacturing and particularly the weaving sector at this moment for a special attention towards the research and development practices for the sustainable progress in their business. He suggested that a broad based joint action plan is need among Industrial Capacity Building Institutes like FCCI, FIEDMC, APTMA and Entrepreneurs & Government bodies in order to devise and implement the revival strategy. The Chairman R&D & CPEC committees said that local business community has to take keen interest and indulge in close cooperation with Research & Development team at FCCI in order to ensure expeditious and sustainable restoration of small and medium manufacturing sector.



Figure 2; Meeting with NTU Officials Rector, Dr. Tanveer Hussain and Director Graduate Studies & Research, Dr. Yasir Nawab

On the other hand the expert in Chinese delegation were taken to the small and medium weaving manufacturing units, capacity building institutes e.g. FIEDM, FCCI and NTU – National Textile University. The consultants expressed in their primary observations at the completing their survey that the power loom sector represents a large spread business and employment segment in Pakistan but suffering from the technology draw backs to a great extent. Mostly operating at low output capacity due to their sluggish machines' conditions i.e. usually running under 100 rpm which is by no mean acceptable capacity in the modern and highly competitive global market. The minimum machine level at which the survival of weaving business at Pakistan can be ensured is at least 600rpm. Further not only their output can be increased but the input costs and designated economic resources e.g. electricity, labor & space utilization could be minimized through such technological improvements.



Figure 3; Meeting with the Chairman Power Looms Association Mr. Waheed Khaliq Ramay

Regarding the Overall Equipment Effectiveness – (OEE) system the consultant narrated as not at satisfactory level in most of organization. Obsolete practices & strategies are implemented due lack of highly skilled & trained workforce and linkage. Not only the technology is important factor for the success of manufacturing sector but the Human Resource Development and Operational modernization is also equally essential in order to revive the sick industrial units. Without ensuring these improvements at local manufacturing centers, our comparative advantages cannot pay off e.g. low labor costs or nominal repair & maintenance charge. However, if requisite measures are taken by the local manufacturers then great opportunity can be availed in shape CPEC and acceptance to global market under BRI.



Figure 4; Visit to Department of Weaving and Modern Laboratories at NTU with Dr. Syed Talha Ali Hmadani

But the openings of joint ventures between China & Pakistan for manufacturing of the high weaving technology in order to produce low cost machines domestically are not very advantageous right now due to lack related and supportive industries for supply parts & equipment, expert HR. Therefore, large scale facilities for assembling of modern machine parts at Pakistan will be more suitable for the time being. Even the assembling plan of high-tech machines require continuous and close cooperation between Pakistani industrial research and development staff and foreign consultants in near future.



Figure 5; Survey of various weaving units at G.M. Abad courtesy Malik Faheem (Power Loom)

Further the expertise and experience from Chinese in producing low cost yet competitive to western technology should be utilized instead of establishing new manufacturing setups in Pakistan. The cost and benefit relation in this way would be much favorable especially through the help of efficient connectivity under CPEC.

Chairman R&D and CPEC Cell at FCCI Engr. Ahmad Hassan thanked management of FIEDMC, FCCI, NTU and Chinese Consultants and all the local industrialists especially Mr. Ramay for their cordial & extensive cooperation. He opined that such type of close coordination is requisite for revival of sick industries and will certainly help in strategizing for the betterment of weaving business and manufacturing units.



Figure 6; Survey of various weaving units at Sadhar courtesy Chairman Power Looms Association Mr. Waheed Khaliq Ramay