

**Science and Technology Forum
on Chemical Engineering and Oil and Gas Process
(Petrochemistry – 2021)**

Excellences, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a pleasure for me to be invited as a speaker to this important International Forum. I would like to express my warmest gratitude to the organizers of this event more specifically the Honourable Rector of Belarussian State Technical University, Mr. Igar Voitou, for bringing us together for this important event, which has brought participants not only from Belarus but also from other friendly CIS countries.

Pakistan greatly values its relationship with the Republic of Belarus and views it as an important partner and friend. The multi-faceted cooperation between our two countries has evolved into a durable, broad-based and comprehensive partnership.

Likewise, the Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan constitute Pakistan's extended neighbourhood with deep rooted historical and cultural links. For Pakistan hydrocarbon assets of CARs are great sources of energy that can adequately fulfil its increasing energy needs. Over the years, we have managed to enter into substantive agreements with CARs on transport and energy corridors. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India gas pipeline (TAPI) is an important project aimed at bringing natural gas connecting the region. The Project envisions 3.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

Likewise, CASA-1000 Power Transmission line Project envisages the transportation of surplus electric power from Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to Pakistan (1000 MW) and Afghanistan (300 MW).

More importantly, Gawadar and Karachi Port (KPT) in Pakistan are essential for international trade of landlocked Central Asian Republics as they provide the shortest available sea route.

There is no denying the fact that sustainable global peace and development, is largely dependent on science and technology. It is heartening to see that Belarus is actively promoting the adoption of technology enabled ecosystems by providing an encouraging policy environment for innovators. Such templates for sustainable growth are a resourceful guide for emerging economies like Pakistan.

The global challenges that we face today such as climate change, food and health security – all have a strong scientific and technological component associated with their potential solutions. However, these solutions require the necessary policy and regulatory support to become equitable and sustainable.

The production of environmentally sustainable chemicals, by-products as well as the research and development in nanotechnology for eco-production are testament of the role that scientists, entrepreneurs and innovators are playing in Belarus for progress of the petrochemical industry.

Initiatives like this Forum are focused on bridging the industry-academia gap as well as providing necessary policy support to promote technology related commercialisation between Belarus and other countries.

I would also like to add that technological convergence is determining the future of innovation. This pace of innovation should be equally matched with evidence-based regulations, otherwise we may end up with issues like non-equitable access to technologies, outdated regulatory regimes and investment barriers. I would like to congratulate the organizers on hosting events such as these to inform diverse audiences on the evolving technological landscape, its role in socio-economic development and promotion of effective technology absorption.

Pakistan is also committed to providing our national innovation stakeholders with platforms such as these to showcase efforts being undertaken to facilitate business growth in the country. Pakistan Foreign Ministry has recently launched Science Diplomacy Initiative, emphasizing the role that science & technology can play in achieving targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Science diplomacy provides an inclusive and multifaceted platform for cross sectoral engagement, which is necessary for practical solutions. Current innovation systems are hindered to some extent by the existence of silos, and science diplomacy can help in bridging these gaps. It is important that we benefit from mutual experiences and foster sustainable institutional linkages.

Pakistan- Belarus has a Joint Working Group for expanding cooperation on Science and Technology, which has met four times to date. We have an Executive Cooperation Program for 2020-21 that includes information exchange on innovation projects, science & technology development and R&D, measures for commercialization of innovation projects and participation in exhibitions.

I am glad that last week, a 24 member trade delegation from Belarus including Scientists and Researchers participated in an International Exhibition in Karachi, Pakistan. We would encourage Belarusian entrepreneurs and companies to connect with their Pakistani counterparts. The Embassy is committed to providing facilitation for further engagements.

I would like to thank the organizers again for the invitation to this timely and valuable Forum. I am looking forward to engaging with industry and academic leaders during the course of this Conference for any synergy driven collaboration with Pakistan.

**Draft Remarks by Ambassador
SAJJAD HAIDER KHAN**