

US firms keen on coal-based projects

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KARACHI, Dec 27: Some leading US energy sector companies have expressed interest in venture and equity partnership with Pakistani companies.

The interest was projected in the Coal Forum held in Houston last month. The event was organised by Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, USA, in collaboration with Sindh Coal and Energy Development department and Board of Investment.

The meeting was a part of efforts to engage American companies to invest in Thar, Aijaz Ali Khan and managing director Thar Coal Energy Board, who attended the forum, told Dawn.

It may be pointed out that Pakistan was aggressively pursuing international companies in China and the US for investing in energy sector, especially the coal-based projects for addressing the country's energy deficit.

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company CEO Khalid Mansoor, who also participated in the forum, shared the details of the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) joint venture project and the feasibility recently completed with the participants.

Shaw Group, a well reputed group, agreed to send details about their projects. SECMC CEO discussed different possibilities of collaboration with them.

Synthesis Energy Systems (SES), a gasification company, that has several successful operations in China, showed interest in establishing a plant in Pakistan for which they will transfer technology by manufacturing equipment in Pakistan.

They agreed to send proposal about the use of Pakistan's lignite and requested for samples from Thar and Lakhra.

Representatives of Worley Parsons, USA, also participated. Elizabeth Ames Jones, head of the state Energy Authority, called upon the US companies to take advantage of the opportunities available in Thar in the field of mining and power generation.

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