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Bilawal Bhutto inaugurates Pakistan's first Thar coal power plant

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated on Wednesday country's first Thar coal power generation plant, which took 10 years to complete.

The PPP chairman took to his Twitter handle and announced the inaugural of the 'highest man made structure in Pakistan'. For the inaugural of the mine, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, members of the cabinet diplomats of various countries, including China were present.

This project is part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project for which the neighbor has extended financial, technical and manpower support. The power plant has a capacity to generate 660 Megawatts (MW) and consists of two power generation units of 330MWs each.

Addressing the gathering former Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that launching of Thar Coal power plant was a big success of Sindh government and PPP. He said that on the instruction of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto he had taken then president Farooq leghari to Thar and had showed him the coalfield. Otherwise he was also reluctant to support the project.

Consul General of China in Karachi Mr. Wang Yu speaking on occasion said that he was feeling proud to attend inauguration of the Thar-coal power plants established under CPEC projects. He added that out of six top CPEC projects, Thar Coal-fired Power Plant was most important in terms its importance in the national uplift of Pakistan.

He said that it was the first step to establish Thar Coal-Fired Power plant and in the second it would be expanded further in terms of its capacity and power generation. Thar coal has the capacity to meet the entire electricity requirement of Pakistan.

Mr. Samad Dawood Vice Chairman of Engro Corporation said that without energy Pakistan could not achieve its develop goals, therefore we have to tap our energy resources. He added that there was no country in the world which had ever attained its development goals without taping its indigenous energy sources. "In Thar we have vast reserves of coal to meet entire power requirement of the country," he said.

Chairman SECMC Khursheed Jamali said it was something to be pride of to see the inauguration of the plant for which the journey was started some 24 years ago. This is the only project of Pakistan which was started against an estimated cost of \$854 million and now it has been completed at \$670. The saving would be utilized for the expansion of the project to 4000 MW.