

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Energy crises has become pandemic. Fossil fuel especially oil and gas with ever spiraling and unprecedented price hike has assumed highly unmanageable and unbearable proportions, making life awfully miserable for the populace the world over. Catastrophic phenomenon of environmental degradation is yet another menace that is adding salt to injury being instrumental to global warming due to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of extensive oil/gas/coal burning being used for generating energy. Having tapped all the available run of the waters of stream, rivulets and rivers the advanced countries are now harping on derogatory environmental affects of building large dams by way of submergence of large arable or grazing lands, displacement of humans and wild life, water logging of areas surrounding the lakes so formed and rehabilitation of huge populace etc. The advanced countries are now fast introducing renewable Solar Energy which is by far low cost alternative than nuclear energy. USA is already way ahead in this supplemental effort (see Vol. 4 of Engineering News Journal). Even Abu Dhabi, a fifth largest exporter of oil and sixth largest producer of natural gas and rich country with per capita GDP of US\$ 63,000/-, in comparison to USA and UK of US\$ 45,000/-, is set to build multi billion dollar Project of Masdar City in the desert depending on pollution free cheaper solar energy than to use its own oil and instead maximize its GDP by exporting oil so saved. USA is even supplementing its energy demands by solar and wind energy. Both of these sources are pollution free.

Government of Pakistan has lately embarked upon producing coastal wind energy which albeit is very costly and developing country like that of Pakistan can ill-afford a costly infrastructure.

Articles on wind energy discussing almost all the pros and cons of it, solar energy, research on possibility of burying carbon emissions in the ground rather than allowing these to pollute the environment are under ways and if such a research bears fruit there is possibility that fossil fuel burning for generating energy may pose no problems.

In the scenario of Pakistan generating hydel energy which is not only cost effective but also pollution free appears to be the only viable solution not only for meeting with the national energy requirements but also replenishing depleting irrigation water. It is high time the Kalabagh Dam construction is taken up immediately which has been unnecessarily and illogically politicized for over more than two decades. Would that those at the helm of affairs responsible for this un-pardonable laps of depriving the Nation of the God gifted bounties of Kalabagh Dam come out of their graves to see the Ethiopian like plight of their posterity!

Articles on energy picked up from Various International Magazines and weeklies included in this issue will provide thought provoking treatise.