

## PR to get Rs25.7b bailout package INTERTRANS opens up new avenues of transportation, shipping

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at 3rd INTERTRANS Pakistan 2014 were agreed to bring up the world class measures in communications and transportation in the country to become compatible with the rest of the world. Having a theme of "Developing Integrated Transport Network for Economic and Regional Prosperity" the International Multi-Modal Transportation and logistics moot held at a local hotel in Islamabad on Thursday, the Director General Operations, Ministry of Railways, Syed Mazhar Ali Shah said that though Pakistan Railways despite facing worst ever financial crisis has shown better results during last seven months of the present govt by decreasing its operational losses. He said that efforts are being done to resume commercial operations of the Railways in order to enhance its revenue and make it commercially viable. He disclosed that according to the Visions 2025, PR is growing its regional activities and trade corridors with Afghanistan and Iran are being improved and work on Pak-China Trade Corridor has been sped up already.

Managing Director Pegasus Consultancy, Amer Khanzada in his welcome address said that the presence of senior government officials shows the government's commitment towards the growth and development of transportation and logistics industry as well as facilitates industry stakeholders in their business endeavors. "I am pleased to mention here that the positive steps that are being taken by the government for uplifting this sector is paving the way towards a cooperation agreement with China in coming months on projects to enhance transportation and trade", Khanzada said adding that such projects include construction of an airport at the port of Gwadar and upgrades of roads and railways which will enhance economic integration and regional connectivity between South Asia and East Asia. In addition, a cargo train between Turkey and Pakistan is going to start soon.

He further mentioned that government has approved a bailout package worth Rs25.7 billion for restructuring Pakistan Railways whereas Pakistan Railways has earned Rs3.43 billion more than the previous year with an income of Rs 12.87 billion during 200 days of the present government..



Capt. Mushtaq Ali, Chairman, All Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA) said that high-valued conference like INTERTRANS 2014 has opened up many gateways in Pakistan to flourish transport and shipping trade and by virtue of improved supply chain, transportation and communications would play a vital role in Pakistan's economic growth of the country

The other speakers including Babar Badat, Co-chair, The ICC IRT-TIR Commission, ICC Pakistan, A. Majeed Paracha Managing Director, Ravian Int'l Agencies, Brig. Mansoor Qadir, Commander NLC North Zone, National Logistic Cell, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad, Regional Trade Advisor, USAID Trade Project, Mehmod Hassan, Chief Operating Superintendent, Pakistan Railways, Fazal Abbas Maken, Addl Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Rear Admiral Azhar Hayat, Chairman, KPT, M. Daud Pirzado, Commissioner, Sindh Revenue Board, Syed Raza Kazmi, CFO, Maersk Pakistan and Vice Chairman APSA, Adil Rashid, Director Training Centre, Port Qasim, Javaid, Executive Secretary, National Trade & Transport Facilitation Committee and Arbab Ali Dhakan, General Manager Planning, National Highway Authority stressed on the need for early reforms at the ports in order to improve Pakistan's ranking in international ports.