

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful

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MAJOR CHALLENGES OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Constructors
Association
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INTRODUCTION OF CAP

- Constructors Association of Pakistan (CAP) was established in 1997.
- Registered with Director General Trade Organization of Pakistan (DGTO) as the sole representative of construction industry.
- Incorporated under Companies ordinance and licensed by Ministry of Commerce.
- Member of the governing body of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and member of executive committee of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI)
- Office Bearers located in all provinces of Pakistan.



CAP facilitates and propagates construction industry issues at all government, semi government and other related forums. Some major initiatives of CAP :

- Contributing to the revision and preparation of Pakistan Standard Bidding Documents based on FIDIC 2017 being undertaken by PEC
- Revision of escalation formulas
- Efforts to establish CIDB
- Implementation and enforcement of PEC Bidding/Contract documents (Letter issued on 24th December 2009 by Planning and Development Division)
- Planning Commission of Pakistan, after approval from ECNEC, directed all federal and provincial governments to use PEC standard bidding documents for procurement of engineering goods, works and services.
- Economic Affairs Division (EAD) was instructed to include provisions for use of this document in all loan agreements. (No.6/WR/PC/2008) - (12th February 2008)

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

- Construction Industry is defined as the three C's (Client, Consultant & Contractors).
- Construction is a service industry.
- Marked difference between a constructor and a developer.
- Associated industries/Vendors/Suppliers
 - Road Projects- 12+
 - Building Works - 40+
- Largest Employment generator after Agriculture.
- It is said - **“When construction moves, the country moves”**
- Unfortunately, the share in GDP in the regional context is the lowest:

India	Bangladesh	Pakistan
8.2%	4%	2.53%

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Challenges can be classified in the following five broad based parameters:-

- Business environment
- Human Resource
- Technical & Financial Capacity
- Plant and Equipment
- Materials & Supply Chain



1. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- 1.1. Bidding Documents
- 1.2. Business Processes
- 1.3. Tax, Financial & Procurement Policies
- 1.4. Unrealistic Prequalification Requirements



1.1 Bidding Documents

- Lack of balanced and equitable bidding documents.
- Clients unilaterally change or delete those clauses in the Particular Conditions of the Contract which safeguards the rights of the constructors.
 - Time of Payment
 - Acceptance of insurance guarantees
 - Taking over Certificates
 - Delays in provision of drawings and decisions
- Weak enforcement and implementation of notified bidding documents by the Regulator (PEC)



1.2 Business Process

➤ Business Process

Entire project cycle is plagued with problems making it difficult to identify a single critical weak link.

➤ Endemic corruption which restricts growth and hampers merit:

Corruption alone was estimated to account for an approximate loss of over Rs. 100 billion which was the equivalent to the entire PSDP for major infrastructure for financial year 2023.

➤ Lack of Contract Enforcement making risk management impossible.

➤ Projects normally take three times as long and twice as much of the planned cost primarily due to extra contractual processes and piecemeal funding.



- Poor planning & weak implementation capacity of clients, consultants and contractors
- Too many projects are taken up in the development programs without adequate funding resulting in poor delivery.
- Audit carried out by non-technical staff resulting in unnecessary problems, delays and disputes.
- Lack of Transparent Market Based Construction Cost data resulting in:
 - Low-Cost Estimates
 - Non-Transparency in the estimates
 - Inaccuracy of Project Cost
- Adverse security situation in remote project areas.



1.3 Tax, Financial & Procurement Policies

- Tax at source under the presumptive tax regime had been increased. It is now at 8% as minimum tax.
- GST has recently been imposed on construction services by the Federal & Provincial Government which needs to be rationalized.
- Social Security & EOBI contributions are implemented in a non-transparent and arbitrary way.
- Lack of Project Based banking facilities
- Both contractors and consultants are working on low rates.
- Procurement on least cost basis instead of best cost basis.



1.4 Unrealistic Pre-Qualification Criteria

- Cost of previous projects not adjusted to present value.
- Timeline for experience of similar project is impractical.
- Value of previous projects rather than the quantities executed form the basis of evaluation.
- Area specific experience demanded.
- Requirement of equal value executed projects rather than giving margin for growth.
- Unrealistic demand of equipment, machinery & plant.



2. HUMAN RESOURCE

- Lack of required Human Resource both in terms of numbers and skills level. This is across the board in all related professions, trades and among all stakeholders
- Acute shortage of Planning Engineers with practical knowledge of Field operations.
- Lack of Certified Skilled Tradesman.
- Construction Industry bears the cost of training and development of adequate Skills in the form of redoing faulty work and rectifying defects.
- Nearly half of the number of engineers produced in the country each year find employment overseas due to the wide disparity in remuneration.



3. TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL CAPACITY

- Transfer of technology ceased with abolition of local JV partner requirement- Now Corrected.
- Slow growth of supporting service industry.
- Lack of project-based financing
- All banking facilities (fund or non fund based) are on asset-based collaterals.
- Delayed payments
- Unavailability of timely project financing in PSDP & ADB projects.



4. PLANT & EQUIPMENT

- Availability and Price- Plant and equipment prices have skyrocketed both due to increase in the Dollar price and the devaluation of Rupee.
- Financing/Leasing- There is no loan scheme developed for the constructors for the purchase of plant or equipment to successfully execute the projects and to build their capacity.
- Spare parts and maintenance
- Operators- Mostly OJT



5. MATERIALS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Most construction material used in the industries are imported and those manufactured locally are on import based raw materials. Examples are:
 - Steel Rebars
 - Copper Cables & Conductor
 - Cement (Imported Coal)
 - Aluminum
- Quality- Material Specifications are not standardized.
- Lack of data

THE WAY FORWARD

Creating an Enabling Growth Environment

- Establishment of Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and PICC (Pakistan Institute of Cost and Contract)
- Adoption of Pakistan Standard Bidding Documents for procurement by ADB & WB on all projects.
- Establishment of a Procurement Ombudsmen
- Setting up of a Construction Bank.
- Developing and institutionalizing linkage between academia and industry to ensure relevance of curriculum
- Adequate time for project planning and design.
- Import duties and sales tax on construction equipment & plant be reduced to zero for 10 years to help build capacity.

- Only fully funded projects be undertaken for peoples' welfare rather than for political considerations
- Procurement on best cost rather than least cost basis.
- Development of small and medium industry stakeholders.
- Technical Capacity of Contractors to be enhanced through technical training which can be done through adding Technical staff to provisional sums on every project.
- Direct award of projects to SOE's without private sector competition be stopped- PPRA Rule 42(F).
- Seminars and Awareness campaigns to be launched by PEC to change the present mindset from Us (Consultant /Client) Vs Them (Contractor) to Us (Client/Consultant/Contractor) Vs Project
- Indexation of project value must be incorporated either to the US \$ or to the price of major construction materials for pre-qualification purposes.



UNFORTUNATE

“Many of the measures identified were already recommended almost 20 years ago in report prepared by the WB and similarly at an international conference on the construction industry held in 1990 in Islamabad. GOP did not follow through with the reforms suggested at that time; otherwise, the industry may not be in the crisis it now finds itself in today”

“Concerned efforts are required to implement the reports recommendation as Pakistan simply cannot afford to wait another twenty years”