

German ambassador for enhancing trade ties with Pakistan

Our correspondent

FAISALABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck on Wednesday said Pakistan and Germany ties in research and agriculture sector should be enhanced to get benefit from each other experiences.

He was called on UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ashraf at meeting room here.

He underlined the importance of exchange programme between both countries to enhance bilateral relations. He said that agriculture sector was relatively unproductive in Pakistan. He said that agriculture sector was extremely important sector of any country.

He also lauded the steps being taken on the part of the UAF for the teaching, research and the agriculture sector.

He added that the universities should shape policies for the development.

The ambassador said that Pakistanis were interested in either studying or conducting research in Germany.

UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ashraf said that the UAF was enjoying good relations with German institutes. He added that further strengthened ties would help open up new horizon of development and prosperity.

He said that agriculture was considered backbone of our economy, which was contributing to 19 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product and providing manpower to 45 per cent of the total population.

He said that more than 90 per cent of the farming community consists of small farmers in Pakistan who cannot afford the heavy cost machinery. The situation provokes the low productivity, he added.

He said that climate changes were posing a serious threat to agriculture sector, he said.

Keeping in view, new climate resilient varieties must be developed, he added.

Meanwhile, more than 30 German companies are working in Pakistan while efforts are being made to attract more German investment in order to enhance current trade volume between the two countries. In this connection, two to three German trade delegations were expected to visit Pakistan next year, said Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany.

During a meeting at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, he said that he had just taken over the office of ambassador about three months ago and it was his first visit to Faisalabad.

He told that just two weeks ago, he had visited Lahore where he had series of meetings with government and official sectors in addition to parliamentarians and leading businessmen.

He said that after this visit, it had become compulsory for him to visit Faisalabad, which was main industrial hub of Pakistan. Regarding enhancement of bilateral trade, he said that private sector was considered as economic engine of any country and we must encourage direct relations between the private sectors of the two countries. He explained in details about the economic strength of Germany and said that its robust SMEs sector was contributing a major role to the overall development of the country. He told that next year, two delegations regarding textile and chemical would visit Pakistan while yet another delegation

on renewable energy was also in the pipeline.

He hoped that these delegations would have direct links and by themselves explore the business opportunities available in Pakistan.

He also proposed that Pakistani ambassador in Germany should also arrange investment seminars in important chambers of Germany.

He assured to extend full facilitation in organising these events.

Bernhard Schlagheck also mentioned the German cooperation in environment, health, good governance and vocational training and said that he also intends to encourage female entrepreneurs so that they could contribute their productive role in the overall economy of Pakistan.

"I had discussed various related issues with the vice chancellors of the National Textile University (NTU) and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad", he told.

However, he said that society should also play its role in providing congenial environment to its female population.

He told that in Germany, vocational and practical training was being focused to harvest its immediate economic benefits and in this connection, Germany could arrange exchange of faculties to replicate this model in Pakistan.

Regarding visas, he said that it was very ticklish issue and he could not give any immediate assurance. He said that he would try to redress these complaints to some extent. Martin Herzer, Head of Economic Section Embassy of German, also addressed the meeting and explained in details the efforts being made to give a quantum jump to the bilateral trade between the two countries.

Please, get cont

SERVICES.