

Islamic Centre

In the perspective of modern scientific advancement, the establishment of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research is a very pragmatic step taken by the member states of the Islamic Conference towards relieving themselves of their dependence on the technically advanced nations. A good many of these Islamic countries are rich but much of their wealth is spent for import of technologies from the advanced ones to meet the requirements of their current development works. The discouraging aspect of this truism is that the import of technologies does not guarantee the transfer of personnel skills together with blue prints of these technologies from developed countries to the developing ones. As a result these Islamic countries have to depend heavily on them not only for spare parts but also for major repairs of the tools and machines and thereby their development activities are greatly hindered.

Add to this that, as generally found, these developing Islamic countries, in most cases, have also to import skilled personnel from the developed countries for application of appropriate technologies with proper knowledge of science. And in so doing the potentials of their own unskilled manpower with their inherent scientific aptitude are left un-

identified and unutilized. The concept working behind the establishment of this centre can therefore be aptly termed as an ideal for building a scientific infrastructure and scientific community to strengthen and make a viable infrastructure of science encompassing development of technologies and personnel skills befitting these countries' conditions and needs. If it is going to help convert their manpower resources into a productive force in scientific and technological fields, it will also provide opportunities and facilities to the academicians to conduct research activities on sophisticated lines with maximum utilization of available resources and make qualitative and quantitative improvement thereof. In short this will go a long way to help the Islamic world in keeping pace with modern advancement.

It is heartening that construction work of the centre will begin near Joydevpur in January 1981 and it will start functioning in July 1983. The success of the centre will, however, depend not only on the use of funds contributed by the member states but greatly on the efforts that have to be made by the academicians and students to achieve its objectives of helping these countries face the challenges of the modern scientific world.