

## American scholar presents an optimistic picture of Pakistan's potential



ISLAMABAD, May 20 (APP) - Pakistan has great potential in the form of natural resources and human capital but there is need to improve security situation, increasing power generation and implementing strict laws to curb corruption for having more Foreign Direct Investment in different fields. This was stated by David A. Westbrook, Professor of Law, University of Buffalo Law School, USA while talking to newsmen here after visit to Lahore and Karachi.

Prof. David, who is visiting Pakistan to meet people belonging to different walks of life, said Pakistan has great potential in the shape of natural resources, investment friendly atmosphere and hardwork people, but there is need to improve system taking measures to curb corruption.

He said the most important issue, being faced by Pakistan presently in security issue and it needs to be tackled with strong hand to attract foreign investors.

Prof. David said shortage of power and water are the other two important elements creating hurdles in the foreign investment.

He said strong political and civil administration were also imperative for promoting foreign investment and increasing confidence of the people to do business here.

Prof. David said in this global environment, Pakistan can be an important player in the international business with providing more opportunities to the investors.

He said coupled with transparency, implementing regulations, and good governance, the chances of the investment could be improved adding that free media and independent judiciary could have strong check and balance to ensure credibility of the government.

He said it is the responsibility of civil society along with free media and independent judiciary to force the government to adopt investment friendly policies for the benefit of the business community.

He said corruption has been a problem in Pakistan and creating hurdles for smooth flow of investment and it needs reform to improve effective check and balance.

Appreciating the growth in banking sector, he said, there has been potential in other sectors in Pakistan but need to harness the potential.

He said the people of Pakistan have the will and determination to face the challenges and to have more foreign investment.

Referring to Pakistan-India trade relations, he suggested that due to geographical conditions, these two countries could improve their bilateral trade in all sectors.

Talking about Pak-US relations and future of democratic set up in Pakistan, he said, transitional process has started here with empowerment of people and with two to three more transitions through elections process, a strong political and democratic system would be established.

He said people have to change perception through their active participation in the political process.

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