

Engro Vopak's Deaf Reach Training Centre Initiative

As part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Engro Vopak Terminal Ltd. (EVTL) has sponsored the equipment for the Computer Laboratory at Deaf Reach Training Center (DRTC), Karachi. The Computer Laboratory, named after Vopak Asia's President, 'Paul Govaart Room', was officially opened by Len Daly, Director Business Development, Vopak Asia on May 9 during his recent visit to Pakistan. Sheikh Imran-ul-Haque, Chief Executive EVTL, and Richard Geary, Executive Director Family Education Services Foundation (FESF) was also present along with EVTL Management, DRTC Staff and Students.

The Training Center is run by FESF which is a non-profit, educational, volunteer organization established in 1984. FESF currently runs three programs: Project Deaf Reach Training Center for the Deaf, Project EDUSERVE for Teachers' Training and Child Development, and Community Services Program.

DRTC provides vocational trainings to the students with emphasis on computer and basic communication skills, the majority of whom come from underprivileged families. The ultimate goal is to prepare these young men and women to take their respectable place in the society and to assist them in finding gainful employment.

DRTC in cooperation with KFC Restaurants has pioneered a new and exciting frontier in Pakistan, creating a branch restaurant which is run by the hearing-impaired. All the staff, from the cooks to the cashiers, with the exception of shift manager, is hearing-impaired. Two such restaurants are now open, one each in Karachi and Lahore, and the third one is being planned in Rawalpindi in the near future. This has provided employment for more than hundred deaf young men and women, majority of which are DRTC students, significantly improving the quality of life of those employed.

Richard Geary appreciated EVTL's support and thanked Len Daly and Sheikh Imran-ul-Haque for visiting the Center, meeting their Staff and Students, and inaugurating the Computer Lab.