

Sustainable Utilization of Mineral Resources – Pakistan’s Perspective

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A comprehensive and forward looking framework needs to be envisioned and enforced for sustainable development of mineral resources in Pakistan. Comprehensive means inclusion of the whole mineral sector value chain and physical clusters of related industries, organizations and stakeholders. Similarly forward looking means setting out and achieving both *long and medium range strategic objectives* and *short range tactical objectives*. The goal is to maximize the contribution of mineral resources in socioeconomic development in a sustainable manner.

Although the developed world has moved from resource based economies to technology and knowledge based economies, but what matters is how a nation competes, not what industry it competes in. Therefore, a mineral rich developing country like Pakistan can achieve sustained socioeconomic growth through the development of mineral sector. This paper examines the unique attributes of mineral sector from Pakistan’s perspective. It also examines the need of formulating a framework for sustainable development of mineral resources to maximize the net present value of socioeconomic benefits flowing from the mineral sector.