

Date: 24.7.2018

PRESS RELEASE
on
INAUGURATION of OFFICE & WEBSITE of HYDROCARBON SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL (HSSC)

The inauguration of the Office & Website of the Hydrocarbon Sector Skill Council (HSSC) was done on 23.7.2018 by Honourable Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a ceremony held at the SCOPE Convention centre, SCOPE Complex, New Delhi, in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Oil & Gas PSUs.

In line with the National Skill Mission of India, HSSC, for the Oil & Gas sector has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, as per the guidelines of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), with the aim of skill development and training of manpower in the hydrocarbon sector. It has been registered as a SOCIETY under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, with the Registrar of Societies, New Delhi, on April, 26, 2016.



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honourable Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, lighting the ceremonial lamp on the occasion of the inauguration of Office & website of Hydrocarbon Sector Skill Council (HSSC) along with other dignitaries, Shri Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, HSSC and Chairman, IOCL, Shri Rajesh Agrawal, JS, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Shri Biswajit Roy, Chief Executive Officer, HSSC

Speaking on the inaugural ceremony, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, *“Energy sector has some of the most complex and crucial job roles. Right from high sea exploration levels to the point of delivery. Till now we used to learn while we earn, but now we need to learn before we begin to earn. Specifically, in this sector, we need to be cautious about safety at each step and that is only possible when we have skilled workforce which is trained. The wages in hydrocarbon sector is in between 10-15% and close to 20 lakh people work in this sector directly or indirectly. There is ample opportunity for all to grow and learn and bring overall productivity to this sector. The training program under HSSC is one of the high skilling training programs which will be able to provide a lucrative career option to many individuals. We want to develop globally benchmarked workforce for the sector so that lakhs of youth can aspire for better economic opportunities. In the next 10 years, India will be the largest consumer of energy sector with investments expected to be more than \$320billion. Investment in skill development now is investment in the sector and investment in the country’s economic growth and its future.”*

Shri Rajesh Agrawal Joint Secretary, Ministry and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, who was also present in the programme said, *“Corporate India should leverage the reforms that the government has brought about since 2014 specially in our skill initiatives. Whether it is with regard to apprenticeship, where we are supporting through incentive schemes like- NAPS, new age job roles, studying the demand supply gap or recognising already skilled workforce through a skill certificate. We have ensured that maximum control is given to the private sector so that the standards are maintained as per market requirement. With regard to apprenticeship, the regulatory rights have also been given to the industry and they can also set targets of how many apprentices are required. It's a big opportunity and industries should leverage it. On the other hand, we have gradually over decades grown into an informal economy where skills were not recognized formally. The government has introduced the recognition of prior learning program which formally recognises the skills of people and also gives a finesse to their existing skill. More and more companies should aim at ensuring certified skilled workforce in the sector and other should follow it. The Hydrocarbon sector skill council should lead by example in this journey. My hearty wishes to them.”*

HSSC now is fully functional with its office at HT House, KG Marg, New Delhi. In the coming days, HSSC is confident that it shall address the skill gap of the sector and work towards fulfilling the skill requirement by capitalising on the demographic dividend of India and create a pool of skilled manpower for the industry for employability both at the national and international level.

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