

I am truly pleased and honoured to be here at Tarbela, to take part in this ceremony to mark the successful completion of your second 500 KV Transmission Line, and Units 9 and 10 of this giant power source. Tarbela is, as you know, the world's largest earth-filled dam, and currently generates about half of Pakistan's electric power output. This prompts two reflections on my part.

First, I feel as if we are at the very heart of your country. It is highly appropriate that this immense dam is built of the precious earth of Pakistan itself and I am proud that the skills and expertise of Canadians are present here as well, and that we have been allowed to help you create all this.

Second, Tarbela is indeed a huge achievement. You have built here a benign giant of development and progress -- a triumph of technology, immense in power and scale. Tarbela, and the lines transmitting its power to the rest of the country, owe their existence to the ingenuity and effort of individuals, Pakistani and Canadian, working together in close cooperation and true partnership. The real glory of Tarbela lies not in its gigantic dimensions, but in the vast number of lives it can improve, as it powers industries, and brings light to classrooms and clinics.

Tarbela is special -- not only by virtue of its size, but because it is an outstanding example of the continuity in Canada's development partnership with you.

Soon it will be forty years since our two countries began an excellent and increasingly friendly, relationship. Over that period, there has been a continuing tradition of Canadian involvement in Pakistan's development, particularly in the energy sector.

There are a number of "firsts" to our credit-starting with Warsak, your first major hydro development after independence, extending right up to your initial 500 KV Transmission Line, a first for Asia.

Since our initial involvement in the construction of the Tarbela dam, we have maintained our support for the expansion of Tarbela's generation capacity. Canada has supplied the turbines for Units 5 to 10 inclusive, the generators for Units 5 to 8, as well as the first 500 KV Transmission Line. I am especially pleased that tomorrow I will have the opportunity of signing the CIDA Loan Agreement on Units 11 and 12, and witnessing the signature of the EDC Loan Agreements for Units 11 and 12 and 13 and 14.

These two completed projects, Units 9 and 10, and the second 500 KV Transmission Line, demonstrate how much can be achieved through developmental cooperation between our countries. These are complex projects and their successful completion shows clearly that cooperation and coordination can achieve remarkable results in bilateral development efforts.