



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



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Introduction to the IPRI Newsletter

This is the first issue of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Newsletter. IPRI, since its inception in 1999 has undertaken multifarious intellectual activities that include conferences, publications, exchange of visits, interaction with foreign think tanks, and contribution in media, etc. IPRI publishes a bi-annual Journal, a bi-monthly Factfile, occasional Papers and books containing proceedings of conferences. Apart from organizing two international and one national conference every year, IPRI has also started holding one-day conferences and lectures by visiting scholars on monthly basis. Currently, IPRI's exposure to academic circles, scholars, researchers and policy and decision makers is through its publications and conferences. Since IPRI's aforementioned activities have multiplied overtime, it has felt the need to disseminate its scholarly output to a wider circle of audience. To reach out to those having an interest in our scholarly activities, IPRI has launched its newsletter. This is also part of our endeavour to draw the attention of other think tanks and scholars, with whom we have had no interaction so far. The Newsletter will contain IPRI's future calendar of activities carried out every month. This will serve dual purpose of remaining in constant touch with scholarly community and in expanding the scope of our interaction with them.

June Highlights

- 3rd: IPRI Review Presentation on "Pak-Korean Peninsula Relations"
- 17th: Presentation on Impact of "Indian Domestic Politics on Pakistan-India Relations"
- 18th: In-house discussion with Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, President Nepal Council of World Affairs, Kathmandu
- 20th: South Korean Professor Nam-sik IN Visits IPRI
- 24th: Presentation on "Iranian Nuclear Stand-off"
- 26th: One-day conference on "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Emerging Strategic/Economic Dynamics"
- IPRI scholars publications in the month

Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin Joins IPRI as President

Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin joined IPRI as President on May 15, 2013. He holds Degrees of LLB (Pb) and Master of International Studies from the University of Birmingham (UK). Mr Amin joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1980 and held diplomatic assignments in Iraq (1983-87), Germany (1991-1994), the Sudan (1994-1997), Australia (1999-2002) and Indonesia (2002-2003). He served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal (2005-2008) and later as Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman (2008-2011). He also worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at various positions. The areas of his responsibility in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during his various stints at headquarters, included Middle East, UK, Europe, Commonwealth countries, EU, Russia and East Europe. Mr. Amin also headed the Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad where specialized Foreign Service training is imparted to Pakistani and foreign diplomats. Mr Amin's areas of interest include public policy including foreign policy, diplomacy, trade development and global governance.

Dr. Simbal Khan Comes to IPRI as Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Simbal Khan has joined IPRI as Senior Research Fellow on June 18, 2013. She has served as Pakistan Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC, 2012-2013 and Director Afghanistan and Central Asia at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan. She has followed security and political developments in South Central Asian region.

Most of her recent work is focused on US/NATO military strategy and its impact on Pakistan's security. She has also followed India-Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship. Analyzing the various regional platforms and the possible role such regional platforms can play in stabilizing Afghanistan, are also a part of her work. She is currently engaged in producing a monograph on 'US Military Assistance to Pakistan: 2010-2011'.

IPRI Conducted One-Day Conference on Pakistan-Russia Relations: Emerging Strategic/Economic Dynamics

On June 26, 2013, IPRI organized the above mentioned conference. Dr. Azmat Hayat Khan, Amb. (R) Mohammad Khalid Khattak, Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal and Assistant Prof. Syed Muhammad Ali participated as speakers. Dr. Azmat Hayat Khan also chaired the session. The moot was attended by IPRI scholars, representatives of other think tanks, universities' students, officials of concerned departments and other members of civil society of Islamabad.



The speakers delivered informative presentations which were followed by a lively question-answer session covering salient aspects of the subject. While all participants emphasized on advancing Pakistan-Russia relations, it was highlighted that Pakistan should undertake innovative policy initiatives in this regard. The discussion contributed significantly in the outcome of the conference. The detailed conference report is being made available on IPRI website.

Discussion on Impact of Indian Domestic Politics on Pakistan-India Relations

Mr. Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow, IPRI, made a presentation on the above mentioned subject on June 17, 2013, in a weekly meeting of scholars



He explained recent developments in Indian politics and their likely impact on Pakistan-India relations. He also discussed growing influence of regional parties on Indian national political horizon and their impact on India's foreign policy formulation. The presentation was followed by discussion. The report of the event is being made available on IPRI website.

Mr. M. Mustansar Billah Hussain gave IPRI Review Presentation

Mr. Hussain, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI, reviewed "Pakistan-Korean Peninsula Relations" on June 3, 2013. His presentation and summary of discussion can be accessed at <http://ipripak.org/pa/ipr15.pdf>

An In-house Discussion Held on Iranian Nuclear Stand-off

Ms Aymen Ijaz, IPRI scholar, on June 24, gave a presentation on "Iranian Nuclear Stand-off" covering all aspects of the subject.

This was followed by an in-house discussion on the subject where the issue was discussed threadbare. The report on the discussion is being made available on IPRI website.



Korean Scholar's Visit to IPRI

Professor Nam-sik IN, Head, Office of Policy Coordination, Korea International Diplomatic Academy, Republic of Korea visited IPRI on June 20, 2013 to discuss China's relations with its neighbouring countries. The report of the event is being made available on IPRI website.

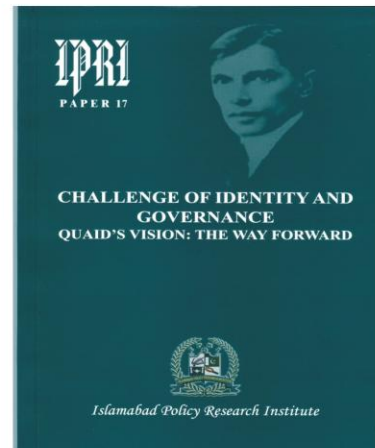


IPRI Scholars Publications in June

- Dr. Simbal Khan, Senior Research Fellow published an article on "What's Really Bothering Hamid Karzai?", in The AFPAK Channel, *Foreign Policy* on June 26, 2013, <http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/>
- Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer published articles on "Defying the Odds: Pakistan's Pursuit for Democracy" in *Journal of Turkish Weekly*, June 15, 2013, <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/151809/defying-the-odds-pakistan-39-s-pursuit-for-democracy.html> and "Turkish Spring in the Making?" in *Pakistan Observer*, June 19, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=210218>
- Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow published an article on "Challenges for New Government in Pakistan" in *Pakistan Observer*, June 12, 2013, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201306/12/comments-2.php>
- Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant published articles on "Spoilers in Pak-India Rapprochement," in *Pakistan Observer* June 19, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=210217> and "Drone Attacks a Formidable Dilemma," in *Pakistan Observer*, June 12, 2013, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201306/12/comments-1.php>
- Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow published an article on "Implications of Karzai's Visit to India" in *Pakistan Observer*, June 13, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=209734>
- Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer published an article entitled "Prospects of Pak-ASEAN Relations" in *Pakistan Observer*, June 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=208850>
- Ms. Aymen Ijaz, scholar IPRI published an article on "New Dynamics in Pak-Russia Ties", in *Pakistan Observer*, June 20, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=210295>
- Mr. M. Mustansar Billah Hussain, Assistant Research Officer published a book chapter entitled "Role of Universities and Think Tanks in Energy Conservation" in IPRI Book, *Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan*.

IPRI Scholar Authored an IPRI Paper

Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow, authored an IPRI paper entitled "Challenge of Identity and Governance, Quaid's Vision: The Way Forward." This paper is part of the series of IPRI papers which are occasionally written by scholars on selected subjects of national and international significance. This paper has been written in view of



the fact that since last several years Pakistan is suffering from various issues and problems which are basically the by-product of inadequacies of governance in Pakistan. Therefore, commissioning of this paper at this important juncture, when Pakistan is trying to improve its governance, is significant and will act as a guide to the policy makers.

Mr. Tika Jung Thapa Visits IPRI



Mr. Thapa, President Nepal Council of World Affairs, Kathmandu, visited IPRI on June 18, 2013 and had an in-house discussion with IPRI scholars on Pakistan-Nepal relations. It gave an opportunity to IPRI scholars to know more about Nepalese foreign and domestic policies. Mr. Thapa said that Pakistan had the potential to play a proactive role in making SAARC a more productive organization in South Asia. At the end of the discussion, he suggested that tourism, people to people contacts, and exchange of scholars would help in strengthening Pakistan-Nepal relations. The report of the discussion is being made available on IPRI website.

Introducing New Series of Guest Lectures in IPRI

Apart from current intellectual activities, IPRI has undertaken a significant initiative of introducing lectures by visiting scholars in IPRI with effect from August 2013. In this context, IPRI plans to have one to two lectures a month. For this purpose, eminent scholars, technocrats, retired as well as serving senior government officials will be invited to speak on selected subjects of national and international importance. These lectures will be attended by IPRI scholars and various categories of audience from Islamabad. Whereas, these lectures will enlighten IPRI scholars, they will also help invitees from other think tanks, departments, universities' students and interested members of civil society to discuss the subject with the guest speaker.

Events in July

- 3rd: Yearly meeting of IPRI Board of Governors
- 8th: IPRI review presentation on "Strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Ties"
- 15th: IPRI review presentation on "Geopolitics of Water in South Asia: Regional Analysis"
- 22nd: IPRI review presentation on "Reconciliation with Taliban"

IPRI Publishes a Conference Book

Since last many years IPRI has been publishing books based on papers presented at IPRI national and international conferences. Each year, IPRI organizes two international/regional conferences and one national conference on subjects of national and international importance to Pakistan. These books are published within six months of holding the conferences. In June 2013, IPRI published a book on "**Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan**". The softcopy of the book is being made available on IPRI website.

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