



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



Monthly IPRI Newsletter Vol. 2, No. 6

November 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) organized an international conference on November 18-19, 2014 in Islamabad. The conference

environment conducive and the likely policy options for Pakistan. Former Chiefs of Naval Staff, Admiral (R) Noman Bashir, and Admiral (R) Muhammad Asif Sandila were the chief guests at the inaugural and concluding sessions

politics. The current value of trade traversing through the Indian Ocean is US \$ one trillion.

- The militarization and naval power expansion in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) reflects the growing competition within the regional/global players.
- Existing maritime mechanisms are the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Djibouti Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). However, the inadequate participation of regional states and the interference of foreign powers has made these groupings ineffective.
- Pakistan's role/interest in international navigation, coupled with its strategic location brings it to the center stage of economic competition/or cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. Gwadar is seen as a pivotal trading point.
- Crude oil processed and refined at Gwadar oil refinery could be exported to China through the shortest possible route 'Dubai-Gwadar-Urumqi', spanning about 3,500 kilometers.
- The role of Pakistan Navy in anti-piracy operations in the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden is of vital importance for maritime security. In order to safeguard its maritime interests, Pakistan needs a strong naval force.
- Pakistan cannot remain oblivious to the



discussed the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean, highlighted the major powers' interests in the region, cooperative mechanisms to make the ocean

respectively. Eminent scholars from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, Iran and the United States participated in the conference. The conference comprised of six sessions. The salient points of the conference are given below:

- Indian Ocean stretched across the world continents is fast becoming an arena of contemporary geo-politics and geo-economics. Asia's economic growth, in particular, China's rise and the growing dependence on energy/natural resources has raised the ocean's significance in world

Highlights

International Conference

- **Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan**

Guest Lecture

- **Pakistan's Youth Bulge**

Review Meeting

- **Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation**



COSATT Panel Discussion in Nepal



On the invitation of Director, Centre for South Studies (CSAS), in Nepal, Mr. Muhammad Hanif,

visited Kathmandu from November 22-24, 2014. He attended a Panel Discussion on “Expectations from the 18th SAARC Summit”. The event organized by CSAS under the auspices of the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) and in collaboration with Konard Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) was inaugurated by the Nepalese Foreign Minister, Mahindra Bahadur Pandey. A CSAS-KAS-COSATT book titled “Realizing the Vision of a South Asian Union” was launched on that occasion. Speakers from all SAARC member countries had been invited.

Mr. Muhammad Hanif in his paper titled “Economic Integration in SAARC Countries: Overcoming Major Challenges” said that South Asia having rich natural and human resources and a vast consumer market with over 1.5 billion population had a great economic potential. For mutual trade advancement and for increase in volume of trade, quick implementation of SAFTA was necessary. He said that it was encouraging that all SAARC countries understood the benefits of regional economic integration and they seemed to be in favour of making SAARC as an economic union.

IPRI Scholars' Publications (October)

English Newspaper Articles

- “Sweden strives for ME Peace” by Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 3, 2014, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201411/03/comments-2.php>
- “Challenges for new Afghan leadership” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 3, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2014-11-03/page-7>
- “Time to reset Pak-Afghan ties” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 10, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2014-11-10/page-7>
- “Nuclear diplomacy with Iran” by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Daily Times*, November 14, 2014, <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/14-Nov-2014/nuclear-diplomacy-with-iran>
- “The BJP is redefining India-Pakistan relations” by Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Daily Times*, November 15, 2014, <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2014-11-15/page-7>
- “Time to cease the moment” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 17, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/columns/17-Nov-2014/time-to-cess-the-moment>
- “Pak-China onward” by Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 20, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2014-11-20/page-7>
- “President Ghani's endeavours” by Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 21, 2014, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201411/21/comments-2.php>
- “SCO role in Pak-India ties” by Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 22, 2014, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201411/22/comments-1.php>
- “Pak-Saudi iconic bilateral relations” by Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 23, 2014, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201411/23/comments-2.php>
- “Engaging the United States” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 24, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2014-11-24/page-7>
- “Neutralise droughts in Thar” by Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 30, 2014, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201411/30/comments-2.php>
- “My teacher, my pride” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, November 30, 2014, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-11-30/page-7>

Urdu Newspaper Articles

- “Nawaz Sharif Ko Shahi Imam Ki Dawat” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Daily Pakistan*, November 7, 2014, <http://dailypakistan.pk/newsarchive.php?search=07/11/2014>
- “Intkhabi Dhong Aur Modi Azaim” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqat*, November 12, 2014, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-11-12/page-15>
- “Hindu Aqliyat, Bharti Propaganda Aur Haqaiq” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqat*, November 16, 2014, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-11-16/page-16>
- “Pak Adaray Aur Bharti Propaganda” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqat*, November 20, 2014, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-11-20/page-15>
- “Bharti Jarhana Ravish Aur Israel” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqat*, November 23, 2014, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-11-23/page-16>

Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation: Potential and Prospects



Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer at IPRI presented a presentation on Developing Eight (D-8) Organization titled as “Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation: Potential and Prospects”. The main points of her presentation were:

- The main agreements reached by D-8 countries in enhancing trade relations are 1) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), 2) Multilateral Agreement on Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters and 3) Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen.
- The D-8 holds a lot of promise if its full potential is realized. Economic integration can eventually pave the way for political leverage as a bloc and can also add political weight of the individual member states of D-8.
- The pace of cooperation needs to be enhanced in order to cope with the fast-paced world and its even faster-paced challenges. The D-8 should adopt a long-term mechanism for sustainable economic cooperation.
- All future plans of action such as ‘Roadmap’ and ‘Global Vision’ needs to be fully implemented. This can be achieved through full implementation of agreed policies and measures.
- Political will is a critical ingredient to realize the set goals and objectives. All member states should fully comply with the agreed frameworks.
- The organization will have to increase its cooperation with other

regional and economic groupings and other multilateral arrangements.

- Greater awareness needs to be disseminated about the organization, firstly within the D-8 community and then internationally by projecting its activities.
- A Development Bank for member countries should be formed providing much needed capital and funding.
- Intra-D8 trade is required to be increased. There is a need to eventually move towards Free Trade Agreement among D-8 countries. Of course implementation of PTA will be the first concrete step toward economic cooperation among D-8 countries.
- Encouraging and improving linkages among private sectors of D-8 countries is critical for improving trade.
- Human development needs to be promoted through provision of scholarships to member countries or collaboration between higher studies institutions and technical institutes. Joint research and development ventures in technological and scientific fields are required to be pursued.
- The D-8 should develop an academic forum so as to take policy inputs from academic community and field experts.
- There is a need to improve physical infrastructure and efficiency of transportation systems to lower the cost of transportation. This will also help improve interconnectivity of the D-8 member countries and facilitate movement of people and flow of goods.



FOREIGNER’S VISIT

Japanese Embassy Representative’s Visit to IPRI



Mr. Yoshitaka Ogawa, Political officer at the Embassy of Japan visited IPRI on November

28th, 2014 for an interaction with IPRI scholars. During the meeting, both sides stressed the need for improvement in Pakistan-Japan relations. There was a need for more cultural exchanges and people to people contacts. Pak-China relations including economic and trade matters were also discussed. IPRI scholars stated that Pakistan firmly opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. On Kashmir, IPRI scholars reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people.



OIC Network of Think Tanks

On the invitation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretariat, Jeddah, President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin attended the brain storming session for the establishment of 'OIC Network of Think Tanks' held in Jeddah on November 24, 2014. The session was chaired by HE Mr. Iyad Ameen Al Madani, Secretary General OIC. All the Assistant Secretaries General dealing with political, social, cultural, religious affairs, media, Palestine and Al-Quds Sharif and Science and Technology attended the session.

During the session, the Secretary General

said that OIC was a political and not a religious organisation. It was responsible for dealing with a host of issues confronting 57 OIC member states. It was focussing on issues related to Muslims all over the world. He said that conflicts in Central Africa, Northern Mali, Syria, Iraq, and Mauritius were political in nature and OIC, therefore, had a role to play. The Secretary General said that OIC wanted to be better equipped to handle all the important issues that it was dealing with. Hence the need to establish the OIC Network of Think Tanks. He said that he expected the OIC Network of Think Tanks to

focus on issues that were related to the people of member states. The Network could concentrate on creating awareness about important political, social and cultural issues, including terrorism, extremism, sectarianism, Islamophobia, poverty alleviation and marginalised societies, health, Islamic finance, development issues, water issues, science and technology, trade promotion, role of women in Muslim society and projection of soft image of OIC member states. The organisational structure of the OIC Network of Think Tanks was discussed at the meeting.

FOREIGNER's VISIT

Visit of Chinese Scholar IPRI

The Chinese scholar, Dr. Wang Hanling, Director, Center for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Institute of International Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on November 20, 2014 for in-house discussion with IPRI scholars on matters of mutual interest. Dr. Hanling was keen to know about economic opportunities in Pakistan. Salient points of the meeting are as under:

- Dr. Wang Hanling informed IPRI scholars that there were 10,000 research fellows working in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Also, the Academy had MOUs with more than 100 research institutes and universities all around the world.



- Regarding Economic Corridor (EC) between Pakistan and China, Dr. Hanling was informed that both the government and the people of Pakistan were determined to complete the project with the cooperation and assistance of China at the earliest.
- Dr. Hanling suggested that Pakistan government should establish an 'Industrial Park' for Chinese companies. He informed that due to lack of information some Chinese companies were reluctant to invest in Pakistan. This industrial park would be helpful for Chinese companies to get information about the business trends and it would help in increasing Chinese investment in Pakistan.
- IRPI scholars suggested that China should become member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Moreover, China should support Pakistan for the membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- Dr. Hanling informed IPRI scholars that eastern and central China were developed as Europe and in future China would concentrate on the development of its western part.

Pakistan's Youth Bulge

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- Youth is seen as a source of utility and not as a source of human capital.
- Youth is not a partner but a weak and vulnerable section of our society.
- There is a need to build partnership with youth through education, employment and engagement (EEE).
- Mechanisms for educational resource generation need to be formulated i.e., reinforcing Iqra surcharge, allocating import and export surcharge for education, saving a penny for nation's future (on GST), educational emergency, contracts with higher educational institutions of the world, collaborating for education with every region of the world rather than UK, US or EU, and convincing and engaging donor agencies to invest on education.
- Employment opportunities can be increased through promotion of tech business, developing youth-led corporate sector and promotion of entrepreneurial activities.
- Unemployment, poverty, disparity in education, economic crisis, political instability and non-engagement have increased youth problems. Youth Partnership through Education, Employment, Engagement and Empowerment can thus be a way forward to address youth challenges.

Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan

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developments taking place in the Indian Ocean as these have an impact on its progress and prosperity.

- Pakistan is more focused on continental issues hence the sea escapes its attention. Due importance needs to be given to maritime issues.
- Safety and stability of Indian Ocean is a collective responsibility of regional states. The regional states need to cooperate with each other as equal partners and through sharing of resources.
- Pakistan is interested in maintaining stability and security in its adjacent area of interest that is the North Arabian Sea.
- In order to effectively move forward in the right direction, and counter the threat of maritime terrorism, it is imperative to simultaneously clamp down on all illegal activities including drug-smuggling, human trafficking and gun running.



- Effective regional legal mechanisms have so far proved vital in maintaining peaceful order in the Indian Ocean. The littoral states should cooperate in building such legal structures.
- Full participation of all the states concerned in existing



international and regional treaties and arrangements is important for the effective implementation of the UN Convention on Law of Seas.

- Drug smuggling, human trafficking, illegal fishing and pollution at sea, are some of the challenges which require attention of international community. A comprehensive international approach should be adopted to deal with these issues. To deter piracy, human trafficking and drug trafficking through sea, regional and major powers should adopt cooperative approach.
- Efforts should be made to bring ocean industries together for exploration and sustainable development of oil, gas and mineral resources, fisheries development, aquaculture, underwater tourism, offshore renewables, etc.
- For productive and sustainable use of ocean resources, an ocean business community should be established as an advisory body of the Indian Ocean Business Forum.
- Frequent conferences should be organized by Pakistani think tanks to discuss ways & means of safeguarding Pakistan's security and economic interests linked with the Indian Ocean.



Chairwoman of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Visits IPRI



Renowned German academician and parliamentarian, Chairwoman of the Hanns

Seidel Foundation (HSF) and former Minister of State of Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Prof. Ursula Männle visited IPRI on November 14th, 2014. Dr. Ursula Männle and President IPRI, Amb (R) Sohail Amin shared their views about the long and successful collaboration between IPRI and HSF which jointly have been organizing national and international conferences on subjects/issues relevant to Pakistan. The proceedings of the international conferences are published in the form of a book. The outcome of the conferences in the shape of recommendations is shared with policy makers and academic community. Prof. Männle and Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin reiterated the need for a beneficial future academic collaboration. Prof Männle expressed satisfaction over the

joint ventures of IPRI and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF).

For further information about both the institutes, their websites can be visited at <http://www.hss.de/pak/en/foundation.html> [Http://www.ipripak.org/](http://www.ipripak.org/)



GUEST LECTURE

Pakistan's Youth Bulge

Dr. Muhammad Zaman Khan, Chairman Department of Sociology, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad delivered a lecture on "Pakistan's Youth Bulge: Human Resource Development (HRD) Challenges" on November 27, 2014 at IPRI Conference Hall. Dr. Khan discussed this way forward to channelize the increasing youth bulge for purposes of utilizing its potential maximally. The salient points of his lecture are as follows:

- Out of 180 million, 60 per cent of Pakistan's population comprises of youth.
- After Yemen, Pakistan has the second highest percentage of youth



population.

- As of 2012, literacy rate of Pakistan's youth is 58 per cent.
- Pakistan's HDI ranking for 2013 was 0.537 (in the low index category), placing the country at 146th position out of 187 countries.
- According to Fuller (1995) and Heinsohn's (2003) Youth Bulge Theory, high population especially of young adult male could lead to unrest, conflict, violence, war and terrorism.
- Due to the absence of Pakistan's national youth policy, the youth considers itself marginalized, disorganized, ill-equipped and undeveloped in the eyes of the state institution.

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