



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



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July 2013

Amb. (R) James A. Larocco Visits IPRI for In-house Discussion

Director, Near East and South Asia (NESAC) Centre for Strategic Studies, Ambassador James A. Larocco accompanied by Associate Professor at NESAC, John Wood visited IPRI on July 10, 2013 for a discussion with IPRI scholars on issues of interest to both sides. NESAC is a think tank of international repute

which holds regular meetings on contemporary issues at various venues. Sixty two think tanks from all over the world, including IPRI, are its members. This year, 12 Chinese think tanks will be acquiring its membership.

The evolving situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan's relations with the US and several other regional and international issues came up for discussions. Economic management, governance and security issues following the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan were considered as key issues that will determine the future of regional stability. Pakistan's commitment to an Afghan led, Afghan driven, and Afghan owned peace process was highlighted. It was stressed that Afghanistan will be able to achieve stability, growth and prosperity if peace prevailed there during the post

IPRI Wishes its
Readers a Happy
Eid-ul-Fitr during
August 2013



2014 era. The best route to a peaceful Afghanistan is through a robust reconciliation process which should result in a broad based government in Afghanistan following the elections to be held there next year.

July Highlights

July 8: Chinese Delegation Visit to IPRI

July 10: In-house Discussion with Amb. (R) James A. Larocco, Director NESAC Center for Strategic Studies

July 11: JICA Official's Visit to IPRI

IPRI scholars' publications in July

IPRI Review Meetings

July 8: "Strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Ties: Social Dimension"

July 15: "Geo-politics of Water in South Asia: Regional Analysis"

JICA Assistant Director Visits IPRI

Mr. Takashima Akihiro representing the South Asia Department, in the Japan International Cooperation agency (JICA) visited IPRI on July 11, 2013 for a meeting with IPRI scholars. The purpose of his visit was to know more about trade and business environment in Pakistan for the guidance of Japanese firms and business houses who were interested in doing business in Pakistan but were not forthcoming due to lack of authentic information about Pakistan. JICA delegation was informed about the business and investment climate in Pakistan and also the role being played by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the Board of Investment



in promoting trade and facilitating foreign investment. It was also noted that the perception of Japanese entrepreneur about the security situation in Pakistan was misplaced. This perception is totally different from realities on ground as businesses in Pakistan are flourishing due to low cost of productivity and huge Pakistani consumer market. It is important that more and more Japanese investors, firms and companies should visit Pakistan to assess the situation for themselves. Detailed report about the visit is available at <http://www.ipripak.org/talks/talk13.pdf>

Chinese Delegation Visits IPRI

Mr. Zhang Lijun, Head of Political and Press Section and Mr. Lai Haiyang, Political Officer of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China visited IPRI on July 8, 2013. The Chinese delegates wished to be briefed on the evolving situation in

Afghanistan. It was noted that upto 2014 Afghanistan was on the cusp of three concurrent transitions that were



security, political and economic. Pakistan hoped that these transitions would be managed efficiently and skillfully,

which would ensure that in the decade to follow after 2014, Afghanistan would have security and stability. The best route for a stable and secure Afghanistan was through a robust reconciliation process. Pakistan was willing to help as much as it could. Pakistan's sincerity in this regard must be appreciated and reciprocated. The detailed report of the event can be accessed at <http://www.ipripak.org/talks/talk12>.

IPRI Review Meetings

Geo-politics of Water in South Asia: Regional Analysis

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, ARO, IPRI, gave a presentation on "Geo-politics of Water in South Asia: Regional Analysis" on July 15, 2013. He noted that South Asia was likely to plunge into water conflicts because of overall water scarcity in the region. The major issue in sharing trans-boundary water in South Asia is the massive construction of run of river hydro power



projects and mega dams by upper riparian, India in violation of existing treaties. This uni-lateral diversion of trans-boundary waters by India is likely to cause regional tensions in South Asia. The most affected countries in this context are Pakistan and Bangladesh due to their water disputes with India over rivers flowing from Kashmir into Pakistan and sharing of Ganges waters between India and Bangladesh.

As a consequence of the discussion on all aspects of water issues it was concluded that to resolve these issues India being upper riparian will be required to display the spirit of righteousness in implementing the existing water agreements.

Strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Ties: Social Dimension

Ms. Maria Syed, ARO, IPRI, presented the subject in a weekly meeting of IPRI scholars on July 8, 2013. She said that Pakistan and Turkey had cordial ties, which were based on common religion, culture and history. She noted that in recent years Punjab government and Turkish government have had close cooperation. The relations between both countries are strong at state-to-state level, and in the defense field etc. Turkey is an important friend and a rising regional and economic power. Hence relations with this country need to be preserved and further strengthened. For this purpose apart from governmental efforts people to people contacts can also help. Turkey is already investing in public diplomacy ventures across the world and in Pakistan. Pakistan Embassy in Turkey has taken a limited number of ventures with regard to public diplomacy.



In this regard there is a need to identify more and feasible public diplomacy ventures such as cooperation in education sector, exchange of academics and scholars that Pakistan should undertake in Turkey. Such ventures would help in further strengthening the Pak-Turkey relations at all levels.

IPRI Introduces Quarterly 'IPRI Insight'

IPRI conducts research on a whole range of issues. It follows academic disciplines independently and objectively and produces book-length studies, Journals and articles. IPRI is introducing a new publication titled 'IPRI Insight', the first issue of which is due to appear in October 2013. It will be a quarterly publication containing thoroughly researched articles contributed by IPRI scholars. 'IPRI Insight' will replace *IPRI Factfile*, the publication of which is being discontinued. The last issue of *Factfile* containing an account of assorted events, analyses of developments and policies concerning the security situation in Pakistan during 2012 and so far this year, has been published this month.

IPRI Scholars' Publications in the Month of July

Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow published an article on "A Case for Smaller Provinces" *Pakistan Observer* on July 22, 2013,
<http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/27831/>

Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow published an article on "Pakistan is Sincere in Bringing Peace to Afghanistan" *The Frontier Post*, on July 23, 2013,
<http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/28722/>

Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal published articles on "A Matter of National Shame" *The Nation* on July 29, 2013,
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/29-Jul-2013/a-matter-of-national-shame>

Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow published an article on "21st Century Kazakhstan- Vision 2050" *The Daily Mail* on July 3, 2013,
http://dailymailnews.com/0713/03/Editorial_Column/Column_1.php

Ms. Saman Zulfqar, ARO published articles "Future Prospects of Pak-China Ties" *Pakistan Observer* on July 18, 2013,
<http://pakobserver.net/201307/18/detailnews.asp?id=212980> and
"Gloomy Tourism Prospects in Pakistan" *Pakistan Observer* on July 15, 2013,
<http://pakobserver.net/201307/15/detailnews.asp?id=212671>

Mr. Usman Ghani, ARO published an article "Troubled Waters of South China Sea" *Pakistan Observer* on July 4, 2013,
<http://pakobserver.net/201307/04/detailnews.asp?id=211596>

Ms. Maria Syed, ARO published an article "Egypt and the Remnants of Ancient Regime" *The Frontier Post* on July 26, 2013,
<http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/29455/>

Ayem Ejaz, Assistant Documentation Officer, published an article on "Welcome Ramadan" *Pakistan Observer* on July 11, 2013,
<http://pakobserver.net/201307/11/detailnews.asp?id=212282>

Aftab Hussain, ARO published an article "Drone Strikes Ineffective and Only Serve to Help Anti-Americanism," *Global Times* on July 14, 2013,
<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/79609.shtml#.ufdzY03CPW>

International Seminar

SCO's Role in Regional Stability: Prospects of its Expansion" on August 28-29, 2013

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation, is organizing a two-day international conference on "SCO's Role in Regional Stability: Prospects of its Expansion" on August 28-29, 2013 in Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The main objectives of the conference are: a) to highlight potential role of Pakistan as a full member state of SCO; b) to underline the importance of economic interdependence as a factor in resolving regional issues, in particular the Afghan conflict to which regional economies have been held hostage for the last couple of decades; and c) to develop necessary infrastructure to integrate SCO countries.

Notable scholars from Pakistan, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India, Afghanistan, Belgium, Germany and SCO Secretariat are expected to participate in the conference. The Deputy Secretary General of SCO H. E. Mirzosharif Jalolov and Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Ambassador Nurlan Aitmurzaev have also consented to participate in the Conference as speakers.

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Guest Lecture Series

The working of a think tank is based on a mix of research, analyses and outreach. In order to further enhance the outreach of our scholars to those contributing towards policy formulation and implementation, IPRI has undertaken a significant initiative of bringing IPRI scholars in contact with decision makers and policy makers through a series of Guest Lectures. Leading figures from the fields of government, business, finance and academia will be invited to interact with IPRI scholars on subjects of national and international importance. The first of the series of Guest Lectures will be held in August 2013.

Upcoming Events in August

- International Conference on “SCO's Role in Regional Stability” on August 28-29, 2013.
- First Guest Lecture on “Counter Terrorism and De-radicalization in Sri Lanka” in second half of August

IPRI Review Meetings

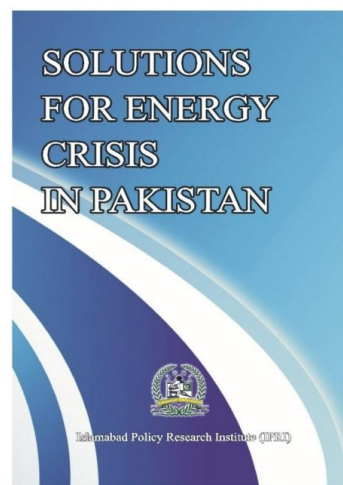
- August 5th - “Creation of New Provinces: Pros and Cons”
- August 19th - “Rising Indian Lobby in the US: Its Impact on Pak-US Relations”

IPRI Journal - Call for Papers

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) publishes a biannual *IPRI Journal*. It is peer reviewed, Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized (category ‘Y’) and is a nationally and internationally reputed research journal. The Journal contains research articles and book reviews. Contributors are requested to send their papers by September 30, 2013.

Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan

Each year, IPRI organizes two international/ regional conferences and one national conference on subjects of national and international importance to Pakistan. For the last many years IPRI has been publishing books based on the papers presented in these conferences. The latest published book is: *Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan*.



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