



FOREIGN DELEGATION

MISIS Delegation Visits IPRI

A four member delegation from Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon, visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on April 7, 2015. The delegation was headed by Ambassador (Retired) U Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman MISIS and included Mr. U Kin Maung Lynn, Ms. Carole Ann Chit Tha and Mr. U Thet Tin Soe.

The proceedings of the day started with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IPRI and MISIS.



After the initial pleasantries, Ambassador (R) Shein reiterated that Myanmar fully supports Pakistan's permanent membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The two sides held deliberations on mutually agreed subjects that included overview of; Political, Economic and Social Developments in Pakistan, Pakistan's Role in Countering Terrorism/Extremism and the progress of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, Prospects of Pakistan-Myanmar Economic and Trade Relations and Prospects of Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor. The salient points of the discussion are:

- Pakistan has adopted both hard and soft strategies to deal with terrorism and extremism. In pursuit of its hard power strategy many military operations have been launched against terrorists in different tribal agencies since 2001. The application of "hard power" is followed by the application of "soft power strategy" that includes; establishment of rehabilitation centres, condemnation of hate speech and extremist material, curbing misuse of worship places, inhibiting media glorification of terrorists, denying media services to extremist groups, choking financial support to terrorists, carrying out political and social reforms in FATA, registration of madrassas and stopping illegal migrants.

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FOREIGN DELEGATION

Director RUSI Visits IPRI

Mr. Raffaello Pantucci, Director International Security Studies, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) visited IPRI on April 28, 2015 for an in house discussion on 'Pakistan-China Relations' and 'Pakistan's achievements in Counter Terrorism'.



Salient points of the discussion are:

Pakistan-China Relations

- The "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" linking Gwadar to China's Western city of Kashgar will bring forth foreign investments in Pakistan giving boost to its economy. Resultantly, the under-developed areas of the country will be connected with the city sides thus reducing the vulnerability of the masses due to poverty which may be exploited by terrorists/extremists.
- Central Asian Republics (CARs) through Gwadar Port will have a direct access to the Indian Ocean.
- Baloch people are in support of the corridor. The negative hype being created to disrupt the progress is not likely to succeed.
- In the field of defence, China and Pakistan have close cooperation. Both are already co-producing JF-17 Thunder aircrafts and different military hardware.
- China also supports Pakistan's permanent membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation is undertaken in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and is meant for civil use.

Pakistan's achievements in Counter Terrorism

- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Afghan civil war, Taliban rule and the U.S led War on Terror (WoT) are the prime instigators of terrorism in Pakistan and the region at large.
- To root out militancy, the Government of Pakistan has adopted a 'zero tolerance' and 'no sympathy approach' towards terrorists/extremists.
- Military operations in the tribal areas have dismantled the terrorist sanctuaries. Military courts have been established for speedy justice as a follow up of the National Security Plan (NSP). Side by side, developmental projects are being

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Reforming the UNSC Membership: Impact on Pakistan

Ambassador (Retired) Masood Khan, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad visited IPRI to deliver a lecture on “Reforming the UNSC Membership: Impact on Pakistan” on April 14, 2015. Following are the salient points of his lecture:

- The configuration of the United Nations was a result of consultation among the victors of the Second World War.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union, gradual meltdown of influence of the colonial powers in the Middle East and Africa and the re-

emergence of Japan and Germany as economic powers has changed the dynamics of international political system.



- Japan, Germany, Brazil and India (G-4) are the four aspirants for the permanent membership of

the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The ambition of G4 couldn't materialize so far because of inherent weaknesses in its implementation plan.

- Pakistan opposed the idea of the UNSC expansion and continues to do so.
- Instead of permanent membership, fixed term seats given to states on rotation basis, may be a way forward.
- Next few years are crucial with regard to UNSC reforms.

Publications of IPRI Scholars' (April 2015)

Articles Published in English Newspapers

- “Building Counter Narrative on Terrorism” by Khalid Chandio, Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 3, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/03/comments-2.php>
- “A Rock and a Hard Place” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, April 6, 2015, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2015-04-06/page-6>
- “Towards Regional Integration” by Amjad Ali, Intern IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 6, 2015, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=261635>
- “Countering India's Geopolitical Ambitions” by Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 7, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/07/comments-1.php>
- “Internal Security” by Adila Abbasi, Intern IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 9, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/09/comments-2.php>
- “India's Dangerous Pakistan Policy!” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, April 13, 2015, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2015-04-13/page-7>
- “Pak-Myanmar Trade Ties” by Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 15, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/15/comments-2.php>
- “Challenge of Growing Threats of Climate Change” by Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *The Frontier Post*, April 16, 2015, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/e-paper/2015-04-16/Opinion-19306/>
- “New Promises, New Hopes” by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Daily Times*, April 16, 2015, <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2015-04-16/page-7>
- “Tackling Nigeria's Boko Haram” by Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 16, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/16/comments-2.php>
- “Balochistan Needs Careful Handling” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, April 20, 2015, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2015-04-20/page-7>
- “A Significant Visit” by Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 21, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/21/comments-2.php>
- “Answering from other Side of the Fence” by Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 23, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/23/comments-1.php>
- “US-Israel Ties: Post Iranian Nuke Deal” by Adila Abbasi, Intern IPRI

was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 23, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/23/comments-2.php>

- “Why China's ‘One Belt, One Road’ Initiative Matters for Asia” by Asiya Mahar, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Azernews*, April 24, 2015, <http://www.azernews.az/analysis/80980.html>
- “Chinese President Visit to Pakistan” by Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 25, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/25/comments-2.php>
- “Humanity Waits for Assistance” by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 25, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/25/comments-2.php>
- “Challenges to China-Pakistan Cooperation” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, April 27, 2015, <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2015-04-27/page-7>
- “Challenging Presidential Bid for Hillary” by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 27, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/27/comments-2.php>
- “Pak-China Shared Destiny” by Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, April 30, 2015, <http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201504/30/comments-2.php>
- “Indo-Canadian Uranium Deal: Another Dent to NPT” by Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI was published in *The Patriot*, April 30, 2015, <http://dailythepatriot.com/indo-canadian-uranium-deal-another-dent-to-npt/>

Articles Published in Urdu Newspapers

- “Mazhabi Adam Bardasht, Bharat Aur...” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Daily Pakistan*, April 5, 2015, <http://dailypakistan.pk/newsarchive.php?search=05/04/2015>
- “Saniha-e-Gayari Aur Bharati Atomi Sarab” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqt*, April 7, 2015, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2015-04-07/page-15>
- “Maqbooza Kashmir Azadi Ki Nai Lehr” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Nawa-i-Waqt*, April 20, 2015, <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2015-04-20/page-6>
- “Ashraf GhaniKa Dora Bharat Aur...” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Daily Pakistan*, April 25, 2015, <http://dailypakistan.pk/newsarchive.php?search=25/04/2015>
- “Shahrah-e-Khushhali, Indian Gorba Choof Aur Youm-e-Shohada” by Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Daily Pakistan*, April 28, 2015, <http://dailypakistan.pk/newsarchive.php?Search=28/04/2015>

Roadmap for Pak-U.S Relations: 2015 and Beyond

Mr. Khalid Hussain Chandio, Research Officer, IPRI in his presentation on “Roadmap for Pak-U.S Relations: 2015 and Beyond” on April 23, 2015 discussed Pakistan’s relations with U.S, the phases that it has been through and the prospects of future cooperation between the two countries.



The salient points highlighted during the presentation are:

- In Pakistan’s brief history, Pakistan-U.S relations can be summarized as; shifting from an uneasy alignment to nearly a

complete detachment, to re-alignment, to sanctions, and now back to cordiality. History of mistrust coupled with marked difference in state capacities has not supported an enduring cordial relationship.

- In a unipolar world, relationship between the U.S and Pakistan has been based on pursuance of strategic interests of U.S in the South Asian region.
- Neo-realists argue that states act in pursuit of their own security interests. They focus on “state capabilities”, and not “intentions” or “morals” in inter-state relationship.
- Afghanistan figures high in the American strategy for South Asia.
- The U.S needs Pakistan’s cooperation in terms of efforts to keep a check on the re-emergence of dismantled or formation of new inter-continental terrorist groups in the Pak-Afghan border areas.
- Pakistan should follow the ‘crisis avoidance and relationship management’



approach as a foreign policy directive to manage its relationship with the U.S.

- Pakistan needs to diversify its foreign and defence policy objectives.
- The U.S sees Pakistan from South Asian security architecture. Hence, Pakistan should take advantage of its geo-strategic location.
- Engagement between Pakistan and the U.S should continue as the two countries need each other. Let not past haunt the future relationship. Extra diplomatic efforts are required to minimize the irritants.

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- 2014 has been the year of positive development of relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Under the new Afghan government, Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relations have started producing results in so far, as counter-terrorism operations are concerned in the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Pakistan and Myanmar are part of the proposed inter-regional TIPI-BM (Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar) road corridor. Economic diplomacy, social and cultural ties, trade, investment in communication sector and manpower training are some of the areas where both states can mutually benefit.
- Myanmar also enjoys cordial relations with China and is keen to further its trade relations with it. Presently, bilateral trade between China and Myanmar is about US\$ 400 million per annum.
- In Myanmar, inter-faith centre, i.e. “Myanmar Institute of Theology” teaches religious harmony. Promotion of inter-faith dialogue is

high on Yangon’s agenda. There is a ban on audio and video programme which may stimulate hate material.

- The idea of Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor can only pay dividends if it is connected with the Maritime Silk Route proposed by China.
- Economic relations between Pakistan and Myanmar need to be strengthened as bilateral trade of US\$ 70 million per annum between the two states is much less than their estimated potentials. The situation calls for a pro-active marketing of Pakistani merchandise in Myanmar and vice versa.



- Joint ministerial level moots between Pakistan and Myanmar should take place regularly and joint business council of the two countries should be established.
- Pakistan being home to Buddhist civilization can be a source of religious tourism for the people of Myanmar.
- Islamabad has come a long way in establishing its democratic practices. To realize democratic ideals, important political decisions in Pakistan are taken by the parliament.

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undertaken in FATA. There is strict ban on spread of hate material.



- Present Afghan government has a positive tilt towards Pakistan. Since the new Afghan government took office, a number of high-ranking Pakistani officials have visited Kabul.
- President Ashraf Ghani during his interaction with the Pakistani leadership has assured of Afghanistan’s resolve in countering terrorism in its border areas with Pakistan.
- Pakistan army has also offered to train the Afghan soldiers in order to enhance the capacity building of Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) which has been accepted by the Afghan leadership.

IV Moscow Conference on International Security

On the invitation of Ambassador Anatoly Antonov, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, President IPRI Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin attended the 'IV Moscow Conference on International Security' (MCIS), held in Moscow from 16 to 17 April 2015.



Khwaja Mohammad Asif, Defence Minister of Pakistan represented the government of

Pakistan at the Conference. The Defence Ministers of Belarus, China, Greece, Iran, Indonesia, Mongolia, South Africa, Siberia and North Korea addressed the conference. Indian Minister of State for Defence and Secretary Defence of Philippines and the Deputy Chief of Staff of North Vietnam also attended the event and spoke at the inaugural session. Senior representatives of the defence forces and think tanks of Gulf countries and the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, Australia and the US were also present.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Defence Minister Khwaja Asif said that the world was grappling with a plethora of problems. So far three states, Syria, Iraq and Libya have been lost. Yemen was on the verge of destruction. The old order in the Middle East was witnessing a change. Pakistan was fighting head on against terrorists. After winning against terrorists we



should have an educational package, a social and also an economic package for the troubled areas.

Two Plenary sessions were held during the conference. The topics of the two sessions were: the 'Role of Military and political Instruments in Ensuring Regional and Global Stability' and 'International Military to Military Cooperation in Combatting Terrorism'.

GUEST LECTURE

Afghan-U.S Bilateral Security Agreement: Regional Implications



Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President/Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute, Islamabad visited IPRI to deliver a lecture on "Afghan-U.S Bilateral Security Agreement: Regional Implications" on April 30, 2015. Following are the salient points of his lecture:

- The points in the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) deserving attention are: 1. The issue of the judicial immunity of the American troops stationed in Afghanistan; 2. Establishment of military bases by the U.S in Afghanistan; 3. The mission of the American forces; and 4. The duration of the agreements.
- The document itself does not lay down the strength of the American troops to be stationed in Afghanistan.
- The BSA is not a defence pact. However, the agreement has a clause to deal with external aggression. The phrase 'external

threats' has been mentioned at least 13 times in Article 6 of the agreement. Both parties (U.S and Afghanistan) will consult each other on political, diplomatic, military, and economic measures that are to be undertaken as an appropriate response in the event of an external aggression. Any country providing sanctuaries to Taliban operating in Afghanistan will be considered as "external threat" meriting appropriate response under the agreement.



- According to BSA, the U.S shall have the exclusive right to exercise jurisdiction over U.S soldiers who commit any criminal or civil offense in Afghanistan. Washington is committed only to the extent of informing Kabul 'if requested' about



the progress of U.S criminal proceedings against soldiers accused of crimes so that representatives of Afghanistan can attend or observe the proceedings in U.S military courts.

- China has pledged increased economic and development assistance to Afghanistan in post-transition period and has also agreed to play a role in promoting political reconciliation in Afghanistan.
- China views Afghanistan as a bridge for increased economic interaction with the Central Asian region.
- China has reached out to the new Afghan government in unprecedented ways which indicate that in consonance with its regional and global profile, China seems ready to play a larger role in Afghanistan.