



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



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August 2013

International Conference on SCO's Role in Regional Stability: Prospects of Its Expansion

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Germany organized the conference on August 28-29, 2013 at Marriot Hotel. The conference was part of IPRI's intellectual activities for facilitation and promotion of scholarly discourse on the subjects of national, regional and international strategic significance impacting Pakistan. The objective of the conference was to promote scholarly discussion on the SCO's role and prospects of its expansion. Apart from inaugural and concluding sessions, the conference comprised four working sessions. Five Pakistani and seven foreign speakers from Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Belgium participated in the conference. The conference was attended by large number of scholars, opinion makers, diplomats, media persons and heads of various think tanks in Pakistan.

Former Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador (Retd)

Akram Zaki was the chief guest at the inaugural session and Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs was the chief guest at the concluding session. The conference was also graced by the

- In the conference, there was a consensus that Pakistan should be made a full member of SCO.
- Pakistan's full membership of the SCO will further strengthen the role of SCO in bringing



August Highlights

August 28-29: Two-day International Conference "SCO's Role in Regional Stability: Prospects of Its Expansion"

IPRI Review Meetings

August 5: "Creation of New Provinces in Pakistan: Pros and Cons"

August 19: "Rising Indian Lobby in the US: Its Impact on Pakistan-US Relations"

presence of Deputy Secretary General of SCO, H.E. Mirzosharif Jalolov, and Director HSF, Mr. Christian J. Hegemer, who specially flew in from Germany. The first session of the conference was chaired by Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, Special Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequent sessions were chaired by the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, H.E Mr. Jononov Sherali, Ambassador (Retd) Fauzia Nasreen and Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema. President IPRI, Ambassador (Retd) Sohail Amin gave welcome address and vote of thanks at the end of the conference. The subject was discussed at length by all the speakers and at the end of each working session very lively discussion by the audience took place during the questions-and-answers sessions. Session chairs and speakers steered the discussion and also answered some questions. Out of a list of recommendations which emerged as a result of presentations and discussion and presented to the audience, the most significant ones are:

- about stability in Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- All the regional countries should promote territorial integrity and stability in Afghanistan and help it on the issues of governance and its economic empowerment.
- SCO should work for mutual economic integration among regional states for each other's stability and development.
- Cooperation in trade, commerce, technology, energy and agriculture is the area that SCO members and observer states should keep in focus as this would help in maintaining stability in the region.
- Cooperation in diversification and construction of transportation infrastructure is also one of the key potential areas of cooperation in the region. Construction of highways and railways, China-Kyrgyzstan, Russia-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan and China-Pakistan, would help in integration of the region.

Main points of the addresses of Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Mr. Akram Zaki are given on page 4.

Creation of New Provinces in Pakistan: Pros and Cons



Ms. Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI presented the subject in IPRI Review meeting on August 5, 2013. She said that the issue of creating new provinces in Pakistan seemed to have been put on the back burner, but it would re-emerge sooner or later. She noted that the debate on creating new provinces was renewed after

the renaming of NWFP as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in 2010. This led to violent protests in Hazara division where people demanded a separate Hazara province. The issue of creating South Punjab province (Seraiki speaking belt) was vigorously pursued by the former government, citing socio-economic backwardness as the *raison d'etre*.

However, the PML (N) ruling the Punjab province, supported creation of province of South Punjab with a condition that status of former Bahawalpur province should also be restored. While the National Assembly passed a resolution for the creation of South Punjab province, the Punjab Assembly passed two resolutions: one for the creation of South Punjab province and the other for Bahawalpur province. This debate also led KP Assembly to pass a unanimous resolution asking the

National Parliament to give representation to the people of FATA in the KP Assembly by merging it in the province. In response, the tribal elders convened Jirgas and demanded that FATA be given the status of a separate province. As a chain reaction, a movement for Mohajir province was also started but remained limited to wall chalking and organization of rallies in Karachi and Hyderabad. This led to counter rallies by Sindh nationalists.

It was concluded that in the light of election results of 2013, when political parties supporting creation of new provinces on ethno-linguistic lines failed to win majority in the national and respective provincial assemblies, there was no political expediency to handle the issue in haste. The question of creating new provinces needed to be properly debated at the national level and creation of any new provinces should only be for the purpose of improving governance and services delivery.

Rising Indian Lobby in the US: Its Impact on Pakistan-US Relations

Mr. Khalid Hussain Chandio, Research Officer, IPRI presented the subject in a weekly meeting of IPRI scholars on August 19, 2013. He said that Indian-Americans were very active in lobbying in the US to advance India-US relations. They are the second largest group in the US after China with 2.8 million total population. The lobbying is a legally allowed practice in the US where various Public Relations Firms (PRFs) are paid for their services to influence the lawmakers. Indian lobbying became more acceptable in the US in the post cold war and post 9/11 scenario because national interests of two large democracies of the world had started converging. Under that scenario both countries saw advantages in developing closer relations. While the US sees India as a major commercial market with over 1.2 billion people and a partner to maintain influence in Asia, India wants to befriend the US for sharing advanced nuclear, defence and space related technology. Therefore, American-Indians take this as an opportunity to serve their mother country by lobbying for India to develop its strategic partnership with the US which could endure for a long time. American-Indians' lobbying

is strong in the US because they belong to educated class and are well placed in the US government departments, think tanks, universities and private firms. Also, being financially sound they have resources to hire lobbyists. Another factor is that Indian

lobby to influence law makers in favour of India. Some agreements materialized between India and the US, mainly because of their active lobbying (like nuclear deal and strategic partnership agreement) which have proved detrimental to Pakistan's interests because they have disturbed the strategic balance in South Asia.

It is also observed that at times pro-Indian lobbyists in the US start undermining Pakistan-US friendship by lobbying the US law makers to clamp sanctions on Pakistan by blaming Pakistan for supporting acts of terrorism in Afghanistan and India, which is not a healthy trend. While Mr. Khalid acknowledged the spirit of American-Indians to serve strategic and commercial interests of their home country, he also appreciated the current efforts of American-Pakistanis in favour of advancing Pak-US relations.

At the end of the presentation and discussion by IPRI scholars it was recommended that Pakistani diaspora in the US should get further organised and work more vigorously for advancing Pakistan's interests there. To assist them in this venture, government of Pakistan should also take some concrete initiatives and offer incentives on priority basis.



government also encourages Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) by giving them status of the privileged class on their visit to India.

Mr. Khalid mentioned that out of all pro-India lobbying groups, the US-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) is the most influential Indian lobbying group in the US. All the lobbying groups tactfully

IPRI Scholars' Publications in the Month of August

- “Indian Generals Threaten 'Full Force' Against Pakistan” by Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, August 25, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/35968/> and “Arms to Non-state Actors” in *The Frontier Post*, August 1, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/30774/>
- “Pak-India Ties Depend on Solution of Kashmir Issue” by Col. (Retd) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, August 27, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/36282/>
- “The United Nations and Pakistan” by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant at IPRI was published in *The Nation*, August 19, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-08-19/page-7/detail-1> and “Afghanistan: Time to Seize the Moment” in *The Nation*, August 12, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-08-12/page-7/detail-0>
- “Indian Great Power Aspirations: An Analysis” by Mr. Khalid Hussain Chandio, Research Officer & Mr. Usman Ghani, Assistant Research Officer is being published in *IPRI Journal Summer 2013*
- “Social Media & Political Choices” by Mr. Khalid Hussain Chandio was published in *Pakistan Observer*, August 15, 2013, <http://ipripak.org/articles/latest/smcp.pdf>
- “Afghanistan Drawdown and Regional Security” by Muhammad Nawaz Khan Assistant Research Officer and Saira Rehman, Assistant Editor is being published in *IPRI Journal, Summer 2013*
- “IP Gas Pipeline: A road to stability” by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer was published in *South Asia Analysis Group* (Paper No. 5547) on August 19, 2013, <file:///D:/Data%201/All1/Nawaz%20News%20Publish%20Articals/IP%20Gas%20Pipeline%20A%20road%20to%20stability/IP%20Gas%20Pipeline%20%20A%20road%20to%20stability%20%20%20South%20Asia%20Analysis%20Group.htm>
- “Tension Sad Norm Between Washington and Islamabad” by Mr. Aftab Hussain, Assistant Research Officer was published in *Global Times*, August 5, 2013, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/NEWS/tabid/99/ID/801617/Tension-sad-norm-between-Washington-and-Islamabad.aspx>
- “Drone Strikes: Developing An Accord” by Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer was published in *Pakistan Observer*, August 27, 2013 <http://www.ipripak.org/artindex.aspx>

IPRI Scholar to Participate in Baku Conference

Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer at IPRI has been selected to participate in the Second Forum of the Association of International Relations Scholars (ASIRS) that is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan from September 2-3, 2013.

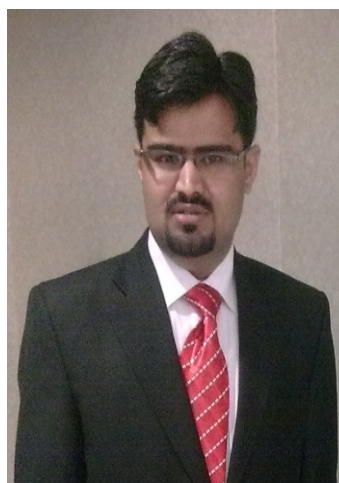


The Forum is being organized by the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main theme of the Forum is “The South Caucasus in the Changing World”.

Ms. Maria Syed will participate in the Forum as a panelist in the session on “Energy Security: The contribution of the Caspian Region to the Global Energy Security”. Her participation in the Forum is part of IPRI's policy of developing closer interaction with think tanks of countries of the neighbouring and distant regions of the world to enhance mutual understanding of the issues of Pakistan's politico-strategic and economic interest.

Ms. Maria holds M.Sc in Defence and Strategic Studies and is currently pursuing M.Phil in International Relations. Her areas of interest include Central Asia, Middle East, Iran and Turkey, Gender Discrimination and Women Rights, and Political Economy.

Chinese Fellowship for IPRI Scholar



Mr. Aftab Hussain, Assistant Research Fellow, IPRI has been selected for 2013 Gansu International Fellowship Programme to be held from September 1 to October 31, 2013 at the Lanzhou University, Gansu Province, in China.

The participation of IPRI scholars in such Fellowship Programmes is part of enhancing their intellectual growth and interaction with various think tanks and institutes of friendly countries.

The Gansu International Fellowship Programme has been undertaken by the International Cultural Exchange School of

Lanzhou University since 2006, in which scholars from about 30 countries are sponsored and invited by the International Exchange Division, Gansu Provincial Foreign Affairs Office of Gansu Provincial People's Government, China.

The Fellowship aims to open Gansu Province of People's Republic of China, to the outside world and to explore communication and cooperation abroad in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, education, culture etc.

Through campus study and field trips, this Programme helps delegates learn Chinese language and culture, better understand China and Gansu, enhance mutual understanding and friendship, and lay the foundation for further cooperation and communication between China and the outer world.

SCO Moot: Inaugural Address

Ambassador (Retd) and former Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, Akram Zaki in his inaugural address at the SCO conference organised by IPRI said that the question now was that could the expanded SCO help the explosive hotspots in Asia like Afghanistan and Kashmir? And could the Gwadar Port become functional without stabilising Afghanistan, FATA and Balochistan? He



said that without peace and stability Pakistan's goal to become the energy and trade corridor of the region could not be achieved.

Sartaj Aziz Addresses SCO Conference

“Pakistan wishes to work with SCO in promoting regional harmony by acquiring its full membership,” this was stated by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, at the two-day international conference on “SCO's Role in Regional Stability: Prospects for Its Expansion” jointly organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and HSF Germany. He explained that SCO's policies and programmes were in consonance with Pakistan's long term objectives of promoting peace and stability in the region.



Mr. Aziz who would be representing Pakistan at the SCO summit in Bishkek on September 13th said that political observers were looking towards the SCO for its role in Afghanistan after the US withdrawal. He said Pakistan had already declared its policy of “No interference, and No Favouritism” in Afghanistan in the post 2014 period. If all regional countries followed the same policy and resisted the temptation to fill the power vacuum, then Afghanistan would have an historic opportunity to evolve an ‘Afghan led’ and ‘Afghan owned’ reconciliation process, he asserted. He described China and Russia’s membership and their strategic coordination in the SCO framework, the organization’s attractive principles of strengthening mutual trust, sovereign equality and rejection of hegemony and coercion in international affairs and its focus on issues directly affecting the member states as the strengths of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He said that SCO’s potential role in linking energy surplus Central Asia with energy deficient South Asia could intensify efforts to combat terrorism, religious extremism, separatism, organised crime and arms and drugs trafficking.

Upcoming Events in September

- September 5: Lecture to IPRI scholars on “Silk Route and its Evolving Future Contours” by the guest speaker, Dr. Najam Abbas, Senior Fellow, South & Central Asia, East West Institute, Belgium
- September 12: IPRI Conference “Revisiting Pak-US Relations”
- September 16: IPRI Review Meeting “Taming Sectarian Violence in Pakistan”
- Second week of September: Guest Lecture on “Arab Spring and the Resilience of the Gulf Monarchies”

IPRI Journal Summer 2013

Summer issue of IPRI Journal is in the press. The Journal contains following research articles:

- Pakistan's 'Regional Pivot' and the Endgame in Afghanistan
- A Retrospective Perspective on Pakistan-United States Relations: 1947-1977
- Deterrence Stability, Security Doctrines and Escalation Control in South Asia
- Pakistan-Russia Relations: Progress, Prospects and Constraints
- Geo-Economic Imperatives of Gwadar Sea Port and Kashgar Economic Zone for Pakistan and China



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