



# Islamabad Policy Research Institute



# NEWSLETTER

## INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN SCHOLAR

June 2016, Vol. 4, No. 6



### Uzbek Scholar Visits IPRI

Mr. Eldor Aiporv, Deputy Director General of Research and Analytical Coordination Center Uzbekistan, and Lt. Col Lutfullah Umurzakov, Defence Attaché of Embassy of Uzbekistan visited IPRI. Mr. Muhammad Munir Research Fellow, delivered a presentation on the subject "Current Situation in Afghanistan" which was followed by discussion between IPRI scholars and the visiting delegation.

Salient points discussed during the meeting are:

- Afghanistan is facing multifaceted problems. The country is passing through a critical transformation which entails both challenges and opportunities.
- In the aftermath of drawdown of NATO and ISAF forces from Afghanistan and substantial reduction in foreign economic assistance, the security situation is likely to worsen.
- Encouraged by the withdrawal of foreign forces and due to ineffectiveness of Afghan National Unity

Government, the Taliban have stepped up their activities. Even the ISIS is making its presence felt in Nangahar.

- The unilateral action of killing of Taliban leader Mullah Mansoor by a US drone strike on May 21, 2016 without taking into confidence the other three members of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) China, Pakistan and Afghanistan has damaged the credibility of the group in the eyes of the Taliban for peace talks.
- Despite the Taliban's factionalism and infighting, its military energy is still intact. Al-Qaeda and ISIS continue to exist in Afghanistan. According to few reports, Islamic State has 10,000 fighters in Afghanistan.
- Pakistan is the most negatively affected country from the war in Afghanistan. Fighting the US led war on terrorism as a non NATO ally; Pakistan has sacrificed more than 60,000 human lives and suffered economic losses of more than 107 billion US dollars.

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## Recent Publication by IPRI

### Policy Approaches of South Asian Countries: Impact on the Region

#### Content

**Policy Formulation: A Bird's Eye View of South Asia and Pakistan**

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

**Domestic Determinants of Indian Foreign Policy: Impact on Relations with Neighbouring Countries**

Dr Rashid Ahmad Khan

**Countering Terrorism and Extremism**

Dr Syed Rifaat Hussain

**Future of South Asia: Inter-State Politics and Geo-Strategic Alliances**

Shamindra Ferdinando

**Political Disputes: Implications for Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation**

Dr Kamal Monnoo

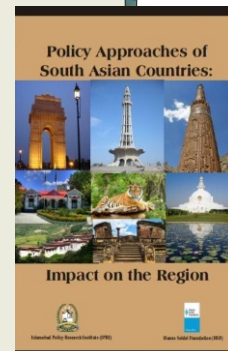
**Prospects of Energy Cooperation in South Asia**

Dr Bishnu Hari Nepal

**Regional Dividends of Peace in Afghanistan**

**Prospects of India-Pakistan Peace Process**

Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema



## Uzbek Scholar Visits IPRI

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- Although Pakistan has eliminated terrorism by launching military operations in Swat and in all of its tribal agencies targeting the terrorists without distinction.
- Pakistan and the Central Asian States will be badly affected if peace efforts are discouraged in Afghanistan.
- China has started deepening its engagement in Afghanistan for security and economic reasons. China intends to facilitate peaceful resolution of the conflict and promote regional cooperation and connectivity for the long-term stability of the region.
- Initially aimed at driving out Al-Qaeda and dismantling Taliban regime from Afghanistan, the US intervention has had far-reaching consequences for Afghanistan as well as the region.
- Russia's interest in Afghanistan stems from its concerns for stability in the Central Asia.
- The death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour in a drone attack on 21 May has added to the complexity of the Afghan conflict. The drone action was a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty as well as breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter governing the conduct of the states. Pakistan has conveyed concern to the United States on this issue.
- The killing of Taliban leader Mullah Mansoor has happened at a time when Pakistan was attempting to get the Taliban back to the negotiating table. With the killing of the Taliban leader, the progress made for peace talks had been lost.
- Pakistan believes that politically negotiated settlement remains the most viable option for bringing lasting peace to Afghanistan. The military approach has been tried for 15 years without success.
- Effective border management is vital for checking the infiltrations across long and porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The Afghan Government's cooperation in this regard is an imperative for mutual security.
- The presence of large number of Afghan refugees has become a big security risk as the terrorists and militants use these camps as hideouts. Effective measures should be taken on urgent basis by the International Community for the repatriation of Afghan refugees.
- Pakistan's desire for a lasting peace in Afghanistan is motivated by conviction that peace and stability in Afghanistan is essential not only for

the people of that country but also for the entire region.

- Pakistan will continue to pursue the objective in close consultation with Afghanistan Government and other members of the QCG.
- The new leader of Afghanistan's Taliban, Haibatullah Akhundzada is facing immense pressure from within the Afghan Taliban to continue the fight. He has vowed that the Taliban would not negotiate with the Afghan government in the existing circumstances and will fight to the end. Experts opine that new Taliban leader is seen as more of a political/religious leader than a military commander hence he would be more



amiable to peace talks as compared to his predecessor.

- The effectiveness of regional engagement will depend, above all, on a domestic political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban.
- Many splinter Afghan Taliban groups have joined the Islamic State, which can pose challenges not only to national security of Afghanistan but also to the region. Therefore, the pace of peace process should be accelerated in order to avoid spread of IS in Afghanistan.
- There is a need for healthy discussion between Pakistan and Afghanistan at all levels, government, intelligentsia, civil society, media etc. This would help understand each other better

and pursue the policies accordingly.

- Afghanistan is one of the priorities of the foreign policy of Uzbekistan. During his speeches made in foreign countries, Uzbekistan's President gives much time to explaining Uzbekistan's position towards Afghanistan. Uzbekistan, like Pakistan wants to work in cooperation with the legitimate government in Kabul. There is no military solution to Afghanistan's problems. Uzbekistan supports peace negotiations with all conflicting parties inside Afghanistan as it is important to start dialogue.
- Uzbekistan being Afghanistan's neighbor knows that through military power we might achieve some tactical stability for some time but if we need long term peace, there should be consensus among different conflicting groups in Afghanistan.
- Uzbekistan holds the view that the regional connectivity projects should unite the region instead of dividing it. Having a shared landlocked geography makes Uzbekistan dependent on neighbours for access to global trade routes.
- Being a downstream state as a water recipient, Uzbekistan has its concerns related to regional integration projects (CASA 1000). Uzbekistan's relations with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have experienced serious tensions throughout the Post-Soviet period. The primary dispute today centers on Dushanbe's decision to resume construction of the Rogun hydropower plant, which would reduce the water flow of the Amu Darya River, negatively impacting Uzbek agriculture and possibly causing environmental damage downstream.
- Water is among the most complex issues in Central Asian politics, and in Uzbekistan's relations with its upstream neighbours. With a large population and significant agricultural sector, Uzbekistan's economy is highly dependent on access to water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, which flow into the country from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

### UPCOMING EVENT One Day Conference Debt Issues in Pakistan

Date:  
August 30, 2016  
Venue:  
Islamabad Hotel

**Note: Entry is by Card only**

For Registration, Contact  
Ms. Gulshan Bibi, Conference Coordinator  
Email: gul.quaidian@gmail.com



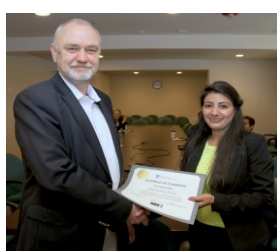


## IPRI ENGAGEMENT



### CRDF Non-proliferation Fellowship 2016

Ms. Gulshan Bibi, from IPRI attended The Robin Copeland Memorial (CRDF) Non-proliferation Fellowship Programme in the United States of America (USA) from January 28 to June 10, 2016.



The Fellowship Programme was designed to expand and deepen knowledge of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) non-proliferation and arms control. It aimed to provide a broad understanding of international treaties on WMDs for young scholars and diplomats who aspire to careers in non-proliferation and arms control, as part of the larger process of enhancing stability and security in the world. The Iranian Nuclear

Deal and nuclear weapon test by North Korea dramatically highlighted the importance of WMD disarmament and non-proliferation. Prime objectives of the programme were lectures and seminar courses on the subject, the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) 2016 and its outcomes, know how about the reliability

and surety of nuclear weapons system, research and development in arms control and non-proliferation technologies and field trips to get first-hand knowledge and better understanding by direct contact with officials of the leading organizations in the field of WMD.

The three tiers programme included classes and research at the James Martin Centre for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS), Monterey, California, Capstone project at the US Government's Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), New Mexico and the US Department of State and CRDF Headquarters.

Throughout the semester at MIIS, fellows participated in non-proliferation lecture series.

#### Conclusion

The fellowship programme was a good experience in terms of acquiring content knowledge. It was an opportunity to develop full potential as a researcher and a writer. The NSS 2016 and Capstone project at SNL added valuable experience of working in an international organization.

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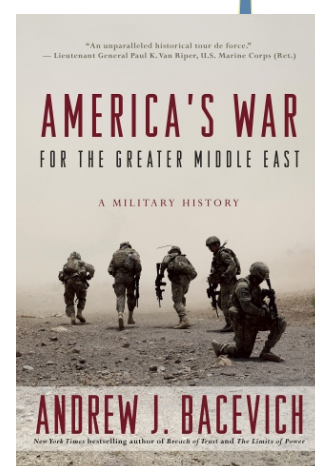
### America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History

Author: Andrew J. Bacevich

*From the end of World War II until 1980, virtually no American soldiers were killed in action while serving in the Greater Middle East. Since 1990, virtually no American soldiers have been killed in action anywhere else. What caused this shift? Andrew J. Bacevich, one of the country's most respected voices on foreign affairs, offers an incisive critical history of this ongoing military enterprisenow more than thirty years old and with no end in sight.*

*During the 1980s, Bacevich argues, a great transition occurred. As the Cold War wound down, the United States initiated a new conflict a War for the Greater Middle East that continues to the present day. The long twilight struggle with the Soviet Union had involved only occasional and sporadic fighting. But as this new war unfolded, hostilities became persistent. From the Balkans and East Africa to the Persian Gulf and Central Asia, U.S. forces embarked upon a seemingly endless series of campaigns across the Islamic world. Few achieved anything remotely like conclusive success. Instead, actions undertaken with expectations of promoting peace and stability produced just the opposite. As a consequence, phrases like "permanent war" and "open-ended war" have become part of everyday discourse.*

*Connecting the dots in a way no other historian has done before, Bacevich weaves a compelling narrative out of episodes as varied as the Beirut bombing of 1983, the Mogadishu firefight of 1993, the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the rise of ISIS in the present decade. Understanding what America's costly military exertions have wrought requires seeing these seemingly discrete events as parts of a single war. It also requires identifying the errors of judgment made by political leaders in both parties and by senior military officers who share responsibility for what has become a monumental march to folly. This Bacevich unflinchingly does.*





## REVIEW MEETING

# Pakistan's Development and Security Strategies in FATA

Mr. Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer, delivered a presentation on the topic of "Pakistan's Development and Security Strategies in FATA." Salient points of his review meeting are:

### Pakistan's Security Efforts in FATA

Pakistan has developed a two pronged strategy to fight the menace of violent extremism and militancy in FATA. Firstly, it has launched several military operations in militant infested areas, trying to prevent terrorist threats from reaching urban areas. Secondly, the Government of Pakistan has undertaken vigorous development activities in the disturbed northwestern region of the country, hoping to keep its people away from extremists' influence by addressing their economic issues.

The details of military operations against the militants and extremists and soft approaches of the government for the local populace are as under:

### Operation Rah-e-Rast

This operation meaning "Right Path" started in Swat, Malakand Division in May 2009. It weakened the TTP and is marked as a turning point in Pakistan's endless efforts against terrorism and violent extremism. Over 30,000 troops of three divisions were deployed, all of whom remained there for almost two years. However, the operation resulted in displacement of around 2.2 million persons. The most noteworthy aspect after the operation was the return of IDPs to their homes.

The government has also decided to build up civil institutional infrastructure, therefore, more than 3000 police personnel were trained under Pakistan Army which enhanced the institutional capacity of the local police. Government had also launched Skill Development Programmes (SDP) for the youth of Malakand Division. These hybrid socio-economic security measures have enabled the government to eliminate militancy and violent extremism and bring life back to normal.

### Operation Rah-e-Nijat

Rah-e-Nijat or "Path to Salvation" was a tactical military maneuver by the armed forces of

Pakistan against the TTP and their ideological allies in South Waziristan in October 2009. Almost 11,080 families (80,000 individuals) had enlisted themselves with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan District before the start of the operation. A total of 4,477 families (41,289 individuals) had registered after the military operation started in Waziristan. These displaced persons returned to their homes after the operation was over.

### Operation Zarb-e-Azb

A major military campaign "Operation Zarb-e-Azb" was launched, on 15 June 2014, to eliminate the militants from North Waziristan Agency (NWA). It led to the dislocation of over a million persons. More than 3000 militants including foreign militants were killed in this operation. Major objectives of the operation were achieved within first three months.

### National Action Plan

The Government of Pakistan came up with a comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP), with special emphasis on countering terrorism and violent extremism. The NAP envisions setting up of a revamped, better planned, trained and equipped counter-terrorism law enforcement agency. Policy specifies an incorporated approach towards intelligence sharing and adds an elaborated reintegration strategy. Earlier, a new statutory instrument entitled "Protection of Pakistan Act 2014" (PPA) was approved by the Parliament of Pakistan. It addresses the difficulties confronted by the prosecutors in getting meaningful punishments to the militants. This regulation is likely to guarantee the speedy trial of militants. Moreover, the Constitution of Pakistan has been amended to make a time-bound (two years) provision for establishment of military courts for trial of "jet-black" terrorists.

### Pakistan's Development Strategies in FATA

The Government of Pakistan is well aware of the fact that youth of FATA would play a vital part in the entire process of combating terrorism and extremism.

Keeping this in view, Pakistan Army has offered an extraordinary package for the youth of FATA known as "FATA Youth Package." The package include recruitment of 14,000 men from FATA in the Pakistan Army during the next five years, provision of free education to 1500 children in Army Public Schools and Colleges in all cantonments, reservation of seats in all Military Colleges, and teaching



technical skills to the people of FATA at technical training institutions in all major cantonments. The preparations are also being worked out for a large scale foreign employment of youth from FATA particularly in the Gulf states. Cadet Colleges at Wana and Spinkai, Waziristan Institute of Technical Education (WITE), Wana Institute of Technical Training (WITT), Women Skill Development Centre (WSDC) have been established for the improvement of technical skills of the youth in the area. Pakistan Army is serving the people of FATA in all possible ways for creating lasting stability in these conflict zones including development projects being undertaken at very high speed.

To boost these efforts, Pakistan Army and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) have also completed more than 90 percent work on 714 km long road network in FATA. This will strengthen the concept of 'Central Trade Corridor,' (CTT) which may correctly be called as 'The Roadmap to Prosperity.' This idea shall bear fruit in the shape of flourishing tribal areas of Pakistan, where tribesmen will discuss trade and development instead of playing in the hands of militant forces. The development and prosperity of FATA will create many new avenues for the local public and shall contribute towards a non-violent and progressive Pakistan.

Solar energy project were also initiated in August 2005 with pilot project and feasibility



## Pakistan's Development and Security Strategies in FATA

study of 450 villages, which were not connected to national grid. FATA-Development Authority launched several projects and electrified 3723 houses through solar energy. Moreover, 119 solar pumps, 178 solar street lights and 505 solar geysers have been installed at community places in all agencies. Wind energy is one of the most economical and renewable resource to produce electricity. There are several sites in FATA where wind is sufficient to produce power for the needy communities. For this purpose, FATA-Development Authority has launched a pilot project of wind energy in Khyber and Mohmand Agency. The wind energy will be utilized to pump water for drinking. The performance of the system will be examined and lesson learnt will be applied in next schemes. The "Interest Free Micro-Lending Activities" to support small scale entrepreneurs in FATA" has been initiated by the Governor of KPK with an initial allocation of Rs 500 million. Despite development in the small and medium enterprises sector, FATA remained neglected or ignored altogether even by the small and medium enterprise banks. Informal credit is the only mode of getting credit in FATA. The micro-finance sector in Pakistan has picked up in the recent years. A quarterly report of Micro Watch for April-June 2015 on micro-finance outreach in Pakistan shows a remarkable progress in the micro-credit sector in Pakistan, except FATA where the micro-credit portfolio remained zero. The socio-economic divide between FATA and rest of the country is wide and the micro-lending initiative is an effort to initiate small scale business activities in FATA to bridge the development divide. The scheme will help generate small scale business

activities, facilitate the existing small entrepreneurs, develop skilled human resource base, initiate interest free micro-crediting, employ youth in constructive activities, enhance the income of the households, improve the standard of living of the local people and provide equal opportunity to women entrepreneurs. The interest free loans, up to maximum of PKR 50,000 will be given to the un-employed and skilled persons after evaluating business proposals of the applicants for establishment of a new business or expansion of an existing one.

A committee for "Accelerated Economic Development of FATA" was constituted by the Governor KPK. The committee, after discussions, finalized its recommendations. One of the recommendations of this committee was establishment of "Industrial Estates at different locations of FATA". One of the sites of these Industrial Estates is on Bannu-Miranshah-Ghulam Khan Road. North Waziristan Agency and the surrounding areas are rich in minerals including Granite, Copper, Magnesium, Chromite and Magnesite. Industrial Estate will be hub of many economic activities including 'Mineral Trading Yard', which will be operated on no-profit no-loss basis where miners will be allocated plots for stockpiling, processing, grading and showcasing their mineral products. FATA Development Authority (FATA-DA) is in the process of purchase of land, which will be followed by infrastructural development work. After completion of the main project including infrastructure, locals as well as other investors will install their industries, which will open a number of avenues. Establishment of Industrial Estate on Bannu-Miranshah-Ghulam Khan Road will play key role in the development of the FATA region and its people. Industrial Estate will bring prosperity in the region through sale of the products

in domestic and foreign markets.

FATA is located in the arid semi-arid zone. In this region, most of the house-holds depend on Agriculture and Livestock, however only 7 percent of the total area is cultivable out of which 44 percent is irrigated and the remaining land depends upon rain. For prosperity of the region it is necessary to develop the water sector by harnessing and arresting of flood flows through small storage reservoirs. With the construction of small dams, irrigation water will be made available to small patches of land and the recharging of water table in the area will be improved. FATA-DA has initiated a number of Small Dams projects. Almost 50 percent of the Authority's funds are allocated to this important sector. Improved irrigation system would positively affect the income of 44 percent household in the region, which would also diminish the spread of extremism and terrorism.

### Conclusion

People of FATA have borne the brunt of terrorism and have braved the hardest living conditions. The history of violence and the different governance structure in FATA has neglected and deprived the people of the region for far too long. However, government's two pronged strategy has improved the security and economic conditions of the region. However, political and administrative issues are yet to be addressed. The time has come that the tribal people of Pakistan who left their homes due to conflict should be facilitated for resettlement in their respective areas and result oriented political and administrative reforms must be undertaken for the development of their areas.

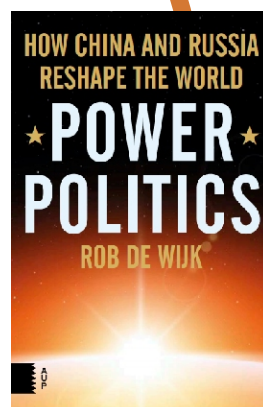
## ADDITION TO OUR LIBRARY

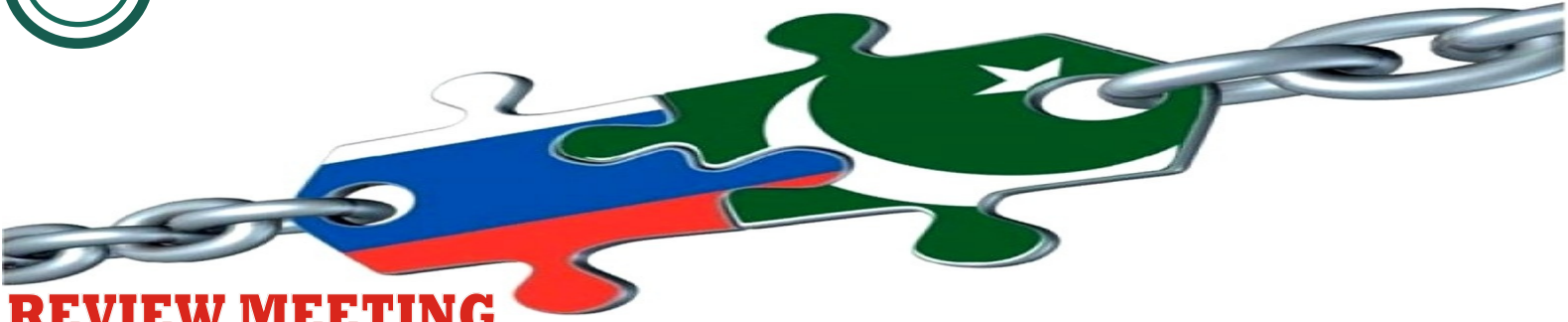
### Power Politics:

### How China and Russia Reshape the World

Author: Rob de Wijk

We tend to think of ourselves as living in a time when nations, for the most part, obey the rule of law and where they certainly don't engage in the violent grabs for territory that have characterized so much of human history. But as Rob de Wijk shows in this book, power politics remains very much a force on the international scene. Offering analyses of such actions as Putin's annexation of the Crimea and China's attempts to claim large parts of the South China Sea, de Wijk explains why power politics never truly went away and why, as the West's position weakens, it's likely to play a bigger and bigger role on the global stage in the coming years.





## REVIEW MEETING

### Emerging Opportunities in Pakistan's Relations with Russia

Ms. Maryam Nazir, Assistant Research officer gave her presentation on the topic of "Emerging Opportunities in Pakistan's Relations with Russia." Salient points of her review meeting are:

- Relations between Pakistan and Russia have often been under-rated, despite strong potentials, mainly due to misperceived notions and mindsets. It is the policy divide which has become a stumbling block between the two countries i.e. Pakistan's pro-west inclination and Russia's pro-India tilt.
- Recent rapprochement between the two countries is backed by their desire to foster closer relations and give up on the misgivings of the past. Pakistan has recently joined SCO in which Russia along with China is a founding member.
- These points of convergence highlight the areas of opportunities existing between the two, including; defence, energy and economic sectors, and improved diplomatic ties.
- In the field of defence, joint military exercises, counter narcotics and counter terrorism could be the possible key areas of cooperation between the two countries.
- Cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism between Russia and Pakistan can also be strengthened at multilateral forums such as SCO. Security interests of Pakistan and Russia are



increasingly intertwined. Russia cannot afford to ignore the emergence of threats from transnational terrorist groups against regional security. An exchange of experts between both sides can greatly benefit Pakistan's military expertise in the ensuing war on terror.

- In the energy sector, Russia is already engaged in multiple projects.
- In trade sector, Russia has plans to reduce and replace its imports (agricultural products) from EU countries, which provides Pakistan the opportunity to occupy a sizeable share of the Russian market with its agricultural products. Pakistan must use forums such as Pakistan-Russia trade and business councils to expedite implementation of these strategies. In order to ensure an economic boost, the volume of trade needs to be increased exponentially so that both countries can reap more benefits from it.
- The problem of Afghanistan need to be resolved. Russia and Pakistan after the withdrawal of US/NATO forces can assist Afghan government in the development of infrastructure, training their forces, building capacity and boosting economy by providing trade corridors.
- Pakistan could strengthen its bilateral as well as multilateral relations by joining regional organizations. Russian presence in multilateral organization could help Pakistan broaden its foreign policy options.
- Pakistan-Russia relationship carries the baggage

of harsh realities of past. These relations carry a strong psychological imprint of the Afghan war. Outstanding trade issues between Pakistan and Russia is another factor limiting this relationship. Pakistan should give due space and importance to its relations with Russia. There are good opportunities laying ahead for both countries to materialize the common good. In order to have viable relations, both countries need to outline effective strategies for economic cooperation.

#### Recommendations

1. Russia and Pakistan may extend cooperation in counter terrorism, organized crimes, drugs and narcotics issues.
2. Pakistan should actively engage in intensive dialogues with Russian civil, military and economic institutions focusing on issues of cooperation.

#### Conclusion

There is a scope of viable cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. The projects which are already in pipeline must be completed on priority basis. Pakistan should support intensive dialogues between the civil, military, and economic institutions of Moscow and Islamabad on issues involving bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Russia as a partner could assist Pakistan in achieving an economic turnaround. Pakistan and Russia should develop trust in each other, irrespective of their past experiences and mindsets.



#### UPCOMING EVENT

#### TWO DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### CPEC: MACRO & MICRO ECONOMIC DIVIDENDS FOR PAKISTAN & THE REGION

Date: September 20 - 21, 2016

Venue: Islamabad Hotel

**Note: Entry is by Card only**

## REVIEW MEETING

### Pakistan's Relations with the ASEAN Countries: Challenges & Prospects

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer, delivered a presentation on the topic of “Pakistan's Relations with the ASEAN Countries: Challenges and Prospects.” Salient points of his review meeting are:

- ASEAN region is a hub of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and multinational companies, which not only enhance the geostrategic and political importance of the ASEAN region, but also put Pakistan in a competitive economic environment, especially in the background of the ASEAN's Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreements signed with several states and organisations.

- Pakistan's relations with the ASEAN countries are normal, friendly and unmarred by any conflict or disputes. They cooperate with one another on full range of international issues.

- Pakistan is having the support of majority members of the ASEAN countries for becoming a full dialogue partner, but it could not be succeeded because of India, which stole a march on Pakistan by becoming a full

dialogue partner of the ASEAN.

- ASEAN is an important region in global decision-making at the United Nations and its related organizations and international financial institutions. Pakistan needs their support on UN reform, peacekeeping, disarmament issues, international finance, post-2016 development agenda, climate change, human rights and elections in the UN and other international bodies.

- ASEAN countries appreciate Pakistan's efforts in establishing and maintaining peace in the region and they consider that Pakistan is a stronger partner in the international community in its fight against terrorism and its international image is as a key source of stability.

- Pakistan became a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum because of its geo-economic potential.

- There is a scope to invite private businesses to invest in Pakistan in various sectors such as agro-food industry, chemicals and petrochemicals, infrastructure development, banking, insurance, energy, automobiles, software industry, auto parts manufacturing, construction, sea food/fish processing industry or fisheries, food processing,

gems and jewellery, information technology, agriculture, telecommunication, and hotel industries, etc. They can also enter into joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts, which can fulfill the Pakistan's investment needs.

#### Recommendations

- The trade imbalance can be reduced by greater private sector interaction and exchange of information through workshops and Business Council meetings.
- Pakistan needs to improve its international competitiveness through productivity improvement, which must include improving and standardizing the quality of Pakistani exports.

- The burden of taxes on local products, which makes the products costly to global market as compared to the other country products, which has to be reduced.

- Research will have to be undertaken to generate reliable and relevant quantitative data on joint ventures.

- Pakistan needs to have comprehensive economic agreements covering trade in goods, services, and investment with all the ASEAN countries.

- The Pakistani business community needs to be involved in the drafting of a free trade agreement. The reasons for this are twofold: a) It shall help develop an agreement that takes into consideration various sectors of the industry, and gives concessions that shall help these sectors develop, hence increasing the competitiveness of local manufacturers and industries; b) It shall create awareness amongst the business community of new opportunities for trade available as many items in the FTA have entered the 0% tariff track; a fact many of the local manufacturers and exporters appear to be unaware of. Exchanging Trade Delegations, Holding Exhibitions and Joint Ventures shall enhance the greater economic cooperation.

- There are several measures that need to be taken in terrorism field. First, ASEAN and Pakistan should tighten control over human trafficking crossing ASEAN and Pakistan. This measure requires tighter immigration control by them. Secondly, Pakistan and the ASEAN and should find modalities for maritime cooperation. Undoubtedly, the ARF is definitely an important forum, providing multilateral umbrella and weight for combating maritime-related security threats but, this should be implemented more in bilateral

#### ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS



and operational levels. The forms of cooperation could be trilateral and bilateral. Thirdly, ASEAN and Pakistan should develop cooperation in education, especially with regard to religious schools. The main idea here is that there should be joint efforts to promote better understanding of the role of the religion in society development.

- Pakistan needs to put its own house in order. Domestic stability and national harmony will have a positive impact on external relations of the country.

- The ASEAN governments should give the status of a Full Dialogue Partner of the ASEAN to Pakistan.

- Pakistan should consider ways to get the membership of the RCEP to strengthen its position in Asia Pacific trade liberalization.

- Pakistan had been home to the Gandhara civilization; ancient and archaeological sites would be of interest to the Buddhist population of ASEAN. People of ASEAN countries should visit Pakistan to get an insight into the ancient Gandhara Civilization, which is the foundation of their faith and spiritualism who believe in it.

#### Conclusion

ASEAN countries may not ignore Pakistan as an important geopolitical entity. Pakistan has to go extra mile in terms of increasing her exports in the region. Pakistan has to improve growth equity, quality control and sustainable policy. Pakistan requires greater regional cooperation as reward for her role in making world peaceful place to live. Regional cooperation is must for economic prosperity. It is often stated that there exists considerable possibilities for the expansion of trade between ASEAN and Pakistan. In this connection, it is suggested that the private sector needs to be encouraged and provided the requisite information about the competitiveness and availability of tradable goods.





# ARTICLES BY OUR SCHOLARS

**Asghar Ali Shad,**  
**Research Fellow**  
 "Modi Doctrine ... Options for Pakistan!"  
 (Nawa-i-Waqat)  
 "NSG Rukniyat, Pakistan Aur...!"  
 (Nawa-i-Waqat)  
 "Border Management... Kasheedgi Khatam?"  
 (Daily Pakistan)  
 "Bharti Visa, Maqbooza Kashmir Aur...!"  
 (Daily Pakistan)  
 "Kashmiri Khawateen, Bharti Darindgi Aur...!"  
 (Nawa-i-Waqat)



(The Nation)  
 "Afghan Peace, A far Cry!"  
 (The Nation)

**Col (R) Muhammad Hanif,**  
**Research Fellow**  
 "Modi's Diplomacy in US"  
 (Pakistan Observer)  
 "Indian Hand in Scuttling F-16s Deal"  
 (Pakistan Observer)



**Amna Ejaz Rafi,**  
**Assistant Research Officer**  
 "The CPEC"  
 (Pakistan Observer)



**Asiya Mahar**  
**Assistant Research Officer**  
 "NATO's Expansion Debate"  
 (Pakistan Observer)



**Aymen Ijaz,**  
**Assistant Research Officer**  
 "Strengthening Pak-Iran Relations"  
 (Pakistan Observer)



**Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal,**  
**Non Resident Consultant**  
 "Which Side is American On?"  
 (The Nation)  
 "Flip-Flops of Surround Syndrome"  
 (The Nation)  
 "Beginning all over Again!"



**Muhammad Munir,**  
**Research Fellow**  
 "A Response to Ms Fair's Biased Analysis" (Pakistan Observer)



**Sobia Saeed Paracha**  
**Resident Consultant**  
 "Pakistan, India and the NSG: A Curious Case of Norms and Discrimination" (The Diplomat)

**Maryam Nazir,**  
**Assistant Research Officer**  
 "Border Management"  
 (Pakistan Observer)



## CALL FOR PAPER IPRI Journal Winter 2017

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