



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



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September 2013

President IPRI Visits Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal

President IPRI visited Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal on invitation from think tanks of these countries. He participated in the Defence Seminar-2013 from September 3-5 in Colombo. The theme of the seminar was 'Post Conflict Sri Lanka - Regional Stability'. He presented a paper on 'Post Conflict Activity and Regional Stability; Drawing Parallels between Pakistan and Sri Lanka'. At the inaugural session of the seminar on September 3, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary Defence, Sri Lanka, in his key note address explained the

pressing concerns of the government since the end of the war against LTTE. He said that preventing re-emergence of terrorism and ethnic divisions were their priorities. He listed the achievements of the government which included settlement of 300,000 IDPs, rehabilitation of 12,000 LTTE cadres and the reconstruction work completed, and in progress by the military and the civil administration. He highlighted Sri Lankan military's unique strategies to assume its new role of reconstruction. He also said that extremism among Muslims in Sri Lanka was a matter of concern for them. In this regard, Rajapaksa said that they would ensure that past experiences were not witnessed again. Mr. Rohan Gunaratna, Director, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore delivered concluding speech in which he highlighted Indian role in establishing terrorist camps in Tamil Nadu to train LTTE cadres from 1984 to 1987. He forcefully demanded of India not to resort to such hostile acts in the future.

In addition to attending the Defence Seminar, President IPRI had four other

IPRI Wishes its Readers
a Happy
Eid-ul-Azha

engagements in Colombo. These included: meeting with Executive Director, Regional Center for Strategic Studies; visit to the Lakshman Kadirgamer Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS), which is being run by the Sri Lankan Foreign Office; meeting with the members of the South Asia Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI) headed by Ambassador (R) C. D. Casie Chetty, Executive Director; and, addressing a gathering of more than 50 members of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies on 'Indo-Pak Geo-Strategic Relations, Impact on Region in General and Sri Lanka in Particular'.

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September Highlights

- September 12: IPRI Conference "Revisiting Pak-US Relations"
- September 5: Guest Lecture on "Evolving Dynamics of New Silk Road: Peace Implications for Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and South Asia (Afghanistan & Pakistan)"
- September 24: Guest Lecture by Mrs. Naela Chohan, Additional Secretary, MOFA

IPRI Review Meeting

September 16:
"Taming Sectarian
Violence in Pakistan"

Revisiting Pakistan-US Relations

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organized a conference "Revisiting Pakistan-US Relations" on September 12, 2013. Lt. General (R) Asad Durrani chaired the conference. Professor Tahir Amin of QAU, AVM (R) Shahzad A. Chaudhry, and Ambassador (R) Muhammad Saeed Khalid were the speakers.

Dr. Tahir Amin in his presentation highlighted points of convergence and divergence between the US and Pakistan. On the Pak-US divergences, Dr. Amin said, drone attacks in Pakistan and differences on the end game in Afghanistan were two major issues. He added, "Pakistan does not support any

faction in Afghanistan and wants to see a broad-based government there. Pakistan does not want Indian military footprint in Afghanistan in any

form because India's current presence there has proved to be subversive and counter-productive for Pakistan."

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2nd ASIRS Forum, Baku, Azerbaijan

Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI, participated in the 2nd Forum of the Association of International Relations Scholars (ASIRS), which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on September 2-3, 2013. The theme of the conference was 'The South Caucasus in the Changing World'. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan. The themes of the sessions were: 1) The South Caucasus countries after 20 years of independence: geopolitical rivalry over the region; 2) Energy Security: The contribution of the Caspian region to the global energy security; 3) Protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus: Searching for a way out of deadlock; and, 4) The South Caucasus region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

In the discussions, it was noted that the focus of Azerbaijan has been on state-building, economic efficiency, development and education. It is a small but

a strategic country, an oil producer and its interests are connected with Central Asia, Turkey and Europe. The country is among top 50 competitive economies of the world.



Over the years Azerbaijan has successfully reduced poverty from 46% to 6% and created 1.2 million new jobs. In the post-Soviet system, the focus in the region had been on state-building. Trade pattern of the region is significantly changing. Being

regional engine of growth, Azerbaijan is receiving 75% of investments coming into the South Caucasus region.

The South Caucasus region is important as an energy corridor. Turkey, Iran and Ukraine are important regional exporters whereas the US is the most important external player. Azerbaijan is in an enviable position, if the Caspian oil and gas resources are to be tapped and transported bypassing Russia and Iran. Azerbaijan has huge energy reserves.

Farhad Mammadov, Director SAM, noted that Azerbaijan considered Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as an inter-state conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The UNSC resolutions on the conflict had not been implemented for the past twenty years.

International community had double standards with regards to implementation of UNSC resolutions. Peace in the region can only come through resolution of Karabakh conflict.

Revisiting Pakistan-US Relations

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As also believed by some senior US officials and scholars, India had been encouraging subversive activities in Balochistan, FATA and other parts of Pakistan from Afghan soil. He noted that convergence between US and Pakistan could be achieved through peaceful settlement in Afghanistan because this would be of benefit to both the countries.

AVM (R) Shahzad Chaudhry in his presentation observed that terrorism was a menace in the region. He said US was pursuing drone strikes in Pakistan based on its perceptions and strategy of fighting terrorism. He noted that to advance its strategic interests in the region, the US might continue to insist on using drones in the FATA region.

In the context of drone attacks, he drew the attention of audience towards fluid nature of sovereignty since it could be

violated due to one country's technological superiority over the other.

Ambassador (R) Saeed Khalid said that the prospect of a long term relationship between US and Pakistan might again suffer after US drawdown in Afghanistan unless US-Pakistan relations were made broad-based. He noted that despite its economic down-slide the US would remain a predominant power for many years to come. The desire for a long-term relationship between both countries was being undermined by hostile lobbies in both the US and Pakistan. He emphasized that the hard liners had to be countered. He noted that while moving forward on advancing its relations with the US, Pakistan has to be conscious of the fact that US was in a strategic mood to accord primacy to India in the region and at other world forums. He suggested that Pakistan should cooperate with the US in achieving peace in Afghanistan so that it could prove that for peace in Afghanistan and Central

Asia, Pakistan was strategically more important than India. This should be suggested to the US that both Pakistan and India are important to her in their own particular spheres of influence.

In the concluding remarks, Lt. General (R) Asad Durrani said that Pakistan must play its cards well while negotiating its future relations with the US. He noted that Pakistan and the US had fared well in the past during the Cold War, particularly during Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Now it would be wise for Pakistan and the US to identify commonality of interests in Afghanistan and the South and Central Asian regions.

To gain a respectable and responsible place in the world affairs, Pakistan should improve its economic situation on priority. He concluded that in view of their existing irritants on Afghanistan, and India factor, advancement in Pak-US relations would be a diplomatic challenge.

IPRI Scholars' Publications in the Month of September

- “Trust Deficit in Pak-US Ties” by Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, September 22, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/42934/>
- “Pakistan-Russia Relations: Progress, Prospects and Constraints” by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow was published in *IPRI Journal, Summer 2013*. And “MFN to India: Prospects of Bilateral Trade” by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow was published in *Journal of Contemporary Studies, Summer 2013*.
- “The Developing Eight: Functions, Challenges and Prospects” by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal was published in *IPRI Journal, Summer 2013*. And “Pakistan-Kashmir-India” by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal was published in *The Nation*, September 30, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-09-30/page-7/detail-1>, and “The Syrian Sludge” by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal was published by *The Nation*, September 9, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-09-09/page-6/detail-5>
- “Advancing Defence Cooperation in Asia Pacific: India's Emerging Role” by Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow was published in *IPRI Journal, Summer 2013*.
- “Tap into TAPI” by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer was published in *Pakistan Observer*, September 23, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=219026>
- “The International Divide on Syria and Pakistan” by Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer was published in *IPRI Journal, Summer 2013* and “Pakistan's Untapped Human Gold” by Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer was published in *Pakistan Observer*, September 28, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/201309/28/detailnews.asp?id=219431>
- “The Covert War in Pakistan” by Mr. Usman Ghani, Assistant Research Officer was published in *OpEdNews, USA, September 30, 2013*, http://www.opednews.com/articles/The-Covert-War-in-Pakistan-by-Usman-Ghani-Covert-Ops_Military_Pakistan-War_Security-130930-433.html

Guest Lecture by Additional Secretary, MOFA

Mrs. Naela Chohan, Additional Secretary, Middle East and Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, delivered a lecture on the situation in the Middle East on September 24, 2013 at IPRI. The lecture

was second in newly started series of guest lectures at IPRI. Earlier Dr. Najam Abbas, non-resident Senior Research Fellow, South & Central Asian Affairs, East West Institute, Belgium had delivered a lecture on “Evolving Dynamics of New Silk Road: Peace Implications for Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and South Asia (Afghanistan & Pakistan)” on September 5, 2013.



President IPRI Visits

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In the address, he focused on the hegemonic designs of India in the region and highlighted the Kashmir dispute and also explained that water disputes between Pakistan and India were becoming serious in nature.

President IPRI visited Yangon, Myanmar, from September 9-12, 2013. He visited and interacted with the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), the Myanmar Peace Centre, Myanmar Human Rights Commission, Myanmar Development Resource Institute and the University of Yangon. At the MISIS, four sessions were held on various topics on September 11, 2013.

The themes of the sessions were: a) Impact of Myanmar's Transformation to the Region and Beyond; b) Pakistan-US Relations with Particular Relevance to the Resurgence of the Taliban and the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan; c) Relevance of Pakistan to the New Myanmar; and, d) Pakistan-India Relations. A ‘Letter of Intent’ between IPRI and MISIS was also signed.

In Kathmandu, Nepal, President IPRI gave a presentation on 'Pakistan-Nepal Trade Relations: The Way Forward' at the Pakistan Study Centre. He also gave another presentation on 'Pakistan's Relations with its near and immediate neighbours' at the Nepal Council for World Affairs (NCWA).

In both interactions, he explained that bilateral trade and economic relations with Nepal did not truly reflect the potential that both countries have and that two way trade of almost US\$ 5 million a year is not commensurate with the excellent political relations that the two countries have been enjoying for decades. Nepal's landlocked status resulting in lack of connectivity was the main reason for negligible bilateral trade.

Also, the institutional linkages on trade and economic matters need to be rejuvenated. He also explained Pakistan's relations with the regional countries i.e. Sri Lanka, Iran, China, Central Asian Republics, India, Afghanistan and Nepal.

While speaking on relations with India, he emphasised that there was a consensus among scholars all over the world that security and stability in South Asia would remain elusive as long as the Kashmir dispute remains unresolved. An agreement on cooperation between IPRI and the NCWA was also signed.

Evolving Dynamics of New Silk Road

Dr. Najam Abbas, non-resident Senior Research Fellow, South & Central Asian Affairs, East West Institute, Belgium visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute on September 5, 2013 to deliver the first in the series of guest lectures at IPRI. He talked on “Evolving Dynamics of New Silk Road: Peace Implications for Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and South Asia (Afghanistan & Pakistan).” Presenting brief history of ancient Silk Route, he said that the Old Silk Route was an extensive pan-Asian interconnected network of land and sea trade routes across the Asian continent connecting Eastern, Southern, Central, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean, including North Africa and Europe.

Dr. Abbas commented that Asia had re-



emerged as one of the major economic power of the world. However, its huge economic potential remains largely untapped due to lack of region-wide connectivity. A modern or restored “Silk

Road” is needed to help Asia meet its full potential. A five-finger strategy of railways, roads, pipelines, and other supply chains traversing Russia to Europe, Kazakhstan to the Caspian Sea, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan, across Afghanistan to Iran, and traversing Pakistan to the port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea could still be used as the most influential tool in the geo-politics of the world, said Dr. Abbas.

Concluding his talk Dr. Abbas said that transport and trade could help restore the central role of Afghanistan in Central Asia and once again Afghanistan could regain economic vitality and thrive as it did in the days of the old Silk Route. Trade and economic integration would not be possible through ‘New Silk Route’ unless key players’ security concerns and vulnerabilities were addressed, he said.

Upcoming Events in October

- October 7: IPRI Review Meeting “Women Empowerment in Pakistan”
- October 21: IPRI Review Meeting, “Food Security”

Guest Lecture
Last half of October

Taming Sectarian Violence in Pakistan

Ms. Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI gave a presentation at IPRI Review meeting on “Taming Sectarian Violence in Pakistan” on September 16, 2013. She said that in the year 2012, Pakistan was hit by worse sectarian violence in the country.

She said that sectarian violence posed a great security threat to Pakistan at present. There was an urgent need to resolve the crisis of sectarian divide in Pakistan by taking practical measures to curb sectarianism from the society.

The role of media, madrassahs, sectarian parties and religious leaders was important to bring positive change at societal and state level. The religious diversity must be respected and religious tolerance promoted.

For long lasting peace and harmony in Pakistan, short term as well as long term counter sectarian strategies should be evolved and implemented.



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