



NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter Team

Editor-in-Chief
Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit

Editor
Zahida Khalid

Composer
Noreen Hameed

Panel Discussion

Pakistan's Image-Building: International Perceptions of Pakistan & How to Improve its Image



Panelists Major General (R) Syed Khalid Jaffery, HI(M), Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen and Ambassador (R) Burhanul Islam with Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI

A panel discussion on "Pakistan's Image-Building: International Perceptions of Pakistan & How to Improve its Image" was held at IPRI on 29 December 2017. The panelists included: Major General (R) Syed Khalid Jaffery, HI(M); Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen and Ambassador (R) Burhanul Islam.

President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit in his

opening remarks said that a country's image cannot be built if it is divorced from reality, especially when there are actors and states engaged in damaging a country's image. It is important to counter such detractors with rapid response ideas crafted on the basis of facts, logic and wisdom in order to revamp Pakistan's global

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IPRI-CCSEZR MoU Signing Ceremony

IPRI inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the China Centre for Special Economic Zone Research (CCSEZR), Shenzhen University, and the Belt and Road Research Institute for International Cooperation and Development (BRIICD), Guangdong Province, China on 22 December 2017 at IPRI premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig. (R) Sohail Tirmizi, SI (M) Director Administration, IPRI,



said the memorandum is a continuation of the relationship that CCSEZR and the IPRI established some time ago. It is an important milestone as it will provide a structured framework to further promote interaction and achieve common goals through joint ventures.

Director of CCSEZR and BRIICD, Prof. Tao Yitao remarked, "we explore patterns of development

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Capacity Development Workshop Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodologies

Two-Day Workshop



In collaboration with the Centre for Learning and Development, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), IPRI held a two-day workshop on “Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodologies” on 13-14 December 2017.

The workshop aimed at enhancing understanding of the participants about qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and introducing Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for carrying out research



endeavors more effectively and efficiently.

The training was provided/offered by veteran trainers including Mr Shahid M. Minhas, Dr M. Arif Saleem and Mr Mohsin Ali Kazmi.

The trainers stressed that objectivity, flexibility and using a mix of research approaches, keeping in view research ethics were the basic tenets of research.



Workshop Agenda

- Philosophical Base of Quantitative & Qualitative Research
- Traditions in Qualitative Research
- Qualitative Research & Grounded Theory
- Qualitative Research: Developing Case Studies
- Quantitative Research: Experimental, Quasi
- Experimental & Survey
- Framing Research Questions
- Research Design
- Qualitative and Quantitative: Methods & Techniques
- Introduction to Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS)
- Using SPSS for Analysis



Pakistan's Image-Building: International Perceptions of Pakistan & How to Improve its Image



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Image. Pakistan has not been able to sell its positive image abroad effectively in the previous decade and it is imperative that think tanks, government and media work in collaboration to figure out why; and how Pakistan's soft image can be improved, he said.

Multi-Track Diplomacy for Positive Image-Building

It was contended that diplomacy is no longer traditional, it is now a multi-track process and

image building too has become multi-dimensional and cannot be expected to happen automatically, nor in isolation from what is transpiring at the global level. It was recommended that the Government of Pakistan should establish a dedicated Public Policy Division in its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Challenges

Terrorism, human trafficking and the

the Indian intelligentsia.

Also, Pakistan's role in Afghanistan is portrayed as negative, in spite of successful anti-terrorism operations.

Recommendations

- It was recommended that Pakistan needs a well-calibrated soft Power Diplomacy Strategy which is cognizant of today's complex world and the period of history we live in. Pakistan as a nation needs to take greater pride in its ancient culture and civilization.
- It was agreed that different countries use soft and hard power in different ways and the best results are obtained when both are aligned and complement each



Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI presenting mementos to Panelists Major General (R) Syed Khalid Jaffery, HI(M) and Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen

way civil-military relations are perceived internationally are among the biggest challenges faced by Pakistan. The narrative of terrorism and extremism has been fabricated very adroitly by India using Kashmir as the scapegoat.

Post-9/11, Pakistan's image as a great country and great people has been tarnished, principally and fundamentally crafted by

other through smart power. Therefore, Pakistan needs to develop a smart policy to advance its soft image through media, tourism, literature, art, music, theater and effective public diplomacy.

IPRI-CCSEZR MoU Signing Ceremony

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from general poverty to common prosperity. With influential studies on special economic zones, the CCSEZR's work demonstrates the theoretical implications and realistic significance of China's road."

In addition to sharing expertise, both organizations hope to work together on the promotion and exchange of information and invitations to important meetings, symposia and conferences.



The signing of the MoU, therefore, will improve research and academic cooperation between the institutes, as well as promote and intensify friendship and mutual understanding between the people of Pakistan and China in general and the institutes in particular.

Kurdish Attempt of Secession and its Regional Implications



A presentation on “Kurdish Attempt of Secession and its Regional Implications” was delivered by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer, on 4 December 2017.

An independence referendum for Iraqi Kurdistan was organized on 25 September 2017, which received overwhelming results from Kurds in favor of secession from Iraq’s Central Government. It was highlighted that this development will have short and

long term impact on national security of Iraq and regional security of the Middle East.

It was reckoned that independence of Kurds from Iraq will lead to further destabilization of already destabilized region.

It will encourage other ethnic communities to wage ethnic wars, seeking to establish new states within states, while international players will find a greater vacuum to play their power politics in the region.

Salient Points

Salient points of the discussion are given below:

- Since 1991, Kurds in Iraq have been consistently trying to establish an independent state comprising Kurd population. However, various factors such as extreme repression by the administration

under Saddam Hussein, the internal political rift between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), lack of external legitimacy and most importantly the US-led intervention in Iraq in 2003 and subsequent adoption of new constitution of Iraq in 2004 kept delaying Kurd’s struggle for establishing an independent state.

- While the US has objected to the Kurdish referendum for independence, it has adopted an “indirect approach” to support the Kurdish de facto state by stopping the Iraqi Army from advancing in the Kurdish region.
- On the Kurdish referendum issue, Russia has not clearly chosen any side in this complex security situation. However, it is more likely that Russia will support the stance of the Government of Iraq

people. Government of Iraq has to protect the territorial integrity in the wake of the Kurdish quest for independence.

- As the lack of capacity to provide security to their citizens in the wake of organized or unorganized armed groups is the major issue that weak states face, so is the case with Iraq. The political instability in Iraq vis-à-vis Kurdish secession can provide opportunity to IS to regain their position in the country.
- The Kurdish referendum is likely to encourage many other aggrieved ethnic communities in the region and beyond to intensify their efforts for secession.
- With the ongoing intra-Arab conflicts and developments in the region, Israel finds itself in the most encouraging situation. Weaker states in the Middle East are providing stimulus on one hand to non-state actors while on the other hand they are indirectly



as the former cannot afford to contradict Syria, Iran, Iraq and Turkey in the region.

- China is more interested in developing economic relations with Arab countries and less in the political affairs of the Middle East. Therefore, China desires, status quo and hence it overtly rejects Kurdish region’s secession.
- The most affected actor in this development is Iraq and its

strengthening Israel’s national security.

- Saudi Arabia officially did not support Kurdish secession; however, the country and Arab region can foresee many strategic and economic opportunities. Saudi Arabia can also influence Turkey’s national interest, which had supported Qatar during the recent diplomatic crisis. The Saudi Government can strategically counter

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Peace with Our Neighbors: Transforming Illusion into a Reality



Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI gave a presentation on “Peace with Our Neighbors: Transforming Illusion into a Reality” on November 29, 2017. An overview of Pakistan’s bilateral ties with its neighbors was given and measures to mend relations were proposed.

“Improved relations with the neighboring countries will positively impact the political environment, opening up prospects of inter-regional connectivity with economic interdependence contributing towards peace.”

It was underscored that Pakistan needs to project itself positively to the outside world. In this context, the importance of regional connectivity, economic cooperation and image-building through soft power projection was highlighted.

Salient Points

Salient points of the discussion are as under:

- In line with evolving present day realities, there is a need for a paradigm shift in Pakistan’s foreign policy with focus on economic cooperation and energy connectivity. Pakistan should follow a proactive policy for resolving

its issues with neighbors bilaterally but in a regional context.

- Pakistan needs to project its credentials in a positive way. Being located at the crossroads of Central and West Asia, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, Pakistan is not just a South Asian country; it is a country with multiregional characteristics. Pakistan’s geostrategic location, along major trade routes that link various regions with each other, can be a catalyst in boosting inter-regional trade. CPEC is a realization of Pakistan’s geostrategic location.
- Pakistan is also a land of diverse cultures. It needs to employ the soft power using its rich culture and ancient civilization to develop fruitful links with neighboring countries, including Iran, India and Afghanistan and further strengthen ties with China. The national policy should be abreast with these new realities.
- Strengthening ties with China, and improving relations with Iran and Afghanistan should be a priority to effectively counter Indian politics in the region. Pakistan should curtail India’s long-standing attempts to sow domestic discord. It should also counter Indian designs of sponsoring attacks against Pakistan’s civilians and security forces using Afghan soil.
- As regards India’s relations with Iran, the former may have cordial ties with Iran but Pakistan can equally develop friendly relations with Iran. Pakistan should adopt proactive measures to promote friendly relations with all countries of the region.
- To survive in a strategically challenging environment, and to live up with the

“Conflict is not the order of the day rather economic prowess determines the standing of a country in the comity of nations.”

emerging trends of regionalism, Pakistan needs competent institutions. In this regard, the Foreign Service of Pakistan is as indispensable as Pakistan’s security forces.

Conclusion

In the present era of globalization, conflict is not the order of the day rather economic prowess determines the standing of a country in the comity of nations. There is a need for a paradigm shift in Pakistan’s foreign policy with main focus on economic cooperation and energy connectivity.

Improved relations with the neighboring and regional countries will positively impact the political environment, opening up prospects of inter-regional connectivity along with economic interdependence. The likely improved geopolitical scenario will contribute towards regional peace.

Hindutva and Indian Minorities



A presentation on “*Hindutva* and Indian Minorities” was delivered by Research Officer, Muhammad Nawaz Khan on 26 December 2017.

It was deliberated that Hindu fundamentalism has been changing and taking different shapes within the Indian socio-political structure. Now it has turned into an organized communal movement against the Indian minorities, which betrays false Indian claims of a secular society. It was recommended that the international human rights organizations should play their role to end flagrant human rights violations against religious minorities in India.

Salient Points:

The salient points which came under discussion are given below:

- *Hindutva* ideology, first introduced in 1923, has become a political ideology based on the notions of race and nationalism, cultural hegemony and homogenized society. It privileges the already privileged Hindu population in India. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other Hindu extremist organizations are the staunch practitioners of *Hindutva*.
- The post-independence phase posed the challenge of multi-cultural coexistence for the Indian minorities who continue to face social discrimination owing to Hindu fundamentalism, which is not a new phenomenon.
- Hinduization of India has damaged the professed secular fabric of the society. It has resulted in inequality, political and administrative discrimination, patriarchal control, threats to the physical security of minorities and consolidation of exclusionary practices.
- The successive Indian regimes have been projecting India as an enlightened secular state upholding equal rights for all religious minorities. However, the fact remains that so called “shining and rising India” is a closed society where the intensity of deep-rooted Hindu fanaticism is a common factor.
- In the environment of threats and coercion, the space for India’s religious minorities is shrinking, which is directly opposed to India’s secularist claims and its constitutional claims for guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens without any discrimination.
- The intolerance against Indian minorities of India and extremism in India suggest grim outcomes where public

speech, eating habits, and alternative ideas, are all subservient to a restrictive interpretation of a single majority religion, i.e. Hinduism.

- When Indian minorities protest to seek their rights, the Indian governments use brutal state force to terrorize them. In this context, the Muslims, Christians and the Sikhs are the worst affected minorities.
- *Muslims*: The Muslims in India despite being the largest community among minorities are still far behind in terms of human development. India’s Muslims face issues such as identity and security, education and empowerment, equitable share in state funds, and a fair share in the decision making process.
- *Christians*: According to Open Doors, a monitoring organization, report of 2017, India experienced an escalation of attacks on its Christian minority in 2016, which is a clear pattern of rising religious intolerance. That is why, India has risen to number 15 from 31 on the 2017 World Watch List.
- *Sikhs*: The year 1984 stands out as the most catastrophic year in the history of Sikhs when countless Sikhs were ruthlessly killed. This was considered a systematic genocide of the Sikhs. Indian atrocities against Sikhs have only increased, compelling them to demand a separate homeland i.e. *Khalistan*.
- *Dalits* or the untouchables are concerned; they have suffered the most within the Hindu social order in all spheres of life.
- In India itself, there are still strong holdouts resistant to religious intolerance and communal violence. Moderate forces within the Indian society are significantly resisting the *Hindutva*-inspired policies of the government.



Conclusion

The persecution of religious minorities by Hindu fundamentalists in pursuance of extremist ideology, *Hindutva*, is enough to raise serious doubts among the international community regarding the secular outlook and democratic claims of India. During the recent times, India is trying to project itself as a key player in international politics and is demanding permanent membership of the UN Security Council. It can be argued that a country with such a poor human rights record at home cannot strive for a key role in international political affairs. It is high time that the international community and international organizations take effective measures to ensure that basic human rights of minorities in India are respected and protected.

Socio-Economic Development in Pakistan



Adeel Mukhtar, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI gave a presentation on "Socio-Economic Development in Pakistan" on 6

Income and Expenditure

Name of Indicator	2011-12	2015-16 (P)*
Gross National Income (Million Rupees)		
Current (MP)	21,082,207	31,466,584
Constant	10,120,466	12,465,443
Gross Domestic Products (Million Rupees)		
Current Basic Price	19,361,511	27,905,091
Constant Basic Price	9,470,255	11,130,035
Per Capita Income (Rupees)		
Current (MP)	117,837	162,568
Constant	56,567	64,401
Combine Consumer Price Index (General)	162.57	203.82

Source: National Accounts, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
*(P): Provisional

December 2017. It was underscored that in order to achieve sustainable growth, Pakistan has to improve its socio-economic indicators and overcome the impediments to attain shared growth.

Salient Points

Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

- Good governance is crucial to achieve goals of sustained socio-economic development. However the major challenges faced by Pakistan due to lack of good governance are: deteriorating state of education and educational institutions, rising income inequality, terrorism, unemployment, rampant institutional corruption, energy crisis.
- Studies have shown that nearly 44 percent children between the ages of five and sixteen are still out of school. Therefore, improving literacy rate of children and adults, initiating Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) for older out-of-school children and encouraging informal education are the three focus areas of the government aimed at improving accessibility of education.
- Pakistan has been facing acute energy crisis for a decade and the gap between production and consumption is widening every year. Safe estimates suggest that it has cost the national economy over \$100 billion. Clean and renewable energy technologies will be needed to ensure sufficient and sustainable energy supplies in Pakistan.
- Advancement in agricultural biotechnology will be essential in raising food productivity in order to feed growing population. Despite being an agro-based economy, Pakistan is still not sufficient in food crops. There is a need to apply scientific techniques in lifting the productive achievement in agro-sector of economy.
- Information and communications Technologies (ICTs) can be used to directly influence the productivity, cost effectiveness and competitiveness in

Education

Name of Indicator	2011-12	2014-15
Number of Institutions		
Primary Schools	154,650	165,914
Middle Schools	41,945	44,818
Secondary Schools	29,426	32,113
Arts & Science Colleges	1,556	1,731
Professional Colleges	549	713
Universities	76	98
Number of Students per Educational Institution by Level		
Primary Schools	182.2	186.4
Middle Schools	143.7	146.9
Secondary Schools	100.1	116.0
Arts & Science Colleges	846.0	936.0
Professional Colleges	380.0	362.4
Universities	6,276.0	7,522.7
Literacy ratio (%) (10 years and above)		
Overall	58.0	60.0
Male	70.0	70.0
Female	47.0	49.0

Source: Academy of Educational Planning & Management, Islamabad; Provincial Bureaus of Statistics; Concerned Universities; PSLM Survey, Pakistan Bureau of statistics

industries, which is the advantage developing countries can build their economies upon.

- It was highlighted that successful implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would accelerate socio-economic development of Pakistan.

Conclusion

Good governance, increasing literacy rate, overcoming energy crisis, advancement in agricultural biotechnology, integration of ICTs for increased industrial output are crucial for attaining sustainable development goals of Pakistan.

Kurdish Attempt of Secession and its Regional Implications

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Iranian influence in Yemen by increasing their presence and influence in the backyard of Iran. Hence, the already existing geopolitics in the region further increased its pace, resultantly, the region will further destabilize.

Conclusion

It was argued that the already insecure

Middle Eastern region with the development of Kurdish attempt of secession will not only further destabilise the region, it will also contribute in deepening greater geopolitics by the regional and major powers in the region. Moreover, it is highly unlikely that the Kurdish population which has voted for independence, once again reverse its decision. There might be severe

pressure by Iraq, neighboring countries – Turkey, Iran and Syria – and from major or other regional players to back off from the decision. Furthermore, there is a likelihood that Kurdish referendum will establish a norm for other ethnic communities in the region and beyond that ethnic nationalism and unilateral attempts of secession can lead towards independence.

Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow (Urdu Articles)

“Na Babri na Brabari...!” (*Daily Pakistan*)
 “Bharati Parliament par Hamlay ka Natak!” (*Daily Pakistan*)
 “16 December, Phoonko se ye Charagh Bujhaya na Jayega!” (*Nawa-i- Waqt*)
 “Pak Thos Mauquf aur Manfi Amriki Rawish!” (*Daily Pakistan*)
 “RAW... Badd Amaliyan Jari!” (*Daily Pakistan*)



Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow

“US National Security Strategy & Concerns in Pakistan” (*Pakistan Observer*)



Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer

“Is Daesh’a Threat to Pakistan?” (*Regional Rapport*)
 “Climate Change in World Politics” (*The London Post*)



Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer

“Extremism and Peace” (*The Express Tribune*)



Khurram Minhas, Assistant Research Officer

“Efficacy of Riyadh-led Alliances” (*The Express Tribune*)
 “OIC and Trump” (*The Express Tribune*)



Umar Farooq Khan, Assistant Research Officer

“Incredible India and Nation Branding” (*Daily Times*)



Adeel Mukhtar Mirza, Assistant Research Officer

“Right of Unborn Generations” (*The Express Tribune*)



Iqra Mobeen Akram, Assistant Research Officer

“Fate of Palestine” (*Regional Rapport*)



Sajjad Haider, Assistant Research Officer

“Trump, Jerusalem and the OIC Summit” (*The Nation*)



Usama Nizamani, Consultant
 “Doctrine and Technology: An Indispensable Marriage” (*Daily Times*)



Sajid Aziz, Consultant
 “The Death Knell of the Two-State Solution?” (*Daily Times*)



Call for Papers IPRI Journal Summer 2018

Interested researchers are invited to submit scholarly manuscripts (5000-8000 words) and current book reviews (1000 words) for consideration for the *IPRI Journal*, Summer 2018 Issue (ISSN 1684-9787/eISSN 1684-9809) on areas such as international relations, geopolitics, diplomacy, security, political economy, conflict and governance. Submissions should not be previously published nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Published since 2001, the *IPRI Journal* is a biannual peer-reviewed publication of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in Pakistan. It is recognised as an ‘X’ category Journal - the country’s second highest category for Social Science Journals. It is indexed and abstracted in the International Political Science Abstracts (IPSA), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), and ResearchBib.

Manuscripts undergo double-blind reviews. If they are found suitable for the Journal, reviewers may recommend either major or minor changes in the manuscript.

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<<http://www.ipripak.org/category/journals/>>

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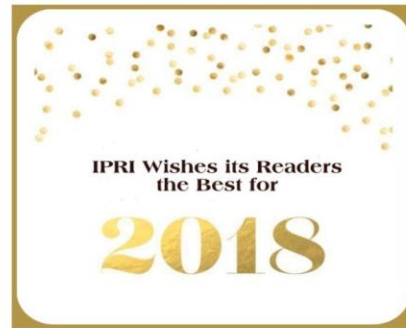
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ipri.editor@gmail.com

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Islamabad Policy Research Institute

Contact Information

Address: Fifth Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Sir Aga Khan Road, Sector F-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: +92 51 9211346-49; Fax: +92 51 9211350

zahedah.khalid@gmail.com

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