



**IPRI**  
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy  
Research Institute**



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November 2013

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Towards an Asian Century: Future of Economic Cooperation in SAARC Countries**

Islamabad Policy Research Institute in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation organised an international conference on “Towards an Asian Century: Future of Economic Cooperation in SAARC Countries” on November 20-21, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Experts and scholars from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, EU and Pakistan were invited to share their experiences and opinions. The purpose of the conference was to highlight the importance of regional economic collaboration among SAARC countries. The main objectives of the conference were to discuss avenues for South Asian countries to enhance trade and connectivity to strengthen regional economic cooperation and alleviate poverty. The conference discussed impediments and political issues that the region has been passing through for many decades. The conference explored possible measures that could be taken to enable member countries to compete with the world's developed countries.

Nine foreign scholars and eight scholars

from Pakistan presented their views through illustrations. The conference was attended by members from a cross section of society among them were government officials, diplomats, politicians, scholars, heads of various think tanks, university students and media personnel.



Ambassador (R) Riaz Mohammad Khan, former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, was the chief guest of the inaugural session and Dr. Ishrat Husain, former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Dean and Director, Institute of Business

Administration (IBA), Karachi was the chief guest of the concluding session of the Conference. The conference comprised of four working sessions except inaugural and concluding sessions.

The working sessions of the conference were chaired by prominent Pakistani scholars, economists and industrialists: Dr. Kamal Monno, Member IPRI Board of Governors and Director, Samira Fabrics Private Limited, Lahore; Dr. Salman Shah, former Federal Minister of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics, and Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan (2004-2008), Chairman, Board of Directors, Lahore Stock Exchange; Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University, Islamabad and Dr. Rashid Ahmad Khan, Dean Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences & Law, University of Sargodha. Each session was followed by discussion during which scholars answered the questions of the audience. Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin, President IPRI delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks.

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**November Highlights**

- November 20-21:  
**International Conference**  
“Towards an Asian Century: Future of Economic Cooperation in SAARC Countries”
- November 12:  
**Guest Lecture**  
“Geo-Politics for Water in South Asia - Regional Analysis and Implications for Pakistan”
- IPRI Review Meeting**
- November 4: “Governance Issues in Pakistan”
- November 25: “Climate Change and Environmental Security”



## Governance Issues in Pakistan

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Khan, ARO, IPRI spoke on Governance Issues in Pakistan at IPRI Review Meeting on November 4, 2013.

Highlighting the main factors in good governance, he said that public participation, national cohesion and integration, constitutional and institutional supremacy, independence of judiciary, freedom of speech and socio-economic development were the main pillars. He identified four main broad areas which determined good governance. These were:

- **Legislative Framework**, which sets the boundaries within which institutions, agencies and agents can operate and therefore addresses issues related to devolution, discretion and accountability.
- **Institutional Capacity**, which means the ability of institutions, agencies and agents to define policies, ensure coordination and compliance.
- **Efficiency**, which addresses issues of resource generation, expenditure planning, expenditure control, regulation and overall public administration to ensure the most effective use of resources.
- **Management**, which addresses issues related to the proper use of systems and procedures and the



mechanisms used for the development of infrastructure and the delivery of services by ensuring that there is an equitable and transparent access to goods and services to the public.

He said that political instability, corruption, institutional weaknesses and law and order situation were some of the factors that affected governance in any state.

## Climate Change and Environmental Security

Mr. Muhammad Mustansar Billah Hussain, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI, gave a presentation on "Climate Change and Environmental Security" at IPRI Review Meeting on November 25, 2013.

environmental security were areas of urgent concern because these would affect all aspects of life on the planet. Development issues, poverty eradication, civilizational stability, international order and other related aspects of life

the abrupt end of Harappan civilization was linked with lesser monsoon and decline in river flows due to low precipitation.

Mr. Hussain noted that the current changes in the climate system are unprecedented in recorded history. These were also distinct as the major driver of these changes was human activity. As a result of industrialization, green house gases' concentration in the atmosphere had increased tremendously which was raising surface and ocean temperatures. This rise was visible in all continents and oceans. Arctic and glacial melting was raising sea level. This rise in sea level and the ocean surface temperature was disturbing precipitation patterns around the globe, he explained.

He said that though Pakistan was among the least contributors of the green house gases, it is among the most climate-affected countries in

the world. In the Environmental Performance Index 2012, Pakistan ranked 120th among 132 countries. The Global Climate Index 2012 listed Pakistan as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most affected countries. The country was the most affected according to the 2010 Climate Index due to the historical floods. Pakistan has suffered cloudbursts, droughts, floods, heat waves with increased frequency and intensity in the last decade.

He said that Pakistan needed fast tracking efforts in mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, 'climate smart' agriculture, preparation to fight climate related calamities, general public awareness, and forestation campaigns could play important role. Pakistan also needed to actively seek global cooperation to benefit from the global climate fund and mitigation and adaptation technologies.



Highlighting the importance of the subject, he said that climate change and

were intractably linked with climate and environmental developments. He noted that



## Honour for IPRI Scholar

Ms. Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Medal by the President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain on November 5, 2013. She has secured the top position in M.Phil International Relations from QAU, Islamabad. The title of her M.Phil thesis is "Conference on Disarmament: Prospects and Challenges in the 21<sup>ST</sup> century." Ms. Aymen has also been teaching as a visiting faculty at NUST. Her research interests include International Relations, Strategic and Nuclear Studies.



## SAARC Conference

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All speakers had given some recommendations to enhance economic cooperation in the region. These are summarized below:

- The South Asian countries need to build strong institutions as they are the main drivers and enablers of economic growth, regional integration and collective prosperity.
- The regional trade boosting endeavour needs to be in sync with SAARC nations' aspirations. This will help them avoid any possible disruptions in the future. Trade should be conducted on terms that complement efforts towards pushing for harmonized global norms on free and fair trade, and should aim at providing a level playing field.
- SAARC as a region needs financial capital to meet its investment requirements. Of late, it has been noticed that other regions (Far East, South East Asia, Asia Pacific, even EU and China and now China and UK) are resorting to currency swap arrangements and agreements on mutual utilization of bilateral-cum-internal trade deficits. SAARC can benefit collectively through such innovations.
- SAFTA has come into force on January 1, 2006; there are various elements and components which are supposed to be fully implemented by December 31, 2015. Therefore, it is important that all SAFTA agreements are implemented within the stipulated time.

The conference was given press and electronic coverage by the state television and reputed dailies. The proceedings and papers given by the speakers will be published in book form by Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

## IPRI Scholars' Publications in November

- "Need for Sanity and Unity" by Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, November 10, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/53664/>
- "Bid Farewell to Colonial Legacy" by Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 28, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=225112>
- "SAARC Economies Can Prosper through mutual Cooperation" by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, November 25, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/57039//>
- "Eating Grass" by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *The Nation*, November 11, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/11-Nov-2013/eating-grass> & "Key Questions as 'WAR' comes to an end" was published in *The Nation*, November 18, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/18-Nov-2013/key-questions-as-war-comes-to-an-end>
- "Test for UN: Case of Genocide of one million Sikhs" by Mr. Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, November 7, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/53021/>
- "Sikhs' Petition: Test Case for UNHCR" by Mr. Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 8, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=223110>
- "A Road to Berlin: On Way to Tomorrow" by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 2, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=222511>
- "Dichotomy of US-Afghan Relations" by Ms. Saman Zulfqar was published in *Daily Times*, November 29, 2013, [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\11\29\story\\_29-11-2013\\_pg3\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\11\29\story_29-11-2013_pg3_6)
- "Grabbing GSP plus opportunity" by Ms. Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer was published in *Pakistan Observer*, November 17, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=223939>

## GUEST LECTURE

# Implementation of Indus Waters Treaty: Perceptions and Reality

Islamabad Policy Research Institute invited Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, Mirza Asif Baig, for guest lecture on "Implementation of Indus Waters Treaty: Perceptions and Reality," on November 12, 2013. Mr. Baig shed light on different aspects of Indo-Pakistan water issues. Highlighting Pakistani media concerns about these issues, he remarked that the argument that Pakistan would be transformed into a barren country was misplaced. It was due to lack of technical understanding and inadequate knowledge of facts as also misunderstandings on account of Indian intransigence in other disputed matters. The Indo-Pakistan water issue had to be analysed in the correct perspective. He said that as generally perceived water volume inflow was not decreasing. The decreased quantity was primarily due to either: (a) the diversion of upstream water at Kalabagh by Pakistan for water gravity canals, Munda diversions, upper Swat and Lower Swat canals (which overall did not

affect the water in river Indus) or (b) due to the increase in area under cultivation by India. The flow pattern remained unchanged but for an insignificant effect due to global climatic factors. Therefore it was not the flow pattern which was adversely affecting Pakistan. What was affecting Pakistan negatively was India's refusal to follow the IWT in design criteria. Though Pakistan was taking up that issue with India, the significant issues backed by the on-ground evidential support would ultimately be referred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> forum where Pakistan should seek arbitration repeatedly to uphold its legal rights as it would be difficult for India to get some relief from the 3<sup>rd</sup> forum.

He said that India's status as an upper riparian accounted for its stiff attitude. Her refusal to follow the IWT design criteria and sharing the relevant data with Pakistan were factors that concerned Pakistan. When violations of the IWT by India got highlighted in the media, it was misunderstood in terms of water flow



obstruction, whereas the real problem lay elsewhere: in India's intransigence relating to structural designs. In this respect he mentioned the need to differentiate between water flow measurement units.

Pakistan indeed was faced with India's adamant attitude owing to its geographical advantage but all efforts were being made to sort out the difficulties at the appropriate forums where Pakistan's just stance had a better chance of being appreciated.

### December Schedule

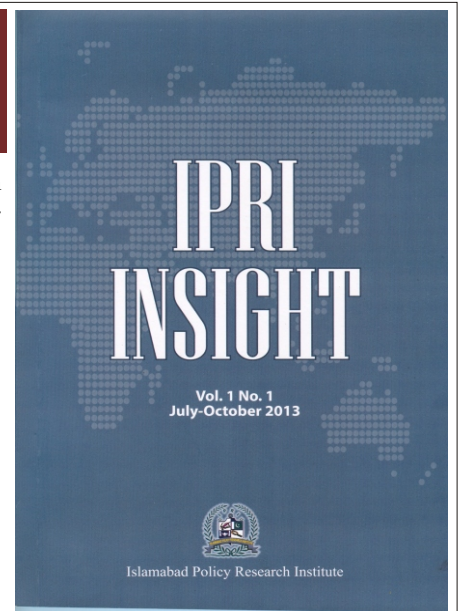
- December 2:  
**IPRI Review Meeting**  
"New Communication Technologies and Social Mobilization"
- December 18:  
**National Conference**  
"Post-US Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Internal and External Dimensions"
- Second Half of December:  
**Guest Lecture**  
"Malaysian Economic Model and its Relevance to Pakistan"

### PUBLICATIONS

#### IPRI Launches a New Publication

IPRI has launched a new four-monthly publication 'IPRI Insight'. The first issue pertains to July-October, 2013. It is comprised of:

1. Research Studies by IPRI scholars
2. Recommendations made in international and national conferences organised by IPRI
3. Foreign visits of IPRI scholars
4. Guest Lecturers
5. Official Documents



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