

**Upcoming National Conference  
on  
Roadmap for Economic  
Growth of Pakistan**

**Organized by**



**Islamabad Policy Research  
Institute**

**in Collaboration with**



**Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)**

**at**

**Marriott Hotel,  
Islamabad  
October 22-23, 2014**

## **The Institute**

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) is an autonomous think tank. It is dedicated to undertaking analyses and evaluations of important national and international politico-strategic issues and developments affecting Pakistan and the region. One of the prominent areas of activity of the institute is organizing national and international seminars/conferences. To know more about IPRI, you may visit our website, [www.ipripak.org](http://www.ipripak.org)

## **Conference Outline**

### **Concept Note**

Sound economic planning is crucial for both developed and developing countries. It entails making the best use of available factors of production, deciding what to produce and how to distribute. This requires deep knowledge of country's needs and requirements. Proper planning serves macro-economic indicators such as increasing GDP growth, raising output, controlling inflation and bringing down unemployment level. The ultimate objective is to have a surplus current account and a stable exchange rate.

Economic planning is basically the responsibility of the government but the private sector also has to contribute through informed policy inputs and implementation strategies.

Pakistan's economy has not been ascending as desired, because of various factors. Firstly, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, Pakistan's exports have suffered badly together with substantial decline in Foreign Direct Investment inflows. Persistent power shortages have slowed down economic activity depressing output levels and substantially reducing the growth rate. The chronic

insufficiency of revenue generation blamed on policy and enforcement weaknesses continues to deprive the economy of any internal support even as state-owned enterprises have become a liability. Secondly, the Pakistan's economy has also suffered huge losses due to expenditures on counter terrorism operations.

Despite these serious constraints, the prospects of the economy reviving in the future look good. According to British Economist Jim O'Neill, Pakistan's economy has the potential to become the 18th largest economy of the world by 2050 from its current position at 44. The signs of economic recovery are also being seen positively by the rest of the world. One positive indicator is the response of international investors to Pakistan's issuance of Eurobonds, reflecting renewed confidence in the country's economy. Inflation has slowed down. The value of the rupee has appreciated against the dollar.

There is a common consensus among economists that Pakistan has a long way to go to achieve the desired level of economic growth. Core issues have to be addressed and the foremost among them is restoration of law and order and meeting energy requirements. While the former will encourage investments from abroad, the latter will keep the wheel of domestic economy turning. Exports need exponential boost which a value added industrial and farm output can easily provide. A trade surplus is within reach if impediments to regional trade, which has a huge potential given Pakistan's 180 million population, are removed.

Accelerated growth automatically boosts revenue generation. However, that would need capacity expansion through development of infrastructure, human capital, unbroken energy supply, and a secure investment climate. Policymakers and planners can utilize inherent

strengths in Pakistan economy which are its resources and manpower.

It is imperative, therefore, that Pakistan develops a long-term vision of economic growth and formulates a perspective plan of action with identifiable goals.

The present government whose principal agenda is economic growth would certainly appreciate policy inputs from the country's think tanks. Towards that end, IPRI together with the HSF is organizing a **national conference on “Roadmap for Economic Growth of Pakistan”** at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad on October 22-23, 2014. The conference will take into account the current state of Pakistan's economy; analyze the underlying reasons for lack of growth and discuss the challenges facing the economy. The conference would chart a roadmap for the country's economic growth. Renowned economists and policy experts of Pakistan will participate in this exercise. Participation is through invitation only.

## **Sessions of the Conference**

### **22 October, 2014**

- **Inaugural Session:** (10:00-11:00 hours)
- **Session I:** State of Pakistan's Economy (11:00-12:15 hours)
- **Session II:** Overhauling the Economy (12:15-13:30 hours)

### **23 October, 2014**

- **Session III:** Essentials of Economic Growth (10:00-11:35 hours)
- **Session IV:** Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth (11:35-12:50 hours)
- **Concluding Session:** (12:50-13:30 hours)

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