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Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

Introduction

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) was established in 1973 under a directive from the President of Pakistan as a non-partisan, non-profit organisation that promotes policy-oriented research on the critical national, regional and international issues affecting Pakistan's security environment.

Aims and Objectives

The core objective of ISSI is to foster dialogue, understanding and collaboration amongst scholars, policy-makers, and other stakeholders. For this purpose, the ISSI undertakes studies, arranges discussions, and promotes research and analysis. It also offers a forum for scholars, specialists, and policymakers to examine and engage in scholarly interaction on national security and strategic issues.

Organization

The government of Pakistan funds the ISSI annually through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Institute functions as an autonomous research organisation. It is headed by the Director General, who acts as its Chief Executive. A Board of Governors and its Chairman supervise the functioning and work of the Institute.

Search Focus

The research interests of the ISSI cover all critical geographical regions. The focus, however, remains on contemporary thematic issues, such as nuclear proliferation, arms control and disarmament, energy and water issues, internal security challenges: sectarianism, terrorism, insurgencies and radical militant movements. State-and nation-building, regional economic cooperation and regional security problems are some of the research areas pursued at the Institute. The Institute maintains a sizeable research faculty, trained in Pakistan and in foreign universities with diverse expertise, covering major areas of research interests.

ISSI-Hanns Seidel Foundation Fellowship Programme

The Institute offers this fellowship to two candidates each quarter, selecting among distinguished scholars, intellectuals, former high-ranking officials of the armed forces of Pakistan, former diplomats and policymakers. The Institute has funding available for 8 fellowships during a calendar year.

Internship Programme

The ISSI offers internship opportunities to promising under-graduate and graduate students. The objective of this internship is to groom and train students in research methods, and orient them towards defence and security studies.
International Cooperation

The ISSI has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with over 30 institutes and think-tanks in 24 countries. Under these MoUs, the Institute holds bilateral dialogues, hosts scholars from partner institutes, and organises joint seminars and conferences with them. These arrangements also facilitate research visits of the Institute’s Research Faculty to foreign institutions.

Conferences, Seminars and Talks

The ISSI convenes national and international conferences and seminars on a regular basis. Distinguished scholars and policy makers are invited to address in-house meetings of the Research Faculty. The Institute frequently organises roundtable discussions, public talks and book launches with the aim of promoting a culture of dialogue and open debate. Participants at these events usually include foreign diplomats, senior government officials, military experts, leading academics, and civil society activists. Most of these events are open to the public.

Library and Documentation Centre

The Institute’s library has over 15,000 books, and subscribes to 68 printed national and international journals. Its documentation section maintains vertical files on 111 subjects and index cards on 211 issues. The library resources can be used by academics, researchers from think-tanks and universities, as well as students.

Publications

The Institute uses its website and print media to publish its research papers, conference reports and comments on contemporary issues. Its major publication is the peer-reviewed quarterly research journal Strategic Studies. The ISSI periodically publishes Policy Briefs, Islamabad Papers, Special Reports, and Conference Reports, centering on contemporary issues.
CONTENTS

International Conferences

• The 70th Anniversary of the United Nations: Challenges for Peace, Security and Development
  November 28, 2015

Seminars

• The Mounting Challenges in Pakistan-India Relations
  June 23, 2015

• FATA: Stability, Integration and Reconstruction
  August 04, 2015

• Afghanistan: The Future of Peace Negotiation After Mullah Omer
  August 21, 2015

• National Unity: A Critical Factor in National Security of Pakistan
  September 8, 2015

• National Security: Pakistan's Energy Requirements
  October 7, 2015

• Strategic Stability in South Asia and East Asia: Constructive Role Played by China
  October 14, 2015

Workshops

• Nuclear Security and Stability Dynamics in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities
  November 10, 2015

• Pakistan's Soft Power
  November 16, 2015

Ambassador's Platform

• Pakistan-Turkish Relations by H.E. Mr Sadiq Babur Girgin
  Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan
  June 16, 2015

• Pakistan-German Relations by H. E. Dr. Cyrill Nunn
  Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany
  June 30, 2015

• Pakistan-Japan Relations by H. E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata
  Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan
  August 11, 2015
• **Pakistan-UK Relations** by H. E. Philip Barton  
  British High Commission to Pakistan  
  November 17, 2015

### Public Talks

• **Turkmenistan's Policy of Neutrality and Peace**  
  March 18, 2015

• **China-Pakistan Relations**  
  March 20, 2015

• **Pakistan’s Foreign Policy**  
  June 15, 2015

• **Imperatives of Peace and Development in Pakistan**  
  October 12, 2015

• **The Role of FWO in National Infrastructure Development and Implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor**  
  October 21, 2015

• **Climate Change and International Security**  
  November 02, 2015

• **Achievements of OPCW and its Future Role in Post-Destruction Phase**  
  November 18, 2015

### Book Launch

• **Islamabad and the Politics of International Development in Pakistan**, by Dr. Markus Daechsel  
  March 31, 2015

• **Defence and Diplomacy**, By S.M Hali  
  August 03, 2015

• **Indian Grand Strategy**, Institute Of Regional Studies (IRS)  
  September 29, 2015

• **Directory of Think Tanks in Pakistan: A Guide to Research Organizations in Social Sciences in Pakistan**, By Abdul Rashid Malik  
  November 02, 2015

• **Indian Grand Strategy (2nd Edition)**, Institute Of Regional Studies (IRS)  
  December 29, 2015

### Screening of Documentary

• **Journey into Europe**, by Akbar S. Ahmad  
  December 23, 2015
Delegations

- **Five-member Delegation of the European Parliament**
  February 18, 2015
  [Page 45]

- **Five-trainee Officer from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs**
  March 19, 2015
  [Page 46]

- **Four-member Delegation: CICIR, Beijing**
  March 20, 2015
  [Page 47]

- **Six-member Chinese Delegation: IDCPC**
  April 19, 2015
  [Page 48]

- **Eight-member Chinese Delegation: BCIM-ILFA**
  April 23, 2015
  [Page 49]

- **Six-member Delegation: Century Foundation’s International Working Group**
  May 20, 2015
  [Page 50]

- **Seven-member Chinese Delegation: Chinese Peoples Institute of Foreign Affairs**
  May 22, 2015
  [Page 51]

- **Ten-Member Chinese Delegation**
  May 27, 2015
  [Page 52]

- **Ten-Member Chinese Delegation: Defence Services Intelligence**
  June 03, 2015
  [Page 53]

- **Seven-member Delegation: Chinese Foreign Ministry**
  June 17, 2015
  [Page 54]

- **Three-member Delegation: Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)**
  July 29, 2015
  [Page 55]

- **Twelve-member Delegation: Chinese Working Group**
  October 27, 2015
  [Page 56]

- **Three-member Delegation: Center for International Studies (CIS), Rome**
  November 18, 2015
  [Page 57]

- **Ten-member Media Delegation: China**
  November 24, 2015
  [Page 58]

In-house Meetings

- **Perpetuating Urban Conflict: The Processes of Enclavisation in Karachi, Dr. Sobia Kakar**
  January 13, 2015
  [Page 59]
• Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Borge Brende
  February 09, 2015

• The Dutch Human Rights Ambassador, Mr. Kees Van Baar
  February 12, 2015

• Pak-India Relations, Ambassador Abdul Basit
  March 20, 2015

• State of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia
  Brig. (Retd.) Naeem Ahmad Salik
  March 11, 2015

• Brig. (Retd.) Feroz Hassan
  March 20, 2015

• Professor Koh Young Choul
  March 25, 2015

• Professor Iftikhar H. Malik
  April 07, 2015

• Global Economic Trends, Dr Ishrat Hussain
  April 22, 2015

• Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Waheed Arshad
  April 27, 2015

• Dr. Ansar Pervaiz
  June 10, 2015

• Italian Vice Foreign Minister, H.E Benedetto Della Vedova
  June 15, 2015

• Future of Sustainable Development in South Asia
  Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri
  July 07, 2015

• Islamophobia in the West: Reality or Perceived
  Prof. Samina Yasmeen
  July 13, 2015

• Legal Aspects of Water Issues between Pakistan and India
  Ahmar Bilal Soofi
  August 18, 2015

• Challenging Extremism and Promoting Intercultural Dialogue
  through Literature, Qaisra Shahraz
  September 09, 2015

• Pakistan-Kenya Relations, Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi
  September 11, 2015
• Pakistan and the United Nations, H.E. Sartaj Aziz
  September 22, 2015

• Crisis Escalation and De-Escalation in South Asia, Brig (Retd) Feroz
  Hassan Khan
  September 23, 2015

• Economic and Refugees Crisis in Europe, Dr Piotr Balcerowicz
  October 06, 2015

• Pakistan-Belarus Relations, H.E. Mr. Valentine Rybakov,
  October 09, 2015

• Pakistan’s Struggles with Governance, Democracy and
  Development: The Way Forward, Dr. Niaz Murtaza
  November 06, 2015

• Member of the European Parliament. Mr. Afzal Khan,
  December 21, 2015

Visitors, Guests and Meetings

• February – December 2015
Conferences
A conference on “The 70th Anniversary of the United Nations: Challenges for Peace, Security and Development” in collaboration with the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China was organized on November 28, 2015. The conference highlighted the achievements, failures and the future role of the UN in the world. Mr. Sun Weidong, the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, was the keynote speaker and Mr. Inam-ul-Haq, former Foreign Minister, was the Chief Guest of the conference. In his welcome address, Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General ISSI, called the historic moment of commemorating the UN anniversary both a matter of reflection and celebration.

The conference was also addressed by His Excellency Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, the Resident Representative of the UNHCR who informed the audience that there are more than 3000 UN staff working all across in Pakistan.
Seminars
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar on “The Mounting Challenges in Pakistan-India Relations” on June 23, 2015. The keynote speaker at the seminar was Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq, Leader of the House, Senate of Pakistan. Other eminent speakers at the seminar included, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Waheed Arshad, Mr. Ahmar Bilal Soofi, former Law Minister and Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Dr. Rifaat Hussain, Head of Department, Government and Public Policy, NUST, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Talat Masood, Defence Analyst, and Mr. Syed Talat Hussain Senior Journalist.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq, gave the historic account of problems between the two states since their creation. He added that the occupation of Kashmir and Hyderabad created the state of enmity between Pakistan and India. Talking on the emergence of recent tension between the two countries, he acknowledged the role of international community in bringing normalcy to the situation. For the betterment of about two billion people in South Asia, India and Pakistan has to resolve outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.
FATA: Stability, Integration and Reconstruction

August 4, 2015

A one day seminar on “FATA: Stability, Integration and Reconstruction” was organised by ISSI, on August 4, 2015. Welcoming the Chief Guest, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Khan Abbasi, the Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Ambassador Masood Khan, said that FATA is the keystone of our national security and one of the top priorities of the State of Pakistan was to end the fight in the territory of FATA and to pave the way of economic growth and prosperity of people of FATA. Governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Khan Abbasi highlighted the importance of stability, integration and reconstruction in FATA, said that the process of stability; integration and reconstruction are co-related and are simultaneous on the path of progress.

Organized by
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad
Seminar on
“FATA: Stability, Integration and Reconstruction”
August 4, 2015
organized by
The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad
Afghanistan: The Future of Peace Negotiation after Mullah Omer

August 21, 2015

Cognizant of political development arising after the death of Mullah Omer, a seminar was organised at ISSI on August 21, 2015 to highlight the impact of ongoing peace process in Afghanistan. The keynote speaker at the seminar was His Excellency Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan. Other speakers included Ambassador (Retd) Rustum Shah Mohmand, former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Lt. General (Retd) Asad Durrani, Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Director South Asia Programmes at the United States Institute of Peace; and Dr. Sarfraz Khan, Director, Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar.

The Director General ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, in his opening remarks, highlighted the importance of peace in Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region, especially after the drawdown of NATO forces in Afghanistan. He narrated the important role played by Pakistan on the insistence of international community in bringing all the stakeholders to the table to resume the dialogue process. Ambassador Khan also pointed out that Pakistan had no vested interest except peace in Afghanistan, and remained committed on resuming the dialogue process without delay after the death of Mullah Omer.

The speakers at the seminar concluded that in order to bring lasting peace in Afghanistan and the region, talks were a step in the right direction and the international community should create a favourable environment for all the stake holders to have a dialogue. The speakers lauded the efforts of Afghan President Mr. Ashraf Ghani and the Pakistan Government in the role they played in the peace Process. Elaborating the positive change in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan after President Ghani had come into power, the speakers viewed that it would bring huge opportunity for both countries to get rid of the home grown and
external Taliban with the support being provided by all major powers. While deliberating on future of peace process in Afghanistan, it was suggested that the emerging IS threat in the region and its negative impact it could have for all countries should not be ignored or taken lightly.
National Unity: A Critical Factor in National Security of Pakistan

September 8, 2015

A seminar titled “National Unity: A Critical Factor in National Security” in collaboration with the Department of International Relations, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad was organized on September 8, 2015. The seminar focused on the importance of national unity in strengthening national security. Lt. Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region, while addressing the seminar said that Pakistan’s convalescent economy, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the military’s successful fight against militancy are the reasons to be sanguine about the future yet he emphasised upon the significance of maintaining national unity in these crucial times when a number of elements were working to destabilize Pakistan.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, said that despite its diversity, Pakistan is a united nation, which has always stood together in the face of many odds. Kashmir, nuclear power and cricket strengthen the bond of national unity. He, however, cautioned that national unity should not be taken as a given: it has to be nurtured with care and with continuous efforts. Distributive justice and inclusive economic and political development conduce to national unity, whereas inequality and economic disparity undermine it. The seminar was addressed by several noted scholars and practitioners, including Mr. Javed Jabbar, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asif Yasin Malik, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Assad Durrani, Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad Khan, Mr. Zahid Hussian, Mr. Amir Rana (PIPS), Dr Rifat
Hussain (NUST), Dr. Muhammad Khan (NDU), Dr Mansur Kundi (Gomal University), Dr Ijaz Khan (University of Peshawar) and Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI. The speakers approached the issue of national integrity from a variety of angles; however, all agreed that need for national unity was paramount at the time when state was facing a variety of internal and external challenges.
National Security: Pakistan’s Energy Requirements

October 7, 2015

The seminar on “National Security: Pakistan’s Energy Requirements”, was organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Department of International Relations, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad.

Two Federal Ministers — Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources and Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Water and Power, dealing with the energy crises in Pakistan chaired the seminar.

This inaugural remarks, Mr. Khaqan said that energy crisis in Pakistan are complex; not only there is severe shortage of energy, but there are also multiple issues of governance such as poor transmission and regulations. The present government, however, is fully committed to resolve this crisis through short and long-term measures. The most feasible, economical, and efficient solution to this crisis is gas. And the government is working hard to make more gas available for the energy generation as it is not only importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) but has also redoubled its efforts at domestic exploration of gas.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Water and Power, who dispelled the notion that Pakistan should prioritise hydel power, arguing that hydel power could not be the base-load because it is not available throughout the year. Other sources such as gas, coal and nuclear are far more reliable and qualify to be the base-load for Pakistan’s energy supply for their better reliability and efficiency. Nuclear power plants, for example, have achieved 86% efficiency in recent years in Pakistan.
Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, said energy has become a national security issue for Pakistan. It is also a political, economic and social issue. Availability of energy resource is crucial for spurring our industry, accelerating agricultural growth, meeting consumer demands, mobilising domestic investment, and attracting foreign direct investment. We also need more energy to create jobs and start new business. Sufficient and secure supply of energy would result in promoting new business avenues, reducing employment rate, promoting higher growth and exports.

The seminar was also addressed by:

Mr. Zafar Mahmood, Chairman WAPDA, Mr. Akhtar Ali, Member (Energy) Planning Commission, Dr. Ansar Parvez, former Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Khalid Banuri from Strategic Plans Division, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, former Chairman National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM), Mr. Amjad Ali Awan, CEO Alternative Energy Development Board, Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Center for International Strategic Studies, Dr. Abid Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Engineer Imtiaz Ali Qazalbash, Mr. Shah Jahan Mirza, MD, Private Power and Infrastructure Board, Ms. Sarwat Rauf Rana, NUML, and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.
Strategic Stability in South Asia and East Asia
Constructive Role Played by China

October 14, 2015

A seminar in collaboration with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA) was held at ISSI on, “Strategic Stability in South and East Asia: Constructive Role Played by China”.

The delegation from CACDA was led by Ambassador Sha Zukang, Honorary President of CACDA included Mr. Chen Kai, Vice President and Secretary General, CACDA, Ambassador Li Changhe, Senior Adviser to CACDA Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong inaugurated the seminar.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad opened the inaugural session with his welcome remarks saying that strong relations with China were the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy. He added that Pakistan-China friendship has stood the test of time, and is expected to further deepen in the coming years.
Ambassador Sun Weidong, in his inaugural remarks said that South Asia with its two billion populations was a very important part of China’s neighbourhood, and as such, it was in the interest of China to promote peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region.

Ambassador ShaZukang, Honorary President, China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA) greatly appreciated the overwhelming welcome and hospitality extended by the people of Pakistan.

Mr. Chen Kai, Vice President and Secretary General, CACDA in his remarks stressed the need to deepen the cooperation between Pakistan and China, as well as ISSI and CACDA.

Mr. Khalid Banuri, Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs (ACDA), Strategic Plans Division, expressed concern over the increasing conventional disparity between India and Pakistan, development of destabilizing systems like the Ballistic Missile Defence system, and aggressive doctrine by India and termed it a challenge to achieve peace in the region.

Dr. Irfan Yusuf Shami, Director General, (Disarmament), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, also stressed on the role of China as a trusted ally of Pakistan, and an important global as well as regional player.

**Signing MoU between ISSI and CACDA**

The inaugural session was followed by a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between ISSI and CACDA.
The first session was chaired by Mr. Pervez Butt, former Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Distinguished speakers of this session were: Ambassador Sha Zukang, Honorary President, China Arms Contol and Disarmament Association (CACDA); Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director & Associate Professor School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad; Brig. Zahir Kazmi, Director, ACDA, Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan and Dr. Rizwana Abbasi, Assistant Professor, Strategic Studies Department, National Defence University, Pakistan.

The second session was chaired by Dr. Rifaat Hussain, Professor, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Science and Technology. Distinguished speakers of this session were: Ambassador Li Changhe, Senior Adviser to CACDA; Dr. Adil Sultan, Director, SPD; Dr. Rabia Akhtar, Director, Centre for Security, Strategy, and Policy Research (CSSPR) University of Lahore and Ms. Sitara Noor, Visiting Faculty Member, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.
WorkShops
Nuclear Security and Stability Dynamics in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

November 10, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) and Stimson Center held a workshop on Nuclear Security and Stability Dynamics in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities on November 10, 2015.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) opened the inaugural session saying that Pakistan’s nuclear programme was defensive in nature and purely India centric. Pakistan is a legitimate nuclear state that has the right to decide the quality and quantity of its nuclear force. Mr. Khalid Banuri, Director General Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs (ACDA), endorsed Masood Khan’s comments saying that the rationale behind Pakistan’s nuclear programme was preservation of peace and stability in the region. Pakistan pursues a policy of credible minimum deterrence in order to deter aggression from India. Mr. Michael Krepon, Co-Founder, Stimson Center said that more is better if nuclear deterrence fails.

Session I of the workshop focused on Conventional Deterrence dynamics between India and Pakistan, session II on Nuclear Escalation between Pakistan and India, session III on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and session IV on International Nuclear Regimes.

At the end of the workshop, Ambassador Khan stressed on building Pak-US relations on matters of convergence. Highlighting the prospects of Pak-US relations, Ambassador Khan said that the recent engagement between Obama and Nawaz Shraif was a positive sign, and Pakistan was keen to strengthen its relationship with the US.
Pakistan's Soft Power

November 16, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a workshop titled, “The Theoretical and Practical Forms of projecting Pakistan’s Soft Power” on November 16, 2015. The Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Ambassador Masood Khan presented a report on the subject and elaborated the concepts of hard and soft power. Responding to certain reservations regarding CPEC and its polluting effects, he clarified that the Chinese preference is that they focus on hydro and alternate sources which will be having negligible pollutant effect.
Pakistan-Turkish Relations
H.E. Sadiq Babur Girgin, Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan

June 16, 2015

During a public talk on “Pakistan-Turkish Relations” on June 16, 2015, the Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad, H.E. Mr. Sadiq Babur Girgin emphasised on the historical links between the two countries and identified the areas of energy and trade as cornerstone in our relations. He accentuated positives like tripling of flights between two countries, imminent free trade agreement and rail link for goods transportation. He espoused increased interaction between media and think tanks and informed about the plan of increasing numbers of Pakistani students in Turkish Universities.
Pakistan-German Relations
H. E. Dr. Cyrill Nunn, Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany

June 30, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on “Pakistan–German Relations” on June 30, 2015. The Ambassador traced the chronological history of bilateral relations shared between Pakistan and Germany, starting from pre-independence period until present day. The Ambassador said that his government has appreciated Pakistan’s balanced approach in the region and its sacrifices to fight against terrorism.

Ambassador Nunn said, “Pakistan Diaspora was now working as a bridge between Pakistan and Germany.” He further added that Germany has five to six per cent of Muslims population as German citizens and this is a big change that happened in last 20 years. And similarly, the number of Pakistani students coming to Germany has increased exponentially.
Pakistan-Japan Relations
H. E. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan
August 11, 2015

Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Japan, H.E. Mr Hiroshi Inomata, gave a public talk on Pakistan-Japan relations at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) Ambassador Inomata said that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and ever since the formal end of World War II on August 15, 1945, the Japan is committed to peace at all costs.

He said that the Japanese government is now working to materialise an official visit by the Japanese Prime Minister to Pakistan.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that as an Observer on the SAARC platform, Japan has an important role to play in South Asia and expected that Japan would not discriminate Pakistan in matters related to civilian nuclear cooperation.
Pakistan-UK Relations
H. E. Philip Barton, British High Commission to Pakistan

November 17, 2015

As part of ISSI’s Ambassador’s Platform 2015 initiative, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Philip Barton addressed audience on Pakistan-United Kingdom Relations. The British High Commissioner highlighted people-to-people ties, development assistance, economic and trade relations and security co-operation, particularly in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks.

Mr. Barton also mentioned in his address that the UK and Pakistan’s relationship stands on very strong foundations. Over 1.1 million UK nationals claim their heritage from Pakistan; a quarter of a million British nationals visit Pakistan every year; some 7,000 Pakistani students have studied in the UK in each of the last few years. He added that bilateral trade in 2014 increased by 15 per cent compared to the previous year and the UK has trained over 5000 military and civilian personnel to counter improvised explosive.

Acknowledging the sacrifices of the Pakistan to fight against terrorism he said that the UK continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan as it tackles terrorism and extremism.
Public Talks
Turkmenistan's Policy of Neutrality and Peace

March 18, 2015

H. E. Sapar Berdiniyazov, a former Ambassador to Pakistan and presently Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkmenistan, gave a talk on “Turkmenistan's Policy of Neutrality and Peace” at ISSI on March 18, 2015. He said that Turkmenistan wanted to work with the countries of the region to establish peace in Afghanistan, and to overcome the threats by non-state actors. He specifically mentioned the gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI), and hoped that the project would be initiated this year.

The Ambassador said that the neutral status of Turkmenistan provides a great opportunity for mediation in conflict resolution and that his country is a firm advocate of the peace process in neighbouring Afghanistan.
China-Pakistan Relations

March 20, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Public Talk to highlight the relationship between People’s Republic of China and Pakistan, its history and future. The speaker at the talk, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong spoke about two main issues: the new and growing China and Pakistan-China relationship. He said that The New China is building upon four principles: comprehensive prosperity, comprehensive reform, comprehensive law-based governance and comprehensive governing of the Chinese Communist Party. He talked about China’s “One Belt and One Road” project and declared Pakistan a major component of this new Chinese economic strategy.

The Director General ISSI, Mr. Masood Khan paid tribute to Ambassador Sun Weidong for his contribution for strengthening Pakistan-China relations and added that China Pakistan Economic Corridor would be a catalyst for regional connectivity and usher a new era of peace, stability and prosperity.
Pakistan’s Foreign Policy

June 15, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a public talk on June 15, 2015 by Mr. Tariq Fatemi, Minister of State, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, on Pakistan’s Foreign Policy. In his thought provoking speech, Mr. Fatemi said that the evolving global environment with multiple challenges and, equal, if not overriding opportunities, are strong determinants for formulation of a dynamic foreign policy. While the core national interests of any nation remains constant, the process of executing the goals and objectives of foreign policy change, according to developments in the domestic, regional and global platforms.
Imperatives of Peace and Development in Pakistan

October 12, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a public talk on the topic “Imperatives of Peace and Development in Pakistan.” Minister for Planning and Development Mr. Ahsan Iqbal was the Chief Guest. The event amongst other distinguished audience was attended by the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong, American Ambassador H.E. Mr. Richard Olsen, Ambassador of Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Jong Hwan Song and Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Jononov Sherali.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said that lack of planning has landed the country in dire straits. He laid out his Vision 2025 which not only aimed to accelerate the economic growth but also to transform it into economic development. He elaborated the government's strategy for economic development underpinning it by five enablers and seven pillars which would lead Pakistan to become one of the top ten economies by the year 2047. He also highlighted the effort being made to bring about a knowledge revolution in Pakistan.

The Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Mr. Masood Khan in his opening remarks said that Pakistan's economy has recovered from the past setbacks and has become robust which is reflected in the ratings by international economic institutions.
Mr. Khalid Mehmood, Chairman, Board of Governors of ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that Pakistan would continue to work for a peaceful neighbourhood so that it is not distracted from its development goals.
The Role of FWO in National Infrastructure Development and Implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

October 21, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on “The Role of FWO in National Infrastructure Development and Implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” on October 21, 2015. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Afzal, Director General, Frontier Works Organization was the guest speaker at the occasion.

Welcoming the guest speaker, the Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan said that the sheer expanse and technological thresholds of the organization has led it to undertake multiple accomplishments and initiatives at the national level, and now with regard to developing the infrastructure necessary for the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Speaking on the occasion, Maj. Gen. Afzal said that CPEC is going to be a game changer which will not only change the fate of people of Pakistan, but will benefit the whole region. He said that the Frontier Work Organization is a pioneer in implementing the CPEC and is committed to complete the assigned projects well before stipulated time lines. He said that completion of these roads during next year will facilitate operationalisation of Gwadar Deep Sea Port and enhance its overall connectivity.
Climate Change and International Security

November 02, 2015

The event was addressed by H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, H.E Mr. Philippe Lacoste Deputy Special Representative for the Paris Climate Conference (COP21), Mr. Arif Ahmad Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of the French Republic in Islamabad.
The Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan in his welcome address, said that the annual United Nations 21st climate change Conference of the Parties (COP21) under the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCC) from November 30 to December 11, 2015 will be hosted by France.

The main objective of the COP21 will be to review the implementation of the 'Rio Convention' that was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 as the international response to climate change. The convention sets out a framework for action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid “dangerous effects”.

H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in his key note address attributed the devastation caused by massive floods in 2010 and 2011 and a recent drought in Sindh province to the erratic behaviour on the climatic system.

Mr. Aziz said that Pakistan is fully committed to prevent any negative fallout of climate change and the vision “2025” of the government clearly recognises global warming and climate change as a major threat.

Mr. Philippe Lacoste Deputy Special Representative for the Paris Climate Conference, said that droughts, temperature increase, extreme weather, sea level rise and coastal degradations and the glacial melt are some of the main contributing factors towards the adverse aspect of climate change.
**Achievements of OPCW and its Future Role in Post-Destruction Phase**

**November 18, 2015**

H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of the French Republic, said that the aim of the conference is to reach a universal agreement that will limit the rise in the average global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius, compared to the pre-industrial period, by the end of the century. Mr. Arif Ahmad Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, stressed upon a fact that a cultural revolution is required to shift the use from fossil to renewable energy resources. Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, urged that the world as a whole should take steps to minimise the risks of climate change.

To talk about the achievements of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and its Future Role in Post-Destruction Phase, a delegation of OPCW led by their Director General Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu visited the institute on November 18, 2015.

Honourable Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, was the keynote Speaker at the occasion.

In his speech, Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu highlighted the effective role of Pakistan. He appreciated Pakistan’s staunch support for the noble aims of the Convention and making a valuable contribution to realizing a world free of chemical weapons. He further added that Pakistan has been playing an active role, both nationally and regionally, to ensure readiness and preparedness in the event of a chemical attack. Additionally, for several years, Pakistan has been a regional facilitator and a leader in the implementation of Article X, which is about assistance and protection to a State Party if it is attacked or threatened with attack by chemical weapons.
Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry in his key note address, said that the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to OPCW in December 2013 is indeed a befitting tribute to the dynamic leadership of Ambassador Uzumcu in guiding his Organization through very challenging situations and maintaining an effective disarmament regime. This policy is aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons all across the globe. He further added since its entry into force in April 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) represents a remarkable success story in the field of multilateralism and disarmament.
Book Launch
Islamabad and the Politics of International Development in Pakistan
Dr. Markus Daechsel
March 31, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Public Talk/ Book Launch of “Islamabad and the Politics of International Development in Pakistan” by Dr Markus Daechsel, Senior Lecturer in Modern Islamic History, Royal Holloway, University of London. Dr Daechsel marked Islamabad as the most iconic and ambitious urban reconstruction project of twentieth century. He termed Constantinos Doxiadis as the most ambitious architect whose master plan of Islamabad not only addressed Pakistan’s housing needs, but also changed the way in which the Pakistani state operated in the 1950s and 1960s. He provided new insights into the planning of the city, and explored the history of development as a transnational encounter between foreign consultants and donors on one side, and the post-colonial nation on the other.
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a public talk and launched a book, titled *Defence and Diplomacy* compiled by S.M.Hali. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sohail Aman was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Introducing the speaker, Ambassador Masood Khan, the Director General Institute of Strategic Studies, said that S.M. Hali has a deep understanding of Pakistan’s interests and is an ardent defender of Pakistan’s causes. These facets are fully reflected in his book Defence and Diplomacy. Ambassador Khan also paid tribute to Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman for his effective leadership of the Pakistan Air Force, his intellectual depth and professionalism.

The distinguished Chief Guest, Air Marshal Sohail Aman lauded S.M. Hali’s important contribution to the discourse on Pakistan’s Foreign and Security Policy. Responding to a question about the Pakistan Air Force’s ability to fight the looming threat of Daesh and terrorism, the Air Chief said the Pakistan Air Force has always been very effective and has fought to the best of its ability to break the will of terrorists to continue fighting.

S. M. Hali, appreciated his mentors in the Pakistan Air Force and informed the audience about the painstaking and arduous journey that he covered while putting this book in shape by citing an example of a chapter on RAW, which took him several years to complete. He also shared an audio message from the former Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Asghar Khan.

The book launch was concluded by closing remarks by the Chairman of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, who appreciated Hali’s contributions to electronic and print media and for producing an excellent academic piece which dwells on objectivity and clarity of thought and understanding.
Indian Grand Strategy
Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)

September 29, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad (IRS) organised a public talk and book launch of Indian Grand Strategy — Machiavellian or Kautilyan, an IRS publication on September 29, 2015.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, ISSI, in his welcome remarks said that the event was unique as it addresses popular beliefs about India that is determined to isolate Pakistan from the international community, and that India has not fully accepted Pakistan's existence.

Ambassador Arif Ayub, President Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), said that both India and Pakistan should adopt a better approach in regard to the Confidence Building Measures, pay attention to civil military balance as described by Paul Kennedy and conduct themselves as responsible nuclear weapon states.

H.E. T.C.A. Raghavan, High Commissioner of India said that exchange of views through an open discourse would help India and Pakistan to reduce tensions and improve strained relations.

Concluding the talk, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI said that the only viable solution was either through bilateral dialogue or third party mediation through the UN, as history has proved that wars were never a solution to any of the problems.
Directory of Think Tanks in Pakistan
A Guide to Research Organizations in Social Sciences in Pakistan
Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik

November 02, 2015

Directory of Think Tanks in Pakistan: A Guide to Research Organizations in Social Sciences in Pakistan compiled by Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, Senior Research Fellow (SRF), Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad was launched at the Institute. The speakers at the book launch were: Mr. Waheed-ul-Hasan, Special Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik, SRF ISSI, Dr Muhammad Khan, Head of Department of International Relations, National Defence University, Islamabad, Mr. Ghulam Mujaddid, Dean, Social Sciences, Air University, Islamabad, and Ms. Farhat Asif, President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Islamabad.
Indian Grand Strategy (2nd Edition)  
Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)  

December 29, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad (IRS) organised a public talk and book launch of *Indian Grand Strategy* (2nd Edition) an IRS publication.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, ISSI, in his welcome remarks observed that tensions between India and Pakistan are reducing due to the statesmanship shown by the two Prime Ministers. He stressed on the need of political resolve to further the talks based on resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute guided by the people's aspirations.

Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, former Pakistan's High Commissioner to India stated that both countries needed to maintain dialogue, observe essential restrain and hence move towards sustainable cooperation. Ambassador Arif Ayub, President Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) acknowledged that book is well researched and covers different areas of the topic. Mrs. Maryam Mastoor, a research analyst at IRS emphasised the importance of a concrete dialogue, stating that failure would hinder economic progress in both countries. H.E. Mr. T.C.A. Raghavan, High Commissioner of India stressed that the composite dialogue framework needed to be updated since it did not include changes in the economies of either country.
Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI stated that a great responsibility lied on the leaders of either country to show true statesmanship and to ensure that the disappointing history regarding dialogue was not repeated.
Screening of Documentary
Journey into Europe
Dr. Akbar S. Ahmed

December 23, 2015

A documentary Journey into Europe produced by Dr. Akbar S. Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University in Washington, D.C. was screened at the Institute. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs graced the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sartaj Aziz lauded the efforts to produce such a superb documentary aimed at creating religious harmony, tolerance and co-existence. Dr. Amineh Hoti, Associate Editor, cinematographer and script consultant of the documentary was the keynote speaker who highlighted the necessity of producing the documentary.

The Journey covers relations between Muslim world and Europe spanning over many centuries, starting with the period of Muslim presence in Andalusia and Sicily, tracing the Ottoman expansion into Europe, and understanding the more recent era of colonisation and immigration. The documentary explores that Europe and Islam are not quintessentially different or disparate. We see many parts of Europe steeped in Islamic civilization, whose culture, language, architecture and knowledge has left an indelible mark on modern European thought and renaissance. Similarly, Europe has left a strong imprint on the Middle East, Africa and Asia and shaped Muslim world view.

The Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies in his welcome address said that the message of the documentary was not despondence but hope, refereeing the history. He concluded his speech with a phrase which he picked up from the documentary: “Fear should not mutate into hatred”.

Delegations
Five-member Delegation of the European Parliament

February 18, 2015

Five-member Delegation of the European Parliament led by Ms. Jean Lambert visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on February 18, 2015. Opening the floor for discussion Ambassador Khalid Mahmood highlighted the issues Pakistan is facing that included peace and stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan’s efforts to fight against terrorism for the past few years. Another speaker from ISSI raised a number of concerns including; ethnic divide, insurgency of Taliban, Afghan National Security Force (ANSF), state structure and institutions, Afghan refugees, and drug trade. The second speaker elucidated that Pakistan in the decade old war on terrorism, has lost many precious lives both military personnel and civilians.
A group of five Trainee Officers from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs called on Mr. Masood Khan, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on March 19, 2015. The Indian trainee officers visited Pakistan as part of promoting friendly exchanges and familiarization of the SAARC region. The group was briefed by the Director General on the organization and research being carried out at the Institute. The briefing was later followed by an informal discussion between young Indian diplomats and young researchers at the Institute on issues of water, Kashmir, economic cooperation and development, counter-terrorism and the prospects for regional peace, stability and prosperity. Both sides emphasised the need to explore constructive solutions to bilateral challenges that both countries face.
Four-member Delegation: CICIR, Beijing

March 20, 2015

A four-member delegation from the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing, held a roundtable discussion with the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) on March 20, 2015.

The CICIR members included: Mr. Ji Zhiye, President of CICIR, Dr Hu Shisheng, Director of South Asia at CICIR, Mr. Li Wei, Researcher at CICIR, Ms. Li Xin, Coordinator in Academic Exchange Program & Translator at CICIR.

Director General ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, reiterated the importance of the bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan and also shed light on the important dynamics of close cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Ji put forward two issues for discussion i.e. (i) Peace process in Afghanistan where Pakistan plays a bigger role and; (ii) building of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
A six-member delegation from the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on April 19, 2015 and held an in-depth discussion on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of IDCPC. Other members included were: Ms. Sun Haiyan, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Public Information and Communication, Mr. Yuan Ruidong, Director, Bureau of South and Southeast Asian Affairs, Ms. Xu Xu, Director, China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), Mr. Zhou Rongshui, Second Secretary, and Ms. Nie Shengquan, Interpreter, CCCWS.

Mr. Guo Yezhou said that China and Pakistan are making joint efforts to promote peace, stability and development in the region. Director General, ISSI, Mr. Masood Khan reiterated the importance of the bilateral relationship between the two countries and elaborated on the dynamics of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
Eight-member Chinese Delegation : BCIM-ILFA  

April 23, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-House meeting with an eight-member Chinese delegation representing the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Cooperation Forum China chapter; and The Kunming Institute of International Logistics and Finance (ILFA). The delegation was part of the New Silk Road Initiative, promoting bilateral and multilateral ties in the avenues of investment, financial markets and business development.

The members of the delegation included: Mr. Yang Xiao Ping, Governor, Kunming Central Branch, Peoples’ Bank of China; Mr. Xia Shu, Chairman, Fudian Bank; Mr. Liu Jin Xin, Chairman, China Kunming International Logistics & Finance Association; Mr. Tan Tai Ping, Section Chief, Financial Affairs Office of Yunnan Peoples Government; Mr. Gao Can, Director of General Office, Financial Affairs Office of Yunnan Peoples’ Government; Mr. Liu Guang Xi, Director, Financial Affairs Office of Yunnan Peoples’ Government; Mr. Chen Yun Bo, Deputy Director, Financial Affairs Office of Yunnan Peoples’ Government; Ms Juan Du, Deputy Secretary General, China Kunming International Logistics & Finance Association.

The Director General, ISSI, Masood Khan said that the geo-strategic relations between Pakistan and China are now taking a transformative turn towards geo-economic partnership and cooperation as a catalyst for regional cooperation and integration.
Six-member Delegation
Century Foundation's International Working Group

May 20, 2015

A six-member team of the Century Foundation’s International Working Group comprising Americans and Pakistanis visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on May 20, 2015. The members of the team included Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Ambassador Cameron Munter, Ambassador Ann Wilkenes, former Foreign Minister of Turkey, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Mr. Najam Sethi and Mr. Musharraf Zaidi. The visit was part of the team’s recent engagements in Islamabad to share the report Jago Pakistan (Wake Up Pakistan). The report had touched upon the most crucial issues confronting contemporary Pakistan such as regional security and economic cooperation, violent extremism and internal governance.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General ISSI, thanked the team for their visit and hoped the team would follow up its recommendations with Pakistani decision-makers and opinion leaders.
Seven-member Chinese Delegation
Chinese Peoples Institute of Foreign Affairs

May 22, 2015

A seven-member delegation led by Ambassador Lu Shumin, Executive President of the Chinese Peoples Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), visited the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) on May 22, 2015 to have a round table discussion. Other members of the delegation included Ambassador PengKeyu, Vice President, CPIFA, Ambassador Chai Xi, and former Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ma Jiali, Researcher at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Liu Xiaoxue, Research Associate, China Academy of Social Sciences, Han Hongcai, Deputy Director, CPIFA, and Du Min, Researcher, CPIFA.

The delegation exchanged views on: Bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China; also what role China could play in issues like: Security situation in South Asia in view of recent ISIS threat and Peace prospects in Afghanistan. The Pakistani perspective on the Iran-West nuclear deal was also discussed during the meeting.
Ten-member Chinese Delegation

May 27, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-House meeting with a ten-member Chinese Delegation representing various think tanks of China. The delegation included Mr. Ye Hailin, Editorial Director, South Asian Studies, China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); Dr Huang Rui, Research Fellow, China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) IDCPC; Dr Shao Yuqun, Executive Director, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS); Dr Lan Jianxue, Associate Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS); Dr Niu Xinchun, Director; Mr. Qian Liwei, Research Professor, Institute of American Studies, CICIR; Mr. Ding Hao, Deputy Director, Academy of Military Science (AMS); and Dr Wang Xu, Assistant Director, Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS), Peking University. The delegation expressed optimism regarding CPEC and was keen to know about the status of Pakistan-Afghan relations, the ISIS threat to the region and the legal and constitutional status of FATA. While responding to the questions, Ambassador Masood said that Pakistan is pursuing the CPEC initiative with vigour and has resolved to make it a success.
Ten-member Delegation: Chinese Defence Services Intelligence

June 03, 2015

A ten-member delegation from China Defence Services Intelligence visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on June 03, 2015.

The main points discussed during the meeting include China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Counter Terrorism, emergence of IS as a threat and its impact on Pakistan, Use of IS by hostile forces against Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Welcoming the delegation, the Director General highlighted the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for both China and Pakistan.
Seven-member Delegation: Chinese Foreign Ministry

June 17, 2015

A seven-member delegation led by Ms Lu Xu, Deputy Director General, Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, held in-depth discussions on Pakistan-China relations, China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Asia-Pacific issues.

Other members of the delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs were: Mr Chen Zhang, Third Secretary, Department of Asian Affairs, Mr Zhou Guangxu, Third Secretary, Consular Department, Mr Xiang Wei, Third Secretary, Department of Asian Affairs, Mr Zhang Shuhao, Third Secretary, Hong Chong Liang, Third Secretary, Department of Asian Affairs, and Ms Guo Jing, Attaché, Department of Asian Affairs.

Ms Lu Xu said that after the visit of the President Xi Jinping in April 2015, the existing bilateral relations between the two countries would touch new heights. Referring to CPEC and Gwadar Port development, she said that the Pakistan and China needed to educate their people particularly the youth, about the economic benefits that would be derived by both the countries.
Three-member Delegation  
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  

July 29, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) held discussions with a three member delegation from the CSIS, US, on issues such as Pakistan-US relations, and Pakistan-China relations. The delegation was headed by Mr. Daniel F. Runde, Director, Project on prosperity and development at the CSIS, included his two other colleagues Mr. Asif Sheikh, Senior Research Associate and Mr. Amir Raza, Director Asia and the Middle East.

The Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mehmood welcomed the guests, while Ambassador Masood Khan, the Director General ISSI, opening the discussions highlighted that Pakistan and the US share strong ties and both the countries have worked very hard to bring a positive trend to the relationship.

While expressing his views, Mr. Daniel F. Runde said that Pakistan for too long has been seen through a distorted lens in the US. However, it is time that the US realises the true potential of Pakistan, and its future development.
Twelve-member Delegation: Chinese Working Group

October 27, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a twelve-member Chinese Working Group on October 27, 2015. The group was led by Ambassador Liu Guangyuan, Special Representative of Foreign Minister and Director General of the Department of External Security Affairs. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Zhao Lijian, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of China in Islamabad.

Other members of the delegation included: Mr. Qu Jianqing, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Public Security, Ms. Li Li, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Public Security, Mr. Zhang Maoming, Director of the Department of External Security, MFA, Mr. Meng Huaqiang, Director of Department of Planning and Development, SASAC, Mr. Liang Hengzhu, Deputy Director of the Department of International Economic Affairs, MFA, Mr. Du Yue, First Secretary of the Department of Asian Affairs, MFA, Mr. Zhuang Yan, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, SASAC, Mr. Ye Zikang, Officer of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Public Security, Mr. Yang Yiding, Attache of the Department of External Security Affairs, MFA, Ms. Xu Shaofang, Interpreter, and Mr. Teng Liu, Third Secretary of Ministry of Commerce.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, ISSI said that we are aware of the central position of the Department of External Security Affairs and that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project for the ‘One Belt, One Road’ initiative launched by President Xi Jinping.
Three-member Delegation: Center for International Studies (CIS), Rome

November 18, 2015

A three-member delegation headed by Professor Andrea Margelleti, President of Center for International Studies (CIS), Rome, Italy visited the institute for an in-house meeting. They expressed that the terrorist attack in Paris marks the beginning of a new trend in global terrorism as they underlined the Islamic State’s intention to operate within Europe. The radicalisation of Muslim Youth has created a fertile ground for terrorist organizations to find new recruits. Europe’s failure to integrate migrant communities lies at the heart of this growing challenge of radicalisation among migrant youth and Europe must understand that the challenge faced is internal and home-grown.

The discussion generated suggestions that Muslims in Europe should not be demonised just because of their faith and efforts should be made to counter Islamophobia in the Europe. Ambassador Masood Khan the Director General, ISSI, concluding the meeting and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the French people over the losses in Paris attacks. He also emphasised the need to bring the conflict in the Middle East to an end as it had been providing fuel to the vicious action-reaction cycle whereby extremists would use the situation in the Middle East to justify their violence.
Ten-member Media Delegation: China

November 24, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with Chinese media delegation on March 24, 2015.

The members of the delegation included Ms. Huan Yang (China Radio International), Ms. Wang Lin (China Business News), Ms. Guo Xiaohong (China Internet Information Center), Mr. Han Bin, Mr. Jiang Zhuqing (Global Times, Beijing), Mr. Du Jianing (China International Radio), Mr. Jianbo Zhang (Department of International News), Ms. Wang Qingyuan (China Daily), Ms. Sheng Hui (People’s Daily Online).

Director General, ISSI Ambassador Masood Khan welcoming the delegation highlighted the cordial relations between China and Pakistan and said that after the visit of President Xi Jinping to Islamabad on April 21-22, 2015, the nature of friendship has been elevated to new heights of strategic cooperation and mutual benefit in all fields of socio-economic relations. He emphasised that Pakistan has pursued peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including our relations with China and India. He expressed his concerns on Indian interference in Pakistan, including Balochistan, FATA and Karachi.
In-house Meetings
Perpetuating Urban Conflict
The Processes of Enclavisation in Karachi
Dr. Sobia Kakar
January 13, 2015

The meeting was presided by Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Americas and Acting Director General of the Institute. Focusing on the ethnic politics and accommodating migrants as the root cause of the current violence in Karachi. Dr Sobia emphasised on having a more informal discourse to counter the issue. She, however, disagreed to the general perception about Karachi being the most dangerous city of the world when compared with Bogota or Cape Town. She pointed out that the killing of 1360 people in a year is far less than the number of the people killed in Cape Town.
Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Borge Brende
February 09, 2015

The Institute hosted an in-house meeting on February 09, 2015, with Norwegian delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Borge Brende. A wide array of issues were discussed that ranged from a brief to Norwegian delegation on the regional political situation faced by Pakistan, and in turn, the Norwegian perspective on the Ukraine situation, and Norway’s concerns regarding security in the South Asian region were discussed.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, highlighted the cordial relations between Pakistan and Norway. Reflecting back on the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Norway, Mr Brende observed that only Russia and Afghanistan stand between Norway and Pakistan.
Dutch Human Rights Ambassador
Mr. Kees Van Baar
February 12, 2015

The Ambassador highlighted some key dimensions of human rights; women rights, freedom of religion and the right to development topped the list. Mr. Kees Van Baar also elaborated on the link between trade and human rights. Various issues like jurisprudence interpretation of law and changing social conditions were also discussed.
Pak-India Relations
Ambassador Abdul Basit

March 20, 2015

Ambassador Abdul Basit High Commissioner to India visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on March 20, 2015. He talked about Pak-India relations in depth.

He highlighted various critical issues and India's various tactics to aloof Pakistan in the international community.
State of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia
Brig. (Retd.) Naeem Ahmad Salik

March 11, 2015

On March 11, 2015, Brigadier (R) Naeem Ahmad Salik, an expert on nuclear issues gave a briefing on “The State of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia”. Brigadier Salik said that deterrence is a dynamic and not a static concept. Pakistan needs to modernise and refine its deterrent to maintain its credibility and symmetry.
The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with Brigadier (Retd.) Feroz Hassan Khan, faculty member National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey California, and his team comprised of Brigadier (R) Naeem Salik, Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Dr. Masood Ahmad, and Ms. Sannia Abdullah on March 20, 2015 regarding simulation exercise he held in Malaysia in February, 2015 on the effects of limited war between India and Pakistan under a nuclear overhang. Brig. Feroz Khan expressed his views on simulation of a crisis situation between India and Pakistan in order to gauge the stability or instability of the situation, control, and war termination involving nuclear weapons states with a history of conflict. He said that Indo-Pakistan crisis scenario building was a result of cumulative misconstrued perceptions on both sides.
The ISSI hosted an in-house meeting on “International Cyber-Terror and Countermeasures.” The speaker at the meeting was Professor Koh Young Choul, Research Professor on terrorism at the Institute for International Development, Takushoku University Tokyo. Professor Koh was accompanied by Dr Song Jong-hwan, Ambassador, Republic of Korea, Mr. Keewon Hong, DHM, Mr. Na Min-Hong, Staff Member; and Ms. Song Hye Baik, Intern at the Korean Embassy. He identified some recent cases of cyber terrorism, and outlined how the perpetrators of such criminal activities used simple computer techniques to wreak havoc. The need for a unified counter strategy against cyber-crimes was discussed along with the need for broadening of the purview of such initiatives to counter the growing trend of cyber-crime and its usage for terrorist activities. He also appreciated the mention of such laws for curbing cyber terrorism tabled in the recently announced National Action Plan in Pakistan.
Professor Iftikhar H. Malik

April 07, 2015

The ISSI hosted an in-house meeting with Professor Iftikhar H Malik, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a former Quaid-i-Azam Fellow at St. Anthony's College Oxford. Professor Malik spoke on “South Asia: Historical Strands and Geopolitical Narratives.” He lamented that the interest among the western academic circles has always been more about the revivalists, the fundamentalists, and less about those modernists. He argued for reforming the ‘madrassa’ system, but advised adoption of a policy that does not put the ‘madrassa’ people on the defensive. These people, he argued, should be made stakeholders in the system. In this context, Prof. Malik said, Turkey, UAE, and Morocco offer good examples of how the ‘madrassas’ can be reformed without putting the whole system in danger.
Global Economic Trends
Dr. Ishrat Hussain

April 22, 2015

The ISSI hosted an in-house meeting with Dr Ishrat Hussain, Dean and Director, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, and former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. The topic for discussion at the meeting was “Global Economic Trends.” The Director General ISSI, Mr. Masood Khan shed light on the work and acknowledged The Economy of an Elitist State his seminal work. Dr Ishrat Husain identified six major trends affecting the global economy today which include: the forces of globalization; shift from traditional agriculture and industry to knowledge driven economy; the new emerging economies; demographic changes; climate change; and the ICT revolution. Based on all these facts, Dr Hussain was of the view that we should move towards building economic synergies within Asia, instead of vying for GSP plus statuses.
The ISSI hosted an in-house meeting on April 27, 2015 on “Challenges for Pakistan’s National Security.” Lt. Gen. Waheed Arshad, former Chief of General Staff, was the guest speaker at the meeting.

Gen. Arshad said that due to its unique security environment, Pakistan is confronted by many internal and external national security challenges. This security environment has not only helped to address some of these challenges, but it has also made some emerging, visible and non-visible, challenges more complex to handle.

The Director General ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, in his concluding remarks stressed upon the need to amalgamate religion and nationalism, strengthening of institutions, good governance and a public and private sector regulatory framework.
Dr. Ansar Pervaiz

June 10, 2015

Dr Pervaiz Ansar, former Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission on June 10, 2015 gave an eloquent and informative presentation on Pakistan’s energy need, suggesting short and long term initiatives, to overcome Pakistan's chronic energy shortfall and to meet future requirements for which an addition of 4000-5000 MW annually has to be brought in the system which is not possible to achieve through a single source.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Pervaiz said that Pakistan has to follow global energy generation trend by increasing nuclear energy generation share which at present is less than 5 per cent, and to plan an efficient energy mix system which is poorly managed with oil, hydropower and gas.

Elaborating his viewpoint, Dr Pervaiz stated that out of a total of 31 countries, about 10 produce one-third of their energy through nuclear, while another six meet 20-30% of their energy needs through nuclear energy. Instead of too much reliance on oil that consumes major chunk of our foreign exchange component, we have to exploit comparatively cheap alternate energy generation using coal and to place more focus on nuclear energy.
Italian Vice Foreign Minister, H.E Benedetto Della Vedova

June 15, 2015

An Italian delegation headed by Italian Vice Minister His Excellency Mr. Benedetto Della Vedora, Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Adriano Chiodi, Ambassador Andrea Perugini, First Councilor Mr. Lorenzo Galante and Mr. Tomaso Sansone held discussions on a number of issues pertaining to Pakistan-Italy bilateral relations and issues of human rights.

The Pakistani side was represented by Ambassador Masood Khan the Director General ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mehmood Chairman Board of Governors Institute of Strategic Studies, Defence Analyst General Talat Masood, Ambassador Sarwar Naqvi and ISSI Research faculty.

The delegation was informed about the possible sectors where Italian cooperation could work well for both the countries; identified sectors included training, technology transfer, energy, nuclear research and agriculture. The threat of Islamic State (IS) and the menace of emigration as a threat to Italian interests were also deliberated.
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on “Future of Sustainable Development in South Asia.”

In his presentation, Dr Suleri identified various drivers and challenges in the way of sustainable development. Industry, energy, trade and technology were the factors which Dr Suleri thought could serve as the drivers of sustainable development in South Asia. His list of challenges included social (inequality, joblessness, rural poverty), environmental (degradation, climate change, pollution), and agricultural (food security).
Islamophobia in the West: Reality or Perceived
Prof. Samina Yasmeen

July 13, 2015

Dr Samina Yasmin, Director, Centre for Muslim States and Societies (CMSS), University of Western Australia, in an in-house briefing session at ISSI, talked on “Islamophobia in the West: Reality or Perceived?”

On the basis of her research, Dr Yasmin said that Islamophobia was in fact a manifestation of political, economic and social inclusion. To fight this phenomenon, it was necessary to work on social inclusion and integration. She also highlighted broad trends of Islamophobia in Australia. Dr Yasmin said that only a minority of Muslims, who were 1.5% of the world population living in the West, were exposed to Islamophobia. She said that through dialogue and legal measures, remedial steps were being taken. She also urged the Muslim countries and those in Diaspora to present a better image of Islam.
Legal Aspects of Water Issues between Pakistan and India
Ahmar Bilal Soofi

August 18, 2015

Former Law Minister and currently distinguished HSF ISSI Fellow, Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi, in an
house meeting, extensively spoke about the “Legal Aspects of Water Issues between Pakistan
and India.”

Mr. Soofi highlighting the legal aspects of Indus Water Treaty raised two fundamental
questions: whether a water security threat as an issue could be raised outside the treaty, and
whether India has an obligation under general principles of International Law to allow
minimum flow in Eastern Rivers for conservation and river ecology.

Based on his research, Mr. Soofi concluded that the Indus Water Treaty was never a
political solution to the problem. In fact, it was more about managing water resources than its
resolution. The fact that the water dispute involved the disputed territory of Jammu and
Kashmir even made things more difficult for Pakistan.

Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Massod Khan hoped that this study would go a long
way in bringing awareness about the legal aspects of Indus Water Treaty and would help the
government of Pakistan in dealing with the problem more effectively.
Challenging Extremism and Promoting Intercultural Dialogue through Literature
Qaisra Shahraz

September 09, 2015

The Institute hosted an in-house meeting on September 9, 2015 with Ms Qaisra Shahraz, novelist and scriptwriter from Manchester, UK. Ms Shahraz presented on “Challenging extremism and promoting intercultural dialogue through literature,” in light of her experience as Muslim women living in Europe. She lamented the growing hatred against Muslims in the West and misuse of notion of freedom of speech in that context. She expressed her apprehensions on the likely negative impact of the return of foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq.

Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Masood Khan acknowledged the role of literature in confronting extremism and that Muslims love peace and show deep respect for all regions.
Pakistan-Kenya Relations
Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi

September 11, 2015

A four-member delegation from Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Kenya led by Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi, Head of the Kenyan FSI, including Ms Dorothy Rotich, Peter Nalanda, and Roselyne Anjalo held an in-house discussion with ISSI. The discussion focused on how to strengthen the Pakistan-Kenya relations, and to explore avenues to increase volume of trade between the two. The meeting was also attended by Ambassador Arif Ayub, President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Ambassador Sohail Amin, President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Mr. Khalid Rehman, Director General, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), and Mr. Irfan Ahmad, Director, Foreign Services Academy (FSA).
Pakistan and the United Nations

H.E. Sartaj Aziz

September 22, 2015

The Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr Sartaj Aziz, on September 22, 2015, participated in an in-house interactive discussion on Pakistan and the United Nations at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. The event was attended by Heads of Islamabad-based think tanks, former diplomats and defence analysts.

Pakistan’s role and contribution to the United Nations and key areas of focus, for the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session were discussed in the context of Pakistan’s overall foreign policy priorities and regional and international developments.
Crisis Escalation and De-Escalation in South Asia
Brig. (Retd.) Feroz Hassan Khan

September 23, 2015

An in-house meeting with Brigadier (Retd) Feroz Hassan Khan, faculty member National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, was held on September 23, 2015. The meeting was held in aftermath of workshop held in Dubai titled “Crisis Escalation and De-Escalation in South Asia.” Dr Riffat Hussain, Head of Department of Government and Public Policy, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, who participated in the workshop, also spoke on South Asian strategic stability and crisis de-escalation.

Mr Feroz Khan said that India and Pakistan do not have adequate mechanisms for de-escalation of crises or termination of war. He said that India and Pakistan should not rely only on third parties (the US and China for example) for de-escalation of crises.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General, ISSI, agreed with the two presenters that Pakistan’s nuclear programme and deterrence was robust but he pressed upon the need to avoid the threat or use of force. The Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, emphasised the need for developing de-escalation measures and building CBMs at peace time rather than at the times of crises.
Economic and Refugees Crisis in Europe
Dr. Piotr Balcerowicz

September 23, 2015

Dr Piotr Balcerowicz, Professor of South Asian Studies, Chair, University of Warsaw, Poland, in an in-house meeting, briefed about the economic and refugees crisis in Europe and informed that there was a certain degree of political and economic stability in Poland because it was not in the Eurozone. Although, being a member of European Union, Poland, by now should have introduced Euro but it has not done so far due to some political problems. Poland has been receiving huge amount of funds from European countries for development purposes which has helped keep the Polish economy stable. Unlike other European countries, Poland is not affected by the refugees’ crises. Critical global issues were also discussed during the meeting.
Pakistan-Belarus Relations
H.E. Mr. Valentine Rybakov

October 09, 2015

The Institute held an in-house meeting with Republic of Belarus’s Deputy Foreign Minister, His Excellency Valentine Rybakov. He was accompanied by Mr Anderi Ermolovich, Ambassador of Republic of Belarus and Mr Krill Deryalin, First Secretary of Embassy of Republic of Belarus at Islamabad. Chairman, Board of Governors of ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that there has been a rapid progress in Pakistan-Belarus relations in the past few months.

Mr Valentine Rybakov acknowledged an explosive growth in promoting Pakistan-Belarus relations in recent months. He highlighted on Belarus’s foreign policy in the region and its relations with Pakistan.

Director General of ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan, talked about the crisis in Ukraine and implications for the refugees into Belarus from the Middle East. Mr Valentine Rybakov pointed out that refugees’ migration into Europe is the result of Western powers’ policies in the Middle East such as in Iraq, Syria, and Libya. Ambassador Masood Khan thanked His Excellency Valentine Rybakov for a comprehensive and pleasant conversation about Pakistan-Belarus bilateral relations. He said that the two countries would maintain and accelerate the pace of bilateral relations, which sharply focus on fostering industrial, agricultural and commercial cooperation.
Pakistan's Struggles with Governance, Democracy and Development  
Dr. Niaz Murtaza  
November 06, 2015

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a session on “Pakistan's Struggles with Governance, Democracy and Development” with Dr Niaz Murtaza, Senior Fellow at the University of California at Berkley. The session was joined by Gen.(Retd) Talat Masood, Dr Zubair and Dr Ilhan Niaz.

In opening remarks, Dr Niaz Murtaza acknowledged ISSI's effort in keeping up with the research work. Presenting his research work, Dr Murtaza highlighted that Pakistan since independence has witnessed a cyclical growth graph, finally emerging as a rising economic star with growth and development viability, over again. Despite all, Pakistan has dealt with a multitude of problems, which include terrorism, governance bottlenecks and socio-economic stagnation.

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The Institute of Strategic Studies held an in-house meeting with Mr. Afzal Khan, a prominent member of the European Parliament and a representative of the United Kingdom’s Labour Party. He highlighted important topics such as the refugee crisis and terrorism. He stressed that just as the world in the aftermath of the Paris attacks got united, the people should similarly show their support for Pakistan as Pakistan’s efforts against terrorism went less appreciated worldwide. He underlined the fact that Muslims are a very diverse community and generalising all Muslims because of a few extremists is uncalled for.
Visitors, Guests and Meetings
Ambassador Masood Khan joined the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) as its Director General on February 13, 2015 after serving as Pakistan’s Permanent Representative at the UN.

**February 27, 2015:** Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lauds Masood Khan’s services as Pakistan’s Permanent Representative at the UN.

**April 7, 2015:** Ambassador Masood Khan Called on H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, the President of Pakistan.
March 30: Ambassador Masood Khan attended and addressed the event organized in Geneva to celebrate “40th Anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention Treaty.”

April 02: Meeting with Dr. Gloria Jumamil-Mercado, the Senior Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management of the Development Academy of the Philippines.

April 07: Meeting with Ms. Raana Rahim, Head of Office United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Islamabad.
April 15: Meeting with Zahid Gishkori, Staff Correspondent of Express Tribune.

April 23: Received Mr. Mohammad Azam, Secretary for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage.

May 05: Received Dr. Faiz Ur Rehman, Director Institute of Kashmir Studies, The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad.
May 05: Received Ambassador Mohsin Razi, Director General, Foreign Service Academy.

May 08: Received Honourable Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee National Assembly.

May 26: Meeting with Australia's Deputy Ambassador in Afghanistan, Mr. Shane Flanagan.
May 27: Meeting with Mr. Mark Pont, Special Advisor UNAMA on Regional Affairs along with Ms. Raana Rahim, Head of Office UNAMA, Islamabad.

June 8: Meeting with Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson, Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) HSF-ISSI distinguished scholar.

June 11: Mr. Zhang Wei, Project Manager, United Energy Group Limited.
June 15: Receiving a gift from Mr. Deng Gang, Pakistan Study Center of China, West Normal University.

June 18: Meeting with Country Representative Asia Foundation, Gareth Aicken.

June 27: Attended a session on Afghanistan at World Peace Forum, Beijing.
July 23: Received Mr. Tong Liang, the Bureau Chief of China Economic Daily Islamabad.

July 08: Meeting Mr. Ahmar Bilal Soofi, former Law Minister, and Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan and HSF-ISSI distinguished scholar.

July 28: Received Dr. Ahmad Muaffaq Zaidan, Bureau Chief, Aljazeera Media Network.

July 31: Meeting with Shaukat Hameed Khan, Coordinator General, OIC Standing Committee of Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).

August 05: Meeting with Mr Abdullah Khurram, Committee on International Relations, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois,
August 13: Meeting with Sardar Tanveer Khadim, Jessi Khan Welfare Foundation.

August 20: Meeting with Mr. Chang Bo, Director, Ethnic Minority Groups Development Research Institute (Xinjiang) of Development Research Center of State Council, Mr. Yu Xiaohui, Professor, Ethnic Minority Groups Development Research Institute of Development Research Center of State Council and Mr. Wang Jianming, Assistant Professor, Ethnic Minority Groups Development Research Institute of Development Research Center of State Council.

September 02: Received Mr. Salman Akram, Country Head Corporate/Acting Chief Executive, TCS along with Brig. Nasir and Mr. Muhammad Younas.
September 08: Received Mr. Javed Jabbar, former Senator and Federal Minister.

September 10: Received H. E. Mrs. Jeannette Seppen, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan.

September 23: Mr. Andrey Shabalin, Political Counsellor, Russian Embassy, Islamabad.
October 5: Received Malik Khuda Bakhsh Awan, IG Police of AJK and Sardar Faheem Abbasi, Additional IG, AJK.

October 5: Received Lt. Gen. (Retd) Agha Umar Farooq, Pakistan’s High Commissioner to Nigeria.

October 9: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valentine Rybakov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus.
November 02: Received Ambassador Martine Dorance of France and Deputy SR Paris Climate Conference Philippe Lacoste and Secretary Climate Change, Arif Ahmad Khan.

November 20: Received H. E. Mr. Carlos Morales, Ambassador of Spain to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

November 23: Received Dr. Michele Forster, Director Pakistan and Central Asia Desk.
November 28: Received Ambassador Sun Weidong, Embassy of the People's Republic of China Islamabad.

December 02: Received Ms. Jennifer Louise COLE, Political Counsellor, British High Commission, Islamabad.

December 21: Received Mr. Abdul Rasheed Turabi, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
December 23: Received Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geneva.

December 23: Hosted MPA students from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Attock.

December 31: Meeting with Maj. Gen. (R) Mian Abdul Qayoom.

December 31: Dr. Rashid Ahmed Siddiqi, Associate Professor presenting his book Deterrence Stability in Nuclear South Asia.
May 28: Meeting with the officials of Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad.

May 28: Meeting with Mr. Kristof W. Duwaerts, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad.

December 11: Ms. Perweesh Chaudhary, HSF-ISSI distinguish scholar with Mr. Kristof W. Duwaerts, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad and Ambassador Masood, Director General, ISSI.
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Agha Murtaza Pooya</td>
<td>September-13, 1994 to April-11, 1997</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar A. Sirohey</td>
<td>April-09, 1997 to October-24, 1998</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Agha Shahi</td>
<td>January-08, 2001 to January-22, 2005</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Tanvir Ahmad Khan</td>
<td>December-13, 2008 to April-08, 2011</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Ambassador Khalid Mahmood</td>
<td>November-21, 2013 to date.</td>
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2. S. Irtaza Hussain        March-17, 1976 to July-31, 1978
7. Dr. Miss. K. F. Yusuf     July-08, 1990  to October-31, 1990
10. Mr. Niaz A. Naik         August-23, 1993 to November-09, 1993
13. Dr. Shireen M. Mazari     August-15, 2000 to May-14, 2008
16. Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais   August-01, 2013 to December-30, 2014
17. Amb. Masood Khan         February-13, 2015 to date
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