

# Annual 20 Report 22





# Annual Report 2022



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- Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC)
- India Study Centre (ISC)
- Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA)
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**Layout and Design:**

Design Saaz (SMC-Private) Limited  
Islamabad, Pakistan

**Published by:**

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)  
Sector F-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan.  
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Website: [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk)

**Printed at:**

M/s UNNIBIZ, Office No. 5-B, Mezzanine Floor  
111 Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road, Blue Area, Islamabad

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# Foreword

## From the desk of the Director General

During the year 2022, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) witnessed a quantitative surge and qualitative improvement in all three streams of our work - research, discourse and policy inputs to the government. We strived to achieve excellence according to our motto of “strategic perspectives through research and dialogue.” The themes of our research and events were carefully selected to be relevant to Pakistan and our region, reflecting also the priorities of the Foreign Ministry with which we remained engaged throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to the honourable Foreign Minister, who is the patron of the Institute, as well as high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their full support to the Institute.

The quarterly journal Strategic Studies remained our flagship publication. Considerable emphasis has been laid on improving quality through the rigorous application of research methodology and continuous review of the themes under research. The journal has a separate fully functional website [strategicstudies.org.pk](http://strategicstudies.org.pk) where you can access the journal. We follow the policy of zero tolerance for plagiarism. Among other research products of the Institute, our Issue Briefs, which are short write-ups on happenings of importance for Pakistan and the region, are popular with students and researchers. During 2022, we published over 148 Issue Briefs, all of which are available on our website at [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk).

In terms of policy discourse, the Institute organised over 170 events during 2022 including conferences, webinars, seminars, roundtables, web talks, online panel discussions and informal discussions. We also strived to achieve synergy between what we research on and our institutional activities. The year-long activities culminated with the holding of the Islamabad Conclave, where international and Pakistani experts came together to discuss the important theme of “75 Years of Independence: Achieving Comprehensive National Security”. The President addressed the closing session.

The third stream of our work entailed the provision of research-based policy inputs to the Foreign Ministry and other stakeholders in the government of Pakistan. These policy inputs are in the form of two-pager Confidential Briefs, which are evolved through what is called Tuesday Dialogue wherein we convene informal discussions on a given topic of interest to Pakistan.

This Annual Report for the year 2022 covers a brief expose of every activity undertaken by the Institute during 2022. Separate detailed reports issued on each of the activities mentioned in this report are available on our website.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain four-fold just like the previous year: Quality, Synergy, Relevance and Narrative Building. Our vision is to attain more with less. To that end, the Institute now has fully functional five centres of excellence. All five centres are now engaged in dedicated research and dialogue in their respective domains. They seek to monitor the situation, carry out studies, conduct policy discourse, maintain a data bank, provide policy inputs and publish different products including books. Each centre has an advisory board for providing guidance.

The Institute's human resource comprises directors and research associates and fellows, all of whom are now seeking to achieve their best through a comprehensive system of evaluation that was launched in 2018 and has been implemented rigorously since 2019 with clearly defined KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). The researchers were encouraged to participate in national and international events and contribute op-eds on topical issues of interest. The decision-making in the Institute was participatory through the mechanism of ORMs (Organisation and Review Meetings). The Institute attempted to conduct all its functions from within the existing budget resources and exercised austerity measures where ever possible. Efforts were also made to improve the work environment on a self-help basis. The Institute benefitted from the valuable guidance of its Board of Governors and the Executive Committee of the Board.

Last, but not least, the Institute expanded its reach-out programme through media and social media. The website [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk) was revamped and made more user-friendly. Efforts are being made with the HEC (Higher Education Commission) and various international accreditation and research platforms to get our quarterly journal into a higher quality category and made available for a larger readership. This will not only improve the impact and credibility of the research being done at the Institute but will also reach a larger audience. We invite you to visit our website and sign up for our social media handles.



# Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

## Introduction

Established in 1973, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) is an autonomous, non-profit research and analyses organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of the pioneers in the field, the purpose of the institute 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.

## Research Focus

The research interests of the ISSI cover all critical geographical regions. We seek to provide policy inputs on Pakistan's strategic and security concerns regarding regional and international issues in the light of changing patterns of international relations. In addition, state and nation-building, regional economic cooperation, regional security problems and other related research areas are also pursued at the Institute. The Institute maintains a sizeable research faculty, trained in Pakistan and foreign universities, with diverse expertise, covers major areas of the ISSI's research interests.

## Conferences, Seminars, Webinars and Talks

The ISSI convenes national and international conferences, seminars and webinars on a regular basis. Distinguished scholars and policymakers 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.

## Centres of Excellence

The ISSI has also established five dedicated centres, namely, the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), India Study Centre (ISC), Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) and Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) to carry out focused research in the respective fields.

## China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)

The Board of Governors of the Institute has approved the establishment of the CPSC at the ISSI on August 19, 2016. The aim of the CPSC is to carry out dedicated and comprehensive research on China's role in the region and the world and see how it affects Pakistan. The Centre also serves as a forum for learning about Chinese society, history, culture, politics, economy, and government. The Centre provides policy inputs to the Government of Pakistan on China-Pakistan relations, as well as acts as a service-provider for business match-making between the two countries.

## Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC)

Established in October 2019 as part of the ISSI, the ACDC seeks to contribute focused research and quality policy input through in-depth analysis and dialogue on issues of arms control, disarmament, nuclear safety and security, nuclear deterrence, emerging technologies and challenges to peace and strategic stability.



## India Study Centre (ISC)

The ISC was inaugurated in February 2020. The ISC is dedicated to conduct research and analytical studies on multi-dimensional aspects of India and promote policy discourse on India's foreign, security and socio-economic policies and implications for Pakistan and the region as well as India-Pakistan relations.

## Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA)

CAMEA aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa. It envisions synergy of inquiry and cooperation with these important regions in line with Pakistan's foreign policy. Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority and a vital component of Pakistan's vision for a peaceful neighbourhood. Cultivating closer ties with the Muslim countries in the Middle East and identifying areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Africa in keeping with Pakistan's Engage Africa policy are key priorities that underline the vision of CAMEA.

## Centre for Strategic Perspective (CSP)

CSP is the fifth Centre of Excellence at the ISSI. The Centre had its soft launch on September 14, 2020. CSP's vision is to monitor global and regional trends of strategic importance and their implications for Pakistan through quantitative and qualitative analyses and dialogue sessions to formulate tangible inputs for policy makers in Pakistan.

## International Cooperation

The ISSI has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with over 40 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.

## Library and Documentation Centre

The Institute's library has over 16,000 books, 2,000 journals, 3,000 magazines in print form, more than 200,000 E-books, 20,000 electronic journals and 15,000 magazines with back issues. The library has an access to 18 databases like JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, eLibrary USA, Springer eBooks etc. The library resources can be used by academics, researchers from think tanks and universities, as well as students. So, far more than 100 memberships have been granted to external members with full access to online resources. For further information please visit our library website: <http://issilibrary.org.pk/>

## Publications

The Institute uses its websites and print media to publish its research papers, conference reports and commentaries on contemporary issues. Its major publication is the HEC-recognised peer-reviewed quarterly research journal Strategic Studies. The ISSI periodically publishes Issue Briefs, ISSI Confidential Briefs (for limited circulation among policymakers), Islamabad Papers, Special Reports and Conference Reports, covering contemporary issues. The ISSI's journal can be accessed at: <https://strategicstudies.org.pk/>

## Internship Programme

The ISSI offers two kinds of internship programmes - Short-term and Regular Internships - to promising students and young researchers. The objective of these internships is to groom and train students and young researchers in research methods and orient them towards national security issues.





# Islamabad Conclave

## Islamabad Conclave: Session-I “75 Years of Independence: Achieving National Defence”

December 7, 2022



The ACDC organised this working session. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** To seek an appraisal of Pakistan’s defence capabilities and assess where Pakistan stands today.

**Keynote Speaker:** Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat NI (M) (Retd).

**Speakers:** Dr Adil Sultan, Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M) and Air Commodore Dr Liaquat Ullah Iqbal.

### Takeaways:

- New technologies would likely have adverse implications for the strategic stability of the region.
- Pakistan’s Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD) posture is a qualitative response to the new challenges posed by India’s Limited War Fighting doctrine.
- Pakistan must adopt green policies in line with international obligations to ensure responsible state behaviour in the maritime domain.
- Pakistan Air Force has entered the Integration & Acceleration Phase and will soon enter the Growth Phase for the indigenisation of cyber & IT technologies.

## Islamabad Conclave: Session II

# “75 Years of Independence: Search for Peace and Prosperity in South Asia”

December 7, 2022



The ISC organised this working session. Dr Arshad Ali, Director ISC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** To have an in-depth understanding of India-Pakistan relations, especially by looking at the bilateral diplomatic relations and to explore avenues for regional peace and cooperation.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, former Chief Justice of the Gambia; Professor Dr Rupa Chanda, Professor of Economics at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and Dr Sanjay Vashisht, Director of Climate Action Network South Asia.

### Takeaways:

- South Asia remains one of the least economically integrated in the world. The tenuous relationship between India and Pakistan remains a roadblock as far as the establishment of a framework for sustainable regional peace is concerned.
- The peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute according to the resolutions of the UNSC is necessary to lay the groundwork for a lasting peace in the region.
- If trade relations are fully normalised, then the total value of regional trade could be enhanced by US\$44 billion. Given the current global economic climate, it would be prudent for all stakeholders to prioritize trade within the region, due to global supply chain disruptions and high shipping costs.
- Climate Change is a global issue that requires the immediate attention of all regional states. South Asian countries need to engage and collaborate to form regional mechanisms geared towards climate resilience.

## Islamabad Conclave: Session III

# “Pakistan’s Economic Frontiers (Afghanistan, Iran, GCC and Africa)”

December 7, 2022



The CAMEA organised this working session. Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, moderated this session.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan’s economic policies towards Afghanistan, Iran, GCC and Africa.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan.

**Speakers:** Engineer Yousef Pashtun, former Afghan Minister and Advisor to the President; Dr Omar Zakhilwal, former Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan; Ambassador Hossein Molla Abdollahi, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS Iran; Dr Ali Awadh Asseri, former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan and board member at Rasanah (the International Institute for Iranian Studies) and H.E. Jemel Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- Regional economic integration and regional connectivity have gained the utmost importance.
- Pakistan, serving as an intersection between South, West and Central Asia, is naturally affected by these global trends, which have positive as well as adverse ramifications.
- Pursuing peaceful economic cooperation with Afghanistan through bilateral and transit trade will not only help connect South and Central Asia but also create regional integration.
- Cultivating closer economic ties with the Middle East and the Persian Gulf is a crucial component of Pakistan’s geo-economics outreach. Within this, expanding ties with Iran offers Pakistan a vast array of opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation, paving the way for a mutually beneficial partnership.
- Pakistan has made tremendous development and the Pakistani government needs to create a conducive environment for Saudi investors.
- Unfortunately, the level of bilateral trade between the two sides is very low which necessitates that there must be a fast-tracking negotiation agreement to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and also identify the complementarities between the two countries.
- Under the ‘Engage Africa’ Policy Pakistan should establish institutional linkages to boost bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation for strengthening political, economic, security and cultural ties.
- Pakistan and Ethiopia are working to enhance their economic cooperation, which is focused on joint ventures, trade, investment, business, tourism and technology.
- Chambers of commerce should also play a key role in this regard. To be benefited from the Engage Africa Policy Pakistan should enhance its outreach through economic diplomacy.

## Islamabad Conclave: Session IV “75 Years of Independence: Pursuit of Geo-economics”

December 8, 2022



The CPSC hosted this working session. Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** To explain the shift towards geo-economics and see how the concept of National Security has expanded. To understand the inseparable connection between geo-economics and geo-politics.

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Haroon Sharif, former Chairman Board of Investment.

**Speakers:** Professor Lin Minwang, Assistant Dean at Institute of International Studies Fudan University, Dr Adam Saud, Head of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bahria University and Dr Fayyaz ul Hasan, Pro-Vice Chancellor PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan has looked at economic problems through the geo-strategic lens. That is not a sustainable proposition. It reduced our capability to develop actual economic opportunities.
- Pakistan has not utilised its strategic location to achieve economic gains and conflict remains the single most determinant of Pakistan to not use its location for economic gain.
- The danger of food insecurity and energy security are two major issues the world is facing today. Pakistan has the potential to provide excellent food to the world.
- Unless we deregulate roles among institutions it will be difficult to move forward. Economic decisions should be taken by economic and social institutions rather than political institutions. There is a need to create corporate economic zones on an immediate basis to give relief to people.
- The trans-Afghan railway project will be a game-changer for Pakistan. It will not only form connectivity with Russia but the entire Caucasus region.

## Islamabad Conclave: Session V

# “75 Years of Independence: Pakistan’s Human and Economic Security”

December 8, 2022



The CSP organised this working session. Dr Nelum Nigar, Director CSP, moderated the session.

**Objective:** The session was aimed at exploring human and economic security dimensions in Pakistan.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr Aisha Pasha Minister of State for Finance and Revenue.

**Speakers:** Dr Hassan Abbas, Founding Member, Zizak; Dr Idrees Khawaja, Senior Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics; Dr Shabnum Sarfraz, former Member, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and Mr Shahrukh Wani Economist, International Growth Centre, University of Oxford.

### Takeaways:

- Economic and Human Security are linked and differentiation between the two should not be made as both impact the lives of the people.
- Inclusive growth is missing in Pakistan and hindering its economic development, therefore, structural changes need to be implemented to improve national security.
- The biggest problem of Pakistan is its inability to export and the increased growth is largely driven by consumption with very low levels of savings and investment, moreover, Pakistan needs to disincentive capital inflow in non-tradeable sectors of the economy and improve women’s participation in the labour force.
- The demographic dividend will not be a gift for Pakistan if the youth is not provided with the right opportunities. There is a need for the inclusion of youth voices in policymaking.
- Pakistan’s productivity has decreased over the years. Bureaucratic hurdles are constraining the economy along with grassroots corruption, which needs to be addressed. Policymakers need to learn from past experiences when dealing with environmental disasters.





# Seminars

## Seminar on “Balakot Strike and its Impact on Destabilising South Asia”

February 28, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this seminar.

**Objective:** To discuss the current state of relations between India and Pakistan.

**Chief Guest:** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed

**Speakers:** Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan, HI (M), (Retd), President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS); Dr Rizwana Abassi, Associate Professor (IR), National University of Modern Languages (NUML); Lt Gen Yasin Malik and Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan.

### Takeaways:

- Overall, it was an aimless and purposeless strike where India failed to achieve political as well as military objectives.
- Breaches are bound to occur but deterrence holds.
- India must stop contemplating the military option to subjugate Pakistan failing, it will resort to false flag operations to initiate and justify hostilities.
- Instead of being too optimistic about improving relations, Pakistan should concentrate on resolving the Kashmir issue.
- Pakistan cannot expect the West to play the role of crisis manager.

## Seminar on “Transboundary Water Issues: A Regional Approach”

April 14, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan organised this seminar.

**Objective:** The seminar aimed to highlight the challenges due to Climate Change and water mismanagement and stressed that water is increasingly becoming a source of conflict due to transboundary and water-sharing reasons.

**Session Chair:** Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources, Islamabad and Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, former CEO, LEAD, Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Dr Hassan Abbas, Founding Chairman, ZiZAK; Dr Medha Bisht, South Asian University, New Delhi; Dr Shaheen Akhtar, Professor IR, NDU, Islamabad and Dr Sara Nowreen, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology.

### Takeaways:

- The model that is currently applicable in the case study of Pakistan is that of a cooperative antagonist, whereas, the model should be such that focus on relationality over rationality for a sustainable future course.
- Pakistan and India need to move beyond the rational to a more relational approach and move from confrontation to cooperation to gain maximum mutual benefit.
- The domestic water agenda is linked with regional water discourse. Equally imperative is the need for research and scientific studies by people involved in the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan.
- Water security is a multi-dimensional issue, which directly impacts human security along with being significant for the sustainable development of a country.
- The thinking in Pakistan and India must change to be part of the people with advanced thinking who are shaping up the global mind as well as prioritise water governance and management which is of mutual benefit to both countries.
- South Asia is home to about 25 per cent of the total world population making it even more vital to address the water security issues along with the population crisis, hence, it is imperative to discuss and find pathways for good governance with a regional outlook, especially on a shared resource such as water.
- The water diplomacy approach can lead towards cooperative frameworks on transboundary water management in South Asia and one of the most important points for moving forward is the data sharing, which will help in building trust between the two riparian countries.
- There needs to be a shift in the mindset of policymakers across the region from the technocratic and engineering approaches. The focus must be on ecological approaches to enhance water security in the country.

Seminar on  
**“Ensuring Traditional Security through  
 Technology Optimisation”**

June 28, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this seminar. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated this seminar.

**Objective:** Analyse the tech optimisation models for force modernisation, indigenisation, technology sharing and tech diplomacy.

**Chief Guest:** General (Retd) Zubair Mahmood Hayat.

**Speakers:** Amb Raza Bashir Tarar, Dr Salma Malik, Dr Rabia Akhtar, Air Cmdr (Retd) Khalid Banuri, Mr Muhammad Adeel and Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal.

**Takeaways:**

- Technology is the new constant and new game-changer.
- Emphasised the need for a cybersecurity regulatory framework for the public and private sectors.
- Focus on indigenisation in technology to open strategic options and enhances strategic resilience.

Seminar on  
**“Comprehensive Economic Partnership:  
 East Asia and Pakistan”**

July 27, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this seminar in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

**Objective:** To analyse Pakistan’s interest in East Asia and ASEAN through the prism of geo-economics and economic security in line with the policy direction of the National Security Policy (NSP) of Pakistan.

**Discussants::** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; H.E. Suh SangPyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea; Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; Dr Neelum Nigar, Director CSP; Mr Muhammad Naseer, DG Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP); Mr Kim Sung Jae, DG (Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency) KOTRA; Mr Chang Yong Il, Managing Director of Samsung Pakistan; Mr Zhonglei Mou, Chief Operating Officer of Hyundai Nishat; Mr Jamil Ahmad Qureshi, DG, Board of Investment, Pakistan; Ms Huma Fakhra, CEO and Founder of MAP Services Group; Mr Muhammad Zubair, Joint Secretary (Emigration), Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development; Mr Aftab ur Rehman Tarrar, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and Dr Nadeem Omar Tarar, Gandhara Chair in Cultural Studies, Wah University.

#### **Takeaways:**

- East Asia accounts for one-fourth of Pakistan's trade and there will be many opportunities for growing together once the partnership is reached an official agreement.
- The prevailing competition between the US and China was affecting international relations in many ways.
- Seoul has been promoting local businesses in Pakistan and trying to gain mutual benefits for both nations. Future engagements can further strengthen economic engagements.
- Bringing investment into Pakistan is difficult due to a lack of trade openness. FDI needs to pull up the export sector in Pakistan which is important for the economic development of the country. G2G and private sector links are necessary for building up economic relations between Pakistan and South Korea.

## Seminar on “August 5, 2019 – An Assault on Kashmiri Identity”

August 4, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this seminar.

**Objective:** To mark the occasion of 5th August 2019.

**Chief Guest:** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed.

**Speakers:** Dr Kaleem Abbasi, Vice Chancellor, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Waleed Rasul, Director General, Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue and Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, former Chief Justice of the Gambia and elected International Judge of the United Nations.

### Takeaways:

- It was stressed to focus on the UN Security Council resolutions, the 4th Geneva Convention and Shimla Accord to look for solutions.
- It was argued that India violated Article 1.1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and that Pakistan should pursue it on international forums.
- It was emphasised that Pakistan should not allow India to sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).





# Conferences

## One day International Conference on “Perspectives on the Evolving Situation in Afghanistan”

March 28, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this Conference.

**Objective:** To get perspectives from different stakeholders on evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Keynote Speakers:** Honourable Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Honourable Shah Farman, Governor KPK

**Speakers in the Inaugural Session:** Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI and Dr Niels Hegeswisch, Country Director FES, Pakistan.

**Speakers in the First Working Session:** Sardar Nadir Naim, Chairman, Kabul Institute for Peace (KIP); Mr Rupert Stone, Independent Journalist; Dr Alexander A Kornilov, Prof Dr at the Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, Head of Region Studies of Foreign Countries; Mr Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and Dr Vladimir Paramonov, Researcher at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

**Speakers in the Second Working Session:** Mr Tamim Asey, Founder & Executive Chairman of the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul; Dr Kazem Sajjadpour, former President, DG IPIS; General Levent Gozkaya, former Turkish Commander of Kabul Regional Command and Dr Haiyun Ma, Assistant Professor at Frostburg State University.

### Takeaways:

- The premature collapse of Ashraf Ghani's government against the backdrop of the withdrawal of the US forces has left Afghanistan at the edge of a humanitarian disaster.
- The international community needs to be more realistic about the pace of change and progress in Afghanistan. It is crucial to restore faith in Afghanistan's banking sector and keep the Afghan economy from falling apart. We need to think long-term concerning Afghanistan. Disengagement will benefit nobody and will always be the wrong decision.
- Afghanistan is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis and both internal and external factors are driving the crisis. To deal with the crisis the Afghan leadership should develop a legitimate vision and long-term solutions for the looming situation. Along with this, any long-term economic development should have the private sector to be involved to tap maximum benefits.
- The security situation in Afghanistan must be ensured because the security of Afghanistan is interlinked with the security of the regional countries.
- Pakistan's shift to geo-economics could pave the way for new opportunities in the bilateral relationship. Both countries are strategically placed at the crossroads of Asia. For instance, a new energy corridor is a wonderful opportunity for both countries to be working on. They share common strategic challenges such as regional security and drug smuggling.
- With the rise of China in Asia as the future economic hub, Pakistan and Afghanistan would do well to align themselves. We must have a peaceful co-existence and a robust trade agreement should also be in place as well.
- Issues such as Climate Change and water security should be addressed as well. Both countries need to be looking towards building bridges of trust to fulfil their full potential at the crossroads of Asia. Civil society can play a very important role in trust building.

## International Conference on “Regional Cooperation on Climate Change in South Asia”

November 22, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI in collaboration with HSF organised this Conference.

**Objective:** The objective of the conference was to highlight the importance of working on non-traditional challenges in the South Asian region.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG, SDPI.

**Speakers:** Dr Philipp Johannes Zehmisch, South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg; Dr Shailly Kedia, Associate Director, TERI, Delhi, India; Dr Imran Khalid, Director, Governance and Policy, WWF; Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Advisor, Ministry of Planning Pakistan; Ms Aisha Khan, Executive

Director for Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change; Ms Anam Rathor, Technical Advisor Climate Finance, GIZ; Dr Rezaur Rahman, Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET and Dr Steffen Kudella, Country Director, HSF, Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- South Asian region is vulnerable to Climate Change and the UN IPCC reports have identified these challenges. The region is frequented by climate-induced calamities still different agreements under the SAARC on climate have not been implemented due to lack of political will.
- The lack of funds has impacted Pakistan's Climate Change performance. Climate Change is an all-encompassing area from disaster relief to mitigation. The countries in the region need to work on green energy initiatives.
- The leadership in South Asia had the vision to put programmes together to deal with climate issues but implementation has not been possible due to lack of adequate resources. Climate diplomacy can help in the implementation of action plans developed through negotiations between the various stakeholders.
- External finance is the only requisite to deal with Climate Change and address adaptation and mitigation issues. The principle of equity should be respected when countries talk about climate finance.
- There is inequity and inequality built into the system that needs to be addressed to deal with issues of Climate Change on the global stage.
- South Asian region is suffering from many crises but every crisis can become an opportunity if there is a reset to traditional development models; cooperation between regional countries on innovations like green technology is necessary to address climate issues.





# **Grand National Dialogue**

## GND Seminar on “Pakistan’s Foreign Policy in a Changing World”

October 18, 2022



The ACDC and CPSC at the ISSI in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organised this seminar.

**Objective:** The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the comprehensive national and foreign security framework to assess the challenges faced by Pakistan and evaluate the strengths to navigate them.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Inam ul Haque.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI.

**Takeaways:**

- Takeaways from this seminar will be shared in a Grand Foreign Policy Dialogue, sponsored by the National Security Division (NSD) and IPRI.



## GND Roundtable on “Pakistan-India Relations and the Kashmir Dispute”

October 25, 2022



The ISC organised this roundtable discussion as a part of the GND with IPRI.

**Objective:** To discuss the relations between the two countries and the future of the Kashmir dispute.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Khan.

**Speakers:** Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Amb Dr Major General Raza Muhammad (Retd), President IPRI.

### Key Takeaways:

- To promote economic cooperation, Pakistan and India need to move towards low politics first and then discuss high politics such as Kashmir.
- The human rights violations in IIOJK are a window of opportunity for Pakistan to engage the international community over the issue of Kashmir.
- There is a need for a rebranding of the Kashmir issue by Pakistan. At the policy level, it requires coherence among the public, political and diplomatic narratives.
- Kashmir could become an environmental hazard following the rapid Climate Change and Pakistan could use it to sensitise the Kashmir issue internationally, especially in Europe.
- There is a need to follow the Chinese model, by opting for development first and issues later.

## GND Roundtable on “Pak Afghan Relations”

November 1, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this as a part of the GND.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak Afghanistan Ties.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Ayaz Wazir.

**Takeaways:**

- The current situation in Afghanistan requires a need for increased cooperation and coordination from the region as well as the international community.

## GND Roundtable on “Pakistan and the Muslim World”

November 7, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised it as a part of the GND.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan’s relations with the Muslim World and growing issues of Islamophobia, the revival of JCPOA, increasing Arab states’ rapprochement with Israel, India’s growing ingress in the Gulf and the question of Pakistan’s recognition of Israel.

**Speaker:** Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Pakistan needs to prioritise its relations with the Muslim world.
- Pakistan should increase its economic ties with GCC countries.

## GND Seminar on “Pakistan-China Relations”

November 8, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised it as part of the GND.

**Objective:** The purpose of the seminar was to discuss Pak-China relations and see how this bilateral relationship has evolved and has shaped it into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

**Keynote Speaker:** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Masood Khalid.

## GND Roundtable on “Pakistan’s Relations with Major Powers”

December 1, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this as a part of the GND.

**Objective:** The objective was to explore Pakistan’s relations with major powers.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Dr Major General Raza Muhammad (Retd), President IPRI.

**Discussants:** Dr Ilhan Niaz, Associate Professor, QAU and Dr Munawar Hussain, Lecturer, QAU

### Takeaways:

- The discussion revolved around Pakistan’s relations with major global powers such as the United States, European Union, China and Russia in light of the reorientation of Pakistan’s policy highlighted in the National Security Policy.
- The discussion also focused on how Pakistan can balance its relations with major powers amid growing competition, internal balancing within the country and strengthening economic & human security to formulate an efficient foreign policy.





# Thought Leaders Forum (TLF)

## ISSI's First Thought Leaders Forum (TLF)

August 31, 2022



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised its first Thought Leaders Forum (TLF) on August 31, 2022, at 11:30 hrs under the title, “Pakistan and Geo-economics of Asia.” Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was the chief guest of the event.

In the beginning, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, welcomed the panellists and gave a detailed presentation to the Minister about ISSI, its organisational structure and work.

The chief guest, Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, in her address stressed the ground realities of Pakistan. She further emphasised the point that we live in a highly dynamic world where things are subject to constant change. Various other contours of Pakistan's foreign policy and national power were also discussed in detail by the Honourable Minister during her remarks.

The chief guest's address was followed by a panel discussion on a wide range of topics including national economics; foreign policy; national identity; narrative building; relations with major powers; regional cooperation; terrorism/militancy; Climate Change; population; water and good governance.

The panellists for the discussion included: Ambassador Seema Ilahi Baloch; Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, CISS; Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), CASS; Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, KIIR; Dr Muhammad Shehryar Khan, Iqra University; Mr Moazzam Ziad Alahdad; Mr Khalid Rehman, IPS; Dr Sadia Sulaiman, QAU; Mr Khalid Banuri; Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh; Mr Mustafa Hyder Sayed, PCI; Ms Maria Sultan, SASSI and Mr Shafqat Munir, SDPI among few others.

Towards the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI, presented ISSI's souvenir to the honourable minister. The event was received well across the board.



## ISSI's Second Thought Leaders Forum (TLF)

October 20, 2022



“The conversations on trade, regional and global connectivity needs to be improved and should be more insightful with less rhetoric,” said the keynote speaker Dr Moeed Yusuf while addressing the Thought Leaders Forum (TLF).

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised its second TLF on October 20, 2022, under the title, “Significance of National Security Policy in the Changing Geopolitical Situation.” Dr Moeed Yusuf, former National Security Advisor and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Strategy Planning, was the keynote speaker.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, in his welcome remarks, highlighted the relevance of the topic chosen for discussion. Earlier, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks apprised the audience of the significance of the TLF.

Dr Yusuf in his address stressed the need of ensuring economic and human security in the country. For this purpose, he stated that we need to focus on prioritising our policies, redistributing our resources and ensuring the continuity of policies with a special focus on economic diplomacy.

His address was followed by a Q & A session on a wide range of topics including national economics; Climate Change; food and water security; governance model; population growth and growing debt crisis in the country.

Towards the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG ISSI, presented ISSI's souvenir to the keynote speaker. The event was received well across the board.

## ISSI's Third Thought Leaders Forum (TLF)

November 17, 2022



“The government’s vision of the energy sector is to energise the whole sector. Energise the poor and create the infrastructure that allows them upward social mobility,” said the keynote speaker Senator Dr Musadik Masood Malik while addressing the Thought Leaders Forum (TLF).

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised its third TLF on November 17, 2022, under the title, “Pakistan’s Energy Vision: A Harbinger for Economic Development.” Senator Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division was the keynote speaker.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, in his welcome remarks, highlighted the relevance of the topic chosen for discussion. Earlier, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks apprised the audience of the significance of TLF.

Dr Malik in his address said that the subsidies have hindered the growth of energy sector infrastructure. Productivity needs to be increased in both the public and private sectors through innovation and technology infusion. The major problems of the energy sector include availability, affordability and fiscal sustainability. Therefore, building pipelines especially from Central Asia to Pakistan like TAPI is necessary. Also, it is important to work on indigenising gas exploration in the country to build capacity and focus on renewable sources of energy.

He further stated that Pakistan is soon aiming to announce its refining policy and is expected to attract an investment of US\$12 billion to set up a world-class refinery in the country.

His address was followed by a Q&A session on a wide range of topics including energy security, circular debt and self-sustainability in the energy market.

Towards the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI, presented ISSI’s souvenir to the keynote speaker. The event was received well across the board.



# Public Talks

Public Talk on  
**“Darakht-e-Dosti, Epitomising Pak-Iran Relationship:  
 Celebrating Linguistic Linkages”**

February 21, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To commemorate International Mother Language Day 2022.

**Speakers:** Mr Ehsan Khazaei, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan; Dr Habibollah Azimi, former Head of the Manuscripts Department of the National Library of Iran; Ambassador Riffat Masood, former Pakistan Ambassador to Iran; Ambassador Asif Durrani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; Ambassador Abrar Hussain, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan; Mrs Razia Akbar, Assistant Professor, Persian language & Literature, NUML; Dr Muzafar Ali Kashmiri, Professor of Persian language IIU and Dr Qandeel Abbas, Professor QAU.

**Takeaways:**

- In the evolution of Urdu as a language, there is considerable influence of the Persian dialect as Urdu mainly borrows its words and grammatical structures from Persian, with more than 60 per cent of Persian words making up the language.
- The Persian language is a common cultural heritage that does not belong only to Iran but belongs to the whole region and must be honoured and expanded to preserve cultural and identity values.
- For Pakistan, Persian has been one of the most important identifying elements as evident by the national anthem of Pakistan.
- Language and literature are important tools for better understanding the culture of Iran and Pakistan.
- There is immense capacity for joint cultural exchanges and dialogue. To strengthen the culture and relations between the two countries a dedicated education and culture centre would help to achieve this goal.

Public Talk on  
**“Pakistan-EU Relations and Centrality of Human Rights”**  
 February 23, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To reflect on the Pakistan-EU relationship and the issues and conversations revolving around GSP+, trade and investments and human rights.

**Speaker:** Mr Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

**Takeaways:**

- The EU takes the view that human rights are universal and belong to all people; the EU’s foreign and human rights policy is motivated by the prevention of great wars from happening again and eliminating phobias present in European societies.
- The EU is a unique form of cooperation between 27 different countries having varied political, economic and cultural interests and is bonded by treaties and conventions.
- Every trade agreement the EU signs have a human rights clause in it and different countries are given concessions under trade preferences.
- The EU-Pakistan relations revolve around governance, democracy and law; Pakistan has shown commitment to continuing working on human rights conventions and both the EU and Pakistan need to keep working on common causes and issues of mutual interest.
- The GSP+ scheme is highly beneficial for Pakistan’s economic progress, especially when the country is trying to make a transition from geo-strategy to geo-economics to harness its economic potential.
- If the GSP+ scheme is fully utilised by Pakistan, it will help the country in poverty reduction substantially and in promoting sustainable development and good governance as well.
- Values like pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men are not just statements of objectives but are conditions for membership in the EU.
- The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the EU are one of the longest and most valued. Pakistan-EU relations revolve around governance, democracy and law; Pakistan has shown commitment to continuing working on human rights conventions and both the EU and Pakistan need to keep working on common causes and issues of mutual interest.
- In addition, history plays an important part in shaping the EU’s foreign policy and its emphasis on human rights.

## Public Talk on “Celebrating Africa Day”

May 25, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To celebrate Africa Day

**Speakers:** Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Ambassador Ali Javed, Additional Foreign Secretary Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan; General Nadeem Raza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Dr Peter Mathuki, Secretary General East African Community (EAC) and H.E. Mohammed Karmoune, Dean of the African Corps and Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan.

**African Missions in Pakistan:** Rashid Soobadar, High Commissioner of Mauritius to Pakistan; Mohammed Bello Abioye, Ambassador of Nigeria to Pakistan; Niang Dieng, Ambassador of Senegal to Pakistan; Borhène El Kamel, Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan and Dr Tarek Dahroug, Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan.

**Pakistani Missions in Africa:** Shah Nazar Khan, Deputy Head of Mission of Pakistan to Egypt; Shozab Abbas, Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia; Dr Manzour Chaudhry, Ambassador of Pakistan to Ivory Coast; Saqlain Sayedah, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kenya; Major General Rashad Javed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Libya; Arshad Jan Pathan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Mauritius; Ahmed Ali Sirohay, Ambassador of Pakistan to Niger; Tayyab Azam, Ambassador of Pakistan to Nigeria; Amir Muhammad Khan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Rwanda; Khayal Muhammad, Deputy Head of Mission of Pakistan to Senegal; Mazhar Javed, High Commissioner of Pakistan to South Africa; Meer Behroz, Ambassador of Pakistan to Sudan; Mohammad Saleem, Ambassador of Pakistan to Tanzania; Tahir Hussain Andrabi, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Tunisia; Hassan Wazir, Ambassador of Pakistan to Uganda; Murad Baseer, Ambassador of Pakistan to Zimbabwe and Arshad Jaan Pathan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Mauritius.

**Members from Honorary Councils and the Business Community:** Fazil Tareen from the Honorary Consulate of Ivory Coast in Pakistan, Amadou Mega, Counselor Minister of Embassy of Mali in Pakistan, Anour Triki, President of the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Commerce and Handicraft.

#### Takeaways:

- There is a lot of potential in the African continent, which should be explored.
- The Government of Pakistan is keen to enhance trade and investment between Pakistan and the African continent, which is quite meagre at this stage.
- Pakistan also desires to cooperate with regional economic communities in Africa, especially those lying in close proximity such as the East Africa Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- Pakistan should invest in Africa so that it can benefit from the enormous market, particularly in East Africa, which gives access to over 300 million people.
- Under ‘the Engage Africa’ policy the future of Pak-Africa ties is full of potential. Pakistan’s increased diplomatic presence in Africa is evidence of this.
- More than 35 African nations are accredited to Pakistan. Pakistan must ensure engagement with them and work on sustaining its bilateral engagement with African nations.
- Pakistan and Africa must closely cooperate so that both sides benefit from the vast potential of this relationship.

Public Talk by  
**H.E. Zhang Ming Secretary General SCO**  
 July 22, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** How SCO member states including Pakistan could help improve regional connectivity, particularly trade linkages and transport corridors.

**Chief Guest:** H.E. Zhang Ming Secretary General SCO.

**Takeaways:**

- SCO is a multi-dimensional organisation in terms of its scope and functioning and Pakistan can benefit greatly from it.
- In the world of today, many geopolitical and geo-economic changes are taking place in the international arena. Therefore, SCO should adapt accordingly for its functional efficiency.
- The prospects of cooperation among the SCO member states are bright and the ideal location of Pakistan can be used to provide shorter sea access to Central Asian countries. This will facilitate trade among SCO member states and even beyond.



Public Talk by Mr Ahsan Iqbal on  
**“CPEC: A Catalyst for the Economic Development  
 in Pakistan”**

August 17, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To understand how CPEC has the potential to be a collaborative project for infrastructure construction, industrial development and livelihood improvement

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives.

**Takeaways:**

- This is not the age of political and conventional wars rather it is the era of economic competition and trade wars where technology is defining the parameters of a modern economy in the changing world spectrum.
- There is a pressing need to show unity in areas and ventures of national interest only then can we tackle the challenges we face.
- To develop a country 10 to 20 years of framework is required to ensure internal stability. Pakistan’s Vision 2025 clearly articulates that it is time for Pakistan to move away from geo-politics to geo-economics.
- If there is consistency in economic policies, correct narratives are advanced and all the CPEC-related issues are dealt with on a war footing. CPEC still has the potential to become a real catalyst for economic development.





# **Webinars/Webtalks/ WebCelebrations**

## Webinar on “Commemorating Solidarity with Kashmiris”

February 4, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To express its steadfast support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people and to remind the world community about the sufferings of the Kashmiri people under Indian occupation

**Speakers:** Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, former Chief Justice of Gambia and elected international judge of the United Nations; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad; Mr Ershad Mahmud, Director General Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Ms Urooj Raza Sayyami, Electronic and Print media journalist.

**Video Message:** Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Munir Akram, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN and Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum, Washington DC.

### Takeaways:

- All the speakers reiterated their absolute support for the besieged Muslims of IIOJK
- It was suggested to invoke Section 99 of the UN Charter and to submit a complaint to the Secretary General so that it may be put before the General Assembly to take due action.
- It was suggested to use the principle of Universal Jurisdiction in taking the issue to the International Court where Universal Jurisdiction is accepted.
- The resolve that “K” in “Pakistan” stands for Kashmir and it is an inalienable part of the body and soul of Pakistan was reaffirmed.
- Kashmiris have the right to determine their future.

## Webinar on “Central Bank’s Autonomy in the Context of State Bank of Pakistan Amendment Act 2021”

February 21, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To address the issue and understand the trigger point and the reasoning behind the amendments introduced in the act.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Ishrat Husain, former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- As the conditions change it is important to try to adapt the central bank according to the circumstances instead of remaining isolated from what is happening internationally.
- Around the world, central banks have been given autonomy and operational independence to carry out their functions without any interference from the parts of the government.
- The board of the IMF looks at the internal working of the IMF and does not concern itself with pointing directions to any member country unless that country enters into an agreement with the IMF for financial assistance.
- The question of the IMF dictating to the central bank should be taken from a larger perspective. All the central bank governors of 190 member countries are indeed members of the board of governors of the IMF. But the board is looking at the internal working of the IMF.
- It has nothing to do with giving any directions to any member country unless that member country enters into an agreement with the IMF for financial assistance.
- Central banks should have complete know-how and knowledge as to what are the constraints, which will be imposed upon them because of the policies on trade and the fiscal policy so that was a very useful forum.

Webinar on

## “Prospects for the Development of Regional Connectivity between Central and South Asia: Initiatives of Uzbekistan and Pakistan, ISSI-Embassy of Uzbekistan”

February 22, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** The event was organised to evaluate the prospects of the development of regional connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia to identify the initiatives taken by Pakistan and Uzbekistan in this regard.

**Speakers:** Akramjon Nematov, First Deputy Director of ISRS under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Rustam Khuramov, Head of the ISRS Department under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Sherzod Faiziev, Head of Department International Institute of Central Asia; Dr Talat Shabbir, Dir. CPSC-ISSI; Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan and Ms Ume Farwa, Research Associate CPSC-ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The current trajectory of Pak-Uzbek relations is sustainable and moving in an upward positive direction.
- Think tank cooperation should be enhanced to map out the policy future course for the relevant government bodies.
- Islamabad and Tashkent have the potential to navigate the future challenges coming at bilateral level as well as regional and global.

## Webinar on “Islamabad Tehran Istanbul Freight Train: Prospects for Regional Connectivity”

February 24, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To discuss the prospects of regional connectivity between Tehran, Istanbul and Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi, Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey; Mr Ali Anser Zaidi, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Pakistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Nawabzada Feroz Khan, Director HBCO; Ambassador Mashallah Shakeri, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic Iran to Pakistan; Mr Deniz Istikabal, Economy Researcher at SETA; Mr Akbar Khodaei, Focal Person for ITI Train at the ECO Secretariat, Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Ali Abdollahi, Head of International Organisations Group International Affairs Department Iranian Railways.

### Takeaways:

- The ITI Train is an initiative towards regional economic integration, which provides countries with alternative routes and helps create economic interdependence and reduces the chances of irritants between them.
- The ITI brings with it immense opportunities for all three countries as it opens doors for fast-paced trade for Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.
- Geo-economics is a central element of the new National Security Policy of Pakistan, which rests on the tripod of economic and social security. This ITI initiative has been there for a long time but hurdles came in the way but now the time has come to resolve the issues and move on with this project.
- Such initiatives can help Pakistan establish connections and it is a good illustration of the potential to promote Pakistan as a trade hub.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision of regional connectivity is in line with Iranian Prime Minister, Ebrahim Raisi’s, vision of connectivity. In all initiatives, Iran has a central role and we must tap into this opportunity.
- An extension of the railway to China’s border and the contribution of China would be welcome as well.
- Regularisation of train services and computerised shipment should be ensured for the safety and security and customs clearance of goods. Timely steps should be taken for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the trade to sustain the train initiative and the Government of Pakistan should ensure the sustainability.

## Webinar on “Pakistan & Thailand: Geo-economics Visions & Policy Framework’, ISSI-ISC Thailand”

March 16, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To improve the external outreach with a prime focus on East Asia.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Dr Anuson Chinvanno, Director International Studies Center (ISC); Ambassador Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan; Ms Faiza Haseeb, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan Bangkok; Dr Narut Charoensri, Assistant Professor in International Relations, School of International Affairs, Chiang Mai University; Dr Neelum Nigar, Director Center for Strategic Perspectives-ISSI and Mr Manu Sithiprasasana, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development.

### Takeaways:

- There is a need to improve competitiveness through the efficient facilitation of the cross-border movement of people and goods and the integration of markets, production processes and value chains.
- Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is trying to improve competitiveness and is trying to bring people together by promoting people’s mobility.
- The development plan of the Eastern Economic Corridor is well established and an integrated infrastructure is developed for EEC to become the prime gateway to both South East Asia and the Asia Pacific in coming years. EEC will also represent the largest investment projects in ASEAN in terms of budget and area.



## Webinar on “Securing Pakistan’s Cyber Domain: Challenges and Opportunities”

March 16, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** Identify the challenges related to malicious activities in cyberspace and their implications on peace, security and development in Pakistan. Analyse the various ways to enhance responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Siraj Ahmed Shaikh, Dr Haider Abbas, Prof Dr Khashif Kifayat and Ms Aamna Rafiq.

### **Takeaways:**

- Local adoption of standards and best practices are very important in dealing with cyber-attacks.
- National Vulnerability Assessment Centre & National Crime and Coordination Centre should be established.
- Cyber awareness campaigns by the government should be started focusing on children, women and people of all different ages.
- Develop acceptable practices that combine political, social, technical, economic and managerial aspects of cybersecurity culture from the global to the individual level.

Webinar on  
**“48th OIC CFM: An Assessment”**  
 March 29, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To discuss the outcomes of the 48th CFM moot and to reinforce the commitment and cooperation between the member states

**Speakers:** Maj Gen Ahmed Almaimouni, Research & Studies Center Director at Rasanah IIIS; Ambassador Rizwan Sheikh, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the OIC; Ambassador Ali Awadh Asseri, former Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan; Sardar Nadir Naim, Chairman Kabul Institute for Peace (KIP); Dr Kazem Sajjadpour, Distinguished Fellow IPIS; Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO); General Levent Gozkaya, former Turkish Commander of Kabul Regional Command; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI and Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, ISSI.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan has presently been very proactive in pursuing a crusade against Islamophobia and as a result of Pakistan’s efforts, the UNGA has declared March 15 as the international day to combat Islamophobia.
- Pakistan is a firm believer in the potential of the OIC and an advocate and supporter of the need for a collective approach in the face of ongoing challenges facing the Muslim Ummah.
- If we can use the OIC paraphernalia and focus more on boosting economic and commercial cooperation between Muslim states this will help the OIC become more relevant in the future.
- OIC should rise to Muslim expectations and play a crucial role in unifying the Muslim bloc.

Webtalk on  
**“Artificial Intelligence for Socio-economic  
 Development in Pakistan”**

April 26, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webtalk. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** To assess what contributions Artificial Intelligence is making to the socio-economic development in Pakistan and the potential to harness it in future.

**Chief Guest:** Dr Yasar Ayaz, Chairman, National Centre of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), NUST Islamabad.

**Discussant:** Dr Munam Ali Shah.

**Takeaways:**

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is widely accepted as the major driving force of the fourth Industrial Revolution and it has the potential to bring socio-economic development to a country like Pakistan.
- AI can play a substantive role in achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- There is a need to develop the AI sector in Pakistan, harness its potential as well as further invest in it.

Webinar on  
“Big Data for National Security: A Case of Pakistan”

May 11, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated this session.

**Objective:** Analyse the various ways to enhance responsible behaviour and mechanisms vis-à-vis big data management in Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Muhammad Ali Ismail, Dr Hussain Nadim and Ms Aamna Rafiq.

**Takeaways:**

- State institutions are fighting fifth-generation warfare with third generation tools. Pakistan needs to invest in managing and regulating big data.
- Pakistan is facing major challenges to insufficient and fragmented legislative and policy and technical frameworks on big data.
- Information warfare is not new but what has changed is the speed of data. The huge data available can be used to map the behaviour of a nation, leaders and individuals. It can also be misused.

## “49th Foundation Day of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad”

June 16, 2022



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) celebrated its 49th Foundation Day with full zeal and zest on June 16, 2022. The event was attended by the officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former diplomats, academics, members of the advisory boards of the five Centers of Excellence at ISSI, research faculty and staff of the Institute. Honourable Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, graced the occasion as chief guest of the occasion. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, briefed participants about the reforms undertaken at the Institute and outlined priorities of ISSI’s vision 2023, which will coincide with the Institute’s 50th anniversary next year. He said, “We are in the business of narrative building and countering negative narratives.”

The five Centres of Excellence – China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), India Study Centre (ISC), Centre for Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa and Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP)- focus on undertaking research and convening forums for objectives analysis on issues of direct relevance to Pakistan.

During his address, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan is blessed with a unique advantage of its population, which is not confined to Pakistan alone but is present in the world over and contributes to every walk of life. He highlighted the importance of think-tanks and the role of thinkers in Pakistan’s foreign policy narratives. “If one is truly patriotic then one is willing to do whatever is necessary to safeguard the interests of their country,” he said. We all have to work together and think of ways to serve Pakistan in our best capacity. A deep re-think is needed of where Pakistan stands today and where it should stand in the future. Challenges should be taken as opportunities. A lot of potential is waiting to be unlocked and engagement is the answer. The most patriotic thing I can suggest as an FM of Pakistan is to conduct a humble foreign policy. The world is at crossroads in terms of geopolitical and geo-strategic shifts and turns and Pakistan must construct informed policy making, which is a result of a healthy and open debate and dialogue, it would be better for the country. In this regard, he said, the Foreign Office should work closely with ISSI and with ISSI’s contribution and input an informed foreign policy can be constructed. On the occasion, each centre presented the Foreign Minister with each centre’s special projects which are in tandem with the needs of Pakistan.

CPSC presented its report; ACDC presented its report titled “Comprehensive National Security and Emerging Technologies;” ISC presented its report titled “Voices from Kashmir;” CAMEA presented its book titled *Evolving Situation in Afghanistan- International and Regional Perspectives* and CSP presented its report titled “Economic Security of Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward, Conversations, Perspectives, Research and Debate.” The Foreign Minister was also presented with ISSI’s International and National Outreach, which is a culmination of the Institute’s linkages with foreign and national partners.

## Webinar on “Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: Four Decades of Hospitality”

June 27, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI; Ms Nargis Nehan, an Afghan Politician; Mr Saleem Khan, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, SAFRON; Mr Qaisar Khan Afridi, Spokesperson UNHCR Pakistan; Ms Nasria Pashtun, ALIGHT Pakistan, Programme Coordinator for Afghanistan and Mr Tamim Asey, Founder & Executive Chairman of the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul.

### Takeaways:

- Conflict in Afghanistan has given rise to a young generation of Afghans who do not want to be in Afghanistan because they think they have no future there.
- The international community and organisations should engage with Afghanistan to develop a conducive environment for the individuals who are living in the country or who are willing to go back to their country.
- The international community must address the various issues pertaining to Afghan refugees.
- Afghan refugees have brought in remittances and Afghan entrepreneurs and skilled labour has also been an asset for Pakistan.

## Webinar on “Non-Traditional Security Challenges in South Asia”

July 5, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** The webinar was designed to understand and shed light on the rising issues related to Climate Change and the sustainable behaviour and policy that Pakistan can adopt to minimise the threat.

**Discussants:** Mr Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia; Professor Buddhi Marambe, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka; Ms Puruesh Chaudhry, Founder & President AGAHI; Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Advisor on Climate Change, Planning Commission of Pakistan and Professor Muhammad Rezaur Rahman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

### Takeaways:

- The post-Cold War Non-Traditional Security Challenges (NTSC) have become an important issue. South Asia is faced with issues related to Climate Change and is adversely affected by them and there is a need to optimally address them.
- NTSC are very broad-based and South Asia is one of the vulnerable regions with regards to Climate Change. Global factors are also exacerbating these issues and there is a need to have extensive discussions regionally to resolve them.

- Climate Change is forcing people to migrate and it is important to provide legal protection to all such people. Moreover, to mitigate Climate Change, more resources must be allocated for protecting the people and the development of the region.
- Food security is a national security issue and needs to be tackled accordingly. The issue is being aggravated due to the decline in crop yields in South Asia. Decisions taken by people impact Climate Change and food security and thus need to have scientific-based solutions to tackle them.
- Demographics are changing in South Asia due to the increasing population and impacting both urban and rural centres. The population increase should be seen as a scenario-based exercise. There is a need to create a long-view approach so that the policymakers have a potential idea about what are the problem areas and how they should be dealt with.
- In South Asia Rivers have been divided whereas other countries have divided waters. There is a need to bring elements of Climate Change mitigation into the Indus Water Treaty as has been done in the Ganges Treaty. South Asia needs to protect water ecosystems and have flexible water management solutions to deal with issues of water security being caused by Climate Change.
- South Asia is faced with many natural disasters and the increase in calamities has become a new normal. New kinds of disasters like heat waves, lightning strikes and a pandemic are also increasing in the region. The emergence of these new hazards is further aggravated by infrastructural traps. Thus, there is a need to exchange data, improve resilience and engage civic bodies for effective results of DRM in the South Asian region.
- The focus in the past in South Asia has been on hard security but now NTSC needs to take precedence as it is becoming a pressing issue and can lead to conflict in the region. Therefore, there is a need for a coordinated approach at national, regional and international levels to deal with the menace of climate change and food and water security issues in the region.



Webinar on  
**“Taliban in Power – A Year On”**  
 August 12, 2022



The CAMEA in collaboration with the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To discuss the Taliban rule since the takeover in 2021.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI; Ms Nargis Nehan, former Afghan Politician; Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d’Affairs/ Minister Counselor, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan; Lotfullah Najafizada, Co-Founder and Senior Journalist at Amu TV; Mr Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and Dr Mandana Tisheyar, Department of Regional Studies, ECO College, Allameh Tabataba’i University, Tehran.

**Takeaways:**

- The time is still ripe for Afghanistan to move towards stability provided the Taliban come up with a political and constitutional framework through consensus to govern the country
- Taliban allow women to be able to exercise their basic rights to education and public life.
- Domestically, governance remains an issue but there is less corruption as has been observed by independent sources.
- Afghanistan can become the transit corridor between South and Central Asia.
- It is up to all Afghans to stay engaged, work with each other and find solutions that will work for everyone.

## Web Celebration Pakistan's 75th Independence Day

August 14, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this Web Celebration

**Objective:** To celebrate Pakistan's 75th Independence Day.

**Presentation by:** Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow

### Takeaways:

- There is a need to take stock of what the country has achieved and what needs to be done to make it an inclusive, innovative and prosperous country.
- The role of think tanks is very important to highlight the existing challenges and help in building the right narrative of Pakistan.
- Narrative building is a relatively new field for a country like Pakistan and a vacuum exists that can be overcome by the think tank community. Pakistan needs to build and promote the right narrative through effective research and for this, it is important to take ownership of its strengths and weaknesses, in this regard, the role of think tanks is very important.
- Currently, the world is engulfed by xenophobic tendencies affecting every nation; these tendencies go against the teachings of the Quaid who encouraged tolerance. Also, the outside world has been able to portray a negative narrative of Pakistan which needs to be countered with the right narrative.

## Webinar on “Pak Afghan Economic Ties: Opening New Vistas” November 14, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To discuss the prospects of Pak-Afghan Economic Ties.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to Afghanistan; Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d’ Affairs/Minister Counselor, Afghanistan Embassy, Islamabad; Mr Haroon Sharif, former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment; Shinwari, former Deputy of the International Trade Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Afghanistan; Mr Adnan Jalil, Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr Hashim Pashtun, Kabul Institute of Peace.

### Takeaways:

- The relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is unique, as both countries complement each other in terms of trade and economic opportunities through bilateral and transit trade.
- Despite the current hurdles and imbalances in trade, a lot more can be done to further the true potential of trade between the two through bilateral and transit trade.
- The economic sanctions are hurting the people of Afghanistan and we need more coordinated approaches. Focusing on the way forward, Pak-Afghan bilateral dialogue must be organised regularly.
- The Afghanistan-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (APPTA) should be finalised to make it more effective and border crossing points need improvement.
- Afghan investors should explore avenues in Pakistan and Pakistan should entertain and accommodate them.
- Chambers should play a role in this regard and they should create more opportunities in this regard. APPTA and AIIB should work on trade facilitation.
- CPEC is another important opportunity for Pakistan and Afghanistan to enhance trade connectivity and connect with the world. Central Asian markets should be explored.





# **Virtual Dialogue/ Panel Discussion**

## Virtual Meeting with IRSEA on Honorary Members Awarding Ceremony

February 2, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, was conferred with Honorary Membership of the Romanian Institute for European Asian Studies (IRSEA) in a Virtual Award Ceremony. The award was presented by President IRSEA, Ambassador Gheorghe Savuica.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr Neelum Nigar, Director CSP at ISSI and the CSP research team as well as Dr Nicusor-Sever-Cosmin Florea, Director of Programs, IRSEA.

During the ceremony, global and regional developments along with matters of mutual importance and Pakistan-Romania bilateral relations were also discussed.

## Virtual Meeting with ISAS, Singapore

February 21, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To explore avenues for policy research and dialogue on Pak-Singapore relations.

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Iqbal Singh Savea, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Madam Rukhsana Afzaal, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore and Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- During the interaction, heads of both institutes introduced their respective research organisations and discussed prospective research and dialogue collaboration between the two sides.
- As leading national research organisations, both sides identified areas of mutual collaboration for policy research and dialogue based on shared interests.

## Panel Discussion on “Ukraine Crisis”

February 22, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the latest situation of the Ukraine Crisis.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr Noel Israel Khokhar, Ambassador of Pakistan in Ukraine.

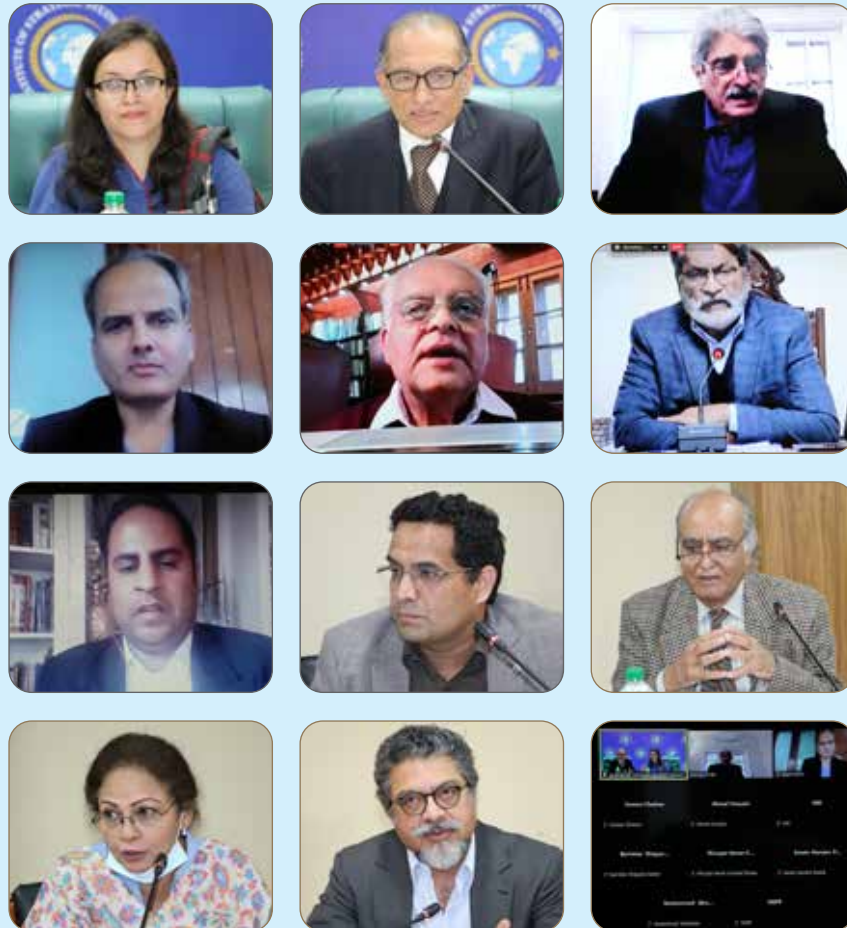
**Speakers:** Maj Gen Wajahat Mufti (Retd), former Ambassador to Ukraine; Dr Yulia Nikitina, Assistant Professor, World Politics Department, Leading, Research Fellow, Center for Eurasian Studies, MGIMO University, Russia; Ambassador Gheorghe Savuica, President, Romanian Institute for European-Asian Studies (IRSEA), Bucharest, Romania; Ambassador Qazi M Khalilullah, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh, former Ambassador to Russia, Cuba & Myanmar.

**Presentation:** Mr Taimur Khan, Research Associate.



Panel Discussion on  
**“Economic Security & Geo-Economics: Challenges  
 & Opportunities for Pakistan”**

March 9, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** This event was conducted in the context of the 2nd Islamabad Security Dialogue (ISD 2022) which took place under the rubric of the National Security Division (NSD) of the Government of Pakistan in April 2022.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr Salman Shah, former Finance Minister of Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State on Finance and Revenue, Pakistan; Dr Sajid Amin, SDPI; Dr Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor, BNU, Lahore; Dr Safdar Sohail, Dean, (NIPP), Lahore; Mr Amer Zafar Durrani, Reenergia; Dr Usman Chohan, Director, CASS and Dr Liaquat Shah, Executive Director, Centre of Excellence for CPEC.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan must implement concrete measures for economic solvency on an emergency basis otherwise it will keep on becoming the collateral damage of the political games that are taking place globally.
- Pakistan should be prepared to capitalise on these new economic opportunities to become a connecting hub for Central Asia and Western China to the Indian Ocean.
- The Chinese economy will be the driving force for Pakistan in this regard, hence, as a non-aligned partner, Pakistan should further bolster its economic relationship with China.
- Pakistan needs to shift its growth structure from consumption to investment, from imports to exports and focus more on consolidating the manufacturing base, which is unfortunately bypassed by its services sector, which is not a highly productive sector.
- Pakistan must connect educational and research institutes with economic enterprises to bring innovation and economic agency to the people.
- The National Security Policy document places geo-economics at the helm of affairs of Pakistan's national security with a renewed focus on economic and human security to achieve and address Pakistan's comprehensive security challenges. Moreover, the document puts focuses on the structural issues, which are important to address to achieve economic stability in the country.
- Economic security can be articulated as enabling a system in which the state can mobilise resources in terms of human capital, physical capital, energy and other inputs into the production system to create an acceptable level of wealth and the finances the country needs to survive.
- The biggest challenge is to put the economic house in order, to get resources financial, capital, human resources, value-chains, access to global markets and quality in productivity through an effective programme embedded in the overall national security policy of the country.
- Given the new geopolitical environment, Pakistan is likely to be collateral of the great power game and therefore it needs to insulate itself and be more resilient economically. This, however, is a long-term fix and in the short-term Pakistan has to depend on the IMF.
- Pakistan must address its macroeconomic policy along with its monetary policy, SMEs policy, manage population growth and invest in people through health and education and social spending.
- Pakistan should now fundamentally start thinking about modernising not just thought but also the intellect primarily by investing its capital into itself by unlocking local capital and putting it into more productive investments.
- Offering various terms to incentivize investors will help flourish the overall CPEC architecture offering self-contained areas with the possibility to leverage transportation, logistics manufacturing utilities and other itineraries to create pockets of rapid growth in the country to accelerate an industrial as well as an overall economic policy.

## Panel Discussion on “Sri Lanka’s Economic Crisis: Lessons for Pakistan”

May 17, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The objective of the discussion was to identify the lesson that Pakistan must take from the Sri Lankan crisis and at the same time understand the reasons that led to the economic catastrophe.

**Speakers:** Dr Akhil Bery, Director of South Asia Initiatives, Asia Society Policy Institute, Washington DC; Mr Sharukh Wani, Economist, International Growth Centre, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford; Ms Rehana Thowfeeq, Economist, Advocata Institute, Sri Lanka and Mr Imran Sardar, Research Analyst, Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- South Asian countries, particularly Pakistan must take the Sri Lankan crisis as a learning lesson and must understand the reasons that led to the economic catastrophe. The policymakers in Pakistan must come up with clear policy options to avoid the Sri Lankan crisis.
- Alienation of key partners and over-reliance on China are three major reasons for the current crisis in Sri Lanka.
- The impending structural issues and decisions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the Sri Lankan economy; the series of bad economic decisions based on populist moves led to the path of abandoning fiscal consolidation in the country.
- Bad policy choices have led the Pakistani economy on a downward spiral primarily due to the lack of political ownership for corrections the government needs to own up to the problem and take tough decisions to stabilise the economy.
- The global geopolitical dynamics along with Pakistan’s dependence on major powers have hugely impacted its economy; Pakistan’s current geo-economic policy needs a careful balancing approach and a deep understanding of the Chinese role in its economy also needs to be focused on.
- Pakistan’s current geo-economic policy needs a careful balancing approach and a deep understanding of the Chinese role in its economy also needs to be focused on. Moreover, South Asian countries, particularly Pakistan must take the Sri Lankan crisis as a learning lesson and must understand the reasons that led to the economic catastrophe.

Panel Discussion on  
**“India’s ‘Accidental’ Missile Launch: Implications and Challenges”**

May 31, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this panel discussion. The discussion was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To assess whether it was an accidental launch or deliberate and what are the implications and challenges in both instances.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Tariq Osman Hyder, Dr Adil Sultan, Ambassador Zamir Akram and Ms Ghazala Yasmin Jalil.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan needs to keep up the narrative that this was an irresponsible and aggressive act which could have led to disaster consequences.
- India is an irresponsible nuclear power and Pakistan’s response was one that demonstrated maturity and responsibility. Pakistan reserves the right to respond militarily in case of any recurrence of such an incidence in the future.
- There should be more clarity in transparency that what happened to prevent such future episodes.

## Panel Discussion on **“Preventing Floods in Pakistan: Role of Planning”** September 1, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion..

**Objective:** The panel discussion aimed to understand the current suffering in Pakistan due to the recurring phenomenon of floods to understand the complexities behind it and create awareness to prevent and minimise the impacts on the masses.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr Hassan Abbas, Founder ZIZAK.

**Discussants:** Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer and Dr Fozia Parveen, Assistant Professor, Agha Khan University.

### **Takeaways:**

- Pakistan is entering an erratic era with floods and droughts interspersed with each other, so predictions about rainfall, droughts and Climate Change are very uncertain and it needs to understand its natural, ecological system and manage accordingly.
- The advisory circles in Pakistan are opinion is driven rather than science-driven, which needs to be changed, Pakistan must fix its flawed development models because its impacts are socio-economically unsustainable and it needs to be addressed systematically.
- Climate Change does not respect national borders but today’s security systems are not capable to deal with environmental problems.
- Going forward, Pakistan is going to face erratic weather comprised of heat waves, flash floods and droughts due to already existing greenhouses gases in the atmosphere and this regard require better coordination mechanism between the centre and provinces
- Lack of policy implementation and lack of government responsibility is causing problems in climate-induced disaster response in Pakistan. The blame game must stop and responsibilities need to be shared by all stakeholders.
- Learning from the past is not being implemented in the present situation. Preparedness for disasters needs to be worked on the government needs to increase its capacity to deal with climate-caused disasters. It is time for less talk and more action.

Panel Discussion on  
**“The Economic Potential of E-Commerce in Pakistan:  
 Strategies to Consider”**

September 28, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI in collaboration with URTASKER organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The objective of the discussion was to highlight the significance of the economic potential of Pakistan’s e-commerce industry and the underlying challenges to it.

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Haroon Sharif, former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment.

**Speakers:** Mr Muhammad Shahrukh Khan, Creative Content Strategist, Urtasker and Mr Zeeshan Riaz, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, URTASKER.

**Discussants:** Dr Usman Chohan, Director, Economics & National Development, CASS, Mr Usama Nizamani, Assistant Research Associate, IPRI and Ms Komal Salman, Advocacy Lead for Web 3.0, IPRI.

**Takeaways:**

- The e-commerce industry in Pakistan faces multiple challenges such as a lack of trust and underdeveloped distributive and logistic networks.
- To increase investment, Pakistan needs a viable public policy and contract enforcement measures.
- There is a lack of innovation in Pakistan’s e-commerce industry along with the need for transparency, cyber security and data protection measures to foster the e-commerce industry in Pakistan.
- Instead of manufacturers, Pakistan should present distinguished brands in the international market, which would also increase the country’s export value.
- For a thriving e-commerce industry, there is a need for trust-building measures, scaling up production, quality assurance, contract enforcement and e-commerce-friendly regulatory measures.

## Panel Discussion on “Managing Natural Disasters in Pakistan”

November 3, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI in collaboration with Islamabad Security Dialogue (ISD) organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The discussion was aimed at shedding light on factors leading to the occurrence of hazards and the existing challenges with regard to Pakistan’s preparedness in preventing and mitigating their impact.

**Speakers:** Mr Idrees Mahsud, Member Disaster Risk Reduction, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan; Engr Aamir Hasan, Secretary, National Security Division (NSD); Mr Raja Rehan Arshad, former Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank; Dr Imran

Khalid, Director, Governance and Policy, WWF; Ms Maryam Shabbir Abbasi, Visiting Senior Research Associate, SDPI and Mr Ammar Rashid, Senior Researcher, Heartfile.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan is facing unprecedented floods and whether it is a recurring phenomenon or an exceptional situation still needs to be determined. Pakistan needs to implement the lessons learnt from previous disasters formulate and executive policies accordingly.
- Pakistan is not prepared to deal with the rising threat of Climate Change, which now directly impacts the increase in economic challenges along with food insecurity in the country.
- Pakistan needs to develop policies to make it more resilient to natural disasters. There is a need to strengthen coordination at the provincial and district levels.
- Pakistan has national frameworks in place but what is lacking is their implementation. Risk assessment needs to be carried out across Pakistan to determine the vulnerable areas and actions should be taken accordingly.
- Funding for disaster management has not increased in accordance with the losses incurred and Pakistan is also not utilising existing institutional capacity and end up creating new institutions after every disaster leading to a decrease in institutional learning. Essential sectors like health, education and agriculture need to be prioritised during the reconstruction phase.



## Online Dialogue with the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD)

November 29, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this dialogue. The discussion was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To discuss the issues of mutual interest .

**Participants:** Director General ISSI, Director CAMEA, Team ACDC, Ms Ume Farwa, Mr Taimur Khan and Ms Mahrukh Khan.

**Takeaways:**

- Discussed the situation in Afghanistan, AUKUS, US National Security Strategy, QUAD, China-US Relations, developments in the Asia Pacific and the latest developments in the Ukraine crisis.





# **In-house Meetings**

## In-house Meeting with H.E. Dr Tarek Dahroug, Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan

January 5, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** The key objective was to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and to understand Egypt's position.

**Guest:** Honorable Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, H.E. Dr Tarek Dahroug.

**Takeaways:**

- The current situation in Afghanistan requires increased cooperation and coordination through research and dialogue.

## In-house Meeting with Ambassador Redwan Hussein Rameto, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ethiopia

February 21, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak-Ethiopia Ties.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Redwan Hussein Rameto, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ethiopia.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan is keen to develop economic and trade ties with Africa though at the moment Pakistan's trade with Ethiopia is very low, however, there is a lot of potential which we need to tap into.
- Ethiopia is keen to open its Embassy in Pakistan, which will help in enhancing and strengthening Ethiopian-Pakistan ties.

## In-house Meeting with the Australian Special Representative for Afghanistan Mr Daniel Sloper

February 28, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guset:** Australian Special Representative for Afghanistan Mr Daniel Sloper.

**Members of the Delegation:** Ms Amanda Davis, First Secretary, Australian High Commission; Ms Navina Vijaysegaran, First Secretary, Australia's Interim Mission to Afghanistan in Doha and Ms Joanne Frederiksen, Deputy High Commissioner.

### Takeaways:

- There was an exchange of views regarding the grave humanitarian crisis, economic challenges, women's rights and counterterrorism issues in Afghanistan and the urgent need to remain engaged with the political dispensation in Afghanistan to avert a breakdown of the state.

## In-house Meeting with Delegation from FES Pakistan

March 15, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the prospects of coordination and cooperation between two organisations.

**Guest:** Dr Niels Hegewisch, Country Director, FES Pakistan, Humayun Khan, Programme Coordinator, FES Pakistan and Shoukat Ali, Logistic Manager FES, also accompanied Dr Hegewisch.

**Takeaways:**

- There was mutual agreement on the need to further cooperate and coordinate by organising joint events.

## In-house Meeting on “Pakistan Day Celebration”

March 23, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To Celebrate Pakistan Day

### Takeaways:

- No power on earth can undo Pakistan. We should renew the resolve to become one nation with one destiny, by honouring the sacrifices of our great leaders and forefathers.
- We can all contribute in our modest way to make this nation strong. We all are responsible for our actions and such days are a reminder that if we want to make this nation great we all have to put in our quest on both national and individual levels.



## In-house Meeting with Kabul Institute of Peace (KIP)

March 30, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, Director CAMEA, Ms Amina Khan; Sardar Nadir Naim Chairman KIP and Mr Hashim Pashtun, Director of Research and Analysis and KIP's Representative in Pakistan.

**Takeaways:**

- A consolidated regional approach is needed regarding the situation in Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with Danish Delegation

March 31, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan

**Speakers:** Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Rikke Blaaberg Jensen, Morten Larsen and Misha Zand from Danish Emigration Service.

**Takeaways:**

- A consolidated regional approach is needed regarding the situation in Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with Norwegian Delegation

April 1, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Members of the Delegation:** Norwegian Emigration Service.

In-house Meeting with  
**Dr Jasper Wieck, Germany's Special Representative  
for Pakistan and Afghanistan**

May 24, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

**Speakers:** Dr Jasper Wieck, Germany's Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan

**Takeaways:**

- A consolidated approach is needed in Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting to Commemorate the “24th Youm-e-Takbeer of Pakistan”

May 27, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting. The meeting was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To commemorate Youme-e-Takbeer and assess Pakistan’s nuclear deterrence capabilities and use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes.

**Participants:** Director General and Chairman BOG ISSI and ISSI Research Faculty.

**Presentation by:** Ms Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, RF.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan’s nuclear deterrence is purely defensive and adequate against its foe India.
- Pakistan is using nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes in the fields of energy, agriculture, health, and industry.
- Peaceful uses of nuclear technologies must be invested in and expanded to contribute towards the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

## In-house Meeting with Farrukh Iqbal Khan Director General (OIC & ED)

June 21, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan's role in OIC

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Mr Farrukh Iqbal Khan Director General (OIC & ED) and Mr Jawad Ali Chatha, Director (OIC), MOFA.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan can play a very constructive role in the OIC

## In-house Meeting with H.E. Markian Chuchuk, Ambassador of Ukraine in Pakistan

June 22, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Russia-Ukraine War and its International Impacts.

**Speakers:** H.E. Markian Chuchuk, Ambassador of Ukraine in Pakistan.

## In-house Meeting with

**KIIR**

August 10, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the current situation in Kashmir.

**Discussants:** Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman KIIR, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC and Dr Arshad Ali, Director ISC.



## In-house Meeting to Commemorate “Pakistan’s Defence Day: 75 Years of National Defence”

September 6, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting. The meeting was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** Celebrate the Pakistan Defence Day.

**Theme:** Pakistan’s Defence Day: 75 Years of National Defence.

**Participants:** Director General, Chairman BOG ISSI and ISSI Research Faculty.

**Presentation by:** Ms Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate ACDC-ISSI.

**Takeaways:**

- The Armed Forces of Pakistan started their journey from scratch in 1947 and became a nuclear power.
- The Armed Forces of Pakistan fought bravely against the internal and external threats to national security.
- There is a need to organise the people of Pakistan economically, socially, educationally and politically.

## In-house Meeting with the Ambassador of Spain

September 7, 2022



The ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** The Ambassador of Spain José Antonio de Ory called upon the Director General ISSI and visited him. During his visit, the Ambassador of Spain met with the Directors of the five centres of Excellence at the Institute. Multiple modes of future collaboration were discussed during the meeting.

In-house Meeting with  
**Dr Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor of  
 International Relations at the Near East South Asia  
 Strategic Studies Centre (NESA)**

September 12, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI facilitated this in-house discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Dr Hassan Abbas's upcoming book on the Taliban and the situation in Afghanistan as well as regional dynamics.

**Speakers:** Dr Hassan Abbas, Ambassador Abrar Hussai, Ambassador Naela Chohan, Lt. General Sabahat Hussain, Dr Simbal Khan, Dr Qamar Cheema, Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan, Ambassador Riffat Masood, Dr Salma Malik, Mr Oves Anwar, Mr Hamayun Khan.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Regional dynamics are evolving rapidly.
- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with Stimson Center South Asia Programme

September 13, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI facilitated this in-house discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations as well as regional dynamics.

**Speakers:** Ms Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Director, Stimson Center South Asia Programme; Dr Francis O'Donnell, Fellow and Deputy Director, Stimson Center South Asia Programme; Zeba Fazli, Research Associate, Stimson Center South Asia Programme and Uzair Sattar, Research Assistant, Stimson Center South Asia Programme.

### Key Takeaways:

- Regional dynamics are evolving rapidly
- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach with regard to Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with Michael Kugelman, Deputy Director and South Asia Senior Associate at the Wilson Center

September 13, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI facilitated this in-house discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan-US relations, the situation in Afghanistan as well as regional dynamics.

**Speakers:** Michael Kugelman, Deputy Director and South Asia Senior Associate at the Wilson Center, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA and team CAMEA.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Regional dynamics are evolving rapidly
- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach with regard to Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with Area Study Center for Central Asia, University of Peshawar & Central Asian Delegation

September 14, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

**Speakers:** Prof Shabir Ahmad Khan Director ASC for Central Asia, University of Peshawar; Mr Abdullah from ASC; Mr Almas Tusipjanov from Kazakhstan; Mr Ibrokhimov Ferozbek from Uzbekistan; Mr Mohammadsaidzoda Abubakr from Tajikistan and Mr Abai Zurdinov from Kyrgyz Republic.

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach with regard to Afghanistan.

## In-house Discussion with **Dr Daniel Markey** September 16, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI facilitated this in-house discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the South Asian regional dynamics and the global security environment.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Daniel Markey, Senior Advisor on South Asia at the United States Institute of Peace.

In-house Discussion with the  
“Delegation of International Institute of Strategic  
Studies (IISS), United Kingdom”

September 22, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** Discuss the issues of mutual interest

**Participants:** Mr Desmond Bowen, Mr William Alberque, Professor Wyn Bowen, Brigadier (Retd) Ben Berry, Mr Jack Gill, Mr Antoine Levesques and Mr Rahul Roy Chaudhury..

**Issues Discussed:** US-China Strategic Competition, Pak-India Relations, US Indo-pacific Strategy, Security & Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia – Iran Rivalry, Non – Traditional Security Issues, Water Security, Food Security, Climate Change, Indian Brahmos Missile Accident, Implications of Ukraine War and South Asia.



## In-house Meeting with Swedish Migration Agency Delegation

October 18, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest:** Ludvig Sundin, Research Analyst, Swedish Migration Agency and Jens Bolling, Analyst from the Swedish Migration Agency.

**Key Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach with regard to Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan

October 19, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the prospects of coordination and cooperation.

**Guests:** H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Pakistan and Ethiopia are two important countries with immense potential for bilateral trade.
- There is a need to further deepen Pakistan's ties with Ethiopia.

## Briefing

# CPSC Hosts Director General Gwadar Development Authority

October 25, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this briefing.

**Objective:** To brief the participants about the current status of development work and future plans for the Gwadar port-city.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Mujeeb ur Rehman Qambrani, Director-General, Gwadar Development Authority (DG GDA).

## In-house Meeting with Mr Scott Smith, Head of Political Affairs Section UNAMA

October 31, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest:** Mr Scott Smith; Head of Political Affairs section United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.
- The current situation in Afghanistan requires a need for increased cooperation and coordination through research and dialogue.

## In-house Meeting with a Delegation from the FES

October 31, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Germany ties.

**Guest:** Mirco Günther, Head of the Asia & Pacific Department, FES Berlin; Benjamin Reichenbach, Desk Officer, Asia Department, FES Berlin; Dr Niels Hegewisch, Country Director, FES-Pakistan and Hamayoun Khan, Programme Coordinator, FES-Pakistan.

### Key Takeaways:

- The current situation in Afghanistan requires a need for increased cooperation and coordination from the region as well as the international community.
- Pakistan and Germany should work closely to enhance bilateral relations.

## In-house Meeting with Charge d' Affaires Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to Pakistan

November 16, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the current situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest:** Charge d' Affaires, Saradar Ahmad Shakib, of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to Pakistan.

## In-house Meeting with Diplomats from the Nordic and Dutch Embassies in Afghanistan

November 23, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** Lennart Linnér, Temporary Head of Mission; Ludvig Daver, First Secretary; Heli Kanerva, Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan; Paula Sastrowijoto, Deputy Head of Mission; Merijn Noppers, First Secretary; Lars Bo Meller, Ambassador, Special Representative; Simon Fasterkjaer Kjeldsen, Deputy Head of Mission; Paul Klouman Bekken, Chargé d' Affairs; Abdul Suboh Faizy, Senior Advisor and Silje Marie Andersen, Second Secretary.

**Takeaways:**

- The current situation in Afghanistan requires a need for increased cooperation and coordination from the region as well as the international community

## In-house Meeting with Mr Marc Saxer, Managing Director, FES

November 30, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** Dr Niels Hegewisch, Country Director, FES-Pakistan and Hamayoun Khan, Programme Coordinator, FES-Pakistan.

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.



## In-house Meeting with Norwegian Delegation

December 1, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** Mr Erlend Stokstad and Ms Ingeborg Farstad. They were also accompanied by Ms Monica Skorpen from the Norwegian Embassy.

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan

## In-house Meeting with 30 Members Afghan Delegation

December 1, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** 30-member Afghan delegation.

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

December 5, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** Mr Andrew Wilder, Vice President Asia Programme, USIP, Ms Tammana Salikuddin, Director South Asia Programme, USIP and Mr Imran Khan, Programme Coordinator.

**Takeaways:**

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.

## In-house Meeting with German Delegation

December 6, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guests:** Mr Georg Klussmann, Director General Afghanistan/Pakistan of the German Federal Foreign Office, Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of Germany and Christian Bottcher.

### Takeaways:

- The issue of Afghanistan has global ramifications and the problems of Afghanistan are not only limited to Afghanistan but to the entire region.
- The responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Taliban; they should engage with the international community and adhere to the promises they had made.



# Roundtable Discussions

## Roundtable Discussion on “Commemorating Kashmiris’ Right to Self-Determination Day”

January 5, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this round-table.

**Objective:** In Kashmir’s struggle for the right to self-determination, the date of January 5, 1949, holds a special place. On this day, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution unequivocally supporting Kashmiris’ right to self-determination through a UN-sponsored free and fair plebiscite.

**Speakers:** Dr Waleed Rasool Sheikh, Director General, Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies; Mr Advocate Nasir Qadri, a Human Rights Lawyer from IIOJK and also the head of the Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK); Ambassador (R) Riffat Masood; Barrister Needa Salam, a practising lawyer in the Islamabad High Court; Dr Sameera Imran, Assistant Professor (IR) Department at National Defence University, Islamabad; Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener of All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Professor Dr Muhammad Khan from the Department of International Relations, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan needs to work with other nations to increase its support in international forums like the UN and United Nations Human Rights Commission.
- Pakistan should mobilise its very active diaspora as well as the youth to convey its concerns to the international community.
- The Kashmir issue must always remain alive as an inseparable part of Pakistan’s foreign policy.
- Pakistan must go back to the United Nations Security Council, Human Rights Council, ICC and ICJ to take up the case of Kashmir.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Rising State Repression in IIOJK”

January 20, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this round-table.

**Objective:** To discuss and understand the on-going developments in IIOJK.

**Speakers:** Mr Ershad Mahmood, Director General Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell; Senator Zarqa Suharwardi; Mr Alaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations; Barrister Nida Salam, a practising lawyer in the Islamabad High Court and Mr Raja Muhammad Sajjad, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell.

### Takeaways:

- There is no space for any sort of activism in India
- Pakistan should engage international organisations to challenge these draconian laws being practised in IIOJK.
- Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers, they should come forward to find a political solution to the Kashmir issue.
- Cases against Indian atrocities should be initiated in the courts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which will then help in taking the issue to the international courts.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Delegation from the National Defense College, Nasser High Military Academy of the Arab Republic of Egypt”

January 31, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this round-table.

**Objective:** To discuss and understand the regional situation and Pakistan’s relations with Egypt.

**Speakers:** Major General Sameh Saber Ahmed EI-Dagwy, Director General National Defence College; Major General Mostafa Abdel-Mutelb Nassar, Adviser High War College; Major General Sameer Mohamed Ahmed Badawy, Adviser National Defence College; Brig Ehab Fakry Youssef Youssef Mostafa; Brig Khaled Esmail Taha EI-Nahrawy; Brig Shady Mohamed Hamdy Ramadan Morsy; Brig Ashraf Mohamed Alwan Mohamed Masoud; Brig Mohamed Saeed Ahmed Abdel-Hameed Awad; Colonel Khaled Saeed Mohamed Ahmed EI-Laasan; Colonel Alaa Eldin Ahmed Ibrahim Dasouqy; Colonel Amr All Afify Mohamed; Colonel Alaa Eldin Talat Mohamed Abdel-Hady; Colonel Mohamed Shahta Abdel-Aal All EI-Eid; Colonel Ahmed Osama Abdel-Hady Abu-Owf; Brig Wael Khairy Mohamed Saleh Dahshan and Colonel Shareef Rashad Ahmed Suleman.

### Takeaways:

- The world is transforming and the world order is shifting from unipolarity to multipolarity and several changes are taking place. Unilateralism is rising and multilateralism is declining and the norms of the liberal world order are not being observed. Along with the changing world order, Islamophobia and Xenophobia are also on the rise.
- In the region, Pakistan is facing a major challenge due to the hegemonic designs of India under the Modi Regime. The Afghanistan crisis has severely affected Pakistan.
- Globally, Pakistan has adopted the approach of balancing relations with the US and China, because of Sino-US rivalry and defusing tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran while maintaining neutrality.
- Egypt is greatly respected in Pakistan due to its leadership role in the Middle East and its rich history. Moreover, Egypt is playing a major role in the region.



## Roundtable Discussion on “Role of Women in Socio-economic Development of Pakistan”

March 7, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this round-table.

**Objective:** The event was part of the International Women’s Day celebration.

**Keynote Speakers:** Ambassador Seema Ilahi Baloch, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Poland.

**Discussants:** Ms Aliya Amir Ali, Lecturer Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad; Ms Sadaf Dar, Officer Gender and Development, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN); Ms Jubilee Hunzai, Member, Civil Society, Pakistan and Ms Misbah Mukhtar, Research Associate, ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- Human capital especially women needs investment as they form about half of the population of the country and are poorly represented in their contributions to the GDP of the country.
- Gender inequality is the core issue and it severely impacts the socio-economic development in Pakistan the challenges associated with this issue need to be resolved.
- Women of all walks of life including women with disabilities need to be focused on and provided opportunities as they are also part of the society and can contribute greatly to the uplift of Pakistan’s economy as well as empowered to make their own decisions and execute them as well, which includes their right to vote in a democratic society.
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- If Pakistan were to invest in its women its GDP would rise by 30 per cent, unfortunately in Pakistan, women’s employment rate is less than 5 per cent.
- In Pakistan, there is a growing need to focus on women with disabilities and provide them with ample opportunities for education and employment to be self-sufficient as they are also part of society and can contribute greatly to the uplift of Pakistan’s economy.

## Roundtable Discussion on “OIC through the Decades: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead”

March 17, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this round-table.

**Objective:** To discuss the role of OIC throughout the decade and future prospects.

**Participants:** Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan; Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO) UK; Professor Dayto; Dr Kohtou Moustapha Sano, Secretary General International Islamic Fiqah Academy Jeddah; Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the OIC; Mr Mustapha El Khalfi, Moroccan Politician (Justice and Development Party); Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan; Mr Khalid Pashtoon, former Member of Afghanistan's Parliament, Mr Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan; Mr Farrukh Iqbal Khan, DG ED&OIC MOFA; Dr Veysel Kurt; Associate Prof Veysel Kurt, Istanbul Medeniyet University and Mr Bahlol Javed, Research Fellow for Center for Strategic Studies, MoFA, Kabul.

### Takeaways:

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was established as the collective voice of the Muslim world. Its objective has always been to ensure and safeguard Muslim economic and political interests and lessen all challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.
- Palestine and Kashmir are the two critical issues of the Islamic World.
- Pakistan was respectful and had a very abiding commitment to the Muslim world and treated it as of the highest value. Pakistan's commitment to the Palestinian cause is evident from the fact that it has not recognised Israel.
- Over the years, Pakistan has been closely engaged in supporting cooperation among member states and advocating for equitable solutions for various issues faced by the Muslim community.
- Pakistan has presently been very proactive in pursuing a crusade against Islamophobia and as a result of Pakistan's efforts, the UNGA has declared March 15 as the international day to combat Islamophobia.
- The OIC will remain an institution of government; it must also engage with civil society and ensure greater cooperation. The issue of Islamophobia is of utmost concern for the Ummah.
- The OIC member countries are putting their weight behind the issue of Kashmir in the UN and as the second largest international organisation, it is making the Kashmir cause relevant in the international arena. The OIC has been viewed as a political entity; however, it is time that the member countries see it as an economic organisation as well and gain from it in terms of trade by exploring prospective markets in other member countries.
- The OIC member countries took a lead in exhibiting support for the health and well-being of millions of Afghans who had little or no means of getting food, shelter and medicine — especially throughout the harsh and bitter winter.
- The OIC member countries have even pledged support for completing development projects, which have been left without a budget over the past seven months. In the case of Afghanistan, the OIC has set a new standard in unifying countries to prioritise human dignity and humanitarian needs above politics.
- The OIC must help in the reconstruction of institutions in Afghanistan. The country requires help in enhancing its education system, capacity building and much more.
- OIC should set a new standard in unifying countries to prioritise human dignity and humanitarian needs above politics.

## Virtual Roundtable Discussion between ISSI-CICIR

April 7, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this virtual roundtable discussion.

**Objective:** To shed light on the global and regional impact of the Ukraine crisis and review and prospect of peace in Afghanistan.

**Discussants:** Dr FU Xiaoqiang, Vice President, CICIR; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI; Dr Wang Shida, Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI; Dr Shang Yue, Deputy Director, Institute of Eurasian Studies, CICIR; Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr HU Shisheng, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; Dr Sameera Imran, Assistant Professor, National Defence University; Dr YAN Shuai, Deputy Director, Institute of International Security Studies, CICIR and Ms Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA), ISSI.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan should stay away from the bloc politics at the global and regional levels.
- The recent war in Ukraine should be put to an end, however, the Russian security apprehensions must be addressed.
- The Taliban should comply with international norms and present a moderate face.
- Pakistan should employ a consolidated regional approach toward Kabul.
- After every disaster leading to a decrease in institutional learning. Essential sectors like health, education and agriculture need to be prioritised during the reconstruction phase.

## Roundtable Discussion Between ISSI-NIDS

June 3, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this roundtable discussion.

**Objective:** The ISSI-NIDS roundtable was organised to discuss the national security policy of Pakistan and Japan and develop a deep understanding of both countries' perspectives on the strategic issues of the Ukraine war & Afghanistan.

**Discussants:** Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, China Pakistan Study Centre; Mr Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Centre; Ms Amina Khan, Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle-East & Africa and Dr Neelum Nigar, Director Centre for Strategic Perspectives. While the participants from the National Institute of Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan included, Colonel Yuka Nakazato, Colonel Kensuke Fujihata, Captain Tomoakai Kato, Commander Yoshitaka Hirano, Ms Ochi Kasumi, Captain Shogo Yamauchi, Colonel Satoshi Masaka, Colonel Ryohei Saito, Mr Hidenori Miyazawa, Mr Tomoaki Yoshida and Mr Eijli Takagi.

### Takeaways:

- Japan's national security policy is shaped by its geo-strategic environment and so is Pakistan's. Both are confronted by the strategic hostility of their neighbours.
- Ukraine and Afghanistan are the problems that concern both countries.
- Peace should be given a chance so that stability prevails in the surrounding areas.

Roundtable Discussion on  
**“Evolving Situation in the Middle East and its Impact  
on Global Geopolitics”**

July 21, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** To discuss President Biden’s Middle East trip, the US versus China competition in the Middle East, chances of revival of the JCPOA and implications of the changing Middle East security architecture for Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG ISSI; Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Ambassador Riaz Khokhar; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Ambassador Naela Chohan; Gen Sabhat; Dr Qandeel; Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad and Brig Mehboob Qadir.

**Takeaways:**

- Regional dynamics are evolving rapidly.
- US-China competition is escalating rapidly.
- Little chance of revival of JCPOA.

## Roundtable Discussion with Mr Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute

July 25, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the US role in Afghanistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG ISSI; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Ambassador Tariq Azizuddin; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Lt General Sabahat Hussain; Mr Hassan Khan; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Ambassador Ayyaz Wazir; Mr Taimur Shamil; Ambassador Abrar Hussain and Brig Mehboob Qadir.

**Takeaways:**

- Regional dynamics are evolving rapidly.
- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Nuclear Proliferation and Regional Developments – An Australian Perspective”

September 22, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** Australian perspective on nuclear non-proliferation and regional developments.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Ian Biggs, Australia’s Ambassador for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation.

**Takeaways:**

- Multi-lateral approaches are needed to deal with global challenges like poverty, Climate Change and security.
- Australia is making sure the AUKUS complies with the non-proliferation regime.
- Australia is fully committed to non-proliferation and does not seek to acquire nuclear weapons.



## Roundtable Discussion on “South Asia: Peaceful Coexistence through Economic Cooperation”

September 27, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** To promote the idea of peace and explore new avenues of cooperation in the South Asian region.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan.

**Speaker:** Mr Hussnain Shah, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC); Mr Saddam Hussein, PIDE, Islamabad; Muhammad Rizwan Manzoor, Assistant Director (Research), PIPS, Islamabad; Mr Muhammad Ali Baig, Research Associate, ISC and Syed Kasim Masood, Research Associate ISC.

### Takeaways:

- Agriculture is the key to Pakistan’s economic recovery.
- The issue of Climate Change can be a window of opportunity. India and Pakistan must sit together as it is predicted that within the next few years, this region will not be liveable if the issue of Climate Change is not addressed on a war footing.
- Due to political conflicts, SAARC too has been rendered non-functional.
- Importing spices from India instead of other countries would help Pakistan and its weak economy.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Pakistan-US Relations: Building a Sustainable Partnership”

October 25, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** Multiple areas of mutual interest and collaboration came under discussion including education, health assistance, Climate Change, economic partnership, regional connectivity and bilateral relations.

**Speakers:** Donald Bloom, US Ambassador to Pakistan.

**Discussants:**

Mr Javed Jabbar, former Senator and Federal Minister; Ambassador Tariq Osman Hyder, former Diplomat; Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Member Chairman, SDPI BoG; Mohammad Mudassir Tipu, Additional Secretary Americas, MoFA; Dr Nazir Mehmood; Dr Tariq Banuri, former Chairman, HEC; Ms Naima Ansari, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Ms Amna Malik President, CoPAIR and Ambassador Masood Khalid.

## Roundtable Discussion on “75 Years of Tyranny- The Case of Indian Occupied Kashmir”

October 27, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this roundtable.

**Objective:** To commemorate October 27 as a ‘Black Day.’

**Speakers:** Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations; Dr Waleed Rasool, Director General at Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies and Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- It is doubtful whether the Instrument of Accession was signed before Indian troops landed on Kashmiri land to occupy it against the wishes of the Kashmiri people or later.
- Even if the Instrument of Accession was signed, India surrendered its claim on Kashmir when it took the matter to the UN and agreed to its resolutions.
- Subsequent statements issued by Nehru and other Indian leaders also weakened Indian claims of Kashmir’s accession to India.
- While Kashmiri youth were offering supreme sacrifices for the freedom of their motherland, not much attention was paid to diplomacy.
- Contrary to Indian claims, all UN resolutions on Kashmir are still valid and relevant.
- With disappearances, torture and rape, Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has become a big prison.

## Roundtable Discussion with a 6-member Delegation from Chinese People's Associations for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)

November 9, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this roundtable. The discussion was moderated by Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI.

**Objective:** The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the comprehensive Pak-China relations and see how this bilateral relationship has evolved and has shaped it into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. To carry forward the joint consensus of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

**Keynote Speaker (Chinese side):** Lin Songtian, President CPAFFC.

**Keynote Speaker (Pakistan side):** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed.

### Takeaways:

- The world today is keenly looking at the great transformation of China and President Xi Jinping's philosophy of 'win-win cooperation,' 'common destiny,' and 'shared future' is making perfect sense for the world.
- The political consensus between the leadership of Pakistan and China can take this relationship to new heights, build a more tangible and steady association and will also send a strong message to the rest of the world.
- Investment is the key to production and only production can sustain a nation, a community and a household. For long-term development and to attract investments the laws need to remain concrete and the policies should be consistent despite the political changes. Law plays a key role in economic stability and attracting investments.
- President Xi's goals of shared destiny and global development initiative can help turn around the entire region and put Pakistan on the path of fast-track development. China is a fast country when it comes to development and if we want to keep up and gain from this relationship we need to regulate our policies, bring consistency in laws and move forward with unity and strong political consensus regarding economic development.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Pak-Afghan Relations”

November 25, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this roundtable discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Participants:** Ambassador Jawed Ludin, President HAS; Ambassador Janan Mosazai, Vice President HAS; Dr Azmat Hayat, former Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar; Mr Ziad Aladad, former Director of the World Bank; Mr Zahid Hussain, Journalist; Ambassador Hamayun, former Pakistani diplomat; Haroon Rashid, Journalist; Fatima Zeb, US Embassy; Aquila Johnson, US Embassy and Brig Ayaz Khan.

**Takeaways:**

- The issue of Afghanistan has global ramifications and the problems of Afghanistan are not only limited to Afghanistan but to the entire region.
- The onus is on the Taliban to deliver and the international community and region should play their role. It is a historic opportunity for the Taliban to rewrite the history of Afghanistan and bring peace and stability to the country through national reconciliation.

## Roundtable Discussion on “Resolution of the Kashmir Dispute: Imperative for a Lasting Peace in South Asia”

December 12, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this roundtable discussion.

**Objective:** Discussion with the Permanent Representatives of the member states of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to seek peaceful solutions for the conflict.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Dr Saleh Hamad A Alsuhaiban, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the OIC; Ambassador Mehmet Metin Eker, Permanent Representative of Turkiye to the OIC; Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the OIC; Dr Asma Khawaja, Executive Director Centre for International Strategic Studies, AJ&K; Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, former Chief Justice of Gambia; Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairperson, KIIR; Dr Waleed Rasul, Director General, Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue and Mr Faiz Naqashbandi, Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- The OIC as an international forum is quick to respond to any development that takes place in IOJK, the member states, however, hesitate to condemn India.
- Modi’s Kashmir policy is based on excessive use of force.
- The Kashmir conflict is not communal but Modi has been equating the struggle by Kashmiris with Islamophobia.
- Since war is no longer an answer and diplomacy has also failed, a legal course of action should be considered.
- The OIC can increase the cost of conflict for India by boycotting it economically.
- after every disaster leading to a decrease in institutional learning. Essential sectors like health, education and agriculture need to be prioritised during the reconstruction phase.



# Islamabad Security Dialogue

## Day I Islamabad Security Dialogue 2022

April 1, 2022



**Objective:** Pakistan’s National Security Division (NSD) under the then National Security Advisor, Dr Moeed Yusuf, organised the 2nd edition of the Islamabad Security Dialogue (ISD) on April 1-2, 2022. The ISD is Pakistan’s annual flagship security forum that was initiated in 2021. The theme for the second edition of the ISD was “Comprehensive Security: Reimagining International Cooperation.”

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) is a proud member of the National Security Division’s Advisory Board. And as a member of the NSD’s Advisory Board, the ISSI has been playing a significant role in the organisation of the Islamabad Security Dialogue since 2021, by providing research, manpower and logistical support to this national project.

In the first ISD in 2021, ISSI organised a session titled, “Regional Peace & Security.” The Foreign Minister of Pakistan was the keynote speaker of the session. In 2022, during the 2nd iteration of the ISD, ISSI was assigned a task by the NSD to research and compile takeaways on the theme of “Economic Security and Geo-economics.”

### Takeaways:

- A strong economy makes the people prosperous, defence is robust and the nation is more secure. The recently announced National Security Policy has rightly attached primacy to economic security in the context of comprehensive national security.
- Pakistan must attach the highest priority to putting its economic house in order. For that, it needs essential reforms, including developing value chains for global competitive markets, fixing energy problems, making local markets more efficient, reducing the size of the government, deregulations, increasing private investment, attracting FDI, concluding the IMF programme and maintaining overall stability. This may appear to be a daunting and painful process but there is no alternative to comprehensive economic reforms.
- In the evolving geopolitics, with new alignments and blocks shaping up, there are both challenges and opportunities for Pakistan. Ideally, Pakistan should build deeper economic relationships with



China, Central Asia and Russia while keeping its existing economic channels functional with the US, Europe and other major powers. This will not be easy. However, with diplomatic finesse and the right emphasis on geo-economics, the challenges can be converted into opportunities.

- The CPEC has served Pakistan well in terms of infrastructure development, energy security, connectivity and business-to-business investments. The cooperation with China must continue at full steam.

### **Pakistan's External Account Balance and the Road to IMF:**

- Pakistan's macroeconomic policy needs to shift its focus from stabilisation to sustainability, from consumption to investment, from imports to exports and from the current services sector to an industrial base. Absolute rethinking of the economy is needed as ad-hoc solutions do not work and lead the country back to the IMF.
- The focus at this time should be on SMEs. With the right policies and environment for SMEs, our economy will create jobs, promote household savings and enhance the overall inclusion of people and businesses.
- Our delegations negotiating with the IMF must go well prepared, preferably with a growth reform package ready. Otherwise, it has to face the terms dictated by the IMF.

### **Pakistan's Regional Trade and Economic Integration:**

- It is time to connect the region better through a freer flow of people, goods and capital in South Asia. The region, by not being integrated within, is wasting its tremendous potential. Mobility within the region is of critical value to explore the untapped trade within and between the regions. It is imperative to create easy border access like in Europe and invest in active patrolling and regulating controls.
- A prerequisite to deriving optimal economic benefits from regional integration, it is essential to resolve regional conflicts as amicably as possible.

### **Pakistan's Industrial Development and SEZs:**

- SEZs have been positive as part of CPEC's broader architecture and phase two requires increased participation from the public, private and joint public-private engagement.
- The industrialisation process requires a holistic approach. A country like Pakistan can have a mixed model of import substitution and export promotion at the same time.

### **Dynamics of Pakistan's Human Security:**

- Recent research shows that a higher share of knowledge-intensive goods in the export profile of a country leads to a higher per capita income in the long term.
- Countries can achieve a knowledge-intensive export structure by investing in their people and building a "human economy." To this end, Pakistan needs to manage its population growth for sustained economic growth.
- The creation of a knowledge-based economy depends on innovation and creativity which in turn depends on the vitality of physical and mental health.
- Pakistan should also focus on linking its network of research institutions and universities, with industry to achieve a knowledge-based economy.

## Session IV – Islamabad Security Dialogue 2022 “Navigating Disinformation and Discourse in the Information Age”

April 1, 2022



**Objective:** To discuss the issues of mutual interest.

**Keynote Speaker:** Javed Jabbar, former Federal Minister for Information, Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Liu Xin, China Global Television Network, China; Karan Thapar, Infotainment Television, India; Oksana Boyko, Russia Today, Russia; Hussain Nadeem, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Pakistan and Shane Harris, Washington Post, United States of America.


### Takeaways:

- Information has been there since the very inception of humanity, however, the information age of today is the age of phenomenal convergence; it brings industry, information technology, connectivity and all media into a single body.
- The age we live in is the age of paradox and erosion; erosion of conventional national state frontiers, which are considered essential for state security; erosion of coherence partly because of the sheer volume of information, which is growing at a variety and simultaneity ousting the capacity to manage the information produced and the erosion of attention span.
- All kinds of information tend to destabilise as it changes the perception of an individual for the better or worse. On the other what disinformation does is damage and destroy the element of confidence and trust in individuals and institutions.
- There are multiple streams of disinformation; the medium of news is the biggest stream disseminating true news and fake news.
- There is a need to approach disinformation – both conventional and social media – through a four-tier regulatory approach; i) a global consensus-based regulatory framework for media that transcend national frontiers; ii) national state regulation on media which is progressive and built on

extensive consultation with all stakeholders including citizens; iii) self-regulation my media where state defines the framework of how media should regulate and iv) social regulation by civil society.

- Introduction of Public Service Media System with two conditions; firstly, it should not be state-controlled or state-owned and secondly it should not be dependent on an advertisement.
- Disinformation in Pakistan has become rampant because the system in place has not innovated and changed according to the required pace, further leading to a significant shift from the monopoly of state-run narratives to multiple-running narratives without any regulation and control from the state actors to the non-state actors to experts to the general population and anonymous accounts.
- Disinformation is spread under the garb of three goals; i) disinformation to harm; ii) misinformation and iii) mal-information with some level of truth and exaggeration.
- The issue of disinformation in India has grown as a problem in recent years and has increased as a crisis every year with the tendency to go higher under the current leadership of Indian Prime Minister Modi.
- The government of India as a political strategy has deliberately decided to appeal to the population of India in conscious religious terms knowing that 80 per cent of the country is Hindu and knowing the fact that religion pervades their lives.
- The strategy has also been monopolised to exasperate and exploit divisions leading to demonising of a religion of the remaining population, especially Muslims which has led to enormous political results for the BJP and has made India a different country.
- The freedom of the press and freedom of speech is enshrined in the US constitution which makes it almost impossible to amend it in such a way that will limit its freedom even for the politicians or the head of state.
- January 6th is the prime example of the culmination of disinformation and misleading figures (in the history of the US) to convince the population of the incidents and events that did not happen which further testifies that journalists today not only deal with angry politicians but also the angry population which capable of violence.
- The reporters need to be much more transparent with the population about what they do and how they do it to not look like people sitting behind big media names; it is incumbent to engage with people to educate them about journalism and its role to create more foundation of trust.
- Conflicts, where the great powers are involved, have a specific pattern of coverage of the stories which leads to information propaganda that is embedded in context, history strategy etc.
- Hostile forces in the West are using disinformation to target cultures and civilisations, which are different and which want to stay independent including Chinese, Arabic, Muslim and African etc.





# Tuesday Dialogue

## Tuesday Dialogue on “Nuclearisation of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)”

August 30, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised the Tuesday dialogue.

**Objective:** Identify the NC3 challenges because of the increasing nuclearisation of IOR.

**Participants:** ACDC Advisory Board Members, experts from Academia and defense sector organisations.

**Takeaways:**

- Three transformations in India: shifting military posture, new economic posture and new command structure for the North will affect maritime command and control.
- Delink between Pakistan’s narrative and the global narrative.
- Pakistan must identify allies and enhance cooperation with China.



# **Book Launch/ Report Launch**

Book Discussion on  
**Diplomatic Footprints, authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Organised by the LUMS Law & Politics Society**

March 7, 2022



The ISSI organised this book discussion.

The LUMS Law & Politics Society organised a book discussion on Diplomatic Footprints authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL), LUMS.

Dr Rasul Baksh Rais, Professor of Political Science in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS, moderated the discussion. Renowned historian and academic, Fakir Syed Aijazuddin, also presented his views.

Members of the faculty and student body were present on the occasion.

The initial remarks were followed by an interactive Q&A session with the present students and faculty members.



## PIVOT Magazine “Foundation Day Special Edition” Launch

July 18, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised the launch of the Special Edition of its PIVOT Magazine.

**Objective:** To commemorate the 49th foundation day of ISSI and to display how the scope of the magazine has been broadened focusing on multiple facets of national security.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Zahra Baloch, Additional Foreign Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China and Mr Yang Nuo, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy.

### Takeaways:

- The idea of broadening the horizon of PIVOT magazine to non-traditional security policy is the need of the hour.
- Publications like PIVOT magazine are highly relevant even in the age of social media. Such publications are well-researched and contain high-quality policy inputs.
- Pakistan-China relations are multi-dimensional and their scope is not limited to China-Pakistan-Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- There is a need to keep an eye on the regional development particularly the security arrangements in the Indian Ocean such as QUAD in ISSI’s publications.
- In China’s neighbourhood policy, Pakistan is an important country and the Chinese leadership has stated it on multiple occasions. China is ready to support Pakistan in making it economically stable and thriving.

## Book Launch

# Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: International and Regional Perspectives

August 10, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised the book launch.

**Objective:** To launch CAMEA’s second edited book, titled, “Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: International and Regional Perspectives.”

**Speakers:** Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM), and Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan; Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan, Pakistan’s Ambassador to Afghanistan; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan, former Foreign Secretary; Ambassador Jawed Ludin, President and Co-Founder, Heart of Asia Society; Dr Niels Hegeswisch, Country Director FES, Pakistan; Ambassador Abrar Hussain, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to Afghanistan and Ms Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the South Asia Programme at the Stimson Centre, USA.

### Takeaways:

- It is reflected in every book chapter that every country wants a stable Afghanistan and that every country is wary of terrorist forces.
- A change in Afghan society is the universal demand for the just and visible participation of all ethnicities in governance.
- 90 per cent of Afghans are at risk of poverty and Pakistan has assisted in every way, including the facilitation of third-country travel and assistance during natural calamities as well.
- There should be a model for the free movement of trade and people between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Economic prosperity can be achieved through regional connectivity.
- All countries should realize that UN and US sanctions should be removed for socioeconomic prosperity.
- Taliban should come up with practical solutions and must take steps in the right direction, or else dialogue will not work.

## Special Report Launch

# “Comprehensive National Security and Emerging Technologies”

August 18, 2022



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this special report launch.

**Objective:** Launch of a Special Report titled “Comprehensive National Security and Emerging Technologies.”

**Guest Speaker:** Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar, Special Secretary (PP & PD), MOFA.

**Participants:** Air Cmdr (Retd) Khalid Banuri, Dr Hussain Nadim, Mr Khawaja Mohammad Ali and Mr Usman Jadoon, MOFA.

**Takeaways:**

- The development of emerging technologies is outpacing the formulation of the international regulatory regime.
- One could not handle the technologies of the 21st century with 18th-century strategies.
- Interim arrangements are necessary as treaty negotiations take time.

## Special Report Launch **“Economic Security of Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward”**

August 22, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised this special report.

**Overview:** Based on a year-long series of conversations and dialogues with experts, practitioners and national and international policymakers the Centre for Strategic Perspectives launched a Special Report titled, “Economic Security of Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward.” The report shared multiple-tier understandings of economic challenges to Pakistan as well as policy recommendations and the way forward.

**Chief Guest:** Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue.

**Speakers:** Dr Abid Q Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI; Ambassador Seema Ilahi Baloch; Mr Zafar ul Hasan, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and Mr Amir Zafar Durrani, President, Reenergia.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan’s macroeconomic policy needs to shift its focus from stabilisation to sustainability, from consumption to investment, from imports to exports and from the current services sector to an industrial base.
- Pakistan has missed its journey to industrialisation, hence, it is imperative to move in steps and explore different levels of industries including the cottage industry and SMEs before focusing on the benefits of large-scale industries.
- A prerequisite to deriving optimal economic benefits from regional integration, it is essential to resolve regional conflicts as amicably as possible.
- The GSP+ scheme is highly beneficial for Pakistan’s economic progress, especially when the country is trying to make a transition from geo-strategy to geo-economics to harness its economic potential.

## Report Launch on “Voices on Kashmir”

August 23, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this report launch.

**Objective:** Launch of ISC’s flagship report.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Asim Iftikhar, Spokesperson MoFA.

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Khalid Rehman, Chairman Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

**Speakers:** Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) and Mr Ahmed Quraishi, leading journalist and lobbyist.

## Report Launch- CPSC Special Study 2022 titled “Towards Geo-economics: Engaging East Asia”

September 7, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this research report launch.

**Objective:** To gain a better understanding of the economic significance of the East Asian region for Pakistan and to see how to enhance our economic relations with the East Asian countries.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC; Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China; Raja Amir Iqbal, former President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Mr Majyd Aziz, former President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce.

### Takeaways:

- The recommendations mentioned in the report are very helpful for MOFA and for the student of International Relations.
- CPSC Special Study 2022 is an effort to highlight Pakistan’s need to reinvigorate its political, economic and cultural linkages with ASEAN and East Asia as a whole.
- The report has laid down valuable recommendations especially how Pakistan can further enhance its relations with the East Asian nations.

## Launch of CPSC- ISSI's Fact-based Report on Gwadar at the Embassy of China, Islamabad

December 28, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this meeting at the Chinese embassy, Islamabad.

**Objective:** To formally launch the fact-based report prepared by CPSC-ISSI on Gwadar and inform the Chinese Ambassador regarding CPSC's delegation visit to Gwadar comprising diplomats, businessmen, academics and media persons.

### Takeaways:

- The launch of a forum titled 'Friends of Gwadar' will play an important role to enhance active coordination on Gwadar and will help to initiate meaningful conversations on Gwadar, which could be translated into practicable measures.
- Engaging the local public of Gwadar is very important. Bringing the local people on board can be a game changer for Balochistan and CPEC.
- There is a need to involve and engage with all stakeholders in Gwadar. All the major stakeholders should be made cognizant of the importance of Gwadar.
- To remove the misapprehensions regarding the development of the port city, there is a need to have more local language representatives who can act as a bridge between the locals and the Chinese.







# **Advisory Board Meetings/Review Meetings**

## ACDC Annual Advisory Board Meeting

February 28, 2022



**Objective:** To review the performance of the Centre and provide overall policy directions for the current year.

**Participants:** Director General ISSI, Chairman BOG ISSI, ACDC Advisory Board Members, Team ACDC and 4 other Directors at ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The advisory board members appreciated the work of the ACDC and gave suggestions to improve the Center's research and outreach activities.

## ISC Annual Advisory Board Meeting

March 3, 2022



**Objective:** To evaluate the overall performance of the ISC in 2021 and to plan/discuss activities in 2022.

**Speakers:** Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja; Mr Khalid Rehman; Lt Gen Asif Yasin Malik; Mr Jamal Aziz;

Ambassador Shahid Kiani; Dr Amna Mahmood; Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi; Dr Riffat Hussain; Mr Faiz Naqshbandi and Mr Altaf Hussain Wani.

### Takeaways:

- Focus on Indian strategic affairs including Indian foreign policy, doctrine and strategy.
- Hold monthly briefing sessions with opinion-makers about developments in India.
- Reach out to the youth to stop the wrong interpretation of Liberalism.
- Analyse other countries' attitudes towards India.
- Conduct crisis simulation exercises with different designs and scenarios, especially from a legal standpoint
- Focus on lawfare and the use of law as a weapon against adversaries.
- Treat water, energy and climate as a strategic issue.
- Focus on a regional approach towards Climate Change.
- Focus on regional trade as well as Climate Change with a multidimensional approach and bring coherence between the internationally signed conventions and our domestic issues.
- Work on enhancing regional trade – some balance/threshold in bilateral trade.
- Connect with the heads of various Chamber of Commerce bodies and take input on trade with India.
- Deconstruct India's trade policy vis-à-vis Pakistan.
- Highlight India's protectionist trade policy concerning Pakistan.
- Focus on Indian domestic affairs.
- Induct young ambassadors to mitigate the propaganda of Indian movies.
- Work with civil society and engage the 'Critical Voices' within India.
- Counter the narrative coming out of India.
- Highlight the non-existing freedom of expression in IIOJK.
- Highlight the importance of the Kashmir issue.
- Promote the academic debate in the aftermath of August 5, 2019.

## CAMEA Annual Advisory Board Meeting

March 11, 2022



**Objective:** Performance Review of CAMEA in 2021 and to plan/discuss activities in 2022.

**Guests:** Senator Seher Kamran, Patron in Chief, Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS); Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry; Ambassador Abrar Hussain; Ambassador Naela Chohan; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Ambassador Riffat Masood; Dr Zahid Ahmed, Deakin University Australia; Dr Salma Malik, QAU; Dr Qandeel Abbas, QAU; Dr Waqas Sajjad, UMT; Dr Christian Wagner, SWP, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik; Dr Daud Abdullah, Director, Middle East Monitor (UK); Mr Tamim Asey, Founder and Chairman, IWPS and CFRA Afghanistan and Brig Mehboob Qadir.

**Takeaways:**

- All the participants gave valuable insights on how the Centre should function and different ways in which CAMEA's workings could be further improved.

## CSP Annual Advisory Board Meeting

March 15, 2022



**Objective:** The Centre held its annual Advisory Board meeting. The meeting was attended by members of the board both physically and virtually. The objective of the meeting was to present the annual Performance Review of CSP to the board along with the vision and functions of the Centre.

### Takeaways:

- Initiate multiple streams of discussions and debates on multilateralism - organise discussions, talks and debates on the growing need for multilateralism and the proactive role of multilateral organisations.
- Focus on issues related to food, water and energy security – the centre should highlight and work on issues and areas that are relevant for Pakistan regarding the growing food, water and energy issues and challenges.
- Focus on the development and economy of Pakistan and SDGs – increase focus on the developmental and economic challenges of Pakistan and ways to address the challenges. Organise events and discussions around the SDGs achievement by Pakistan and its further implementation.
- Climate Change – organise events and workshops on the pressing concerns and challenges regarding the issue of Climate Change. A series of debates and discussions should be a welcoming step.
- Focus on relations with major powers.

## 2nd Advisory Board Meeting of CPSC at the ISSI

May 25, 2022



**Objective:** To appraise members of CPSC’s advisory board on the Centre’s activities in 2021 and the future plan of action.

**Participants:** The meeting was attended by all advisory board members including Ms Pang Chunxue, DCM, PRC Embassy; Mr Faraz Zaidi, DG China, MOFA; Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China; Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador to China; Dr Ayesha Sohail, Registrar, AJK University, Muzaffarabad; Mr Ziad Alahdad, former Director of Operations, World Bank; Prof Dr Attaullah Shah, VC Karakorum University, GB; Lt Gen (Retd) Naem Khalid Lodhi, former Minister of Defence; Mr Qazi Azmat Isa, Chief Executive, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund; Dr Hasan Daud Butt, CEO KPK Board of Investment; Dr Guo Xuetao, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, China; Dr Safdar Sohail, Executive Director, Social Protection Resource Centre; Dr Fayyaz ul Hassan, Dean, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and Major General (Retd) Muhammad Samrez Salik, former DG ISSRA, NDU.

### Takeaways:

- A detailed report on CPEC and Balochistan should be prepared and the Baloch community should be engaged.
- Interaction between MOFA and CPSC should be increased for future research on areas of concern.
- CPSC should review the CPEC long-term plan. The Centre should get the monographic study from the Ministry of Planning and from there find relevant topics for research.
- Dissemination channels should be made more effective.
- Socio-economic development needs to be focused more on future projects of research and advocacy.
- False narratives regarding CPEC and China should be effectively countered.
- There is a need to create more synergy between the Institute and the policy-making bodies.

## ACDC's 3rd Anniversary Review Meeting

October 31, 2022



**Objective:** Review the annual performance of the Centre & receive overall policy directions from ACDC Advisory Board.

**Guests:** Director General ISSI, Chairman BOG ISSI, ACDC Team, ACDC Advisory Board Members & other Directors of ISSI

### Takeaways:

- The advisory board members appreciated the work of ACDC and gave new suggestions and ideas to enhance the Centre's research, activities and outreach.





**MoUs**

## MoU between CAMEA-Rasanah International Institute for Iranian Studies

January 27, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate MoU between CAMEA and Rasanah International Institute for Iranian Studies.

**Representative:** Dr Mohammad AlSulami, Founder and President, Rasanah International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah IIIS).

### Takeaways:

- CAMEA and Rasanah would produce quality research and dialogue for mutual benefit.
- MoU would supplement the efforts of further forging friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
- CAMEA is truly committed to building better understanding and harmony between think-tank communities between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

## MoU between CSP-Belarusian University

March 14, 2022



The CSP at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** The ISSI and the Belarusian University renewed their commitment to institutional engagement by signing the Cooperation Protocol in a virtual signing ceremony.

Director General Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry represented and signed the protocol from ISSI while Dr Andrei Karol, Rector of Belarusian State University, signed the document. His Excellency Ambassador Sajjad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Pakistan in Belarus, also graced the signing ceremony with his presence.

## MoU with Coordination and Methodological Centre on the Contemporary History of Uzbekistan

March 29, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate the MoU between CAMEA and Coordination and Methodological Centre on the Contemporary History of Uzbekistan.

**Representative:** Dr Vladimir Paramonov, Senior Research Fellow.

**Takeaways:**

- Several prospects for cooperation and fruitful partnership between both organisations were discussed.

## MoU with Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul

June 23, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate the MoU between CAMEA and the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul

**Representative:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, Director CAMEA, Ms Amina Khan and Founder & Executive Chairman IWPS, Mr Tamim Asey.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan and Afghanistan are very important countries in the region and friendly ties between these countries are of utmost importance.

## MoU with the Institute for Iran-Eurasia Studies (IRAS)

August 3, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate the MoU between CAMEA and The Institute for Iran-Eurasia Studies (IRAS).

**Representative:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI; Director CAMEA, Ms Amina Khan and Director General IRAS, Dr Mehdi Sanaei.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan and Iran are very important countries in the region and friendly ties between these countries are of utmost importance.

## MoU with Avicenna University, Kabul

August 11, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate the MoU between CAMEA and Avicenna University, Kabul.

**Representative:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Director CAMEA, Ms Amina Khan; Head of Board of Founders Avicenna University, Kabul, Dr Zakir Hussain Ershad signed an MOU and Dr Mohammad Zaher Halimi, Vice Chancellor of Avicenna University.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan and Afghanistan are very important countries in the region and friendly ties between these countries are of utmost importance.

## MoU between ISSI and National Global Strategic Institute (INESG), Algeria

November 10, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To officiate MoU between ISSI and INESG.

**Representative:** H.E. Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan; H.E. Muhammad Tariq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Algeria; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors (BOG), ISSI and Ms Amina Khan, Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA).

### Takeaways:

- ISSI and INESG would produce quality research and dialogue for mutual benefit.
- MoU would supplement the efforts of further forging friendship between Pakistan and Algeria.
- CAMEA is truly committed to building better understanding and harmony between think-tank communities between Pakistan and Algeria



MoU with the  
**Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA)**  
November 16, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised signing of this MoU.

**Objective:** To enhance cooperation between the two institutes.

**Representative:** Mr Hemanta Kharel, President, Nepal Council of World Affairs.

**Takeaways:**

- Both institutes agreed upon mutual collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the future.





# **Bilateral Dialogues**

## First Bilateral Dialogue with Strategic Studies Center (SSCAF) of the Arab Republic of Egypt

May 18, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To bring viewpoints from Egypt and Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, Ms Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI.

The participants from Strategic Studies Center (SSCAF) included Major General Adel Labib, Major General Mohammed Abo Baker, Major General Osama Ibrahim and Brig Mohammed Elnagar.

### Takeaways:

- The bilateral dialogue was useful in bringing together viewpoints and perspectives from Egypt and Pakistan.

## Bilateral Dialogue CAMEA-Rasanah

May 30, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Participants:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, Ms Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI; Dr Ahmed Algarni, Vice President Rasanah; Mr Osama Alsanoussim, Advisor to Rasanah, former Saudi Ambassador to Tehran; Major General Ahmed Almaimouni, Director of Studies and Research Center, Rasanah and Ambassador Awdh Asseri, former Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan and Advisor to Rasanah.

### Takeaways:

- There is a need for a consolidated regional approach concerning Afghanistan.
- The current situation in Afghanistan requires a need for increased cooperation and coordination through research and dialogue.
- The responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Taliban; they should engage with the international community and adhere to the promises they had made.
- Stabilising the economy is the first step towards a better future for Afghanistan as well as the region.

Bilateral Dialogue on  
**“Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan”**  
 July 28, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

**Takeaways:**

- Maintaining a dialogue in challenging times is crucial.
- More focused and deeper debate and analysis of economic connectivity have been missing.
- There is a need to create the space for a dialogue focused on trade that would serve the interest of both countries.
- Participants also highlighted the absence of civil society and insisted on greater cooperation and connectivity between the civil society in both countries to work for a more prosperous and peaceful region.

## Bilateral Dialogue with CICIR (Web-based Meeting)

September 8, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI hosted this online interaction..

China Pakistan Study Centre at ISSI had a bilateral dialogue with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing, China.

## ISC-IRS Bilateral Dialogue on “India’s National Narrative-Building”

September 22, 2022



The ISC at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** The main objective was to brainstorm on India’s foreign and domestic policies.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI; Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President, IRS; Dr Arshad Ali, Director ISC; Mr Kasim Masood, Research Associate ISSI and Ms Laraib Farhat, Assistant Research Officer IRS.

**Takeaways:**

- Both institutes will hold bilateral discussions on issues of regional significance, especially India
- The next round of discussions will be held in November 2022.



## Bilateral Dialogue Between ISSI & IPIS

November 23, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss the prospects of Pak-Iran bilateral ties and evolving situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Hossein Ebrahim Khani, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI and former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; Dr Hossein Moulla Abdoullahi, Director for Asian Studies, IPIS; Ms Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA; Ambassador Javed Hafeez, former Pakistani Diplomat and Dr Alireza Miryousefi, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan and Iran are very important because they are not only close neighbours but also share a cultural linkage, which binds the people of Iran and Pakistan.
- The two countries have a long-standing history of bilateral relations. Both countries share common concerns and common interests.
- Both institutions being part of the Foreign Ministry have a prime duty to consistently explore ways and means to resolve and manage the existing differences and misunderstandings between two countries.
- Pakistan and Iran should focus on major aspects of bilateral relations including the expansion of bilateral trade and economic ties.
- There should be a regional forum to engage with the Taliban that should not only focus on humanitarian aid but also on economic connectivity and counter-terrorism framework which is also pivotal.
- The issue of Afghanistan has global ramifications and the problems of Afghanistan are not only limited to Afghanistan but to the entire region.
- The onus is on the Taliban to deliver and the international community and region should play their role. It is a historic opportunity for the Taliban to rewrite the history of Afghanistan and bring peace and stability to the country through national reconciliation.

## Bilateral Dialogue on “Pak-Afghan Relations”

November 24, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue..

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Participants:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Ms Amina Khan, Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, Ambassador Abrar Hussain, Dr Simbal Khan, Mr Adnan Jalil, Mr Hassan

Khan, Mr Salman Zaidi, Mr Oves Anwar, Dr Salma Malik, Dr Shabbir Khan, Mr Arshad Yousafzai, Brig Mehboob Qadir, Ambassador Jawed Ludin, Ambassador Janan Mosazai, Dr Jafar Mahdavi, Mr Hojat Fazly, Dr Faiz Muhammad Zaland, Mr Muhammad Sulaiman Bin Shah, Mr Bilal Popalzai and Ms Nasria Pashtun.

### Takeaways:

- The responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Taliban; they should engage with the international community and adhere to the promises they had made.
- Stabilising the economy is the first step towards a better future for Afghanistan as well as the region.
- The establishment of amicable relations with neighbours requires the Taliban's assurances for counterterrorism efforts.
- While the economic situation in Afghanistan is fragile, the international community, particularly the US, has responsibility. Afghanistan has a problem generating revenue for carrying on development work. Unfreezing Afghan money seems to be the solution. However, there are legal and political complications in the way of unfreezing Afghanistan's money.
- Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan's civil society and intellectual community must be addressed properly. There must be strong relations between civil societies, women's organisations, student organisations and the intellectual community of both states.
- Traders can play a vital role in decreasing the gap between the people of both countries. The Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan is working on that but governments in both states are not on the same page which is a hurdle.
- Pakistan has suffered immensely because of the turbulence and violence in Afghanistan. All countries in the region need to work for a favourable geopolitical environment in which Afghanistan recognition points must be raised.
- Under the present dispensation, Afghanistan should trade with regional countries and trade should be isolated from politics.
- The Pakistani government should ensure monitoring of the border check-posts.
- Trade, visa and transport facilitation can boost relations. Afghanistan provides a route for Pakistan to CAS (Central Asian States). Likewise, for Afghanistan, Pakistan provides a route to other Asian states.

Bilateral Dialogue with  
**Center for Strategic Research (SAM) Türkiye on the  
“75 Years of Pak-Türkiye Relations”**

December 27, 2022



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this bilateral dialogue.

**Objective:** To celebrate 75 years of Pak-Türkiye Relations.

**Participants:** Hidayet Alper Bosuter, Head of Department, SAM; Ambassador Ufuk Ulutaş, Chairman of SAM; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Ambassador Mehmet Paçacı, Türkiye’s Ambassador in Islamabad; Ambassador Yousaf Junaid, Pakistan’s Ambassador in Ankara; Ömer Aslan, Associate Professor in Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi and Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA.

**Takeaways:**

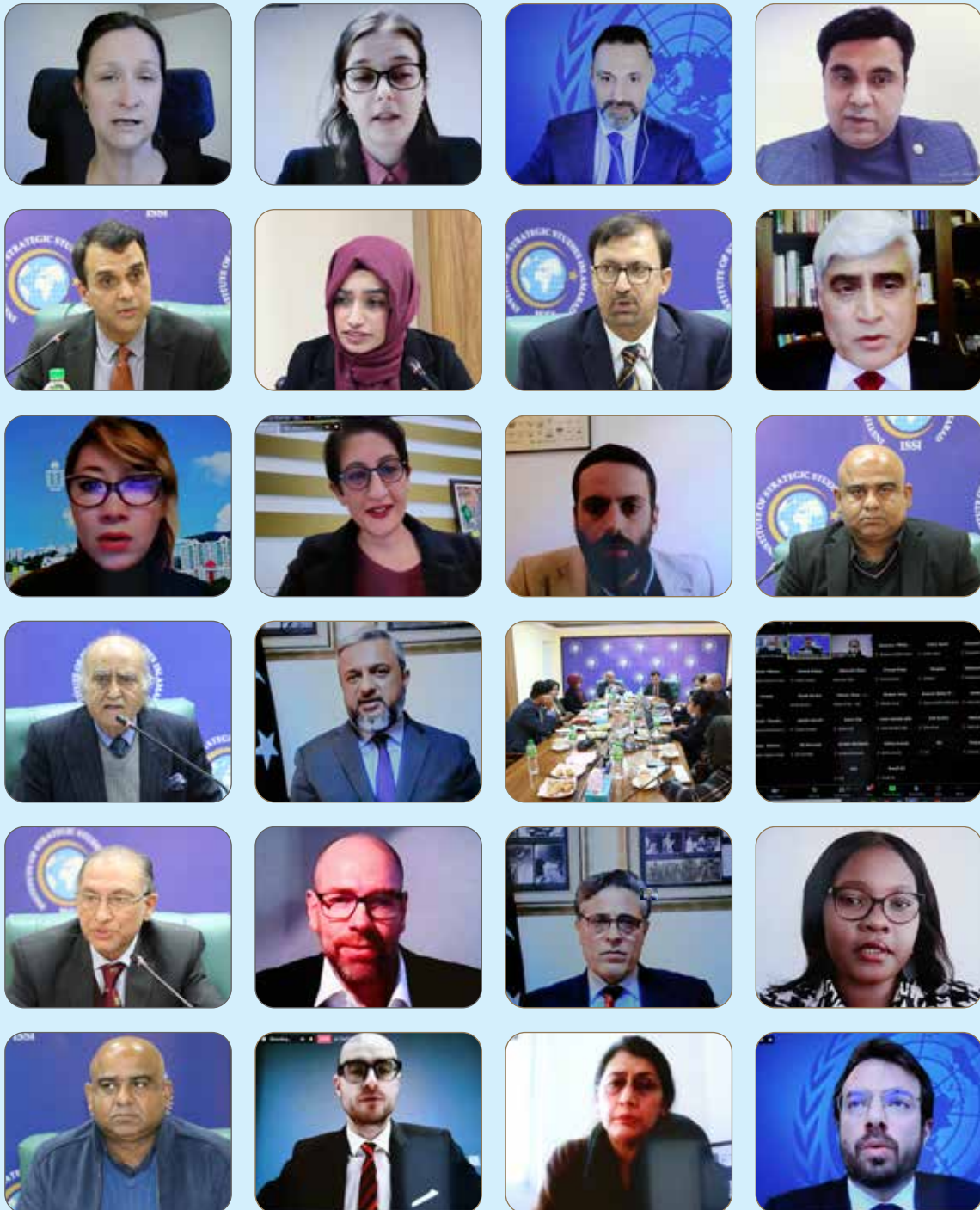
- Pakistan and Türkiye need to expand on their existing economic relations.
- Peace in Afghanistan is another area in which both countries can cooperate.



# WORKSHOPS

ACDC-UNIDIR Hybrid Workshop on  
**“Cyber Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and  
International Security”**

January 24-25, 2022





The ACDC at the ISSI organised this workshop in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva.

**Objective:** The workshop was aimed at exploring the role of cyber technologies and artificial intelligence on international security.

**Keynote Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI; Dr Robin Geiss, Director UNIDIR; Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN; Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN, Geneva and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI.

**Keynote Speakers:** Dr Mehreen Afzal, Associate Professor, Department of Cybersecurity, Air University, Islamabad; Dr Samuele Dominiononi, Researcher UNIDIR; Mr Usman Jadoon, Director General, UN Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; Ms Moliehi Makumane, Researcher, UNIDIR; Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi, former Federal Minister of Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights; Ms Kaja Ciglic, Senior Director, Digital Diplomacy; Ms Anastasiya Kasovca, Senior Manager for Public Affairs, Kaspersky; Mr Khawaja Ali, Head of Technology Strategy, Risk & Governance, National Bank of Pakistan; Dr Yasar Ayaz, CPD/Chairman at National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) & Professor of AI & Robotics at NUST, Islamabad; Dr Giacomo Persi Paoli, Head of Programme, UNIDIR; Mr Usman Jadoon, Director General, UN Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; Major General (Retd) Ausaf Ali, Advisor Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan; Dr Pascale Fung, Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research, Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Air Cadre (Retd) Khalid Banuri, former Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan and Mr Arthur Holland Michel, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, Moderated the concluding session.

## Media Workshop on “Media Reporting on National Security Issues”

June 7-8, 2022



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this workshop in collaboration with Press Information Department (PID). The Workshop was moderated by Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC.

**Objective:** To gain a clear understanding of how media responds and should respond to National Security issues. To identify the gaps regarding the understanding of issues of National concern between media, policymakers and experts.

### Takeaways:

- The concept of National Security has evolved from military-centric to comprehensive security, which involves economic and human security as well.
- In the state of economic journalism, the basic discourse of the economy is missing in the mainstream media of Pakistan due to political polarization.
- The socioeconomic well-being of Pakistanis should be our key objective and our security & foreign policy should revolve around it.





# **Visitors, Guests, Delegations and Meetings**



**Briefing to Ahmed Nazeer Waraich (January 31)**



**Meeting at DG office with Ambassador Sajjad Ashraf (February 23)**



**Executive Committee meeting (February 8)**



**Board of Governors meeting (February 10)**



**Meeting at DG office with Mr Venkat Iyar (February 24)**



**Visit of Students from UCP Lahore (March 2)**



Visit of delegation from Dawah Academy (March 14)



Visit 28 Students from NUST (March 15)



A 2-member delegation from the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan visited CPSC-ISSI (March 16)



**In-house meeting with Indian Charge'd Affairs (March 29)**



**Visit of Joint Study Tour: Centre for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) and Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) (March 30)**



**ICWA In-house meeting (April 4)**



**Meeting with H.E. Mr Markin Chuchuk, Ambassador of Ukraine (April 5)**



**Visit of Students from the Faculty of Aerospace and Security Studies (FASS) Air University, Islamabad (April 13)**



**Meeting with Rana Athar Javed, DG Pakistan House, a think tank on international affairs (April 19)**



**Ex-Minister Azeem Chaudhry visited CPSC-ISSI (April 20)**



Visit by National Intelligence Academy comprising of designated Defence/Service Attaches (April 25)



Briefing to Raza Bashir Tarar, Special Sec PP & PD MOFA (May 12)



Meeting with Dr Talat Farooq (May 12)



Mr Max Ma, Executive President, Tang Chinese International Education & Technology, visited CPSC- ISSI (May 16)



Briefing to Ms Ambreen Iftikhar, Member, FBR (May 17)



**Visit of Students from the International Relations Department, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi (May 24)**



**ICWA meeting (May 26)**



**Meeting with Ambassador Ata ul Munim Shahid, former ambassador of Pakistan to Algeria (May 30)**



**Meeting with H.E. Mr Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria in Islamabad (June 1)**



**Call on by Maj Gen Yuji KIGUCHI, Vice President NIDS Japan (June 3)**



CPSC hosted students from the IR Department of AJK University Muzaffarabad (June 6)



CPSC meeting with a delegation from Hamdard University Islamabad (June 9)



26th Advisory Board meeting of NSD (June 21)



CPSC hosted students from the IR Department of UMT Sialkot (June 23)





**ISSI Participates in the Symposium on Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the SCO Charter and the 15th Anniversary of the Treaty on Long-Term Cooperation on Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation among Member States (June 29)**



**Chairman one-on-one meeting with Australian High Commissioner (July 26)**



**DG one-on-one meeting with Mr Zulfikar Ali Bader, Chairman JB Institute of Vision & Leadership (August 1)**



**In-house briefing to DA's (September 8)**



**In-house Meeting with Brig Feroz Hassan Khan**  
(September 13)



**In-house meeting with Rasul Baksh Rais** (September 16)



**Meeting with Ambassador Afzaal** (October 19)



**Visit of delegation from the UAE National Defence College**  
(November 22)



**Meeting with Dr Asad Majeed Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan** (December 19)

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI
2. Ambassador Seema Illahi Baloch
3. Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq
4. Dr Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC, Islamabad
5. Dr Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor QAU
6. Foreign Secretary, Ex-officio
7. Finance Secretary, Ex-officio
8. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (Member and Secretary Board of Governors)

## CHAIRMEN ISSI

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Agha Hilaly</b>            | June 16, 1973 to June 30, 1979           |
| 2. <b>Suleman A. Ali</b>                      | July 01, 1980 to February 02, 1987       |
| 3. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Riaz Piracha</b>           | February 16, 1987 to January 27, 1989    |
| 4. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Niaz A. Naik</b>           | April 14, 1991 to September 12, 1994     |
| 5. <b>Agha Murtaza Pooya</b>                  | September 13, 1994 to April 11, 1997     |
| 6. <b>Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar A. Sirohey</b> | April 09, 1997 to October 24, 1998       |
| 7. <b>Mr Sartaj Aziz</b>                      | October 24, 1998 to December 28, 1998    |
| 8. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Tanvir Ahmad Khan</b>      | December 29, 1998 to September 06, 2000  |
| 9. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Agha Shahi</b>             | January 08, 2001 to January 22, 2005     |
| 10. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Inam-ul-Haque</b>         | September 23, 2005 to September 04, 2008 |
| 11. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Tanvir Ahmad Khan</b>     | December 13, 2008 to April 08, 2011      |
| 12. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Gul Haneef</b>            | June 01, 2011 to November 21, 2013       |
| 13. <b>Amb. (Retd.) Khalid Mahmood</b>        | November 21, 2013 to date                |

## DIRECTOR GENERALS ISSI

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Ross Masood Hussain</b>                 | June 14, 1973 to March 16, 1976       |
| 2. <b>S. Irtaza Hussain</b>                   | March 17, 1976 to July 31, 1978       |
| 3. <b>Maj. General Nishat Ahmed</b>           | August 01, 1978 to October 20, 1978   |
| 4. <b>Brig (Retd.) Noor A. Husain</b>         | October 21, 1978 to December 31, 1986 |
| 5. <b>Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Kamal Matinuddin</b>   | January 01, 1987 to February 22, 1989 |
| 6. <b>Ross Masood Husain</b>                  | February 23, 1989 to May 31, 1990     |
| 7. <b>Dr. Miss. K. F. Yusuf</b>               | July 08, 1990 to October 31, 1990     |
| 8. <b>Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S. Zakir Ali Zaidi</b> | November 01, 1990 to May 31, 1993     |

9. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M. Zulfqar Akhtar Naaz	July 18, 1993 to August 22, 1993
10. Amb. (Retd.) Niaz A. Niak	August 23, 1993 to November 09, 1993
11. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M. Akbar	November 10, 1993 to January 14, 1996
12. Amb. (Retd.) M. Waliulla Khan Khaishgi	July 07, 1997 to October 04, 1999
13. Dr. Shireen M. Mazari	August 15, 2000 to May 14, 2008
14. Amb. (Retd.) Tanvir Ahmad Khan	May 16, 2008 to March 02, 2011
15. Amb. (Retd.) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi	March 03, 2011 to March 02, 2013
16. Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais	August 01, 2013 to December 30, 2014
17. Amb. (Retd.) Masood Khan	February 13, 2015 to July 24, 2016
18. Amb. (Retd.) Khalid Mahmood	July 25, 2016 to June 24, 2018
19. Amb. (Retd.) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry	June 25, 2018 to December 31, 2022

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