

Report

Indonesian Media Delegation

January 29, 2013



**THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES,
ISLAMABAD**

Indonesian Media Delegation

The Institute of Strategic Studies organized an In-house Meeting with a 7-member Media Delegation from Indonesia on January 29th, 2013. The delegation included Ms. Julia Suryakusuma, Jakarta Post; Mr. Nivell Androfani Rayda, Jakarta Post; Mr. Anif Punto Utomo, Republika; Ms. Ria Desy Saputra, ANTARA News Agency; Mr. Raka Maria, Registry; and Mr. Nanang Sunarto, Brotherhood of Muslim Journalists.

The meeting was attended by the members of the ISSI Research team led by the Chairman Ambassador Gul Haneef. Columnist Ms. Julia Suryakusuma stated that Indonesia and Pakistan face common problems such as large population, poverty, unemployment, terrorism, lack of health facilities etc. Talking about Pakistan, Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Gul Haneef said that it has good relations with other countries of the world, and the only dispute is with India over the Kashmir issue. The Chairman was of the view that Kashmir issue could be solved through peace dialogues and India should do fair possibilities with Pakistan. Ms. Julia spoke about Western perception of their country and said that the West feels that Indonesia has a terrorist belt, but she said, that Indonesia has done well in dealing with terrorism. She explained her views about the Malala case in Pakistan and Western depiction of Islam that is a stereotype. The only problem according to her, is radicalism.

While answering a question about democracy in Indonesia, Ms. Julia described the real face of democracy and said Indonesia has lost a whole province due to certain reasons. She spoke about a case of a retired general who wasn't liked by the people, and who ruled for several years whose democracy turned into decentralization which affected the political parties. Ms. Julia talked about women's rights and cultural values and how the political leaders reacted on this, she said we have 5 principles of ideology, which have been neglected several times by political parties, she said political parties are now involved in corruption, she said that these parties have to look at major problems that are prevailing.

While talking about corruption, she said Pakistan needs to learn from Indonesia, which has sentenced many people for corruption, she explained the success story of "Capica" it is due to the independent Judiciary.

Answering a query about the nature of institutionalization in Indonesia, she said that institutions have increased and we have to look on how to maintain these institutions.

Answering a question regarding East Asia, a member of the delegation replied that East Asia focuses on Indonesia economy, and said when Obama came to Indonesia he did not really want to talk about “Papua” reality of his East Asia mission.

Talking about Pakistan-US relations, a member of ISSI research team said that Pakistan-US relations have we have been based on transactional interaction for past several years and long-term strategic relations have been lacking. He spoke about the US hypocritical pressures on Pakistan’s nuclear programme. He said that 2011 was an important year in this relationship that saw such damaging incidents as the Raymond Davis case, the US raid in Abbotabad, the US attack on the Pakistani check post at Salala and increasing drone attacks inside Pakistan. The relations between the two countries deteriorated to such an extent that the Parliament in Pakistan for the first time, turned towards a debate on the nature of this relationship and presented 14 points on setting up new terms of engagement with the US.

Later, the discussion moved towards Pakistan-China relations, it was described by another member of ISS that ASEAN and China are the main engines for economic growth in that part of the region and the problems Pakistan is facing concern the low percentage of trade with China despite the fact that it has signed an FTA with China. Another problem is that China does not provide enough foreign aid to us that Pakistan expects from them. The meeting concluded on the need for developing Pakistan-Indonesian relations in tune with the realities of today.

Prepared by:

*Zoya Khan
Research Intern*