



**INSTITUTE OF
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

web: www.issi.org.pk
phone: +92-920-4423, 24
fax: +92-920-4658

Report- Public Talk
Pakistan-Romanian Relations

August 3, 2016



Pictures of the Event



Pakistan-Romanian Relations

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Public Talk on “*Pakistan-Romanian Relations*” under its Ambassadors Platform series on August 3, 2016. The distinguished speaker on the occasion was H.E. Emilion Ion, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Pakistan.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, in his welcome remarks highlighted that Ambassador Emilion Ion is a very seasoned, knowledgeable, and accessible diplomat, with 45 years of expertise in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Along with ambassadorship to Arab and African countries, he has also been part of multilateral organizations. He said that over his seven and a half years stay in Pakistan; Ambassador Emilion has indeed left a mark on strengthening relations between Pakistan and Romania and helped the former in establishing an oil refinery, fertilizer and cement factories, as well as extended its cooperation at multilateral forums. He recalled Pakistan and Romania cooperation at the United Nations during the 1970s, the slump in relations following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the boost in relations when Romania joined the EU in 2007. Ambassador Mahmood said that Pakistan remained grateful of the Romanian support to Pakistan’s access to the GSP plus status. He pointed out the various economic cooperation agreements that have recently been signed between the two countries including the agriculture and education sectors, and said that Pakistan’s Chairman, Joint Chiefs of the Staff Committee is expected to have visit Romania in September, 2016.

Ambassador Emilion stated that Pakistan-Romanian relationship has many aspects that have evolved since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1964. Both the states exchange high level delegations including visits by presidents and many parliamentary delegations. He said that Romania has helped Pakistan in setting up an oil refinery in Karachi and a Cement industry-Kohat Cement, as well as fibre optic plants. There were also teachers from Romania teaching Mathematics in Lahore under a joint venture programme. The Ambassador mentioned his efforts to consolidate bilateral relations, and the success he has achieved despite a short staff at his mission.

He said that the two countries have now resumed the process of political consultation in international affairs that will only help in consolidating bilateral relations. A Pakistan-Romanian Business Council has now been established in Karachi, which will be working to increase economic activities, as well as to enhance bilateral import and export ties. Pakistan and Romania have now also agreed to expand their bilateral defence cooperation, and currently, both the countries have different agreements in defence production and relevant areas.

H said that institutions like the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) play an important role in the enhancement of relationship and bilateral ties between countries. The Ambassador said that Pakistan is a cultural treasure trove and stated that because of its strategic location, Pakistan holds a huge economic potential which needs to be followed up by the Pakistan-Romanian Business Council in Karachi. With respect to trade, both countries can greatly benefit from each other. The present trade figure is more than \$300 million. Romanian imports from Pakistan include cotton, surgical instruments

and shoes, while Pakistan, among other things, has started to increase demand for Romanian flowers and canola for its oil industry. The ambassador voiced his confidence regarding the future relations between Romania and Pakistan and thanked the Pakistani people for their hospitality during his stay in the country. He said he dedicated 90 percent of his activities to promote economic and commercial relations. He added that promotion of cultural activities between the two countries was also a part of his efforts in Pakistanis also part of his activities.

Answering a question about interaction between the youth, he said that Romania is awarding scholarship programmes to Pakistani students every year, and many Pakistani students are currently studying in Romania. He added that Comsats University in Pakistan has joint ventures with Romanian counter-parts that will help promote interaction between the young generations in Pakistan and Romania.

Concluding the event, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood underlined that Pakistan highly values friendly relations with Romania and is committed to strengthening ties and enhancing long-lasting cooperation. He stated that now there are institutional arrangements in place in the form of joint commissions and various corporations in the fields of media, economy and defence. He applauded the great contribution Ambassador Emilionhad made in reviving Pakistan-Romania relationship and providing concrete content to interaction between the two countries.