



ISSI

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC
STUDIES ISLAMABAD**

Annual Report

2017



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

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Published by

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Printed at: Farhan's International, Islamabad.

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Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

Introduction

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

Aims and Objectives

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

Organisation

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

Research Focus

The research interests of the ISSI cover all critical geographical regions. The focus, however, remains on contemporary thematic issues, such as nuclear non-proliferation; arms control and disarmament; energy security and water security issues; internal security challenges; terrorism, extremism, insurgencies and radical militant movements and sectarianism. 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 in foreign universities, with diverse expertise, covers major areas of the ISSI's research interests.

ISSI-Hanns Seidel Foundation Fellowship Programme

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

Internship Programme

The ISSI offers internship opportunities to promising under-graduate and graduate students. The objective of this internship is to groom and train students in research methods and orient them towards national security issues.

International Cooperation

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

Conferences, Seminars and Talks

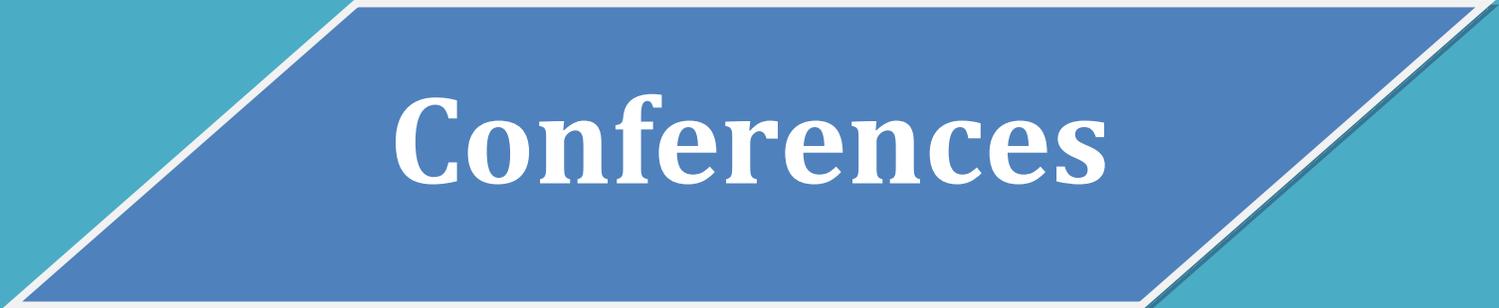
The ISSI convenes national and international conferences and seminars on a regular basis. Distinguished scholars and policy makers are invited to address in-house meetings of the research faculty. The Institute frequently organises roundtable discussions, public talks and book launches with the aim of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

Library and Documentation Centre

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

Publications

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



Conferences

Pakistan-China-Iran: A Trident of Regional Connectivity

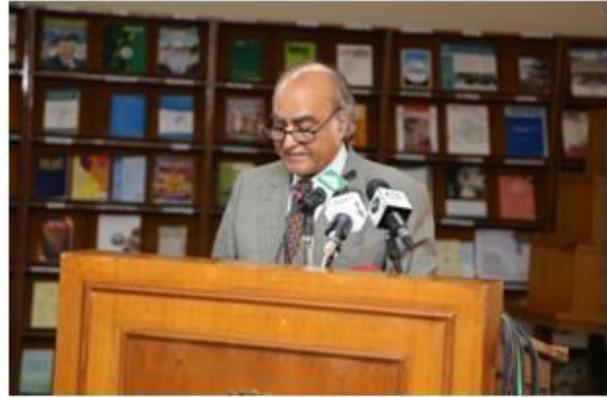
December 19, 2017



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an international conference titled, “Pakistan-China-Iran: A Trident of Regional Connectivity,” on December 19, 2017. The chief guest on the occasion was H.E. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Interior/Planning, Development and Reforms. Other distinguished guests present at the conference included; H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan and H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost, the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan. Both the distinguished guests chaired their respective sessions during the conference.

Honourable Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, while inaugurating the international conference, in his remarks stated that “the age of geopolitics is over and the time has come for Pakistan to focus on geo-economics, while looking for the regional options.... The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) envisages regional connectivity; therefore, we are looking forward to Iran for developing new infrastructure in the region and beyond.”

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his opening remarks, spoke about the goodwill that prevails among the three countries and said that the stage is set for them to achieve new milestones in economy.



Ambassador Yao Jing chaired the first session titled, “Pakistan-China-Iran: Analysing the Prospects of Triangular Cooperation.” Speakers of the first session included Mr. Lin Minwang, Research Fellow, Fudan University, Shanghai, Ambassador Alireza Bikdeli, Senior Expert at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran and Dr. Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Principal and Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, NUST, Islamabad.

Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost, chaired the second session titled “Pakistan-China-Iran: Initiatives for Regional Connectivity.” Speakers of the second session included; Dr. Muhammad Jafar Javadi Arjmand, Assistant Professor, University of Tehran, Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing and Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain, Head, Department of Government and Public Policy, NUST, Islamabad.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood chaired the third session titled, “Challenges to Trilateral Cooperation and the Way Forward.” Speakers of this session included; Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Head of the Centre for International Research & Education (CIRE), Tehran, Dr. Wang Yiwei, Director, Institute of International Affairs, Renmin University, Beijing and Ambassador Javid Hussain, former Pakistan’s Ambassador to Iran.

During the conference, the speakers highlighted various avenues and vistas of regional cooperation that can be utilised by Pakistan, China and Iran to bolster regional connectivity and cohesion among the three countries.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded the conference by thanking all the speakers and stated that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC offers a lot of opportunities for the three countries, but these are contingent upon peace in Afghanistan. He highlighted the role of the Chinese commitment to the entire project and emphasised that the CPEC is not just an economic venture, but geopolitical considerations must also be taken into account.



Seminars

Solving the Kashmir Dispute: Exercise of the Right to Self-Determination

February 02, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled, “Solving the Kashmir Dispute: Exercise of the Right to Self-Determination,” on February 2, 2017. The chief guest on the occasion was Honourable Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of National Assembly on Foreign Affairs. Eminent speakers at the seminar included; Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC); Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, human rights activist; Mr. Mohammad Farooq Rehmani, senior leader APHC; Mr. Ahmed Quraishi, CEO Youth Forum for Kashmir and Ms. Tooba Khurshid, Research Fellow, ISSI.



Welcoming the Chief Guest, speakers and the distinguished audience, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks reiterated that the international community in general, and the people of Pakistan in particular, are well aware of the genesis of the Kashmir dispute. He highlighted that it was decided in all the United Nations (UN) resolutions that the future of the Kashmiri people will be decided by an impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the UN, which was accepted by India, Pakistan and the international community.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi stated that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has remained unresolved since the past seven decades. The road map given by the UN in 1948 and 1949, for the resolution of this issue comprised of a ceasefire, synchronised withdrawal of troops and an impartial plebiscite to decide the fate of the Kashmiri people, which has not been implemented due to the obduracy of the Indian government. He highlighted that Kashmiris

should also be a party to any dialogue or negotiations between India and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir.



Ms. Mushaal Mullick, in her speech, stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are larger in number than 123 currently independent nations, having a defined historical identity, have been for decades engaged in a massive, indigenous and non-violent struggle to win their freedom from the foreign occupation of their land. This struggle is not motivated by bigotry or ethnic prejudice but by the right to self-determination as per the UNSC resolutions. Kashmir has been plagued by the denial of the right to self-determination by India.



Mr. Mohammad Farooq Rehmani stated that the rise of 'Hindutva,' in the shape of Modi, is a great threat to peaceful co-existence and the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. He further pointed out that India is also systematically working to alter the demography of Kashmir by establishing settlements for Hindu Pundits. In conclusion, he appealed to Pakistan to draw a result-oriented strategy for the resolution of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Ahmed Quraishi paid tribute to the brave youth of Kashmir upon defeating the world's second largest, army everyday, by merely standing up to it, peacefully. This is not highlighted enough. Talking about Pakistan's role in the Kashmir struggle, he emphasised the needs for focus and consistency. In conclusion, he said that owing to the relentless and

just struggle of the Kashmiri people, their cause has finally gained the recognition that it deserves on the international level.



Ms. Tooba Khurshid, in her presentation, highlighted that from the legal standpoint, the right to self-determination is the right of indigenous people, who have deep-rooted cultural links to their land. She stressed that India is crushing Kashmiris right to self-determination through excessive use of force and whatever is happening in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) is worst form of subjugation of humanity and the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

Honourable Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, in his keynote address, highlighted the statement by a group of former Indian officials dealing with Pakistan and Kashmir, ex-military men, academics and journalists, who expressed serious concerns over the intrusions and assaults against civilians in the IOK, which are accompanied by an absence of accountability from the authorities. He went on to say that Pakistan has been responsibly fighting terrorism - something that benefits the entire international community. He concluded by saying that this issue cannot be resolved through an act of war, thus, India and Pakistan, including Kashmiris, should start a dialogue immediately.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded the seminar by thanking the participants and stated in his concluding remarks that Kashmir belongs to the Kashmiris. It is in the best interests of both, Pakistan and India, to resolve this issue, if not through bilateralism, then through other methods mentioned in the UN Charter such as arbitration, mediation and judicial decisions.

Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing - Khojaly 25

February 21, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar in collaboration with the Embassy of Azerbaijan titled, "Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing - Khojaly 25," on February 21, 2017. The chief guest at the event was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee. Other dignitaries at the event included; H.E. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Member National Assembly and convener of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group and Dr. Mohammed Khan, former HoD, Department of International Relations, National Defence University (NDU).



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks stated that the Khojaly genocide was one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history. He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are linked by history and intense exchange of thinkers. Pakistan has provided endless support to Azerbaijan and has consulted its efforts with Azerbaijan in highlighting this tragedy.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed started off by saying that Khojaly massacre is a very important incident and it cannot be ignored. He stated that Pakistan has given unreserved support to Azerbaijan. He highlighted the commonality between the situation in Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh. Pakistan and Azerbaijan have a solid history and in the future there is a need to enhance greater coordination between both the countries especially on the issues of Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh. He stressed on the urgency of both the

countries taking up a joint research initiative so as not to be left behind in the battle of ideas.



Ambassador Ali Alizada gave a brief overview of the events of the genocide – the Khojaly graveyard is a symbol of all the atrocities that took place during this incident. He highlighted that more than 14 countries have recognised the incidents as genocide and relevant parliamentary resolutions have been passed. He stated that history provides evidence that such events can occur in the future too. To avoid this repetition, he said that there has to be a uniform stand against this crime and the perpetrators need to be brought to justice. The ambassador was very appreciative of the friendship between the two countries and the solidarity between the two nations and acknowledged that Pakistan was one of the first countries which recognised this massacre as genocide.



Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her remarks started off by saying that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have strong historic bilateral relations at multiple levels. She added that Pakistan has been very vocal about its support to Azerbaijan on the Khojaly issue as it was similar to the situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). She said, Pakistan can feel the pain of the Azeri people, as many atrocities have been committed by the Indian forces on the Kashmiris, as well. She also added that killing of innocent civilians cannot be justified in any situation. In conclusion, she acknowledged the strength of the Azeri nation for standing united and building a strong nation in face of strong adversary and hoped that the ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan could be further strengthened.



Dr. Mohammed Khan gave a presentation about the Khojaly Genocide and said that it was similar to the situation in the IOK. He stated that Khojaly Genocide was not an accidental incident. It was planned and the Human Rights Watch termed it as an act of extreme violence against the civilians. In conclusion, he said that the Indian forces have also carried out indiscriminate violence against civilians in the IOK, similar to what happened in Khojaly. It is a type of ethnic genocide and the international community needs to be alerted to such incidents and be forced to implement the UNSC resolutions on both issues.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, thanked the audience and the speakers for their participation in the seminar. He also added that there was a heavy account provided of the atrocities carried out in Khojaly, which rival those, carried out in other parts of the world. He hoped that in the future the issue of Azerbaijan will be resolved according to the wishes of its people and the UNSC resolutions, thus, bringing an end to the Armenian aggression.

US Foreign Policy and Trump Presidency: A Review and Outlook

March 27, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration the Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS, Islamabad, held a seminar titled, “US Foreign Policy and Trump Presidency: A Review and Outlook,” on March 27, 2017. The chief guest at the Seminar was Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, former Foreign Minister. Other dignitaries at the event included; Ambassador Fouzia Nasreen, Director Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS; Mr. Zahid Hussain, *Dawn News*; Dr. Talat Farooq, Senior Research Fellow ISSI; Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi; Dr. Imran Syed, Centre for Policy Studies COMSATS; Ambassador Saeed Khalid and Ms. Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow ISSI.



Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq remarked that the world is converging towards a very dangerous future for the mankind, as a whole. The international community is faced with many problems; and while the elites are trying to maintain their status, the poor of the world are trying to claw out of the hunger and disease; they have been consigned to for generations. He also highlighted the issues that were of particular importance with regard to Pakistan namely: terrorism, nuclear assets, India-Pakistan relations and the drastic slash of the US aid.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks stated that the world was still reeling in the aftermath of the US elections – the rise of social and political divisions along racial lines were evidence of this and that Trump’s ambivalent policies were only reinforcing existing fears and apprehensions.



Mr. Zahid Hussain talked about South Asia and the evolving dimensions of the US foreign policy and its implications for the region. He stated that it was clear that pressure on Pakistan to fight militants will further increase an escalation in drone strikes. He went on to state that there would be no change in the US policy towards India and Pakistan. If anything, each country's relations with China will affect the respective US foreign policy towards them.



Dr. Talat Farooq spoke about the US-Pakistan relations by raising the question that will Trump embrace or erase Obama's foreign policy? She said that the US foreign policy is less about personalities and more about geopolitical and strategic interests. She was of the opinion that even while playing the divisionary blame-game by holding Pakistan responsible for the failures of the US and Afghan governments, the Trump administration would continue to show restraints in isolating Pakistan.

Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi analysed the emerging dynamics of the US-China relations. He highlighted that history teaches us that when a new great power emerges, a great disequilibrium emerges. He went on to state that China's strategic support to Pakistan has its limits. So, in order to take advantage of any strategic alliance, it is imperative to address the challenges at home first.

Dr. Imran Syed expressed his views on the US-North American ties, continuities and discontinuities. He outlined the domestic sources of the US foreign policy and stated that

Trump's ability to move forward on foreign policy will be curtailed because of the checks and balances engrained in the US system.

Ms. Shamsa Nawaz examined the US-European relations by identifying the central pillars of cooperation under Trump. She stated that despite various meetings by members of the US administration with their European counterparts, there is still an absence of clear policies towards the European Union. She also said that if Europe is to maintain itself as a close partner of the US, it needs to urgently re-discover ways to increase its economic dynamism and competitiveness.



Ambassador Saeed Khalid evaluated the future of the US-Russia relations. He stated that though Trump is yet to lay down his Russian policy, one should not overlook the fact that any lowering of the US commitment to Europe or NATO would have two repercussions: firstly, America's profile would suffer and secondly, it would also cause severe losses to the American defence industry.



Ambassador Fouzia Nasreen delivered the vote of thanks and stated that at present a lot of things are in a state of flux. There is a general xenophobic sentiment in the world at the moment and Trump's election is evidence of the limit to the acceptance towards migrants. She also pointed the importance of the situation in North Korea and stated that the US should seek to engage with China on this issue.

Ambassador Fouzia Nasreen also presented her vote of thanks to Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and the ISSI for organising the seminar on a highly significant topic. She commended the input given by all the distinguished speakers and expressed hope that this seminar will encourage more research on the topic.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded that the post-World War II scene has been deeply marked by America's determination to dominate the world and maintain a preeminent global military profile. President Trump and Putin may have to accept to live with the existing order and resolve issues politically, in a mature and amicable manner. He reiterated that the world is going through a very delicate time in history, which demands patience and foresight from all the world powers.

Pakistan's Relations with Central Asian Republics & Azerbaijan: Prospects and Challenges

May 11, 2017

A seminar to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Pakistan, Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan was held at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) on May 11, 2017. Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the occasion. The other participants of the seminar included; H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan; H.E. Mr. Erik Beishembiev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan; H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan; H.E. Mr. Furqat A. Sadikov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan; Mr. Darkhan Nursadykov, Representative of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan; Dr. Sarfraz Khan, Director Area Study Centre, Peshawar University and Ms. Farhat Asif, President IPDS.



Mr. Najam Rafique, Acting Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks highlighted common historical and cultural linkages between Pakistan and the CARs and Azerbaijan. He stressed on the need to improve these relations further in energy, social and economic domains. He stated that much depends on the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan that has been plagued by 37 years of war. He also said that it is essential that all countries work together to find a regional solution to this problem, along with the international partners.



Ms. Tehmina Janjua said that leadership from Pakistan and the CARs is moving together to work closely to form a unified partnership with the rest of the world to gain experience. She talked about the success of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Summit, held in Islamabad, in March, 2017. With reference to the energy shortfall in Pakistan, she thanked the CARs for their increased cooperation in energy sector and said that only family share within family. She stressed that Pakistan strongly believed in regional integration and has been successfully maintaining an excellent political relation with all the regional countries. She also welcomed the diplomats from Central Asia and Azerbaijan for their training in Pakistan's Foreign Services Academy.

H.E. Ambassador Ali Alizada talked about the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and called them time tested. He acknowledged that Pakistan was one of the first countries that recognised the independence of Azerbaijan. He reiterated Azerbaijan's support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and suggested that it should be resolved under the UN resolutions on Kashmir. He talked about the warm and sincere relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

H.E. Ambassador Erik Beishembiev gave a brief overview of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan relations. He stated that Pakistan is one of the first countries which recognised Kyrgyzstan and signed the protocol of diplomatic relations. He said that there is a noticeable revival in regional cooperation between the two countries as is evident from the active participation in this year's ECO Summit.





H.E. Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov talked about the strong relations between the Central Asian countries and Pakistan. He appreciated Pakistan's support to the Central Asian States at the time of their independence. He highlighted the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project and called it a striking example of a long-term regional cooperation, which will take trade and economic cooperation to the new heights. He said that the TAPI project has made good progress in recent times.

H.E. Ambassador Furqat A. Sadikov said that Pakistan was the first country to open its embassy in Uzbekistan and recognised the independence of Uzbekistan. He highlighted the strong cultural values and historical ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He particularly highlighted the Pak-Uzbek cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Dr. Sarfraz Khan discussed the trade relations between Pakistan and the CARs. He also highlighted the bilateral visits that have taken place between these countries and hoped that diplomatic relations with Pakistan would continue to grow in new areas, which have not yet been covered already. He suggested that to further improve these relations, a proper agenda and road map should be devised in the near future.

Mr. Darkhan Nursadykov, representative of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, said that with the support of Pakistan, Kazakhstan has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the period of 2017-2018. He greeted Pakistan on reaching the final stage of becoming a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and hoped that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would expand to include the CARs, particularly, Kazakhstan.





Ms. Farhat Asif, President, IPDS said that the aims and goals of her institute are to establish Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum to cooperate in education, energy, empowerment and promote the communities of these countries. She said that as we are celebrating 25 years of collaboration and we are culturally linked and we can transform these relations through increased people-to-people and business-to-business contacts for which direct linkages should be established. She concluded the seminar by stating that challenges are there, but an active collaboration and cooperation could help overcome all these challenges as our relationship is not 25 years old but centuries old.

The New Intifada in Indian Occupied Kashmir: A Review

July 10, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Youth Forum for Kashmir organised a seminar on “The New Intifada in Indian Occupied Kashmir: A Review” on July 10, 2017. The chief guest at the occasion was Honourable Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of the House in the Senate. The event was graced by eminent speakers like; Mr. Ahmed Quraishi, Executive Director, Youth Forum of Kashmir; Senator Lt. General (retd) Abdul Qayyum, (PML-N); Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, MNA PTI; Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC); Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Dr. Moeed Pirzada, Anchor person *Dunya News*; Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation; Ms. Shaista Safi, Lobbyist, Youth Forum for Kashmir and Ms. Tooba Khurshid, Research Fellow ISSI, who analysed the issue of Kashmir and the present situation from different perspectives.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks commemorated Burhan Wani’s martyrdom. He said that it was an occasion to reiterate our solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Needless to say, the Kashmir issue has been a horrendous tale of repression but though Kashmiri resistance has waxed and waned, it has never stopped. The right to self-determination is an inherent right and so it cannot be asserted with terrorism. He went on to lay emphasis on the importance of finding a timely proactive action.



“Freedom is that basic human right, which no force can suppress.” This was stated by Honourable Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, during his address as the chief guest. He also spoke about how in the last century the use of force by the colonial powers was eventually defeated by the people’s struggle for freedom. With regards to India, he stated that for a country, which claims to be a democracy, their reactions do not go in line with the democratic theme. He stated that Pakistan’s diplomatic attempts to solve this issue have been repeatedly disrespected. Until India realises that violence is not the answer, peace cannot be achieved. He reaffirmed that Pakistan clearly does not advocate violence and has repeatedly appealed to the international community to take notice of this issue. He voiced hope that all sacrifices will result in peace.

Speakers of the panel expressed their concerns about the belligerent use-of-force by the occupying Indian armed forces in Kashmir and the killings and abduction of innocent Kashmiri people. The speakers appealed to the international community to take notice of the Indian atrocities in Kashmir and hold it accountable for the innumerable human rights violations. They appreciated Pakistan’s firm stance on the Kashmir dispute and its unrelenting support for the Kashmir cause on all international forums.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupying forces against the innocent people of Indian Occupied Kashmir. He reiterated that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute lies in the full implementation of the UNSC resolutions on Kashmir. Ambassador Khalid emphasised that no solution to the Kashmir dispute can come from the use of force or without the involvement of the Kashmiri people.

Indus Water Treaty: Issues and Recommendations

August 29, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar on “Indus Water Treaty: Issues and Recommendations” on August 29, 2017. The chief guest at the occasion was Honourable Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Foreign Minister of Pakistan. The event was graced by eminent speakers like; Mr. Sardar Muhammad Tariq, CEO/Chairman Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP); Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Mr. Muhammad Shams-ul-Mulk, Former Chairman WAPDA and Mr. Mirza Asif Baig, Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Water (PCIW).



“With the advent of the 21st century, rapid economic expansion and technological innovation has led to intensive struggle between nations for natural resources, of which water is the most important. Water security is the most serious concern and is emerging as the key national security issue. The tensions over access to water, within and between countries in the region are growing and are increasingly securitised. The issue seems even more complicated when regional and bilateral rivalries are taken into account. Additionally, the changing patterns of precipitation, as a result of climate change, exacerbate the scale of challenges before us.” This was stated by Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, during his address as chief guest at the seminar.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks stated that the need for water dispute settlement is accentuated by the fact that both India and Pakistan are mainly agrarian countries. Added to this is the fact that the water question is not only a functional problem, but one with political aspects linked to the Kashmir

dispute. He stated that all outstanding issues can be resolved through proper utilisation of Indus Water Treaty (IWT). As of now, proper legal mechanisms and framework are not in place and the treaty does not encompass factors such as environment or security threats. Hence, mutual efforts should be made to consider and utilise all facets, concerning the treaty. He also reiterated that there is an urgent need for the settlement of this dispute and proper legislative and regulatory framework is required to protect water resources.



Mr. Sarder Muhammad Tariq provided a background of the IWT. He explained the treaty in an elaborate manner and how it functions. He highlighted the challenges created by the IWT for Pakistan and gave recommendations regarding different ways and methods to overcome those challenges.

Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, in his presentation, highlighted the salient aspects of the IWT. Mr. Soofi explained the major aspects of the IWT. In addition to the salient features and technical specifications of the IWT, he drew everyone's attention to what's not covered in the treaty. Citing his own published work, he argued that the number of dams that India wishes to construct on the Western Rivers is an issue outside the scope of the IWT.



Mr. Muhammad Shams Ul Mulk talked about the previous centuries and what developments have taken place since then regarding water preservation and utilisation. He elaborated on events regarding how Pakistan was not given its rightful share of water during the partition days. He emphasised on the point that Pakistan's neighbours have built

thousands of dams and reservoirs to preserve water while Pakistan has not even built the minimum number of reservoirs required to supplement its growing water needs.



Mr. Mirza Asif Baig gave recommendations and suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness of the IWT. He highlighted India and Pakistan's entitlements under the treaty, for both the Eastern and Western rivers. He also spoke about India's attitude towards the treaty's implementation and said that for India there are two options: either to agree to Pakistan's alternative designs or accept the resolution through the Court of Arbitration. He said Pakistan should use water resources on the western rivers in an efficient manner. Pakistan should be determined to get its rights protected and properly utilise them to its advantage.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, said that all agree that the IWT is valuable and useful and efforts should be made to make its implementation more effective. New issues of environment and climate change have surfaced, which do require some review of the treaty. We also need to have an effective legal team to press our rights under the IWT and general conventions.



Public Talks

Trump Administration: Emerging Opportunities for South Asia

February 22, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on “Trump Administration: Emerging Opportunities for South Asia.” The distinguished speaker on the occasion was Mr. Shuja Nawaz, Distinguished Fellow at the South Asia Center of the Atlantic Council in Washington DC. The talk was held under the Distinguished Lecture Series forum.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks said that the recent elections in the US were nothing less than an earthquake and the aftershocks of the elections are still being felt the world over. He highlighted that the Trump administration’s foreign policy lacks strategic coherence.

Mr. Shuja asserted that it is very critical that leaders in South Asia, particularly Pakistan, should pre-empt President Trump and make decisions, which are good for their countries. Moreover, this offers them a great opportunity to try and wean themselves off the addiction to the US assistance. He stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan need to re-think their trade strategy and engage in the easiest, cheapest and fastest way for the both economies to grow. He also pointed out that the leverage Pakistan will gain by providing transit gas from Iran will be paramount and remains a game changer for Pakistan to explore. He stressed on the importance for Pakistan of transforming the economy and believed that if growth returns, Pakistan’s security would automatically improve.

Talking about South Asia, Mr. Shuja pointed out that under the new US administration there will be a very different kind of US relationship with the region - a policy of a Greater South Asia. He asserted that it is very critical that leaders in South Asia, particularly Pakistan, should pre-empt President Trump and make decisions which are good for their countries.



In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, said that it is not possible for the US to completely withdraw itself from this region, when it attaches so much importance to fighting terrorism and extremism, as well as containment of China. He further added that the lack of focus on South Asia, presently, provides the region an opportunity to pre-empt the Trump administration and come up with a holistic policy for the greater good of the region.

Successful Experiences of the Colombian Peace Process

October 24, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series on October 24, 2017, on “Successful Experiences of the Colombian Peace Process.” The talk was hosted as a part of Colombian Week Celebrations in collaboration with the non-resident Embassy of Colombia to Pakistan in Ankara and the Externado University of Colombia. The guest speaker at the occasion was Dr. Marcelo Macedo Rizo, Diplomat in-charge of Political & Cooperation Affairs at the Embassy of Colombia in Turkey. Other speakers at the occasion included; H.E. Mr. Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra, Non-Resident Ambassador of Colombia to Pakistan and Prof. Dr. Soraya Caro Vargas, Director, Centre for Research on Contemporary India and South Asia (CESICAM) at the Externado University of Colombia.



Before the talk, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ISSI and the Externado University of Colombia to initiate academic and research exchange between the two institutions.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks, expressed full support for the promotion of friendship and mutual understanding between Pakistan and Colombia. Reflecting on the history of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Colombia, he said that ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1980, there has existed enormous goodwill between the two countries.

Emphasising on the significance of the Colombian peace agreement, Ambassador Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra said that in this world there is no perfect peace, but Colombia is committed to achieving lasting peace in the era of conflict transformation. He also highlighted the various cultural aspects of his country including architecture, music, dance, language, literature and cinema and encouraged the audience to participate in all the workshops that were being arranged under the celebrations of the Colombian Week in Pakistan. He also praised the culture and food of Pakistan.



Dr. Vargas touched upon the nature of the MoU and expressed her optimism in the advancement of the bilateral ties in days coming ahead. She also identified themes that can be taken up for joint research by the ISSI and the University.

Speaking on the Colombian Peace Process, Dr. Marcelo Macedo Rizo, traced the different stages of the process to build a stable and durable peace in Colombia, and to end the armed conflict that began in 1964. Highlighting the significance of the Colombian peace agreement, he said that it is like a puzzle in which every single piece is fundamental to complete the vision.

Concluding the Public Talk, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, expressed his appreciation to Dr. Marcelo Macedo Rizo for his informative presentation. He said that it was a great learning experience regarding the fight of the Colombian people against the violence and drug trafficking. He also welcomed the suggestion of starting a Spanish language programme in Pakistan under the MoU signed with the Externado University. He was confident that the ISSI's agreement of cooperation with the University will open new avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

Turkish Foreign Policy and Turkish Perspective on Developments in the Middle East

November 27, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on “Turkish Foreign Policy and Turkish Perspective on Developments in the Middle East.” The distinguished speakers on the occasion were Dr. Mesut Özcan, Acting Chairman, Centre for Strategic Research (CSR), Ankara and Dr. Ufuk Ulutas a Turkish researcher and columnist. H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Pakistan was also in attendance. The talk was held under the Distinguished Lecture Series.



Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, said that the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey predates the independence of Pakistan. He pointed out that despite all these positive trends in the bilateral relations between the two countries, the relationship in the economic field lags behind. The trade volume between the two countries is merely US \$ 600 million. He also expressed his optimism that under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there would be new opportunities for Turkish investments in Pakistan.

Dr. Mesut Özcan spoke on the Turkish foreign policy. He stated that in the 1990s there were hopes for a liberal international order, but the turbulent environment in the neighbouring region pushed Turkey’s foreign policy towards a more security-oriented front. With regard to Pakistan-Turkey relations, he stated that though economic trends are lacking, of late, Turkish investors in Pakistan are increasing, particularly in the energy sector. This, he said, would enable a more stable and durable relationship.

Dr. Ufuk Ulutas briefed the audience about the Turkish perspective on the developments in the Middle East. He said that there are four phenomena which are shaping, and will continue to shape the Middle East in the future; the failed state, the ripple effect caused by the proxy wars, violent non-state actors and the refugee issue. With regards to the Gulf crisis, which he called a potential proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, this, he said, needs to stop because another politically motivated crisis will have destructive results.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, while making the concluding remarks, said that this has been a fascinating and very educative session. He expressed optimism that the friendship between Pakistan and Turkey will remain strong and concrete in the face of changing scenarios around the world.

Formation of National Unity Government and Future of Peace in Palestine

November 28, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on the “Formation of National Unity Government and Future of Peace in Palestine.” The distinguished speaker on the occasion was H.E. Dr. Mazen Shaymia, Assistant Minister of Palestine for Asia, Africa and Australia. H.E. Mr. Walid Abu Ali, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Islamabad, Mr. Ibrahim R. M. Altarri and Mr. Khalil H. A. Abughalyoun were also in attendance. The talk was held under the Distinguished Lecture Series forum.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to the cause of Palestine and its unwavering support at various international forums. He said that Pakistan pursues the Palestinian cause as if it were pursuing its own. He also said that the issue at hand had many aspects, including respect for international law - in particular the UN Charter, respect for international humanitarian law, as well as the respect for human rights.

Talking about the peace negotiation process, Dr. Mazen stated that Palestine and its leadership is open to negotiations and any peace settlement, which is in compliance with international humanitarian laws. Though Palestinians have been agreeing with the international treaties and agreements, alongside the treaties specific to the Palestine issue such as the Oslo Accord; Israel has been violating all the laws and treaties and has imposed an unjust siege upon the citizen of Palestine for almost 10 years and, even worse, it is changing the demographic composition of the region. He concluded his speech on an

optimistic note that the solution of the Palestine lies in national unity and the support from the international community. It is the responsibility of the international community to stand with the people of Palestine, he said.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his closing remarks, labelled the Balfour Declaration as the original sin. He said that all attempts at peaceful resolution of this issue which have fallen over deaf ears. He stated that the cause of the Palestinians is just and the spirit and resilience, which the Palestinians have displayed are admirable.

Progress of the CPEC Projects in Sindh

December 14, 2017

The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on December 14, 2017 titled, “Progress of the CPEC Projects in Sindh.” The speaker at the occasion was the Honourable Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, Minister for Planning and Development, Government of Sindh.



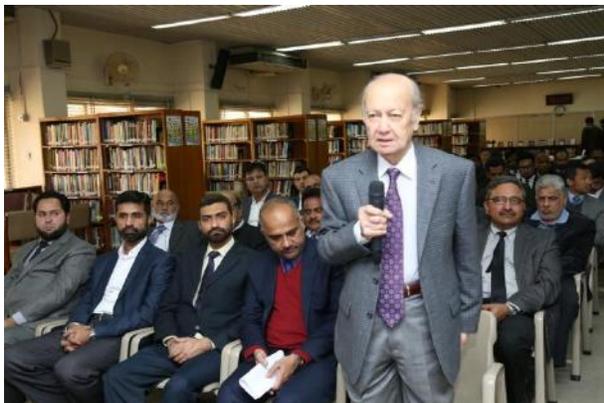
Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks reflected on Pakistan’s ‘model relationship’ with China, which has been expanding in multiple directions, including now with new milestones in the economic domain. This is a time-tested relationship, he noted, which is important for peace and stability in the South Asian region. Ambassador Mahmood said that Pakistan and China, in the recently concluded seventh meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee, had approved plans under the CPEC until 2030. In case of Sindh, he highlighted that the province is an important strategic partner of the CPEC and home to several projects related to energy production, roads, economic zones, ports and railways. While some projects have been completed and others are making good progress, still others have been approved in principle and work on them is expected soon. Overall, they promise to offer much to Sindh in terms of economic opportunities and their impact will likely transform the province positively.

During his speech, Honourable Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani shed light on different projects that are being undertaken in the Sindh province under the umbrella of the CPEC. Mr. Bijrani stated that the Thar Coal Project is at the core of all the CPEC projects in the province. While talking about Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ), he said that it has attracted

overwhelming response from domestic and foreign investors and it will change the commercial landscape of Karachi. It will also help facilitate the cooperation between the Chinese and Pakistani companies in the field of agriculture, industry and energy.

Furthermore, the Minister reiterated that the CPEC has ensured that the people of Thar are the beneficiaries of the projects, not the victims of it. While briefing the audience of the various projects, he said that the Ketu Bandar Project had been included on the recommendation of the Federal Government, which envisages setting-up of coal-handling berths, liquid-handling berths, power parks and industrial zones. He was confident that the implementation of the CPEC projects would transform the economic landscape of Sindh.

The Karachi Circular Railway project was the final CPEC project underlined by Mr. Bijrani. This is expected to be a loop with bus transport services, connecting six major arteries of Karachi. Approved by the Planning Commission, this project is mature for implementation and will enable seamless connectivity between Dhabeji, the Karachi airport, residential areas and business regions through a network of railways and buses.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood emphasised firstly, the positive consequences of the CPEC for Pakistan, where suddenly foreign investors are now interested at the emerging possibilities and secondly, the importance of maintaining a national consensus on the subject. He thanked the honourable Minister on behalf of the ISSI and the CPSC for taking time out to speak on this important subject.

In-House Meetings

In-house Meeting with a 3-member Chinese Delegation from Shanghai International Studies University

January 18, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on January 18, 2016, with a three-member Chinese delegation from Shanghai International Studies University, headed by Professor Wu Yongnian, Director of South Asia Research Centre at the University. Other members of the delegation included; Ms. Zhu Xiufang, Research Fellow and Zhao Pei, Editorial Director.

Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, welcomed the delegation and invited Mr. Muhammad Faisal, Research Fellow of China-Pakistan Study Project (CPSP), to brief the guests about the CPSP and developments on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting focused on the developments occurring under the aegis of the CPEC, security concerns related to the project, situation in Afghanistan and other regional developments.



In-house Meeting with a 4-member Media Delegation from Nigeria

January 30, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a four-member media delegation from Nigeria on January 30, 2017. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Isiyaku Lukuman, Cameraman, *Nigerian Television Authority*; Mr. Iyobosa Rex Uwugiaren, General Editor, *Leadership Newspaper Group*; Mrs. Raliat Oyinyioza Abdulazeez Yusuf, Research & Development, *Leadership Newspaper Group* and Mr. Ahmed Olanrewaju Ambali, Reporter *Nigerian Television Authority*. The delegation was briefed on different aspects of Pakistan's regional environment and state of affairs with countries such as India, Afghanistan, China and the US. The delegation was also updated on the security situation in Pakistan as well as about the successful anti-terrorism operations conducted here such as Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasad. It was reiterated that the atmosphere in the country is conducive for prosperous projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



In-house Discussion with Dr. Zia Mian, Co-Director at Princeton University for Programme on Science and Global Security and Co-Chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM)

February 13, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an interactive in-house discussion with Dr. Zia Mian on February 13, 2017 on “The Challenges of Global Nuclear Weapon and Fissile Material Stockpile and Production”. Dr. Mian is Co-Director, Programme on Science and Global Security, Princeton University, US and also Co-chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM). The meeting was attended by a distinguished panel of nuclear experts from academia, think tanks and organisations in Islamabad. Dr. Mian spoke on two main issues that he said would be instrumental in shaping the non-proliferation landscape for some time to come. One was the Resolution L.41 passed in the United Nations General Assembly in October 2016, in order to convene a United Nations conference in 2017, to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, emphasised that the fundamental issue was the blind spot of nuclear diplomacy. In this globalised world where the international community is moving in the direction of nuclear global zero, one has also to look into the motives of states going nuclear. To achieve the purpose of treaty on prohibiting nuclear weapons, resolution of deep-rooted disputes between states is also necessary.



In-house Meeting with Ambassador Pauly Foley, Australian Ambassador for Counter Terrorism

February 20, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a briefing session on “Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Efforts of Pakistan” with H.E. Ambassador Pauly Foley, Australian Ambassador for Counter Terrorism.



In-house Meeting with an 8-member Delegation from Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA)

February 24, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an interactive in-house meeting with an eight-member delegation from the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). The delegation was led by Ambassador Lu Shumin, Executive Vice President of CPIFA. Other members of the delegation included; Mr. Mao Siwei; Mr. Ma Jiali; Mr. Ye Hailin; Ms. Shen Jun; Mr. Zeng Aiping and Ms. Lin Minxue. Besides the research team of the ISSI, the meeting was attended by a distinguished panel of experts from academia and think tanks from Islamabad. The participants in the meeting were briefed on the evolving situation in the South China Sea and on issues regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



In-house Meeting with a 3-member Media Delegation from United Kingdom

February 27, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a meeting at its premises with a three-member media delegation from UK on February 27, 2017. The UK media delegation consisted of Mr. Owen Bennett Jones, *BBC*, Mr. Peter Osborne, *Spectator* and Mr. Colin Freeman, *Telegraph*. The discussion revolved around an overall analysis of regional situation surrounding Pakistan with states such as China, Iran Afghanistan and India, as well as, relations with the US. The discourse comprised of an interactive Q&A session.



In-house Meeting between Media Delegation from UK and a 6-member Delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC)

March 2, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting between the UK media delegation and a six-member delegation from All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on March 02, 2017. The UK media delegation consisted of Mr. Owen Bennett Jones, *BBC*, Mr. Peter Osborne, *Spectator* and Mr. Colin Freeman, *Telegraph*. The APHC delegation was represented by Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Mr. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Mr. Ishtiyak Hameed, Ms. Shameem Shawl, Mr. Abdullah Gilani and Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Dar.

The APHC leaders presented the case of Kashmir in front of the UK media delegation and brought into light the recent wave of atrocities and oppression carried out by the Indian government and military in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK). The APHC members made it clear that the Kashmiri voice of self-determination cannot be silenced by India. The plight of the Kashmiri people is righteous and the world will see the achievement of the lifelong dream of the Kashmiri self-determination. After individual presentations by the APHC leaders, there was an interactive Q&A session between UK media delegation and the APHC members.



In-house Meeting with a 7-member Delegation of Chinese Young Diplomats

March 15, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a seven-member delegation of Chinese young diplomats on March 15, 2017. The delegation included; Mr. Zhang Changwei, Counsellor; Mr. Zhang Ling, 2nd Secretary; Mr. Zang Liang, 3rd Secretary; Mr. Wang Chenbiao, Attaché; Ms. Lin Long; Mr. Wu Wenchang and Ms. Saima Jamil. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, appreciated the unflinching support given by China to Pakistan throughout the history of relationship between the two countries. China, he said, always stood by Pakistan during its wars with India both in 1965 and 1971. Ambassador Mahmood pointed out that while the world is in a great flux and new configuration of power centres is being witnessed by the world today, including the peaceful rise of China, however, the situation has become tense ever since the advent of Donald Trump as the President of the US. Researchers from the ISSI briefed the delegation on Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan, India and Iran.



In-house Meeting with a 7-member Media Delegation from Bangladesh

March 22, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a seven-member media delegation from Bangladesh on March 22, 2017. The delegation included; Mr. Badrul Ahsan, Associate Editor, *Daily Observer*; Mr. Abu Jar M. Akkas, Deputy Editor, *New Age*; Barrister Sarwar Hossein, member G-9 Think Tank; Dr. Mohammad Jasimuddin, Senior Research Fellow, BISS; Mr. Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, *Independent* and Ms. Mehmuda Habiba, member G-9 Think Tank. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, recounted the deep association that the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh, have with each other. He commended the patriotic spirit always displayed by the people of Bangladesh and stated that Pakistanis always receive their Bengali brothers with open arms. The delegates from Bangladesh talked about how despite the trauma and tragedy, the time has come to break free from the past.



In-house Meeting with a 6-member Delegation of Chinese Academic Scholars

March 27, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a six-member delegation of the Chinese academic scholars, led by Dr. Wang Yiwei, Professor at Renmin University, on March 27, 2017. The meeting was also attended by members of the academia and think tanks in Islamabad including Mr. Raiz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary; Lt. Gen (retd) Talat Masood; Mr. Shakeel Ramay, SDPI; Mr. Majid Mahmood, CISS; Air Vice Marshal (retd) Faaz Aamir, Air University; Commander (retd) Mohammad Azhar, Bahria University and Mr. Ali Shah, NUST. Different aspects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were discussed at length after Dr. Yiwei gave a comprehensive briefing on the plans of the OBOR corridors and projects, with particular focus on the CPEC.



In-house Meeting with Mr. Didier Chaudet, French Journalist

May 02, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with Mr. Didier Chaudet, Editing Director of Centre for the Analysis of Foreign Affairs (CAPE). In an interactive meeting, the guest and the research team at the ISSI discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, said that in fighting terrorism, Pakistan has come up with a domestic policy framework in the form of a twenty-point National Action Plan (NAP), which has been complimented by the kinetic military efforts in the shape of military operations *Zarb-e-Azb* and *Radd-ul-Fasad*. Mr. Assadullah Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, said that Pakistan has been partially successful in its fight against extremism. However, the success of military operations has built a foundation for government and civil institutions for implementing the soft components of the NAP, combating extremism within the society.



In-house Meeting with a 6-member Media Delegation from China

May 05, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), hosted an in-house meeting with a six-member media delegation from China on May 5, 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Xing Guangcheng, Director General, Institute of Chinese Borderland Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS). Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), briefed the delegation about the progress of his team in research on different projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The members of the delegation reiterated that the deep abiding friendship between China and Pakistan is further strengthened through endeavours such as the CPEC. The delegation was also intimated about the extensive anti-terrorism operations such as *Zarb-e-Azb* and *Radd-ul-Fasad* undertaken by Pakistan.



In-house Meeting with Dr. Lai-Ha, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

May 08, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with Dr. Lai-Ha, Senior Lecturer, Social & Political Sciences Programme, University of Technology Sydney, Australia and visiting Fung Global Fellow at Princeton University. Dr. Lai-Ha gave a presentation on “US Pivot to Asia: China's Geostrategic Rationale for Establishing the AIIB.” She spoke about the concept of aid in the liberal international order, which is mainly advocated by the US. When developed countries provide aid, even under the banner of the IMF or the World Bank, they link it with some conditions. With respect to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and differences in Pakistan among the provinces, Dr. Lai was assured that even though the CPEC had garnered certain reservations, but these had been resolved following the All Parties Conference in January 2016, as well as after the sixth Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, held in Beijing in December 2016.



In-house Meeting with Dr. Joshua White, Associate Professor, John Hopkins University, US

May 12, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with Dr. Joshua White, Associate Professor, School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, US. Dr. White spoke on Trump's South Asia policy and challenges to the relations between Pakistan and the US. Mr. Najam Rafique, Director America and Research ISSI, welcomed the speaker and stated that the US and Pakistan have always shared a love-hate relationship, but with President Trump in the office, the dynamics of the Pak-US relationship remains a mystery because of his inexperience in the field of foreign policy. For all practical purposes, his South Asia policy would, in all likelihood, be a continuation of his predecessor. Much, of course, will depend on the kind of foreign policy team, which the new president puts together. Dr. White highlighted four different shifts that are happening in the transition from Obama to Trump, which reflects a lot of changes. A lot of these changes are happening at the higher policy level, one of the aspects of this policy making is towards South Asia in general, and Pakistan in particular.



In-house Meeting with a 6-member delegation from China Special Economic Zone Think Tank

June 08, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a six-member delegation from China Special Economic Zone Think Tank on June 8, 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Wu Sikang, Director, Development Research Centre of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, Guangdong Province. Other members of the delegation included; Mr. Wang Chao, Researcher and Deputy Director General, Human Resources & Social Security Administration, Pingshan District Government, Shenzhen; Mr. Huang Hucheng, Deputy Chief of General Affairs Division; Ms. Xia Yanna, Chairman Huazhi, Shenzhen Ltd.; Ms. Zhang Weiju, Chairman of ADTECH (Shenzhen) Technology Co. Ltd. and Ms. Yang Ya, Chairman of Lian Suo (Shenzhen) Education Investment Management Ltd. The delegation expressed its interest in discussing vocational education, development of innovation industry and how to help Pakistan foster intelligent manufacturing talent.



In-house Roundtable Discussion on “Islamic Military Alliance: Option and Challenges for Pakistan”

June 15, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house roundtable discussion on June 15, 2017, with the former government officials, representative from think-tanks and academia to gain their perspective on the Islamic Military Alliance (IMA) that has been established by Saudi Arabia. Several distinguished scholars presented their valuable stance on this alliance. The discourse revolved mainly around the nature and extent of Pakistan’s participation in the alliance.



In-house meeting with a 5-member Media Delegation from Iran

September 18, 2017

A five-member Iranian Media Delegation visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) for an informal discussion on recent developments affecting the Iran-Pakistan relationship. Members of the delegation included: Mr. Morteza Naghikhani, *Kayhan International* (English Daily); Mohammad Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, *Iran Daily*; Mr. Afshin Majlesi, Correspondent, *Tehran Times*; Ms. Banafsheh Emaeili Hafshejani, Correspondent, *Mehr News Agency* and Mr. Nader Mazouji, the Persian Daily, *Ettelaat*. Regional issues of mutual significance were discussed between the two countries were part of the discourse such as the situation in Afghanistan, relations with India and issues such as the scourge of terrorism. Bilateral issues of importance such as border security, and boosting trade volume were also discussed.



In-house Meeting with a 6-member Media Delegation from Indonesia

November 06, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a six-member media delegation from Indonesia on November 6, 2017. The members of the Indonesian delegation included Mr. Imanuddin Razak, Editor, *Jakarta Post*; Mr. Arif Zulkifli, Editor-in-Chief, *Tempo Magazine*; Ms. Devi Monica Lumannauw, TV anchor and Reporter, *TVRI*; Mrs. Agustina Elok Dyah Messwati, Senior Journalist, *Kompas*; Mrs. Andini Weningtyas Effendi, Anchor and Reporter, *Metro TV* and Mr. Irvan Januari, Cameraman, *Metro TV*. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, stated that both Pakistan and Indonesia have solid bilateral relations. Indonesia always extended its full support to Pakistan even in the difficult times like the 1965 war with India. The delegation was also briefed about the existing dynamics of the South Asian region, Afghanistan's security situation, Pak-India relations, human rights' violations in Kashmir by India and the recently announced US policy towards Afghanistan in particular and South Asia in general by different researchers at the ISSI.



In-house Meeting with Dr. Sadollah Zarei, Executive Director, Indishe Sazan Noor Institute, Tehran

November 06, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with Dr. Sadollah Zarei, Executive Director, Indishe Sazan Noor Institute, Tehran on November 6, 2017. Dr. Sadollah Zarei being an expert of security studies, briefed the ISSI researchers on the contours of securitisation in South Asia with special focus on Iran and Pakistan's shared neighbourhood. He also critically analysed President Trump's new South Asia policy and noted that prolonging the conflict in Afghanistan is in fact a part of the long-term Indo-Pacific strategy of the US. He answered several questions regarding Iran's relations with India, Iraq and the Kurdistan referendum.



In-house Meeting with a 7-member Media Delegation from Kazakhstan

November 20, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a seven-member media delegation from Kazakhstan on November 20, 2017. The members of the Kazakhstan delegation included: Mr. Zhanat Seidumanov, Director General, Almaty National Library/President Association of Publishers, Printers & Booksellers; Mr. Arnur Rakhymbekov, Head of Foreign Correspondents Section in Central Office News Agency, *Kazinform*; Dr. Samal Tuleubayeva, Professor, Department of Oriental Studies, Eurasian National University; Mr. Bakhitkhozha Rustemov, Writer/Journalist; Mr. Bolat Tokabayev, Chief Expert, Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies; Mr. Gabit Moldamurat, Director, *Akzhayt* Magazine and Mr. Paltore Ykhtiyar, Dean of Oriental Studies, Al-Farabi University. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, stressed upon the fact that Pakistan was one of the first few countries to recognise Kazakhstan as an independent state in 1991. Ambassador Mahmood expressed his sincere gratitude towards Republic of Kazakhstan for supporting Pakistan to attain full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Pakistan's claim of becoming a member of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Members of the delegation expressed interest in the progress of the different projects being constructed under the aegis of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). They were also briefed about the security situation in Afghanistan, particularly about the presence of IS in the region.



In-house Meeting with a 2-member Turkish Delegation from Centre for Strategic Research (CSR)

November 27, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a two-member Turkish delegation on November 27, 2017. The members of the Turkish delegation included Dr. Mesut Özcan, Acting Chairman, Centre for Strategic Research (CSR), Ankara and Mr. Ufuk Ulutas, Columnist and Researcher. The delegation was accompanied by H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, and Dr. Mesut Özcan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual cooperation between the two institutes. The delegates enlightened the audience about Turkish foreign policy and Turkey's bid for the European Union (EU) membership while criticising Germany for its failure to formulate a coalition. The delegation was briefed about Pakistan's relations with its neighbouring states with particular focus on Afghanistan and India. While answering a question about Pakistan's strategic balance in its ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, the Ambassador Mahmood told the Turkish delegates that Pakistan would always maintain friendly ties with both these Muslim countries.



In-house Meeting with a 5-member Media Delegation from Japan

December 05, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a five-member media delegation from Japan on December 5, 2017. The members of the Japanese delegation included: Ms. Chiyoko Nakamoto Toyoda, Senior Director, International News Div, *Fuji TV*; Mr. Go Yamada, Senior Staff Writer, *Nikkei News Review* & Principle Economist, International & Asian Research Dept, Japan Centre for Economic Research (JCER); Mr. Masato Toriya, Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation & Visiting Fellow, Institute of Asian, African & Middle Eastern Studies, Sophia University Tokyo; Mr. Hiroshi Mori, Bureau Chief, *Senkai Shimbun* Newspaper and Mr. Ken Iwasaki, Deputy Editor, International News Dept., *Nippon TV*. The delegation was briefed about the progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and to a question about the possibility of Japan joining the CPEC, a member of the delegation answered that if there is no discrimination then Japan would definitely consider joining the corridor. Other topics under discussion were the security situation in Afghanistan, Pak-India relations, the Kashmir dispute and the South China Sea Island spat between Japan and China.



In-house Meeting with a 5-member Media Delegation from Germany

December 06, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a five-member media delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany on December 6, 2017. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Sven Hansen, *Tax/Die Tageszeitung*; Mr. Philip Breu, Freelance; Mr. Florian Neuhof, Freelance; Mr. Philipp Katzer, Freelance and Mr. Simon Schneller of *Bayerischer Rundfunk*. Issues under discussion were the increasing economic ties between Germany and Pakistan, the new US policy towards South Asia, the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's anti-terrorism operations.



In-house Meeting with Mr. Wajid Khan, Member of the EU Parliament from UK

December 18, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with Mr. Wajid Khan, Member of the European Union (EU) Parliament from United Kingdom (UK) on December 18, 2017. Mr. Khan is a Member of the EU Parliament for the North West England European constituency since June 29, 2017 and a member of South Asia Committee. In addition to the research faculty of the ISSI, the group of intellectuals that includes Gen. (retd) Talat Masood, Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Gen. (retd) Asad Durrani, Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi and Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi also attended the meeting. Mr. Khan articulated his sentiments of honour and appreciation for Pakistan. He briefly informed the audience about his experience of travelling all over the world as an academician in the field of cultural anthropology before joining the EU Parliament.



In-house Roundtable Discussion on “National Security Strategy Announced by President Donald Trump”

December 28, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on December 28, 2017, with a distinguished panel of analyst to discuss the new National Security Strategy (NSS) announced by the US President, Donald Trump. The guest speaker at the meeting was Brig. (retd) Feroz Hassan Khan, Lecturer at the Naval Post Graduate College, Monterey, US. Main features of the NSS document were scrutinised critically by the distinguished panel of scholars attending the meeting. There was a major consensus on rethinking Pakistan’s approach towards like-minded regional countries on the matter of the harsher stance of the new administration in the US.





**Ambassador's
Platform**

60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome: Foundations and Prospects of the European Integration Process

March 28, 2017

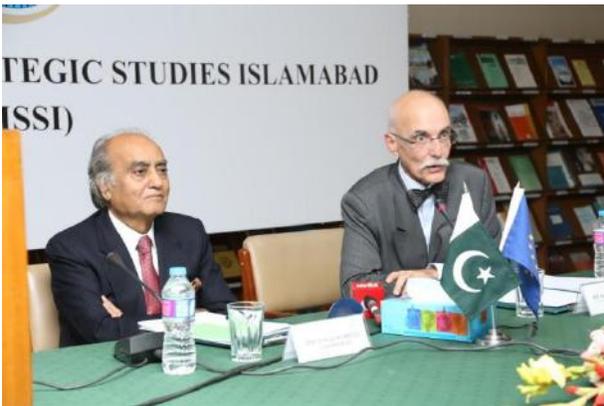
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on the “60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome: Foundations and Prospects of the European Integration Process.” The distinguished speaker on the occasion was H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan. The talk was held under the Ambassador’s Platform series.



In his welcome address, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, said that Pakistan has been benefitting by its relationship with the EU since 1962, when diplomatic ties were established. Cooperation since 1974, across priority areas, covers politics, education, energy, governance, humanitarian assistance, plight of minorities and now, counter-terrorism cooperation between the EU and Pakistan. The Ambassador appreciated the EU’s support to Pakistan during the natural disasters.

Ambassador Cautain reaffirmed the EU’s stance on democracy, human rights, international cooperation and sustainable development and remarked that the EU has been instrumental in putting together the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which he said were already in the implementation stage. He also stressed on the need for dialogue and stated that a united front can help defend common interests in what is now a highly competitive world. He also stated that in light of the many threats in the present, the goal should be to unite and develop the capacity to cooperate in response to external challenges.

Ambassador Cautain pointed out that despite political, economic and structural challenges, the EU remains committed to the spread of democracy, equal rights, trade and development.



In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, appreciated the EU's commitment to environment protection, human rights and open trade. He emphasised on the need of learning from the EU's best practices and hoped that cooperation between Pakistan and the EU will be further strengthened in the coming future.

Japan-Pakistan Relationship: 65 Years and Beyond

November 07, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on “Japan-Pakistan Relationship: 65 Years and Beyond.” The distinguished speaker on the occasion was H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. The talk was held under ISSI’s Ambassador’s Platform series.



Welcoming the speaker and the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, reflected on the cultural commonalities and history of bilateral ties between Japan and Pakistan. He spoke about traces and impact of the ancient Buddha civilisation in the South Asian region including Pakistan. He reminded the audience about President’s Ayub’s visit to Japan in December 1960, where he was personally received by the Emperor himself, which was an extraordinary welcome.

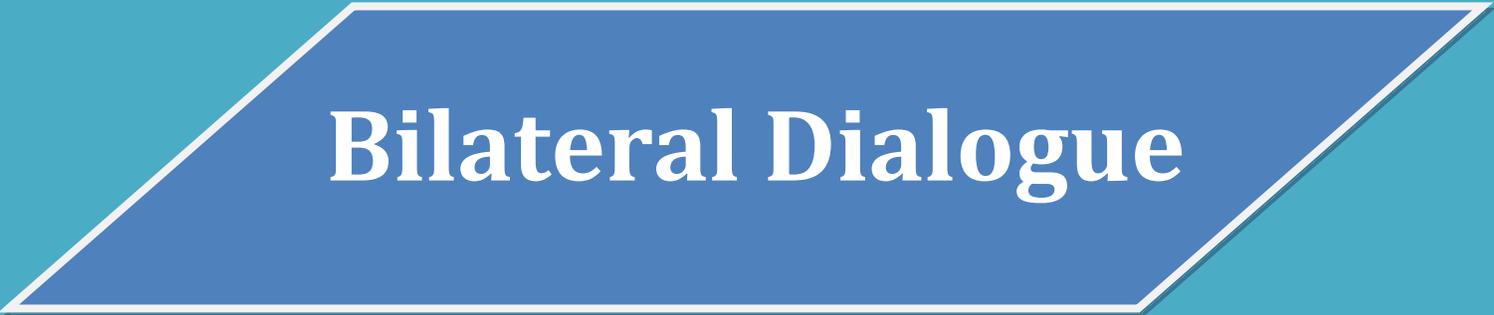
H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai began his talk by appreciating the ISSI of its work and thanked for a warm welcome and the opportunity to talk about Pakistan Japan-Pakistan relations. Ambassador Kurai highlighted that 2017 marks the 65th anniversary of Japan-Pakistan relations and that the embassy had organised twenty one cultural events this year in which large number of Pakistanis have participated.

Ambassador Kurai appreciated Pakistan’s efforts and sacrifices in the war against terror. He also pointed towards the import-export gap in the bilateral trade of the two countries and urged that Pakistani textile items should be exported to Japan in order to reduce the import-export deficit. He also pointed out that in order for bilateral trade to grow, security, infrastructure and business environment were the key factors. In reference to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said that while Japan appreciated this initiative, at the same time, it believed every project being carried out should be based on transparency,

openness, and accountability. He went on to say that Japan had made it clear that it was open to providing assistance in furthering this project.



Concluding the talk, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that this has been an impressive discourse. He said that Pakistan and Japan has a good relationship and there is still a lot to be done in the fields of diplomacy, trade and economy in order to further bolster this bilateral relationship.



Bilateral Dialogue

Bilateral Dialogue with a 4-member Delegation from the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)

May 15, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a four-member delegation from China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) On May 15, 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Fu Xiaoqiang, Director Institute of Security and Arms Control Studies, CICIR and the other members were Mr. Chen Wenxin, Vice Director CICIR; Mr. Wang Shida, Assistant Director, CICIR and Mr. Yan Shuai.

During the bilateral dialogue, presentations regarding different areas and issues were given by the ISSI's research scholars such as presentations on Afghanistan issue, Indo-Pak relations, nuclear proliferation and counter terrorism. After the presentations, an informal question & answer session ensued, where experts from the CICIR and ISSI discussed matters of international politics and security.



Bilateral Dialogue with a 5-member Delegation from China Institute of International Strategic Studies (CIISS)

September 11, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a bilateral dialogue with a five-member delegation from China Institute of International Strategic Studies (CIISS) on September 11, 2017. The dialogue was part of annual interaction between the two institutes. The members of the Chinese delegation included; Major General (Retd) Zhao Ning, Vice Chairman of CISS and former Defence Attaché to Australia and the US; Major General (Retd) Li Mengyan, Senior Advisor of CISS and former Defence Attaché to Pakistan; Sr. Col (Retd) Jing Chunlu, Senior Research Fellow CIISS; Mr. Li Zuyang, Assistant Research Fellow CIISS and Mr. Dou Erli, Assistant Research Fellow CIISS. The delegation was briefed on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan's relentless efforts in counter terrorism and extremism were also highlighted during the briefing. The Pak-US relations, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and various other matters pertaining to regional and international politics and security were also came under discussion during the bilateral dialogue.





**Roundtable
Discussion**

Implementation of FATA Reforms: Challenges Ahead

October 31, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion on “Implementation of FATA Reforms: Challenges Ahead” on October 31, 2017. The keynote speaker at the discussion was Mr. Khalid Aziz, former Chief Secretary KPK, and other participants included; Ambassador (Retd) Abdul Basit, former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India; Ambassador (Retd) Fauzia Nasreen, HoD, Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology; Ambassador (Retd) Ayaz Wazir; Brig (Retd) Said Nazir, Senior Associate, Institute of Policy Studies; Mr. Naveed Ahmed, founding Chief Executive and President CAMP; Dr. Saima Kiyani, Fatima Jinnah University; Dr. Ashraf Ali, Executive Director, Zcomms Centre for Research and Development; Mr. Abdullah Khan, M.D Pakistan Institute for Peace and Conflict; Mr. Iilam Khan and Rizwan Shinwari, PhD scholars at NUST, and other imminent journalists and scholars.



Welcoming the participants, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, touched upon the history of FATA under the British colonial rule in the Sub-continent. He highlighted the FATA reforms from a historical perspective and said that the major obstacles in their implementation are the absence of effective institutional mechanism, lack of consensus and the role of foreign interference in the area. He stressed upon the need to employ a local model of development by taking all the stakeholders on board.

Mr. Arbab Shehzad gave a brief overview of the performance and initiatives of FATA Reforms Committee. Highlighting the major challenges to the implementation of the FATA reforms, he said that these included a lack of ownership on part of the government; insufficient resources allocation for the 10 year plan; resistance from within FATA itself; capacity issues for transformation of FATA and above all absence of a strong and stable government. Moreover, the resentment of the tribes and their reluctance to adapt to the

new system narrows the prospects of development in the area. He was of the opinion that with the new election around the corner, the future course of FATA reforms is likely to stay in limbo.



Mr. Khalid Aziz pointed out that lack of focus and understanding of the regional and tribal dynamics are at the core of the FATA dilemma. The issue is not as complicated in its nature as political expediencies are making it. Other participants voiced the same concerns and emphasised upon the inevitability of an indigenous solution of the neglected area. It was pointed out that rather than implementing the established systems in FATA that have their own problems, it was time to try something new in FATA.

Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen highlighted that in the implementation of the FATA reforms, the government has adopted a top down approach where the people of FATA have not been consulted very regularly. According to her, the government needs to build a full reform constituency within the agencies.

Mr. Naveed Ahmad Shinwari appreciated the reform package. However, according to him, implementation of this package in one go is not possible since it is a giant task. Also, there are certain concerns regarding this reform package that needs to be addressed before any progress could be made in this regard.

Ambassador Abdul Basit questioned the feasibility of the FATA merger and the wishes of the people in this regard. He also proposed holding of a referendum in FATA, if possible.

Ambassador Ayaz Wazir put forward some serious concerns. In his opinion, throughout recent history, FATA has always been deprived of participating in decisions that are directly linked and impacting it. He suggested that people of FATA should be included in any decision-making process regarding FATA's future.

Brig. (retd) Said Nazir furthered the discussion by deploring the fact that barely any representation has been given to FATA in the federal cabinet. Also, the FATA Reforms Committee does not have a single person from FATA. He reiterated that the people of FATA must be consulted and given their democratic rights, otherwise it can create a terrible situation in the region. Therefore, he recommended not to carry out these reforms without due consideration.

Mr. Abdullah Khan supported Said Nazir's argument that the people of FATA should be given proper rights and proper representation and they should be allowed to decide the fate of FATA rather than giving this right to people from outside the region. He suggested that FATA should be made a model province and that a new system should be introduced in FATA rather than bringing in the old system.

Mr. Miraj ul Hameed suggested that there is dire need of trust building, disseminating of information and sequencing and privatising the reform steps. These steps should be in conformity with constitutional requirements. In case of merger, the Constitution should be amended in order to implement the reforms. Any hostility should be avoided.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded the discussion by proposing that hasty decisions should be avoided, and suggested to work on a well thought-out plan for fixing the long-troubling issue.



Book Launch

Pakistan and a World in Disorder: A Grand Strategy for the 21st Century

January 25, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a book titled “Pakistan and a World in Disorder: a Grand Strategy for the Twenty-First Century” authored by a seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Javid Husain, on January 25, 2017. Ambassador Riaz H. Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Riaz M. Khan, former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador Akram Zaki, former Secretary General, were also present at the occasion to express their views on the book.



Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, said that it is an honour for the ISSI to provide a platform for the launch of this book. Introducing the author, Ambassador Mahmood said that Ambassador Husain has a great experience in both multilateral and bilateral diplomacy and has served in important capitals around the world.

Ambassador Javid Husain, author of the book, talked about how his proposed approach requires synthesis of Pakistan’s political, economic, diplomatic and security policies into one grand strategy, which he said, would be a marked departure from the prevalent uni-dimensional strategy. He also noted that this approach would require different institutions to integrate and create institutional frameworks and stressed on the importance of economic development for ensuring long term security. He highlighted that adoption of a low risk and non-adventurous foreign policy would lead to peace.

Ambassador Riaz Khokhar while complementing the author said that this book is timely and very relevant. It covers the Cold War period, the post-Cold War period and the activities of the sole super power i.e., the US. The author, he said, has touched upon all

important relationships particularly with India, Afghanistan and China and has talked in detail about the flaws in Pakistan's foreign policy.



Ambassador Riaz Khan was of the opinion that the book has prescient title and an ambitious canvas. He stated that covering Pakistan's history, the country's security concerns, its complex external environment and challenging foreign relations, their analysis and finally a roadmap for the future is what this book provides; and is a remarkable and thought provoking study of Pakistan's foreign relations.

Ambassador Akram Zaki said that this is a very good book on the foreign policy challenges faced by Pakistan. It reflects a clear understanding and profound experience of an accomplished diplomat, as well as a serious scholar who has supported his views with specific references.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that Ambassador Husain has raised the question of whether Pakistan made the right choices after independence. He was of the opinion that keeping in mind the circumstances that surrounded Pakistan at that time; it would be hard to say that the country made wrong choices. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood also disagreed with the author that there are conceptional and operational flaws in Pakistan's foreign policy. He thanked Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, Ambassador Riaz Khan and Ambassador Akram Zaki for their valuable comments. He complimented the author for writing a book that is a must read for diplomats, members of academia and policy makers. He also thanked the audience for their participation in the event.



Inauguration

Inauguration of the China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)

June 16, 2017

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an inauguration ceremony of its China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC). The centre was inaugurated by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Sun Weidong, former Ambassador of China to Pakistan, was also present.



In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman/Director General ISSI, thanked the honourable Chief Guest and Ambassador Sun Weidong for gracing the occasion. Ambassador Mahmood said that the inauguration of the CPSC at the Institute symbolises the ever-green friendship between Pakistan and China. The Chairman emphasised that ever since the establishment of the ISSI in 1973, it has advised successive governments on various matters of strategic significance. Likewise, CPSC, as an integral part of the Institute, will also conduct similar efforts in this regard and will endeavour to provide research-based inputs on various facets of Pakistan-China relations, which have consistently contributed to the peace and stability in South Asia.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in his inaugural address stated that this centre is a promising addition to the dynamic platform of the ISSI. He said that think tanks are the nerve centres for pursuance of research projects and scholarly exchange and highlighted the role of think tanks and research institutes in providing vision, guidelines and knowledge creation. He appreciated the excellent efforts of the ISSI in taking valuable research initiatives. He said think tanks in Pakistan must be linked with their counterparts in China to enhance people-to-people cooperation and exchange of knowledge.



Ambassador Sun Weidong elaborated that there were three reasons of the rapid development of China, which are the dependable leadership of the Communist party of China, respecting the sovereignty of other nations and hard work of the Chinese people. He mentioned how the CPEC being the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will further cement the ties between Pakistan and China. He pledged that the Chinese embassy will continue to extend its complete support for the CPSC and ISSI for furthering China-Pakistan friendship.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Ambassador Sun Weidong later visited the China-Pakistan Study Centre and met with the Director and researchers.



**Visitors, Guests, Delegations
and Meetings**



January 4: Visit by Mr. Said Muhammad al-Saqlawi, President Oman Association for Writers & Literati.



January 13: Farewell ceremony arranged for the outgoing Library Officer, Mr. Qammer Naveed.



February 15: Visit to the ISSI by 22 students along with 2 faculty members from Peshawar University.



February 27: Meeting of Media delegation from United Kingdom with Shah Ghulam Qadir on Kashmir Affairs.



March 16: Farewell ceremony for Honourable President Azad Jammu & Kashmir Masood Khan, former Director General ISSI.



March 31: Meeting with former Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Kjell Bondevik.



March 31: Farewell ceremony for ISSI's long time employee of approximately 30 years, Mr. Abdul Rashid on his retirement from service.



April 6: Presentation by Dr. Wolfgang Peter Zingel, Distinguished Fellow on "Economy and Ecology as Factor of Neighborly Relations: The Case of Pakistan."



April 18: A Roundtable Discussion, organised by China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the ISSI with representative of delegation of Mitsubishi Corporation, Tokyo.



April 24: Visit by a three-member delegation from Centre for International Studies, Italy.



May 19: Meeting with Prof. Song Zhihui, Director Pakistan Study Centre at Sichuan University.



May 22: Meeting with Mr. Gorges Cunningham, Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Delegation, Kabul.



May 29: Visit of four Designated Defence Attaches to the ISSI for briefing.



May 31: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of Tajikistan.



June 19: Visit of three Designated Defence Attaches to the ISSI for briefing.



June 22: Visit of two Designated Defence Attaches to the ISSI for briefing.



July 5: Visit of two Designated Defence Attaches to the ISSI for briefing.



August 3, 2017: Meeting of a Steering Committee to discuss issues pertaining to Pakistan's water security.



October 6: Meeting with Sheikh Salim Al Jahwari.



October 16: Visit of four Defence Attaches to the ISSI for briefing.



October 19: Visit of 20 students from National University of Science and Technology (NUST) to the ISSI for briefing on the working of the Institute.



November 8: Visit by 16 faculty members and 78 course members of the 47th PN Staff Course headed by Commandant, Rear Admiral Moazzam Illyas.



October 30: In-house meeting with Vice Admiral (Retd) Farooq Rashid, Distinguished Fellow, ISSI. He gave a presentation on "Maritime Strategy: Key Concepts."



November 22: Meeting with Dr. M. Salah-ud-din, Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan and Mr. Rafique Ahmed Dahar, Registrar, Press Council of Pakistan.

Chairman ISSI

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

Director General ISSI

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

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