



ISSI



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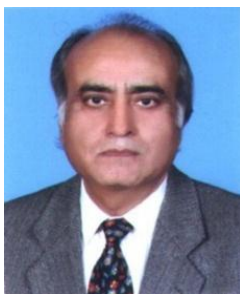
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Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

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 40 institutes and think-tanks in 24 countries. Under these MoUs, the Institute holds bilateral dialogues, hosts scholars from partner institutes and organises joint seminars and conferences with them. These arrangements also facilitate research visits of the Institute's research faculty to foreign institutions.

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 16,000 books, more than 120,000 E-books, 20,000 electronic journals, 7,000 magazines with back issues and subscribes to 68 printed national and international journals. The library has an access to 18 databases like JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, eLibrary USA, Springer eBooks etc. 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 HEC recognised peer-reviewed quarterly research journal *Strategic Studies*. The ISSI periodically publishes Policy Briefs, Islamabad Papers, Special Reports and Conference Reports, covering contemporary issues.



Conferences

National Conference on “Maritime Economy and the Geopolitics of Indian Ocean Rim (IOR): Challenges for Pakistan”

February 22, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Bahria University Islamabad (BUI) organised a one-day National Conference titled, “Maritime Economy and the Geopolitics of Indian Ocean Rim (IOR): Challenges for Pakistan,” on February 22, 2018. The chief guest on the occasion was Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, National Security Advisor of Pakistan. Other distinguished guests speakers at the conference included: Dr. Azhar Ahmad, HOD, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BUI; Commodore Zafar Mansoor Tipu, former Director, National Centre for Maritime Policy Research Centre, BUI; Commodore Babar Bilal, Director, National Centre for Maritime Policy Research, Islamabad; Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Sr. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs; Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President, Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Dr. Idrees Khawaja, HOD, Air University School of Management, Islamabad; Dr. Safdar Sohail, Director General, National Institute of Management and Member Governance Planning Commission and Mr. Abbas Hassan, Research Associate, ISSI.

Honourable Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, while inaugurating the national conference, stated that “Nothing is in isolation. The Indian Ocean and the power politics that it holds within its folds is perhaps not fully understood. He outlined how Asia has the world’s largest human resources, consumer markets, natural markets, development scope, and connectivity potential. In order to connect this with the rest of the world, the major channel present is the Indian Ocean, which is known for being a strategic conduit of

commerce and provides the foundation for trading systems that underpins Asia's economic importance."

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his opening remarks, spoke about the importance of understanding maritime economy. He said that the Indian Ocean is the key transit region for inter-continental trade and Pakistan would do well to exploit this to its full potential.



Vice Admiral (Retd.) M. Haroon chaired the first session titled, "Pakistan and the Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Rim: Where Do We Stand?" Speakers of the first session included: Dr. Azhar Ahmad, Commodore Zafar Mansoor Tipu and Mr. Abbas Hassan.





Ambassador Khalid Mahmood chaired the second session titled, “Maritime Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan.” Speakers of the second session included: Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Commodore Babar Bilal; Dr. Idrees Khawaja, Dr. Safdar Sohail and Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi.



The main points raised during the conference were that tapping into the full potential of maritime sector has not been given its due attention by Pakistan and that ‘blue economy’ needs to be given special attention for the ultimate sustainable use of Pakistan’s maritime resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, as well as the ocean’s ecosystem health. It was also highlighted that there is a need to develop maritime clusters

connected with national and international economy, enhance the 'absorbing capacity' in the long run and create a concentration of capable officers from different sources.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, concluded the conference by thanking the chief guest and all the speakers and participants. He said that maritime economy is very important and many important suggestions were made by the guest speakers on the topic. He reiterated that there are many opportunities for us to exploit and benefit from our maritime sector and we have not done much in developing and making full use of its potentials. This needs to be rectified in short and long-term development programmes.



Seminars

Crimes Against Humanity: Genocides and Ethnic Cleansing

February 20, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan organised a seminar titled, “Crimes Against Humanity: Genocides and Ethnic Cleansing,” on February 20, 2018. The seminar was organised to commemorate the 100th anniversary of 1918 genocide of the Azerbaijanis and also the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, National Security Adviser, was the chief guest at the occasion. The speakers at the seminar included: H.E. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey and Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.



Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, said that the sufferings of both the people of Kashmir and Azerbaijan are very much common. Both countries share identical position on both the Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir conflict. He condemned all crimes against humanity and stated that more than ever before, the soldiers of today have to learn to not be unethical. He also congratulated Azerbaijan on its remarkable progress across a wide spectrum in the past 25 years, which bears testament to the farsightedness of its leaders.

Welcoming the chief guest and the distinguished speakers, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, highlighted the Khojaly massacre in February 1992, at the hands of the Armenians. He said that the extermination of the Azeris by Armenia constitutes the crime of genocide in terms of the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide.



Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, the first speaker of the session, said that unlike war crimes, crimes against humanity can be committed even during the times of peace. He regretted that certain crimes committed within national borders are legitimate subjects of international law and adjudication. He further said that the pathetic attitude of the international community towards innocent sufferings of the people in Khojaly, Kashmir and Palestine in particular, has obliged the victims to use the tactics of the guerrilla warfare for their survival.

Ambassador Ali Alizada said that Khojaly massacre is a continuation of the bloodiest pages of ethnic cleansing and genocide conducted by the Armenian chauvinists and nationalists against the Azerbaijanis for the last 200 years. Ambassador Alizada said that as with other such crimes, it can never be erased from history. He pointed out how the Kashmir issue also awaits justice and said that both the Khojaly and Kashmir issues should be solved in an amicable way in accordance with international laws.

Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, while speaking on the issue said, Turkey considers the sufferings of Azerbaijan as its own and reiterated that the Turkish government supports the people of Azerbaijan in their struggle. He said that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan should be upheld and pressure must be built on the Armenian government to implement the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) resolution in its full spirit.

Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Pakistan

March 28, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a national seminar titled, “Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Pakistan,” on March 28, 2018. The chief guest at the event was Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, National Security Advisor of Pakistan. In his keynote address, Lt. Gen. Janjua stated that the topic of this seminar is extremely significant. He said that non-traditional challenges hold equal importance as challenges of traditional nature to the security of any nation-state. Highlighting different non-traditional security challenges to Pakistan, he predicted the creation of economic block here in Asia and Pakistan has the potential to become a massive economic and trade corridor. Pakistan, thus, has the potential to be a trade, economic and industrial hub. Pakistan will be country to reckon with if its huge economic, trade and connectivity potential is realised.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed all the distinguished guests and speakers for participating in the national seminar. He stated that the non-traditional security extends in all directions and the responsibility for ensuring non-traditional security also extends to all segments of the state; upwards to regional and international organisations, downwards to provincial and local governments and sideways to civil society and media.



The first session of the seminar titled, “Environmental Degradation,” was chaired by Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change. Speakers of this session included: Dr. Ghulam Rasul, Director General, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Mr. Javed Ali Khan, Country Head, UN Habitat Pakistan and Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).



The second session of the seminar titled, “Population Explosion,” was chaired by Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Director General Population, Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHSRC). Speakers in this session included: Dr. Asma Hyder Baloch, Member Social Sector and Devolution, Ministry for Planning, Development

and Reforms (MPDR), Ms. Puruesh Chaudhary, Founder/President, AGAHI Foundation and Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country Director, Population Council Pakistan (PCP).



The third session of the seminar titled, "Food Security," was chaired by Mr. Javed Jabbar, former Senator and Federal Minister. The speakers of this seminar included: Mr. Basharat Ahmed Saeed, Water Resources Specialist, World Bank Pakistan (WBP) and Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF).





The fourth session of the seminar was titled, "Water Security." The session was chaired by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Muzammil Hussain, Chairman WAPDA. The speakers of the seminar included: Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman Chaudhry, International Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President, Research Society of International Law (RSIL) and Dr. Khalid Mohtadullah, Senior Advisor, Global Water Partnership (GWP).



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks, once again, thanked all the distinguished guests, speakers and the audience for participating in the seminar. He reiterated that our perception of security is common; a concept of human security that has evolved over time. The mother of all threats to human security is Climate

Change. National security and Climate Change nexus is unmistakable in case of Pakistan both in terms of its traditional and non-traditional definitions.



The International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028

April 26, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled, “The International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028,” on April 26, 2018. The chief guest at the event was Dr. Nizomuddin Zohidi, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan. Other distinguished speakers at the seminar included: H.E. Sherhali Jononov, Ambassador, Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan; Mr. Ghafurzoda Taghaimurod, Head of Department of Water Resource, Ministry of Energy & Water Resources, Republic of Tajikistan; Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and Mr. Babur Suhail, Vice President, Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS).



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcoming the distinguished speakers and the esteemed guests, said that it is an occasion of great happiness for the ISSI and stated that we have the honour of welcoming three distinguished high officials from the brotherly country of the Republic of Tajikistan. He said that the peoples of Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoyed close relationship in the past marked by geographical proximity, common faith, culture and history.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that water is the source of life. Human existence depends upon the continued availability of water. Unbridled human activity and the impact of Climate Change are fast dwindling this precious asset. In fact, the world is already facing a water crisis. The reduced access to fresh water has far-reaching consequences like reduced food production, loss of livelihood and increased economic and geopolitical tensions, especially in volatile regions like South Asia. Pakistan is a water-stressed country. There is a loss of habitat that can lead to the extinction of some wildlife species due to changes in the watercourse.

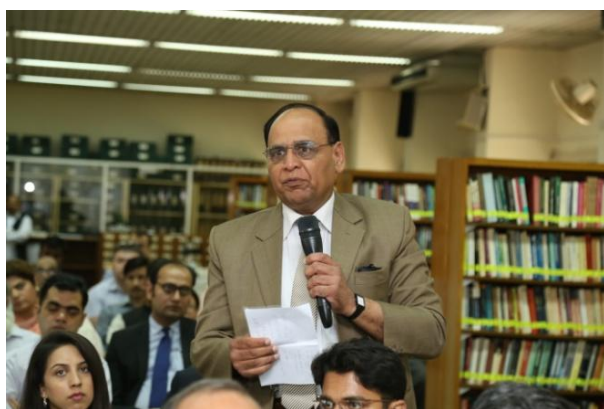
Dr. Nizomuddin Zohidi talked about how the “International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” launched by President Emomali Rahmon aims to create a board for capacity development and which will also contribute to a smooth transition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also stressed on factors which need to be taken into account regarding water scarcity.

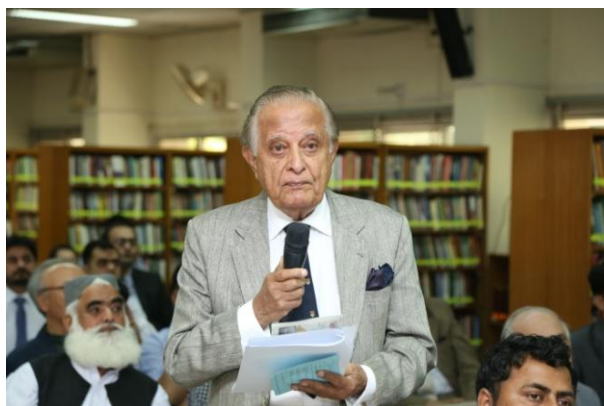
Ambassador Sherali Jononov highlighted that Tajikistan is one of the leaders in advancing water resources at an international level and aims at using its water resources to not only meet national needs but also to create regional balance. He went on to give various examples of how his government aims to do achieve this objective.

Mr. Ghafurzoda Taghaimurod spoke on how water is a strategic resource of Tajikistan and is the basis of social and economic development and even national security, which is why the country is trying to find a good position on the international scene in addressing one of the key issues of global warming. He went on to highlight targets for the new international decade, which include implementation and promotion of relevant programmes, projects and expanding cooperation and partnership at all stages, as well as strengthening of communication activities at various levels.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, in his presentation, said that water, food and energy are three important components for development. The way forward includes increasing storage through construction of dams, introducing a ground water regulatory framework and controlling population. He stressed that Pakistan needs to change its priorities and coupled with political will, water crisis can be avoided altogether.

Mr. Babur Suhail said that if water is the present then its conservation is the future. With reference to the political and legal components, he said that existing legislation needs to be implemented and all stake holders needs to be engaged for a more transparent decision making process. Furthermore, being a lower riparian nation, Pakistan needs to focus on out-of-box water storage policies to be implemented at all levels.





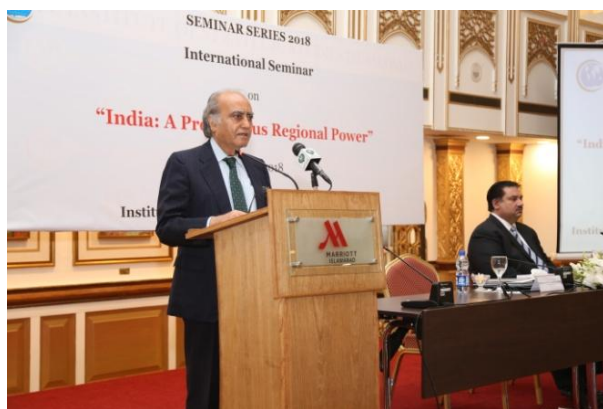
Concluding the seminar, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that existing water threat is a dire threat to all human activity, which is why it is imperative that this issue be addressed as soon as possible. The best way is to raise awareness and find ways and means to find better ways to conserve water as soon as possible. Hence, we should all make every effort to mitigate the impact of water scarcity and, in fact, to reverse this trend with participation at all levels.

International Seminar on “India: A Pretentious Regional Power”

May 7, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an international seminar titled, “India: A Pretentious Regional Power,” on May 07, 2018. The chief guest at the event was Honourable Engineer Khurram Dastgir, Minister of Defence. Other guest speakers at the seminar included: Dr. Muhammad Waqas Sajjad, Senior Research Fellow ISSI; Dr. Ejaz Akram, Advisor to President, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad; Dr. habil Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International Security Affairs; Ms. Laura Schuurmans, Security Analyst, Jakarta and Dr. Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, Assistant Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his opening remarks, spoke about India's intentions of becoming a global power from the onset. He stated that there is nothing

wrong with such ambitions but the policies and strategies being employed by India are detrimental to the peace and security of the entire region. Rather than expressing its power through violent means and assuming or claiming a regional leadership that is both unsustainable and unrealistic, India should strive to cooperate with other countries in the region to achieve common goals of stability, peace and development.

Honourable Engineer Khurram Dastgir, while inaugurating the international seminar, in his remarks stated that the topic of the seminar is indeed apt and thought provoking. India has presented to the world a particular face: a rising India; a shining India; secular and democratic India; a country where spirituality thrives and where yoga comes from and a land with music and colours. The minister noted that Pakistan is diversifying its foreign policy and has embarked on a path of engagement with other powers in the region. He expressed satisfaction with strong relations with China and improving bilateral relations with Russia. He stated that it is important to take note of regional developments, which can be used to understand India and improve relations with the eastern neighbours for the greater good of the entire region.



The working session of the seminar was chaired by Ambassador Inam-ul-Haque, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan. After all the presentations by the speakers of the working session, Ambassador Haque in his concluding remarks stated that discussions on declining human security and civil liberties in India, Hindu religious radicalism and extremism taking hold in the Indian society. He stated that this exercise was not to score propaganda points

or to take pot shots at the mistakes or the miseries of a neighbouring country and its people. This was a seminar limited to discussing developments in our one neighbouring country. However, we must also recognise that there are certain trends like xenophobia for example or fascistic tendencies which are emerging.



In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that during the session, the gist of all the discussion is that while India does have the requisites of becoming a major power but it does not have the pre-requisites to be one at the moment. It has a large population, large economy and growing military power. The policies that India has been following domestically and internationally do not portend that India will be a regional or global power anytime soon.

UN Report: International Community Awakens to Human Rights Violations in IOK

July 31, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled, “UN Report: The International Community Awakens to Human Rights Violations in IoK,” on July 31, 2018. Honourable Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir was the Keynote Speaker at the event. Other speakers included: Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Ahmed Qureshi, Executive Director, YFK-International Kashmir Lobby Group.



Welcoming the speakers and guests to the seminar, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, introduced the recent UN report on the situation of human rights

violations in Kashmir. He highlighted that the Kashmir cause is central to Pakistan's foreign policy and that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir remain connected to each other "through lasting bonds of history, culture and faith," asserting that "what ails Kashmiris hurts Pakistanis and vice versa."

In his keynote address, Honourable Sardar Masood Khan, who was also a former Ambassador to UN and former Director General ISSI, thanked the organisers for the initiative on behalf of the people of the AJK and Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK). However, he cautioned, even as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had called the UN report a breakthrough, it had not been given as much attention as it should have. Lauding the very "weighty and solid recommendations" in the UN report, President Khan noted that the HRC should certainly establish a 'Commission of Inquiry' to examine the crimes listed in the report. Expressing his appreciation of the clarity of the UN report, President Khan noted that the facts it detailed were only the tip of the iceberg, since what the 700,000 occupation forces are doing in India is ethnic cleansing, genocide and war crimes.



Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed gave a brief description of the UN report and its importance for Pakistan. Calling it a "major diplomatic breakthrough for Pakistan," he said that report was a defining and watershed moment as it recognised the systematic and state-sponsored human rights violations in Kashmir. By doing so, it validates Pakistan's repeated claims of the atrocities carried out by the Indian forces. Ambassador Ahmed noted that in the aftermath of the report, Pakistan had welcomed its recommendation of establishing a 'Commission of Inquiry,' which is in line with Pakistan's call for an independent 'Fact Finding Mission.' India, he continued, had not only rejected the report but was also indulging in a malicious campaign against it by distorting facts and figures.

The second speaker at the seminar, Mr. Ahmed Qureshi, termed it a "really momentous report" as it justified the work of human rights activists working for Kashmir's freedom from oppression since the last UN resolution in 1957. He also highlighted the excitement following the report since it covers issues that the world had forgotten about.



Ambassador Riaz Khokhar began the discussion by welcoming the UN report and complimenting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, human rights activists and other institutions and individuals who had made it possible for the HRC to write and publish the report. Commenting that India had much to hide since it had continued seven decades of illegal military occupation and “absolutely unrestrained repression” in Kashmir, he also noted that this had started even before partition by Maharaja Hari Singh who had started a massive genocide of the Muslims. Ambassador Khokhar remarked that the UN report had been widely welcomed in Kashmir, as their voices had finally been raised. Ambassador Khokhar ended his talk with a brief discussion of the reaction of the world to the UN report, mentioning that while there has been some support from the OIC countries, many western capitals had not commented on it.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, concluded the seminar by thanking all the participants and by highlighting the plight of the Kashmiri people as well, who have for over seventy years been struggling to exercise their right to self-determination, an inherent right well-established in international law and reaffirmed in the UN Charter and several human rights conventions, as well as the UNSC resolutions. He concluded his comments and the proceedings of the day by aptly recalling what Martin Luther King Jr. had said: “The ultimate tragedy is not the repression and the cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.”

Pakistan, Central Asia and CPEC: A Vision for Improved Connectivity

November 13, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar titled, “Pakistan, Central Asia and CPEC: A Vision for Improved Connectivity,” on November 13, 2018. Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, was the chief guest at the occasion, while other keynote speakers included: H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China; H.E. Barlybay Sadykov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan; H.E. Beishembiev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan; H.E. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan; H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Turkmenistan and H.E. Furqat Sidiqov, Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the presence of the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan is testament to the importance that Pakistan attaches to its relations with China and Central Asia. He spoke about the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China in November 2018, and said that the comprehensive joint statement issued after the meetings between the leaders showed their resolve and commitment to the CPEC and strengthening economic cooperation.

Ms. Tehmina Janjua thanked the ISSI for the honour and said that Pakistan and China are strategic partners. The CPEC, Ms. Janjua said, is of vital importance and the leadership of both countries considers this project as an engine of growth and strategic importance. She said that we are proud to be a part of the CPEC.

Ambassador Yao Jing praised PM Imran Khan's recent visit to China and said that according to the Chinese leadership this visit was very significant.

Ambassador Barlybay Sadykov expressed his gratitude to the ISSI and its Director General and Chairman for organising this important event in order to explore the potential for greater connectivity with the Central Asian Republics and beyond.

Discussing bilateral relations between the two countries, Ambassador Beishembiev noted that the Kyrgyzstan-Pakistan Commission founded in 1994 had held its third meeting in January 2017, in Islamabad but lamented that the cooperation level in trade is still low and the potential is yet to be realised.

Ambassador Sherali Jononov, began his talk by lauding the timing of the seminar since the ongoing processes in the Central Asian Republics had opened up new opportunities for Pakistan. Highlighting the recent and ongoing positive developments for Pakistan due to the focus on trade, energy, railways, transport, transit and connectivity.

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov, thanked the ISSI for organising the seminar. He spoke about the transport and connectivity projects in Turkmenistan and said that in the first years of independence, the leadership of Turkmenistan gave special attention to building infrastructure and connectivity in the region.

Ambassador Furqat Sidiqov remarked that Uzbekistan understands the importance of Pakistan in maintaining stability and prosperity in the region. He said that we are interested in continuing our partnership in all areas like regional security, conflict resolution in Afghanistan and expansion of infrastructure and trade between Central Asia and Pakistan.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that speakers in the seminar had given valuable perspectives on the importance of the CPEC in forging global cooperation and integration in trade, economy, energy and infrastructure. He was of the view that after the end of World War II during the Cold War period, interstate relations were dominated by the security paradigm and this was the age of military alliances and securitisation of even domestic policies. After the end of the Cold War, the focus shifted to social security and globalisation.



Public Talks

Contours of Security Environment of Pakistan

January 9, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Contours of Pakistan’s Security Landscape,” on January 09, 2018. The guest speaker at the occasion was Honourable Engineer Khurram Dastgir, Minister of Defence.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, was of the view that security for an individual or a state is not a product but a process. It is indeed a continuous process; complex challenges keep emerging. Ambassador Mahmood said that in modern times, national security extends beyond relying simply on hard power means.

Explaining the complexity of challenges, Ambassador Mahmood said that Pakistan faces internal and external challenges of a diverse nature that fall under both traditional and non-traditional components of security. Describing the Indian challenge, Ambassador Mahmood said that unremitting violations by India at the LoC and across the Working Boundary are the example of a conventional security threat from a traditionally hostile rival.

Honourable Engineer Khurram Dastgir succinctly briefed the audience on the security landscape of Pakistan. He started with how the Pakistan government has not only revitalised long-standing relations with both Saudi Arabia and Turkey but has also made progress with countries like Iran and Russia. About China, he remarked that as the CPEC materialises, relations between the iron brothers are further firming up. With regard to

India, he said that Delhi has an unremitting hostile stance and is a belligerent and highly militarised neighbour.

The minister went on to say that what we need to remember and fully internalise is that today's Pakistan is a post operation Zarb-e-Azb Pakistan – which is one of the largest anti-terror operations in the world. The way forward is not through threats, notices or suspensions of supports. He ended his speech by stating that we need to choose cooperation over castigation and the resilient democracy of Pakistan will continue to rise.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that Pakistan and the US have always had a transactional relationship. Even though the relationship is at its lowest, we should continue to keep the lines of communication open and find whatever common ground that exists. Concluding on an optimistic note, Ambassador Mahmood said that as in the past, Pakistan would weather this storm as well.

The Pakistan-US Relationship in Jeopardy: Way Forward

January 29, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Pakistan and US Relations in Jeopardy: Way Forward” on January 29, 2018. The guest speaker at the talk was Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Assistant Vice President, Asia Centre, United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, D.C.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, talked about the Trump administration’s South Asia policy, which was followed by the Security Strategy in December 2017, the infamous tweet and most recently the National Defence Strategy. He said that whereas Pakistan and the US were the most allied of nations, their relationship has now hit an all-time low. Currently, terrorism has taken a secondary position and inter-state strategic competition has taken precedence – primarily the competition with China and Russia – in the Trump administration’s policy towards South Asia.

Dr. Moeed Yusuf stated that the strategic divergence between the US and Pakistan is very real. Not only are both sides accusing each other of undermining their respective security interests, each side is also desperately trying to convince the other to agree with their point of view. He went on to say that the global alliance structure has become fairly complex. He pointed out that the increasing strand of conversation in Islamabad that the US has no significance because of Pakistan’s relationship with China, is particularly worrisome.

Speaking about peace in Afghanistan, Dr. Yusuf stated that though both Pakistan and the US want peace in Afghanistan, the peace that suits the US in Afghanistan may not neatly

overlap with the kind of peace that suits Pakistan. The US has a new strategy and the view from Washington is that the Pakistan part of the puzzle must be fixed in order for Afghanistan strategy to go through. Simultaneously, it is improbable that Pakistan will agree to do anything that brings the war in Afghanistan onto the Pakistani soil. Added to this is the increasing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan – a non-state actor, which benefits from problems in Pakistan-US relationship.

Dr. Yusuf said that even though neither side wants a rupture, however, there are chances of things becoming worse. He said that the Trump phenomenon – whether good or bad – is real. Every decision that is taken in terms of tactical cooperation should be verified, both sides should agree not to keep changing goal posts and benchmarks should be disconnected from the security situation in Afghanistan. It is highly crucial for both sides to keep their expectations realistic and limited.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that it is the overall geostrategic alignments which are more important. Pakistan should try to avoid rupture and try to find common ground and overcome the deep mistrust that exists between the two countries. He also said that there is a lack of interlocutors between the two countries, and the relationship cannot move forward unless there are people who are willing to talk on either side. This, he concluded, needs to be rectified.

Rising Extremism in India

March 9, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Rising Extremism in India,” on March 9, 2018. The guest speaker was Mr. Murtaza Shibli, a British-Kashmiri journalist, author and communications expert.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, framed the rising extremism in India as part of the disturbing trend of rising extremism worldwide, including in the US and Europe, noting that exclusionist attitude had gripped several countries in recent years. Despite India’s much heralded diversity and democratic values, he reminded the audience that this phenomenon of extremism and exclusion had in fact existed in India in various forms already and is also inherent in the caste-ridden society.

Ambassador Mahmood presented the quantitative facts in India that perhaps demonstrated the possibility of extremism, as in a population of 1.3 billion, 75 per cent are Hindu and 14 per cent Muslim, while other religious communities together make up the rest of the population. Pointing to the dangerous philosophies followed by these extremism groups, Ambassador Mahmood highlighted the case of the RSS supreme leader’s advocacy for the approach of Nazi Germany. Perhaps the more alarming aspect of the current situation, Ambassador Mahmood opined that discrimination against Muslims and other minorities is being institutionalised in the attitude and actions of judiciary, security forces and the parliament. He said the communal forces in India enjoy impunity and face little accountability.

Mr. Murtaza Shibli divided his presentation into three broad segments: the current situation in India, the history of the Hindutva project and the future possibilities of what can happen in 2019, when elections are due. These elections, he pointed out at the onset, are important as Modi is trying to hold the elections of all states and constituencies in one go, which was not done before as previous elections varied from region to region in order to control law and order situation.

Mr. Shibli gave a brief overview of political situation of the region. He went on to say that in recent years the BJP has been increasing the use of muscle using tools such as violence and threats. Its agenda also includes an escalation of war with Pakistan or instigating a small war with Pakistan – a version of which is currently being played out along the LoC in order to illicit a much bigger reaction. This would jointly benefit India and the US and simultaneously, disadvantage both China and Pakistan and damage the CPEC project. He said that the US will find its biggest partners in the region in India and Iran and will be able to control the warm waters, as well as all the oil and trade routes running through the warm waters of the Indian Ocean.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, reiterated the dangers to the region of extremism in India and pointed out that international actors need to play their role in exposing the veneer of secularism in India.

70 Years of Pakistan-Iran Relations and Future Prospects

March 12, 2018



On the occasion of the 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Iran, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a public talk on March 12, 2018, by the Foreign Minister Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif. Other dignitaries at the talk included: H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; H.E. Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Director General (Afghanistan, Iran & Turkey), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Iran is an enduring reality. Pakistan shares with Iran geographical border and ties of common faith, culture and history. The centuries old fraternal bonds between the peoples of Pakistan and Iran predate the creation of Pakistan. He emphasise that the people who have tried to create problems in this relationship are a very small minority. An overwhelming majority of people on both sides of the border have very warm feelings for each other and really believe in the destiny of this relationship.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif stated that Iran and Pakistan have the longest diplomatic relations which are deep-rooted in common history, culture and values. He said a move by Pakistan and Iran to establish even stronger ties including increased economic, political, cultural and ties between the people from both sides, is in the interest of the entire region. He said that we need to build a new paradigm in this neighbourhood based on “a new neighbourhood networking policy.” In order to have a better region, the countries need to move to a paradigm based on the understanding of the most important concept that security cannot be gained by deterring others. He emphasised that we do not need to have competition at the expense of each other. Instead of forming blocks, we need to form networks, because while the former are created to exclude somebody, the latter are built to include all.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz spoke about how Iran was the first country to recognise Pakistan and 70 years later, the common objective of both Iran and Pakistan is the unity and prosperity of

the Muslim Ummah. He said that the heart of diplomacy is in geo-economics, hence, trade and investment should be increased. Strengthening economics and people to people links will result in a fruitful relationship beneficial to people of both sides.

Concluding the talk, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, emphasised that the relationship between Iran and Pakistan must be valued and cherished.



China's Foreign Policy After the 19th National Congress of CPC and its International Relations in the 21st Century

June 26, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a public talk titled, “China’s Foreign Policy After the 19th National Congress of CPC and its International Relations in the 21st Century,” on June 26, 2018. The guest speaker at the event was Mr. Jin Canrong, Professor and Associate Dean at School of International Studies, Renmin University, Beijing. Other distinguished guests at the talk included: Mr. You Yi, the Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China and Mr. Lijian Zhao, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, spoke about how China’s continuous rise and simultaneous national rejuvenation focuses on the need to maintain an open global economy that allows China to maintain its economic development. The new theme advocated by the party congress calls for a stronger commitment to safeguarding China’s sovereignty. Ambassador Mahmood further noted that in an era of Trump-led disruptions, China’s policies are in sharp contrast to the US’s protectionist and interventionist strategies. China is behaving as a responsible actor, favours communication over confrontation and focuses on the establishment of a community of shared destiny for all of humanity.

Speaking about China’s foreign policy and strategy, Professor Jin Canrong said that the secret behind the rise of the West is that western countries command the manufacturing industry. Presently, China has the largest manufacturing industry in the world - it

surpassed the US in 2010. The role of China's great revolution is significant as the social structure in the country has changed – the society is more egalitarian, he noted, which is also a requirement of a machine-based society. He went on to explain how any new country experiences three stages: survival, development and dignity. For China the Mao Zedong era was vying for the survival of New China (People's Republic of China) and the Deng Xiaoping era was focused on pursuing economic development. Currently, the Xi Jinping era is seeking dignity by shaping a major power strategy with the Chinese characteristics and embracing a new identity from a regional power to a world power. He said that since President Xi Jinping came into power, China has become more active globally and is trying to establish a mechanism for cooperation by increasing spending on aid development, poverty relief and Climate Change.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, in his concluding remarks, appreciated China's policy of major power diplomacy. He was of the view that the Chinese have reaffirmed belief in the UN Charter. In sharp contrast to the US policy makers, China wants to advocate greater power diplomacy, an open economy and globalisation as opposed to protectionist policies. He also said that unless one has the requisite power, any confrontational threats ring hollow and thus, before embarking on tough talks one should put their house in order – which is what China has done.

Human Rights Violations in IOK

September 3, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Human Rights Violations in IOK,” on September 03, 2018. The former Australian Senator, Lee Rhiannon, was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, spoke about how for any democratic society, human rights are very crucial and with every passing year their importance is growing. The European experience of war and conflict showcases that human dignity is at the centre of all human endeavour - the UN was the culmination of that struggle. Ambassador Chaudhry went on to highlight Pakistan’s active participation in the human rights arena and said that a large number of agreements have been signed in this regard.

Ms. Lee Rhiannon stated that it is imperative to build a united global voice for justice for the people of Kashmir. She said that back at home in Australia, most people are not even cognisant of the Kashmir issue. Even though the Australian Government and lobbyists are active on a number of issues, on the topic of Kashmir, their participation is zero. Where there is awareness, the Indian narrative is dominant. She accentuated the indispensability of the latest UN Human Rights report on Kashmir calling it invaluable and said that the report gives a clear direction as to what the future steps should be. The Senator said that there is a dire need to voice Kashmiri concerns and simultaneously collaborate with different countries on the issue of providing self-determination to the Kashmiris. In essence, the primary objective should be to ensure that the Kashmir issue is seen as a

global issue so that it becomes everyone's responsibility and not put on the backburner as a bilateral issue.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that the right of self-determination is one of the fundamental human rights. While the Kashmir issue does have political dimensions, it is primarily a question of human rights. The cause of the Kashmiris is not getting the traction it deserves despite the Kashmiris struggles. The people of Kashmir need the support of the international community. Lack of adequate interest and short sighted economic and geopolitical interest are some of the factors which are holding back big powers from intervening. However, with the advent of the UN Human Rights report on Kashmir, things seem to be changing for the better, he concluded.

Afghan Refugee Situation: Contextualising the Role of Pakistan and UNHCR

September 7, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Afghan Refugee Situation: Contextualising the role of Pakistan and UNHCR,” on September 07, 2018 under its Distinguished Lecture Series. The distinguished speaker on the occasion was Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Pakistan has been home to the largest protracted refugee population in the world. Around 95 per cent of Afghan refugees are residing in Iran and Pakistan. While on one hand, the Pakistanis are proud that they opened their homes to the Afghan refugees in their hour of need – at huge cost to their economy. While on the other hand, Pakistan continues to receive hostile rhetoric from across the border. Ambassador Aizaz went on to highlight two essential elements: border management to ensure terrorist elements do not return to Pakistan and measures to ensure that concrete repatriation efforts take place. Giving the Afghan refugees ownership to their lands with simultaneous investments by the international community can be important steps in this regard, he said.

Mr. Filippo Grandi stated that the contemporary world is one of multiple challenges and the situation is becoming increasingly complicated in terms of human consequences. Around 68.5 million refugees are displaced around the world – out of them 25 million of them are registered Afghan refugees. The Afghan refugee problem is a big part of the world displacement problem today, making it one of the most protracted issues. He raised

concerns about Afghanistan's security situation and the lack of ability by the Afghan government to implement policies. Mr. Grandi stated that refugees are an international responsibility which should be shared. He said that the UNHCR has a solution strategy for Afghan refugees in place meant to reinforce sustainable conditions for voluntary return. All stakeholders must strategically move towards a vision of a region where the Afghans can move in a controlled manner as any other population and become an asset for neighbouring countries and for Afghanistan itself.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that refugee presence has created certain problems for Pakistan in terms of the scourge of terrorism, drug trafficking and arms smuggling. What is needed is to find ways and means to repatriate them. This is the best solution. For this, conducive conditions are needed in Afghanistan. Creative, out-of-the-box solutions in terms of policy are needed in this regard, he said. The Pakistani government is fully conscious of the difficulties and it believes in policies of voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity.

Infrastructure Development of CPEC

November 22, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Public Talk titled, “Infrastructure Development of CPEC” by Lt. Gen. Muhammad Afzal, Engineer-in-Chief, GHQ on November 22, 2018.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the guests for participating in the event. While giving an overview of the bilateral relations between the two countries, Ambassador Chaudhry said that China is a time-tested friend, which has now translated into a more tangible economic cooperation. He further said that people believe that this cooperation will augur an era of prosperity not only for the people of Pakistan but also for the people of western China. Moreover, it will also bring prosperity for the entire region as it is a project for the betterment and welfare of people.

Ambassador Aizaz further added that the role of infrastructure in economic development is of immense importance. It enhances economic and social development of a society. He lauded the role of Pakistan Army in providing security to the overall project. He said that Pakistan has successfully completed the first phase of the CPEC by building the necessary energy infrastructure.

Lt. Gen. Muhammad Afzal thanked the Institute for providing the opportunity to discuss the infrastructure development of the CPEC in detail. While giving detail on the present status of road and power sectors projects under the CPEC, Gen. Afzal said that at present Pakistan has added 4,000 MW of electricity to the national grid. On the progress on road

infrastructure, Gen. Afzal said that overall progress on the eastern side is very good while the renovation of KKH is also going on very smoothly.

Gen. Afzal said that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has initially focused on developing the required infrastructure by building road network as he opines that an efficient transport system reduces cost of transport, facilitates industrialisation and supports better regional and economic integration. It further fosters development and aggregates regional and national welfare. He further said that the CPEC, as envisaged under China's BRI, has gains for both-China and Pakistan. It helps China industrialise and develop western part of China along with providing it the opportunity to invest its excess industrial production in other countries. For Pakistan, it helps in building the required power and road infrastructure, it will make Pakistan a transit trade hub and will enable it to transfer the required technology enhancing Pakistan's agriculture and industrial sector production.

On Gwadar port, he said that in order to have transit trade connectivity, we need to have railway line for which two feasibility studies have already been conducted. He emphasised that railways have the potential to generate revenue. He asserted that Pakistan must learn from China, which turned all its state owned enterprises into corporatized bodies.

Gen. Afzal concluded by emphasising that Pakistan needs to look at financial viability of projects beforehand and must change its discourse in financial management of such projects by calculating their contribution in the GDP growth of the economy. He insisted on institutional capacity building and reforms in state owned enterprises in order to make them functional. Moreover, in order to finance mega projects, Pakistan can use its already built infrastructures as collateral and, thus, asserted that in this way Pakistan can securitise its assets instead of availing soft loans to build dams and other road infrastructure.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, concluded the session while congratulating Lt. Gen. Afzal for presenting a comprehensive presentation on the important topic. He said that the time-tested relationship between China and Pakistan has become stronger with the launch of CPEC and it has smoothly moved ahead with the new political set up in Pakistan. The larger political consensus on CPEC in Pakistan points towards realisation of the fact that economic development takes lead when it comes to choose between politics and economics. In this consensus lies a hope for Pakistan's bright future. Ambassador Mahmood further said that the current time asks for the learned and wise voices in the country to focus their energies on spreading the positivity by making their audience realise the potential the Pakistani nation has to best utilise the opportunity at hand in the shape of CPEC for changing its fate.

Implementation of TAPI Pipeline

December 6, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Implementation of TAPI Pipeline” under its Distinguished Lecture Series on December 6, 2018. The guest speaker at the occasion was Mr. Muhammetmyrat Amanov, CEO and Chairman, Board of TAPI Pipeline Company Ltd. (TPCL), Turkmenistan.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks said that the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project was very important and that there was a critical mass of interest regarding the TAPI project in general. He said that TAPI’s importance was known in the region as all member states were on board and the project has been inaugurated, as earlier this year, the pipeline was laid down between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. Despite the emphasis laid on renewable energy resources, particularly solar energy, the efficacy of fossil fuel cannot be beaten and therefore, the project will remain pivotal. Apart from serving the regional energy needs, the project will also integrate the region because TAPI will pass through Afghanistan and through Pakistan, connecting into the Indian gas pipeline system.

Mr. Amanov began his talk by giving an overview of the TAPI pipeline which was originally conceived in the 1990’s. He talked about the various aspects of the project and said that the 1,814km pipeline would transport natural gas from Turkmenistan’s Galkynysh gas field, which is one of the world’s largest, to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Mr. Amanov said that TAPI pipeline was not only a much needed energy project but essential for economic development and regional connectivity. In this regard, he appreciated the strong support

the project has continuously received from all three host governments and stated that TAPI would play an integral role in not only meeting the energy requirements of the region but would help integrate the region.

He elaborated that the project would be implemented in two phases. During the first phase, the pipeline would be constructed and the second phase would include construction of 6 compressors. He went on to explain the precise route that the pipeline would take and gave an overview of the timeline for the project. He highlighted that all the necessary intergovernmental agreements had been signed along with the completion of survey works in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. In Pakistan, he said, they were in the final stage of completion. The phase-one financial close will be completed in the first quarter of 2019, he said.

Speaking about long-term aspects of the project in terms of funding, Mr. Amanov said that the government of Turkmenistan would provide a sovereign guarantee for one hundred percent of the debt and that the Asian Development Bank and Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and the Export Credit (ICIEC) had also confirmed their interest in lending up to US\$500m and US\$300m (respectively) for the project, which would play an instrumental role in the industrialisation of the region. He said that the project was gaining interest from all quarters and in this regard, Euler Hermès, SACE, and TurkEXIM have submitted letters of support for German, Italian and Turkish bidders for the project, thus, widening its scope. He said that phase one of the project would be achieved by using long-term debt sourced from a mixture of multilateral development agencies, export credit agencies and commercial banks.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks stated that although all the preliminary work has been completed and the project is moving ahead steadily, it faced a number of challenge, amongst which the security situation in Afghanistan was at the forefront and which cannot be ignored. He said that political stability in Afghanistan was paramount as was the management of Pakistan-Afghan and Pakistan-India ties for the successful implementation and functioning of TAPI project. He said all member countries of the project were equally responsible for the success of the project and in this regard, local manpower, managerial and institutional capabilities also needed to be built and strengthened. He concluded with the hope that these factors will not stand in the way of the project.

Human Rights Violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir

December 10, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Human Rights Violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir,” on December 10, 2018. Dr. Shireen M. Mazari, Federal Minister for Human Rights, was the chief guest on the occasion. Other speakers at the occasion included: Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Ms. Tahira Abdullah, Human Rights Activist and Mr. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR).

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, spoke about the importance of the day. He stated that December 10 is marked as the ‘Human Rights Day’ every year. This year, it is particularly a special day because it marks the 70th anniversary of adoption of UDHR in 1948. It also culminates a year-long campaign by the UN to highlight the theme of equality, justice and human dignity.

Dr. Shireen M. Mazari, in her address expressed her deep gratitude to the ISSI and to other speakers at the occasion. Dr. Mazari spoke about how we can move forward on the issue of Kashmir beyond the platitudes that the Government of Pakistan have been offering at international forums. She highlighted that today, Kashmir conflict is at centre-stage not because we have done anything miraculous but for two reasons. First, human rights violations by the Indian security forces in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) have broken all bounds and never before children and women were specifically targeted through the pellet guns, nor were civilians dragged in the streets tied to military vehicles. Second most important reason is that the UN finally did what it should have done many years ago. It

finally declared massive human rights violations by publishing a report on Kashmir by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in UN. That report drew the attention of world community on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. According to Dr. Mazari, this report is a very creditable account of human rights situation in the IOK.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi in his address stated that we are observing the international human rights day today with a pledge that we shall stand up for our rights and with those of others. In many countries, we witnessed human rights violations on individual level but there are countries that are violating these rights as a state policy.

Ms. Tahira Abdullah was of the view that Pakistan, to retain its moral high ground, should not brush aside what the UN report has said about Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The report has clearly pointed out that there are curbs on right to expression, assembly, dissent and information.

Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan said that United Nations Office for High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) asked permission for a fact finding mission in both Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the IOK in 2016. Pakistan made this permission conditional to similar permission granted by India. Ultimately, in 2018, the OHCHR released its report based on remote monitoring mechanism. This was a very comprehensive report that mentions each and every violation of human right and methods used to commit those violations.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that in the IOK, human rights of men, women and even children are at stake. The United Nations Human Rights Commission came out with a report and the UN Secretary General endorsed that report. There is growing awareness about the situation in the IOK.



In-house Meetings

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

January 8, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 5-member French media delegation on January 8, 2018. The members of the French media delegation included: Mr. Jacques Follorou, Chief Editor/Writer, *Le Monde*; Mr. Emmanuel Derville, Correspondent (New Delhi based), *Le Figaro*; Ms. Karen Lajon, Grand Reporter, International Desk, *Le Journal du Dimanche*; Mr. Joris Fioriti, Correspondent, *AFP* and Mr. Michel Scott, Senior International Correspondent, TF1 (TV Channel).

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed the delegation and emphasised on Pakistan bilateral ties with France.

Ms. Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, briefed the delegation on Pak-US relations.

Mr. Asadullah Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, briefed the delegation on counter terrorism and security situation in Pakistan.

Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow ISSI, briefed the delegation regarding situation in Afghanistan and Pak-Afghan relations.

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

February 6, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a four-member media delegation from the UK on February 6, 2018. The delegation included: Mr. Patrick Wintour, foreign Editor, *Guardian*; Mr. Mathew Symond, Defense & Diplomatic Editor, *Economist*; Mr. Freddy Gray, Deputy Editor, *Spectator* and Mr. Roland Oliphant, Moscow Correspondent, *Daily Telegraph*.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI. The interactive discussion mainly focused on the CPEC, growing US-India strategic relationship to balance China's influence and its implications for Pakistan and Pakistan's nuclear programme. Peace in Afghanistan and the mounting presence and threat of Daesh in Afghanistan were also extensively covered.

Ambassador Mahmood briefed the visiting delegates on the emerging geopolitical and geostrategic situation in the region following the changing dynamics due to paradigm shift and new alignments.

In-house Meeting with Dr. Marvin Weinbaum

February 23, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on February 23, 2018, with Dr. Marvin Weinbaum, Director of Pakistan and Afghanistan Studies at the Middle East Institute, Washington D.C., on “Current US Strategic Thinking about Afghanistan.” Other participants at the discussion included: Shuja Alam, Additional Secretary MOFA; Ambassador Inam-ul-Haque; Ambassador Riaz Mohamad Khan; Ambassador Riaz Khokar; Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Executive Director, CISS; Dr Rifaat Hussain, NUST; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asad Durrani.

In-house Meeting with Ms. Victoria Schofield

March 1, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on March 01, 2018, with Ms. Victoria Schofield, a British author, biographer and military historian. Besides the ISSI researchers, the event was also attended by a number of former diplomats, heads of think tanks and defence analysts including: Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS); Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Riaz Muhammad Khan, former Foreign Secretary; Ambassador Asif Ezdi; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asad Durrani; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood; Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Khalid Jaffery and Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan.

Welcoming and introducing Ms. Schofield, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, requested her to appraise the gathering on her extensive study of the Kashmir issue and the prospects for a way forward.

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

March 5, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 4-member media delegation from the US on March 5, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Carlo Munoz, Military Correspondent, *Washington Times*; Mr. Bennett Seftel, Analyst, *Cipher Brief*; Ms. Kristina Wong, Pentagon Correspondent, *Breitbart News* and Ms. Kay Johnson, Islamabad-based Bureau Chief, *Reuters*.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that the global trends are changing and the most significant of these trends is the peaceful rise of China and the second is the advent of President Trump, which has affected various aspects of international relations. He said that while the outlook of the policies which President Trump has adopted is in contrast to the previous administrations policies, however, the general thrust remain more or less the same.

Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow ISSI, presented an overview of the current security situation in Afghanistan highlighting the adverse security situation in Afghanistan. Mr. Waqas Sajjad, Senior Research Fellow ISSI, in his presentation, highlighted the Pakistan-India relations and also spoke on the prospects of a bilateral dialogue between both the countries. Ms. Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, spoke on the current status of Pak-US relations. Mr. Asadullah Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, gave a presentation on the issue of counter-terrorism. Dr. Ahmed Rashid Malik, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre ISSI, spoke on the CPEC.

In-house Meeting with Ms. Hollie McKay, Journalist, FOX News

March 19, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with Ms. Hollie McKay, Journalist, *FOX News* on March 19, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI. Pakistan-US ties, the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's counter-terrorism policy were discussed in detail during the meeting.

Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow ISSI, gave an overview of Pak-Afghan relations. Mr. Asadullah Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, briefed on Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy.

In conclusion, Ambassador Mahmood said that instead of blaming Pakistan and putting unnecessary pressure (such as putting Pakistan on the FATF list), the international community and in particular the US, should help support Pakistan's efforts.

Ms. Hollie McKay appreciated the Institute for inviting her to Pakistan and lauded Pakistan's relentless efforts in War against Terrorism and the sacrifices it has rendered. She expressed hope with regards to improvement in Pak-US relations in the coming future as it is in the mutual benefit of both Pakistan and the US.

In-house Meeting with a High-powered Delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan

April 6, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on April 6, 2018, with a delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan. The delegation included: Mr. Mirsaidov Abror, Deputy Director, the Institute of Economics and Demography of the Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan; Mr. Hakim Abdullohi Rahnamo, Head of the Department on Analysis and Foreign Policy Perspectives (Vision) of the Centre for Strategic Researches under the President of Tajikistan; Mr. Kurbonov Abdurahmon Sherovich, Head of the Department on Social Sciences Problem Studies of the Centre for Strategic Researches under the President of Tajikistan; Mr. Abdurahmonov Marufjon, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan; Mr. Akbarov Akramhoja, Journalist/political reporter (National Information Agency of Tajikistan "Khovar" under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan) and H.E. Mr. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, shed light on various dimensions of Pakistan-Tajikistan relations: historical, religious, political and cultural.

Mr. Mir Sherbaz Khetran, Research Fellow ISSI, presented an overview of Pakistan-Tajikistan relations. All the participants expressed their confidence in Pakistan-Tajikistan think-tank cooperation and were optimistic that the relations will deepen in future.

In-house Meeting with an 8-member Chinese Delegation

April 16, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on April 16, 2018, with an 8-member Chinese delegation dealing with cultural issues. The delegation included: Prof. Duan Qing, School of Foreign Languages, Peking University; Prof. Li Xiao, School of Chinese Classics, Renmin University of China; Mr. Zhou Zhibong, Deputy Director of Specialised Committee on Bronze Ware, China Cultural Relics Academy; Ms. Meng Sihui, Research Fellow, The Palace Museum, Beijing, China; Ms. Chong-Yuan Chien, Member of Singapore National Arts Council Arts Advisory Panel, Board Director of Arts House Limited, Singapore; Associate Prof. Zhang Jiamel, School of Foreign Languages, Peking University; Associate Prof. Fan Jingjing, School of Foreign Languages, Peking University; Ren Chao, photographer for the Forbidden City Magazine, National Geography, China.

Besides the researchers at ISSI, the event was also attended by Syed Jamal Shah, Director General, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA); Mr. Anwar ul Haq, Deputy Director (Museum) Lok Virsa; Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, Director Chinese Studies NUST, Islamabad; Dr. Azhar Ahmad, Head of Social Sciences and Humanities, Bahria University and Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Centre for International Strategic Studies Islamabad (CISS).

Welcoming the delegation and the guests, Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, touched upon the importance of cultural relations and the need to enhance collaboration between Pakistan and China in this area.

Mr. Ali Haider, Research Associate ISSI, gave a short presentation on Pakistan-China cultural ties and briefed the participants on the historical and modern dimensions of the cultural engagements between the two countries.

Concluding the meeting, Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, stated that culture is the glue and oxygen of civilisations. He commended the ideas proposed by the Chinese delegation for enhancing cultural ties between the two countries and remarked that now is the time that we start taking practical steps in this direction so that the people in Pakistan and China get to know each other from a perspective other than politics and economics.

In-house Meeting with a 6-member Chinese Delegation from CPAPD

May 14, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on May 14, 2018, with a 6-member Chinese delegation from the Chinese Peoples Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD). The delegation was led by Mr. Zhou Li, Vice President CPAPD & Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of CPC. Other members of the delegation included: Ms. Lin Li, Research Fellow CPAPD, Mr. Hou Hongyu, Associate Research Fellow CPAPD, Ms. He He, Programme Officer, Ms. Wang Qing, Programme Officer and Ms. Niu Na, Programme Officer.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed the distinguished guests and said that with great transformation taking place globally, the relationship between the two countries has not been affected. If anything, the bilateral relationship has constantly been on an upward curve, which has been possible because the relationship is based on deep mutual trust and respect. Ambassador Mahmood said that keeping in view the significance of the bilateral relations, the ISSI established a China-Pakistan Study Centre for dedicated and in-depth study of CPEC and the broader Pakistan-China relations.

In-house Meeting with a 6-member Chinese Delegation from CPPCC

May 23, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on May 23, 2018, with a 6-member Chinese delegation from Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The delegation was led by H.E. Kong Quan, Deputy Chairman CPPCC. Other member of the delegation included: H.E. Shi Ke, Member CPPCC; H.E. Mdm Yang Yanyi, Member CPPCC and former Ambassador to the EU; H.E. Wang Zhongyi, Member CPPCC; Mdm. Cheng Jin, DG Secretariat of CPPCC and Mdm Wang Yanjun, Deputy Division Director, Secretariat of CPPCC.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, emphasised that China and Pakistan have enjoyed multi-faceted cooperation with each other. He said that the bilateral relationship is marked by ever increasing friendship and mutual trust as there are no disputes between the two countries. He further underlined that with the launch of the CPEC project, this relationship is deepening in the fields of economic cooperation, development and people-to-people contact through the vision presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, then shared his thoughts on the CPEC venture. He said that the CPEC is going to transform the relationship between the two countries by promoting economic cooperation and expanding people-to-people contacts. Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, presented an overview of the CPEC projects.

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

July 3, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 6-member media delegation from Thailand on July 3, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Dr. Rungthip Chotnapalai, News Anchor, Thai TV, Channel-3; Mr. Tanoopon Noonual, Cameraman, Channel-3; Ms. Watcharin Setakudan, Journalist, Producer, News Presenter and Editor-in-Chief, *Thai News Agency*; Ms. Wonkanok Sangkrajang, Cameraman, *Thai News Agency*; Thiptawan Teeranaipong, International News Reporter, Thai Public Broadcasting Service and Mr. Malit Khamnan, Cameraman, Thai Public Broadcasting Service.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the Thai media delegation and introduced members of the ISSI team to them. Ambassador Aizaz said that bilateral ties between Pakistan and Thailand are cordial and the economic relationship is steadily growing. He said that Gandhara heritage joins the two countries together. Ambassador Chaudhry briefly talked about the regional and international security environment.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that the discussion has been fruitful and he also welcomed the Thai delegation to Pakistan. The Chairman said that the overall bilateral relations between Pakistan and Thailand are cordial and economic interactions are increasing. He said that Pakistan is also looking to expand its interaction with the South East Asian region, particularly ASEAN, as part of its "Vision East Asia" policy and it highly appreciate Thailand's support for this policy.

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

July 18, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a Six-member Nigerian media delegation on July 18, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Jonathan Mela Juma, Acting Director General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS); Okeke John Chinaka, Reporter, *Authority Newspaper Ltd.*, Abuja; Opurum Kingsley Chukwuma, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, *Leadership Newspaper*; Sadiyat Inoh Abah, Broadcast Journalist, Africa Independent Television (AIT), Nigerian Satellite Television Station; Mannir Dan-Ali Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Editor-in-Chief, *Media Trust Limited*; Cecilia Umaru Gayya, Director General, Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) Topo-Badagry. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Najam Rafique, Director Research, Ahmad Saffee, Research Fellow, and Taimur Khan, Research Associate & Media Officer, participated from the ISSI side.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the broad contours of Pakistan's foreign policy, especially the challenges it faced from hostile borders on its east and west including the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-India relations including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Presenting the historical background to Pakistan-Africa relations, Mr. Ahmad Saffee pointed towards the potential in the field of economic cooperation, especially with regard to oil and gas, textile, agriculture and livestock industry.

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

July 30, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 5-member media delegation from China on July 30, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Yu Lintao, *Beijing Review*; Mr. Wang Cong, *Global Times*; Ms. Peijuan Ji, *People's Daily*; Ms. Li Huiru, *China.Org* and Ms. Wang Ping, *World Tourism Pictorial*.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, gave an overview of Pakistan's foreign and security policies, regional security environment and great power competition. He informed the delegation about Pakistan's relations with its neighbours as well as other regional and extra-regional countries such as Russia and the US.

On China, Ambassador Chaudhry stated that Pakistan takes immense pride in its relations with China. Every generation of the Chinese and Pakistani leaderships and public have strengthened this close relationship.

The briefing was followed by an interactive question and answer session.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, made his concluding remarks after the Q&A session and highlighted the uniqueness of Pak-China relationship and expressed great pleasure in the further deepening of the ties due to the CPEC.

In-house Meeting with H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador, Peoples Republic of China in Islamabad

August 9, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting on August 09, 2018, with H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador Peoples Republic of China in Islamabad. The topic of discussion was “Pakistan-China Relations and the Evolving Global and Regional Situation.” Eminent diplomats and academic experts also attended the meeting which included: Ambassador Inam-ul-Haque, former Foreign Minister; Dr. Rifaat Hussain, Professor, National University of Science & Technology (NUST); Mr. Khalid Rehman, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS); Ambassador Shahid Kiani; Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Head, Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), COMSATS; Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Khalid Amer Jafaery, President, Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS); Ambassador Rizwan Ul Haq Mahmood; Ambassador Abrar Hussain; Mr. Imtaiz Ahmad, Additional Secretary (AP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Maryam Rehman, Director (CPEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Shahid Rashid, Executive Director, CPEC, Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (CEPIDE).

The Ambassador and participants of the meeting discussed various aspects of bilateral relations between Pakistan and China including economic, security and political cooperation between both the countries.

In-house Meeting with a 4-member Chinese Delegation from the Institute of International Relations, Tsinghua University

August 31, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 4-member Chinese delegation on August 31, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Yan Xuetong, Professor and Dean of the Institute of International Relations, Tsinghua University; Mr. Sun Xuefeng, Professor & Executive Dean of Institute of International Relations, Tsinghua University; Ms. Li Li, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of International Relations, Tsinghua University and Ms. Liu Zhuang, Attache, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. The delegation was accompanied by Ms. Bao Zhong, Director, Political and Press Section, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, highlighted the ever deepening nature of Pakistan-China friendship. He stated that for Pakistan, it is the most vital relationship. Ambassador Mahmood added that this friendship is widening further because of the CPEC as it has added economic cooperation to our ties and has enhanced people-to-people contacts.

After briefings pertaining to Paki-China relations, particularly the CPEC by research faculty members of ISSI, the meeting concluded after an interactive Q&A session from both the sides.

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

September 4, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 3-member media delegation from the UAE on September 4, 2018. Members of the delegation included: Ms. Jumana Al Tamimi, Associate Editor, *Daily Gulf News*, Mr. Mostafa Ahmed Khalifa Abu Zaid, Editor, *Daily Al Bayan* and Mr. David Light, Senior Reporter, *Khaleej Times*.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, gave a brief overview of the global and regional developments and how Pakistan viewed these dynamics.

Ms. Arhama Siddiq, Research Fellow ISSI, spoke about Pakistan-UAE relations in the political, economic and strategic spheres. In the political arena, she mentioned how the UAE has always helped Pakistan during catastrophic times and discussed different facets of Pakistan-UAE bilateral relations such as politics, economy, economy and culture.

The briefing was followed by an interactive question and answer session.

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

September 24, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 3-member media delegation from Italy. The delegation included: Mr. Alberto Negri, Senior Journalist, *Daily Il Sole 24 Ore* (Business newspaper); Mr. Gianluca Di Feo; Deputy Editor in Chief, *Daily La Repubblica*; and Ms. Emma Jacqueline Charlotte Rossi, a freelance journalist. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI; Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow ISSI, Ms. Shahroo Malik, Research Associate ISSI and Taimur Khan, Research Associate and Media Officer ISSI.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry emphasised upon the changing nature of global politics and the transitioning from the bipolar to a multi-polar world with the emergence of China, resurgence of Russia and the rise of India. He said that the pivot of the US foreign policy is already directed towards the larger Indo-Pacific region, and whatever the US does or does not, affects the entire world. Pakistan also wants recognition of its role and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. The country has been successful in reversing the tide of terrorism in the region, and the terrorists are now on the run.

While concluding the meeting, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, emphasised on the causes of the acrimony that have unfolded since the time of the inception of Pakistan. Pakistan feels that the closeness in its relationship with the US over the recent past has emboldened India to take an aggressive stance towards Pakistan.

In-house Meeting with 4-member Media Delegation from UK

October 19, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 4-member media delegation from UK on October 19, 2018. The delegation included: Mr. Jonathan Steel, Foreign Correspondent, Author, *Guardian*; Mr. Peter Osborne, Chief Political Commentator, Author, *Daily Mail*; Mr. Kim Sengupta, Defence and Security Correspondent, *Independent* and Ms. Amanda Coakley, freelance journalist.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the world order is in flux; the post-World War II order is certainly changing and it is hard to predict what will replace that order but certainly one defining feature of the new world is the major power competition that has set in. The Trump administration has already categorised Russia and China as its major rivals. He said we are concerned about US-China relations and the approach that the Pakistani government has taken in this respect is that it wants to have good relations with both US and China.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, reassured the delegation that Pakistani government is following a policy of neutrality when it comes to its relations with Saudi Arabia and Iran. He stressed that there no fundamental change in China-Pakistan relations and Pakistan's commitment to the CPEC. He was of the opinion that Pakistan wants peace and stability in Afghanistan, and it is in favour of eventual, but responsible withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan. He was also hopeful that the UK will extend similar trade benefits to Pakistan as currently being offered under the GSP Plus status, once the UK leaves EU.

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

October 29, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 6-member media delegation from Turkey on October 29, 2018. The delegation included: Mr. Birol Tekince, Coordinator, *Turkish Defense Review*; Mr. Mustafa Kaya, MD, Ulusal Kanal (TV); Ms. Nur Ozkan Erbay, Ankara Bureau Chief, *Daily Sabah*; Mr. Emre Kizilkaya, Managing Editor, *Hurriyet Daily News*; Mr. Aslan Balci, Member Management Board, Think Tank South Asia Strategic Research Center (GASAM) and Mr. Mustafa Kinkcioglu, Politics Editor, *Daily Sabah*. The meeting was attended by Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, Ms. Fatima Raza, Research Associate ISSI and Mr. Taimur Khan, Research Associate and Media Officer ISSI.

Welcoming the guests, Mr. Najam Rafique explained the shifts taking place in the international political scenario. He also briefed the delegation on the regional political and security situation and Pakistan's role in it.

Briefing the delegation on Pakistan-Turkey relations, Ms. Fatima Raza explained how the two countries have maintained deep cultural, historical and cultural linkages since decades. The two countries enjoy a deep and abiding bond based on mutual understanding on various global issues, particularly those of the Muslim world. It was emphasised by Ms. Raza how Turkey has always supported Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue, both bilaterally and at multilateral forums.

In-house Meeting with a 10-member Media Delegation from Nepal

November 26, 2018



A 10-member media delegation from Nepal visited Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on November 26, 2018, to exchange views on issues of mutual interest. The members of the delegation included: Dr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha, Ex-DG Survey, Border Expert; Mr. Laxman Humagain, GM Janta TV; Mr. Sharach Chandra Bandhari, RSS Foreign Correspondent; Mr. Jhapindra Raj Bista, Chief Editor, *National Mirror*; Mr. Tapta Bahadur Malla, Chief Editor Kuesnews.com; Mr. Rajan Karki, Chief Editor, *Gorkha Express*; Mr. Teknath Neupane, Chairperson/Editor-in-Chief, *Mediamissionsnews.com*; Mr. Sushil Babu Aryal, News Coordinator, Himalaya TV in Kathmandu, Nepal; Mr. Nanda Lal Tiwari, correspondent *Rising Nepal* and Mr. Nimkant Panday, Editor-in-Chief Swaviman Nepal Magazine *Janadharana National Weekly*.

Extending a warm welcome, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, explained the regional and global political and security situation to the delegation. Ambassador Aizaz highlighted Pakistan's relations with its immediate neighbours and its role in the region. Mr. Waqas Sajjad, Senior Research Fellow ISSI appraised the delegation about Pakistan's relations with Nepal and stated that there are a lot of opportunities for further improving the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Dr. Buddhi N. Shrestha while expressing his views said that Nepal has a very positive image of Pakistan. The media community in Nepal very actively takes part in all national events that are arranged by Pakistan embassy in Kathmandu. He acknowledged that Pakistan has always extended a helping hand towards Nepal whenever such need arose.

Interactive Session with Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik

November 26, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an interactive session on September 26, 2018, with Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Norwegian Prime Minister and Founder and Executive Chair of the Oslo Centre.

The participants at the session included: Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen; Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Khan; Lt. General (Retd.) Talat Masood; Dr. Rukhsana Qamber, President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS); Ms. Maryam Nazir, Islamabad Policy and Research Institute (IPRI); Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad Gondal, former Secretary Information; Mr. Ahmed Quraishi, CEO Youth Forum for Kashmir; Mr. Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir People's Freedom League; Ms. Maryum Maqsood, Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies; Mr. Ershad Mehmood, Columnist and Ms. Shaista Safi, Youth Forum for Kashmir.



Welcoming the speaker and guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik has a keen interest in peace and development and is also working for the peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute. He said that the most serious situation right now is with regards to the human rights of the Kashmiris, which are being continuously violated with no regard to the UN resolutions, nor its declarations on universal Human Rights.



Addressing the gathering, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik stated that peace can only be achieved if there is respect for human rights and a strong democracy. Without a strong democracy, sooner or later there will be an uprising. He stressed that we share important common values such as the idea of human dignity, peace and justice across religious differences. He suggested that these common values should be used to mobilise and make efforts for reconciliation in order to establish peace in conflict zones. He also expressed concern over the current international environment and lamented on the worsening security system. Mr. Bondevik informed the participants regarding the UN efforts in ending poverty and ensuring better living standards.

Concluding the discussion, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that Kashmir is not a bilateral issue but a question of human rights. According to the UN Charter, there are many other methods and modalities through which this protracted issue could be resolved. We are open to all of them. We can come to the negotiating table and resolve this conflict according to UN resolutions. Alluding to the responsibility of international community to do more on Kashmir, he quoted Martin Luther King: "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and tyranny of the cruel but silence of the good people."

In-house Meeting – Training Session on Turnitin

December 3, 2018

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised one-day training workshop on how to avoid plagiarism in academic writing and the use of Turnitin software to avoid plagiarism on November 29, 2018. The training session was conducted by Dr. Khurram Shahzad Azam, Head/Additional Director at Quality Enhancement Cell, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi.

Dr. Azam is an HEC certified and approved trainer on quality assurance in academic processes including quality of research writing. The main objective of the training was to educate the ISSI research team about the plagiarism in academic writing and anti-plagiarism policy, use of Turnitin to avoid plagiarism and interpretation of Turnitin Report. It was a one-day activity having a detailed presentation by the trainer followed by the Q&A session.

Dr. Azam's presentation include the following main themes: academic writing; importance of citation and style and format of referencing; importance of the literature review; synthesis of information; self-plagiarism; importance of self-citation; policy of HEC; use and misuse of Turnitin; and interpretation of Turnitin report. The trainer also highlighted the points which should be kept in mind by researchers while writing an academic research paper and how to make their research authentic.

In-house Meeting with a 2-member Media Delegation from Egypt

December 3, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an in-house meeting with a 2-member media delegation from Egypt on December 3, 2018. The delegation included Mr. El Sayed Hany, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Al Gomhuria* and Dr. Hanna Abdul Fattah, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Urdu, Al-Azhar University.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, Mr. Ahmad Saffee, Research Fellow ISSI, Ms. Arhama Siddiqua, Research Fellow ISSI and Mr. Taimur Khan, Research Associate and Media Officer ISSI.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry spoke about the contemporary world order, regional political and security situation in South Asia and Pakistan's role in it.

While briefing the delegation on Egypt-Pakistan relations, Mr. Ahmad Saffee gave a brief historical perspective and then went on to highlight the areas of cooperation between the two countries. He emphasised that there is a need to revitalise the existing MoUs and build upon networks of cooperation between stakeholders from both countries.

The Egyptian delegation raised a number of questions and comments following the briefing. On Kashmir they stated that the groups protesting in Kashmir cannot be labelled as terrorist since they are fighting for their freedom and liberty of the state under the umbrella of the UN resolutions.

In-house Meeting with a 6-member Chinese Delegation from the Counsellors' Office of the State Council

December 6, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a Chinese delegation from the Counsellors' Office of the State Council (COSC) on December 6, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Zhang Yantong, Vice Chairman of the COSC; Mr. Zhang Ying, Chairman of the Counsellors' Office of Yunnan Province; Mr. Li Yang, Division Chief of Department of International Exchanges and Cooperation of the COSC; Mr. He Maochun and Mr. Xiabin.

After welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, gave a briefing to the delegation regarding the regional situation in South Asia and explained Pakistan's relations with its neighbours and its role in the region.

Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor at ISSI's China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) gave a short introduction of the ISSI to the delegation and briefed them on the activities and research work carried out at the Institute.

The introduction was followed by an overview of China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC. He elaborated the political, strategic and economic aspects of this relationship along with the significance of the CPEC for both the countries.

Mr. Zhang Yantong thanked Ambassador Aizaz for hosting them and said that it was truly an honour to be in Islamabad and introduced COSC. He added that the purpose of his visit

was to enhance the engagement of the Counsellors' Office with the ISSI. Sharing his opinion on the international order, Mr. Yantong said that some countries are reluctant to adapt to the new development trends. He explained that previously the global order was dominated by a few developed countries, but now developing countries are catching up and also gaining political influence. Based on its geographical location, Pakistan has a crucial role in regional politics. Pakistan is also important for China because it wants to expand its relationship with the Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries.

Mr. Xiabin opined that the global order has not been the same since the 2008 financial crisis. He asserted that 21st century belongs to Asia and the Asian nations will gain more influence in the coming years. He expressed his optimism regarding Pakistan's economic rise as well.

Sharing his personal experiences, Mr. He Maochun said that he had visited 181 countries, but there is no better country than Pakistan for the people of China. Responding to Ambassador Chaudhry's earlier remarks, he said that we do not see US as our rival and would like to improve our ties. He emphasised that China will always play a responsible role in global development.

Concluding the meeting, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, appreciated the work done by the COSC in strengthening the ties between the two countries. He added that the relationship between the two countries has strengthened with the passage of time.

In-house Meeting with a 6-member Delegation from Maldives

December 26, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISS) organised an in-house meeting with a 6-member delegation from Pakistan-Maldives Friendship Association on December 26, 2018. The delegation was led by Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa, Dean of Centre for Post Graduate Studies. Other members of the delegation included: Shaikh Muhammad Faiz, Director, Islamic University of Maldives; Mr. Abdul Shakoor, businessman; Mr. Abdul Muhusin Moosa, businessman; Mr. Hassan Saeed, businessman and Mr. Muhammad Nasih, represented Government of Maldives. The visit of the delegation to Pakistan was organised by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, led the briefing and welcomed the delegation to the ISSI.

The delegation also discussed measures for enhancing Pakistan-Maldives relations. Mr. Rafique noted that focus should be on enhancing trade and people-to-people contact between two countries. Both countries had potential for expanding linkages between tourism industries, as both countries have a lot to share in this regard.



Ambassador's Platform

Pakistan-Romania Relations

January 23, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a public talk under its Ambassadors Platform 2018, titled, “Pakistan-Romania Relations,” on January 23, 2018. The distinguished speaker on the occasion was H.E. Nicolaie Goia, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his welcome remarks said that Romania is no stranger to Pakistan as it had assisted Pakistan in setting up an oil refinery in Karachi, as well as two cement plants. Even though at the end of the communist era the relationship between the two countries had slowed down, things have started looking up again and many initiatives and proposals are at hand for the two governments.

Ambassador Nicolaie Goia went on to explain how his country stopped the decline of its economy and went on to becoming the fastest growing economy in Europe with a steady parliamentary democracy.

Regarding Pakistan Romania relations, Ambassador Goia said that after diplomatic relations were established in 1964, the bonds have gone a long way for bringing closer both the nations – an example being Romania’s support for Pakistan in its membership of the Security Council in 2011.

He stated that the economic dimension of relationship between Pakistan and Romania is far less satisfactory compared to the political dimension and needs to be worked upon.

Short videos showing the rich history and culture of Romania were also shown on the occasion.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks thanked Ambassador Goia and stated that new avenues for cooperation are being explored and hopefully with greater interaction and involvement of the private sector, not only will the trade volume increase between Pakistan and Romania but collaboration will be extended to other sectors as well.

Kazakhstan-Pakistan Relations: Priorities of Kazakh Foreign Policy

November 30, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organised a public talk under its Ambassadors Platform titled, “Kazakhstan-Pakistan Relations: Priorities of Kazakh Foreign Policy,” on November 30, 2018. The distinguished speaker at the platform was H.E. Barlybay Sadykov, Ambassador Republic of Kazakhstan. Eminent scholars, diplomats and academicians also graced the occasion with their presence.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that this event is a part of the celebration of independence of Kazakhstan. He described Kazakhstan as a friendly country which enjoys a special status in the international community. Also, he emphasised, it has been playing an important role on many regional multilateral forums such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). For Pakistan, the Chairman highlighted, Kazakhstan is of special importance in the context of CPEC. The nature of Astana-Islamabad cooperation encompasses a broad spectrum of security, economic and cultural issues.

H.E. Ambassador Barlybay Sadykov expressed his profound gratitude to Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood for organising this talk. He informed the audience of the Independence Day of Kazakhstan which is celebrated on December 16.

Ambassador Sadykov said that Pakistan was among the first countries in 1991 which recognised our independence and established diplomatic relations. Since that time,

Pakistan has always been one of the main foreign partners of Astana in South Asia and whose role and significance for the world is well-known and undisputable.

Describing the friendly relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, Ambassador Sadykov stressed that re-establishment of contacts with South Asia and Pakistan in particular, is not something new for Kazakhstan or countries of Central Asia. In fact, the Ambassador stressed, Kazakhstan and Pakistan have close or similar positions on many issues of world politics and which are the basis for effective interstate cooperation within international and regional organisations – UN, OIC, SCO, ECO, CICA.

Speaking about trade and agricultural cooperation, he highlighted the possibility of Kazakhstan and Pakistan exchange renewable, non-renewable and manufactured goods with each other, which will help boost bilateral trade but will complement the overall bilateral relationship as well.

Turning to the foreign policy of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Sadykov said that the main principles and characteristics of Kazakhstan's foreign policy are based on multi-vector, proactive, balanced and pragmatic approach, predictability, dialogue, compromise and mutual partnership.

From the first days of independence, the Ambassador stated, Kazakhstan has firmly promoted the policy of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and nuclear security. Kazakhstan abandoned the fourth most powerful nuclear arsenal in the world and closed one of the largest nuclear test sites.

According to the Ambassador Sadykov, Kazakhstan firmly believes that tolerance and partnership are the only way to achieve success in the fight against global challenges such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, environmental destructions and other acute issues on the agenda of the modern world. Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the role and work of international and regional organisations in promoting peace and security.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, thanked Ambassador Sadykov for making such an insightful and comprehensive presentation on his country's foreign policy, as well as its priorities towards Pakistan. He applauded the role Kazakhstan played in international peace and security and peace and conflict resolution in many regions of the world. He concluded that these mediation initiatives and peace efforts have had a positive impact on global peace.



Bilateral Dialogue

Bilateral Dialogue with a 3-member Iranian Delegation from IPIS

December 11, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the 15th bilateral dialogue with a three-member Iranian delegation from the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) on December 11, 2018. The delegation was led by Dr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour, President IPIS, and included Dr. Bahador Aminian Jazi and Dr. Mehdi Sobhani. The delegation was accompanied by H.E. Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad and Mr. Masoud Zamani, IPIS Representative at the Islamabad Embassy.

From the ISSI side the meeting attended by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman; Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research; Mr. Khurshid Anwar, Director Administration; Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC); Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow; Ms. Arhama Siddiq, Research Fellow; Mr. Majid Mahmood, Research Associate; Ms. Fatima Raza, Research Associate and Mr. Taimur Khan, Research Associate and Media Officer.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, talked about the international and regional situation and Pakistan's role in the contemporary world order. He said that the perception and understanding of the world is changing. There is no doubt that the once unipolar world is now being challenged by other centres of power.

Mr. Majid Mahmood gave a brief presentation on India- Pakistan relations. He said that the relations are in a state of “No War, No Peace” which essentially means that there is a stalemate in the overall bilateral relationship. He stated that the recent ongoing uprising in the Indian occupied Kashmir against the brutal Indian rule has further strained India-Pakistan ties. There has also been a major increase in the ceasefire violation across the Line of Control by the Indian army.

Ms. Amina Khan gave a presentation on Pakistan relations with Afghanistan. She said that with the exception in decrease of opium production by 29 per cent in 2018, compared to 2017, Afghanistan continues to be confronted by widespread conflict and instability, fragile and corrupt governance, presence of 21 insurgent groups by President Ghani's own admission including the Daesh, as well as the growing presence of Taliban who are stronger than before. Despite 17 years of international presence, the Taliban are still a strong force who have made considerable gains in terms of re-establishing their influence, as well as regaining territory.

Dr. Talat Shabbir gave a presentation on the Socio-economic impacts of the CPEC. After giving a brief overview of the CPEC and its components, he talked about how socio economic development is an essential requirement for the improvement of the quality of life, well-being of the people and the environment in which we live. He went on to identify the priorities areas of development.

Ms. Fatima Raza gave a brief presentation on Pakistan-Iran relations. She began by saying that the two countries have managed to continue their brotherly relations by endorsing each other's stance in various matters of regional significance. Bilateral and high-level exchanges between the two countries have also been quite. However, the full potential of bilateral relations between the two countries has not yet been exploited.

Following the presentation from the ISSI side, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry invited Dr. Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour to take the floor and enlighten the gathering with his distinguished views.

Dr. Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour thanked Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry and said that such bilateral dialogues between think tanks are very important and especially with Pakistan, as the Iranians feel emotional affinity when they come here. Such discussions have great value as they allow three things: bilateral exchange, building personal ties which are an important part of policy formulation and creating a cooperative space through such roundtables. Our 15 rounds of annual dialogues amount to about 30 years of cooperation and is indicative of not only good ties between the two institutes but also between Iran and Pakistan. To any bilateral relationship, ‘think-tank cooperation’ is an important component, which is important for all other components of bilateral ties.

Dr. Sajjadpour elaborated upon the main title of his speech which was the linkage between international and regional settings. He deliberated that the global power centrality has now fractured, creating space for regional players more than ever before. Iran and Pakistan are included in these regional players.

Dr. Bahador Aminian Jazi spoke about the different types of discourses in the Iranian foreign policy. On this subject of the Iranian foreign policy behaviour, he reiterated that different discourses, debates and logics affect the Iranian behaviour. He emphasised that all such logics and priorities of the Iranian foreign policy allow Iran to have better integration with Pakistan.

Dr. Mehdi Sobhani spoke about bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran, which he explained through a conceptual framework with suggestions on how to manage these bilateral ties. However, the most important characteristic of Iran-Pakistan bilateral ties is that there is consensus on both sides to establish good ties with each other. Dr. Sobhani assured that there is consensus in Iran on all tiers of government and in all sectors that relations with Pakistan must be enhanced and maintained. He further maintained that Iran and Pakistan have no choice but to live, work and collaborate together as both are responsible for maintaining good ties for a prosperous future.

Concluding the dialogue, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, thanked the delegation and stated that whatever changes have taken place over the years, one thing which has remained constant is the abiding friendship between the two countries. Even though during the period between 1994-1997 there was a strain in relations between Iran and Pakistan, the relationship survived which is an attribute to the commonality of views and perception of the two countries.



Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Mani Shakar Aiyar, a former Indian Diplomat and Politician

February 14, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable discussion on February 14, 2018, titled, “Why Can’t We Be Friends?” with Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, a former diplomat and politician, and a senior member of the Congress party in India.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed the guests and participants of the roundtable discussion. He introduced Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar and his distinguished career, including his appointment as the first Consul General to Pakistan in Karachi between 1978 and 1982. He highlighted that Mr. Aiyar’s later experience in politics, including his elected stints in the Lok Sabha, as well as his prolific career as an author of much acclaim.

Ambassador Mahmood pointed to the possibilities of collaboration at multiple levels and institutions, such as literary festivals, where conversations can move beyond state rhetoric. Moreover, he noted, that there are opportunities to exploit the natural gravitation and for the people to understand each other better. However, he pointed out that the conditions set by India for resuming talks prevent contact and, thus, a real friendship that the region now needs. Ambassador Mahmood continued that while some of these are new issues that need partnership between India and Pakistan, there are also existing platforms that have to be availed.

Dr. Humayun Khan, former foreign secretary of Pakistan also briefly introduced the speaker, praising his positive approach to India-Pakistan relations, for which he had coined

the phrase “uninterrupted and uninteruptable dialogue,” before inviting him to speak on why India and Pakistan cannot be friends.



After thanking the Chairman ISSI and several of his friends at the roundtable, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar highlighted his own history of experience in Pakistan. Mr. Aiyar pointed out that as an Indian, his primary concern was the Indian interests, which was only natural. Briefly going through the early Islamic history of India, Mr. Aiyar noted that India's connection to Islam is right from the first century of the religion. He explained the significance of full integration of minorities in India, especially the Muslims. He pointed to his own diplomatic endeavours with the Pakistanis to note how despite contradictions in the relationship, there have been possibilities of cooperation that even earlier generations have grasped. And now, he continued, there is a fundamental change in the mind-set as everyone wants peace. Pakistan, he noted, may be considerably ahead in the desire to have good relations with India. The problem, he suggested, is that the most Indians do not have any connection with Pakistan and only those such as in the Indian Punjab, have a geographic proximity and hence a desire for a relationship. Mr. Aiyar also expressed his optimism and hope for progress on the most serious issues of Kashmir and terrorism.

At the end of the session, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, once again thanked the speaker and the audience, concluding the event with a reminder that war between the two countries is not an option, and they need to adopt an approach that takes on board all the challenges both in the bilateral relationship and those facing the region at large.

Challenges and Opportunities for the New Government

September 11, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion titled, “Challenges and Opportunities for the New Government,” on September 11, 2018. Experts and eminent scholars of foreign policy were invited to share their views on particular agenda points put forth by the new government in its vision statement.

The discussion was divided into two separate sessions. The first session focused on general discussion on the vision statement and policy prescriptions of the government. The second session focused on structural reforms in the Foreign Office and also in the overall civil services.

After the discussion on topics of both sessions, policy recommendations and suggestions were made by all the experts and scholars.

5-member Delegation from All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), London

September 19, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable on September 19, 2018, with a 5-member delegation from All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), London. The group was in Pakistan to discuss the situation in Kashmir and to strengthen the APPKG's efforts to bring a parliamentary motion to put pressure on India. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Christopher Leslie, Member British Parliament and Chairman APPKG; Ms. Anthea McIntyre, Member European Parliament; Mr. Imran Hussain, Member British Parliament; Mr. Faisal Rashid, Member British Parliament; and Mr. Raja Najabat, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir self-determination movement.

Participants at the roundtable included: Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, former Prime Minister, Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen; Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi; Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Khan; Dr. Rukhsana Qamber, President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS); Mr. Khalid Rahim, Member Advisory Board, Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS); Mr. Tauqeer Ahmad, Member Advisory Board CGSS; Mr. Mohammad Farooq Rehmani, Senior Leader, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC); Shaikh Tajjamul Islam, Director, Kashmir Media Service; Mr. Mohammad Rafiq Dar, Spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front; Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson, Peace & Culture Organisation and Mr. Shahras Asim, Director Kashmir, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the security situation in Kashmir is a matter of constant concern and the Kashmiris have been waiting for the last seven decades for resolution of the dispute as promised to them by the UN. However, the Indian government has always frustrated every attempt to find a solution. He said that the most serious situation right now is concerning the human rights of the Kashmiris which are being continuously violated with no regard to United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Christopher Leslie in his remarks said that Kashmir is a region which should be cherished by the entire world for its natural beauty and resources. But sadly, it is an area where questions on human rights abuses were raised decade after decade of conflict. The purpose of APPKG's visit is not only to see the on-ground situation but also produce a report about the major findings related to the statutory legal position, particularly on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) in terms of security and legislation that gives extra judicial powers to the Indian armed forces. He described the current situation as very tragic. He expressed his gratitude for the government of Pakistan which facilitated a number of visits by different delegations.

Mr. Imran Hussain highlighted the main strategic issues related to Kashmir. He further suggested that the British government have a principle moral and historic obligation to facilitate the resolution. Lastly, he pointed out that the recent UN report regarding the human right violations in Kashmir is not new. All the reported facts are already well-documented at the international stage. The UN should now work for the solution and its inability to find a solution will make the organisation weak.

Ms. Anthea McIntyre said that she had raised the Kashmir issue with the EU delegation because democratically elected body such as the European Parliament cannot afford such situations. Talking from the EU perspective, she said that the EU should widen its network. She stated that the world must say to India that "no doubt you are a growing economy and big democracy but the human rights abuses in Kashmir are staining your image."

According to Mr. Faisal Rashid, the most important thing is to keep this issue alive through speeches, debates, seminars and conferences. He said that they are looking forward to the debate in the British Parliament in October 2018 and would try to put pressure on the British government to have a dialogue with India.

Mr. Raja Najabat Hussain while describing the objective of his organisation said that the movement is working with both houses and parliamentary groups in the British Parliament. In the last six years, the movement has achieved six debates and seven question and answers. He further stated that Kashmiris are sacrificing in the Valley and the Kashmiri Diasporas are doing their diplomatic job voluntarily wherever they can reach.

After the remarks of all the other distinguished participants of the roundtable discussion, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Director General ISSI.



Book Launch

Cheeni Saqafat Kay Tabinda Naqoosh

January 31, 2018



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a book titled, “Cheeni Saqafat Kay Tabinda Naqoosh,” authored by Group Captain (Retd.) S. M. Hali on January 31, 2018. General (Retd.) Ehsan-ul-Haq, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the chief guest at the occasion. Distinguished commentators on the book included: Mr. Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Islamabad, Mr. Uxi Mufti, former Executive Director, Lok Virsa and Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, said that it was an honour for the ISSI to provide a platform for the launch of this book. Ambassador Mahmood lauded the author for covering the Chinese culture extensively and said that the book was a handy reference for the Pakistani audience, which is not much aware of the Chinese culture. He added that this work is a seminal contribution in developing greater understanding of the Chinese culture in Pakistan and introducing the readers to various aspects of the Chinese culture such as music, arts, festivals, cuisine, literature and philosophy.

General (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq praised S. M. Hali for his commitment and proficiency. He congratulated the author on writing this book and said that its publication was very important at this juncture. He said that this book addressed an important need of creating greater awareness about China in Pakistan.

Mr. Zhao Lijian, opined that the book was a great effort to introduce the Chinese culture to Pakistan. He said that the book was well researched and lauded the magnanimous task undertaken by the author of trying to compress the diverse aspects of the Chinese culture.

Mr. Uxi Mufti, stated that China is one of the most ancient civilisations of the world. He talked at length about the Chinese artistry and commended the insight and broad vision of the early leadership of modern China. He appreciated the effort made by Hali to learn the Chinese culture thoroughly by frequently visiting China and also commended him for sharing his knowledge through this book. He was also impressed by the photographs contained in the book.

Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, lauded the extensive research by the author and said that this book is an inspiration for writing more books in Urdu. He said that with the CPEC in progress, this book covers the cultural corridor and will serve as a bridge for better cultural connectivity between the two countries. He suggested that this book should be made part of the syllabus in the Pakistani universities in order to better understand the rich culture of China.

In his remarks, the author of the book, S. M. Hali thanked the reviewers and said that he was much humbled by the praise for his work.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, commended the author for making a valuable and all-encompassing contribution to the study of the Chinese culture. He reflected upon the dearth of knowledge about the Chinese culture in Pakistan, and was optimistic that the CPEC will also open up opportunities for learning more about the Chinese culture.

Gwadar: Balance in Transition

March 13, 2018



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a book titled, “Gwadar: Balance in Transition,” authored by Dr. Azhar Ahmad, Head of Department, Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad, on March 13, 2018. The former Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral (Retd.) Asif Sandila, was the chief guest at the occasion.

The book is an in-depth study of the multi-dimensional aspects of Gwadar and contextualises the evolving dynamics of the maritime affairs in the region. The distinguished commentators at the book launch included: Rear Admiral Farrokh Ahmed HI(M), Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Projects), Naval Headquarters, Islamabad; Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean, Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad and Mr. Zhao Lijian, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Islamabad.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, lauded the scholarly efforts made by Dr. Ahmad in contributing to the existing literature on Pakistan’s maritime sector, especially the neglected importance of Gwadar. Ambassador Mahmood, while highlighting the strategic importance of Gwadar port, said that the port is primarily important for trade and commerce but also has strategic significance.

The chief guest, Admiral (Retd.) Asif Sandila, while speaking at the occasion said that the foundations of the CPEC was laid first in 1958, when Gwadar was taken over from

Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan's navy was tasked to provide coastal security. Since then, the Pakistan Navy is playing a major role in developing and securing the coast against external threats. Admiral (Retd.) Sandila opined that Chabahar and Gwadar will complement each other in times to come and if Pakistan plays its cards in its own interest, the CPEC will prove to be a game changer, in real terms.

Rear Admiral Farrokh Ahmad commended the effort made by Dr. Ahmad and recommended the book to be studied in higher education institutes across the country, especially the Naval War College. On Gwadar, the speaker said it has the capability to address Pakistan's economic woes and labelled it a 'crown jewel.'

Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema remarked that the author actually highlighted the importance of maritime affairs, while discussing the elements of powers. Underscored the ignored elements of power and this is where the book becomes highly useful. Referring to the operational affairs of the Gwadar port, he said that the Chinese have been our tested friends and they never let us down, whereas other friends abandoned us many a time.

Mr. Zhao Lijian congratulated the author on his seminal publication. He called it a thorough study and lauded the efforts by the author to present a comprehensive background of Gwadar's history and a meticulous analysis of its present. He said that the book is significant for both the governments in terms of policy making.

Dr. Azhar Ahmad called the event a humbling experience and stated that he could not have asked for a better setting for the launch of his book. Dr. Ahmad told the audience that the lack of understanding of maritime sector is detrimental for the country and he chose this topic in order to bring much needed attention. He observed that the gathering at this event speaks for the importance of this topic.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, commended the author for raising awareness about Gwadar and maritime sector of Pakistan in a scholarly manner. Acknowledging the presence of the honourable ambassador of Tajikistan in the audience, Ambassador Mahmood remarked that this reflects the significance of this topic in regional development. He went on to say that it was an honour for the ISSI to provide a platform for the launch of this book.

Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments: US Crisis Management in South Asia

September 5, 2018



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of a book titled, “Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments: US Crisis Management in South Asia,” authored by Dr. Moeed Yusuf on September 5, 2018. Dr. Yusuf is Associate Vice President, Asia Centre, US Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington DC. Distinguished commentators at the book launch included: Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq; Former Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff Committee; Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary and Dr. Rifaat Hussain, Professor, Development Studies, S3H, National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

Welcoming the author, commentators and the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, stressed that the real need is for India and Pakistan to cooperate in fighting terrorism. He said that Pakistan did expect the US to play some role in conflicts between Pakistan and India since it is friendly to both. Ambassador Chaudhry said that the US had recently deepened its partnership with India in order to prepare it as a counterweight to China. This, however, had seemed to embolden the Indian leadership to play hardball and shun any efforts for peace except on its own terms. Ambassador Chaudhry praised Dr. Yusuf’s valuable contribution to the nuclear dynamics of South Asia.

Dr. Moeed Yusuf introduced his new book which has been published by the prestigious Stanford University Press. The book examines India-Pakistan crises since the nuclear tests of 1998 and specifically focused on the US role during the Kargil war, the ten-month long

2001-02 military standoff and the Mumbai crisis following the 2008 terrorist attacks in the city. Dr. Yusuf explained that one of the reasons India and Pakistan acquired nuclear weapons was to gain greater strategic independence from powerful external actors like the US. The US has been extremely active as a mediator and India and Pakistan have both tried to use the US to gain concessions from each other.

Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq complimented the book as a symbol of evolving strategic thought on the matters of nuclear deterrence and crises. He questioned, however, whether the growing Indo-US strategic partnership can redefine the mediating role of Washington between India and Pakistan. He stated that the US enjoys and would continue to enjoy the supremacy in the field of surveillance and monitoring, which enables it, even in the foreseeable future, to continue its role as a peace broker.

Ambassador Riaz Khokhar appreciated the author's intellectual input which comes with a refreshing element of objectivity and neutrality. He also pointed out the "strategic bias" of the US which is expected to gain more prominence in the context of Indo-US convergence of interests. He stated that unfortunately, as of present, the element of trust between Pakistan and India is lacking to an unimaginable level. India and Pakistan should work towards building such an environment where candid talks could be held.

Dr. Rifaat Hussain remarked that the concept of 'Brokered Bargaining' as put forth by Dr. Yusuf is as much a theory of process as it is that of outcome and makes his work an outstanding original contribution towards enhancing our understanding of the South Asian nuclear crises management. He also highlighted the centrality of the Afghan factor in the trilateral model, which is missing in Dr. Yousuf's work.

In the concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that it is evident that while the US has met the pre-requisites of diffusing crises, recent events have showcased that the US cannot broker honestly and objectively. Instead, its present role is conversely de-stabilising. However, that does not take away the importance of foreign brokering in times of crisis.



Visitors, Guests, Delegations and Meetings



January 31: Meeting with H.E. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of Tajikistan and Mr. Bahodur Buriev, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan.



March 26: Meeting with Ms. Laura Schuurman, Indonesian scholar.



February 26: Meeting with Dr. Muminova Farida, Deputy Director, Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan accompanied by H.E. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan and Major General (Retd.) Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, Vice President, CGSS.



April 4: Visit by 59 Officers - Faculty + course members - of the Command and Staff College, Quetta.



April 3: Meeting with DA's: Capt. Faisal Javeed Sheikh, PN - N&AA, Iran; Capt. Muhammad Nasir Iqbal Chaudhary, PN - A&NA, France and Capt. Ibrar Ishque, PN - DA, Malaysia.



April 17: 26 senior BS students (8th Semester) accompanied by 5 faculty members delegation from the International Relations Department from the University of Peshawar.



June 6: Welcome ceremony for the new Director General at the ISSI.



July 10: Meeting with Ambassador Sohail Mahmood.



July 17: Meeting with Ambassador Shahid M. G. Kiani.



July 20: Meeting with Vice Admiral (Retd.) Khan Hasham Bin Siddique.



July 11: Meeting with Ambassador Moin-ul-Haq.



August 2: Meeting with interns.



July 26: Meeting with Mr. Khalil-ur-Rehman Hashmi, Director General (UN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



August 17: Tree plantation campaign at the ISSI.



August 17: Celebrating Independence Day at ISSI.



August 17: Tree plantation campaign at the ISSI



August 17: Tree plantation campaign at the ISSI



Aug 17: Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Sherali Jononov, Ambassador, Republic of Tajikistan.



September 25: Visit 22 armed forces course participants of the 34th Human Resource Development Programme for Professionals from the International Islamic University.



September 12:: Meeting with Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Assistant Vice President, Asia Centre, United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, D.C.



October 2: Meeting with Mr. Randolph Flay Director of Stabilisation and Governance USAID.



September 13: Meeting with Air Marshal Shahid Akhtar Alvi.



October 16: Meeting with H.E. Barlybay Sadykov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan.



October 30: Visit of 17 Students from Beaconhouse School System.



November 22: Visit of Azerbaijan Delegation.



October 16: Meeting with Dr. Sameh Aboul-Enein, DG, Egyptian Foreign Service and Ambassador of Egypt, H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Fadel Yakoub.



November 26: Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Chairman Board of Governors, Karachi Council on Foreign Relations and Commodore (Retd.) Sadeed Malik, CEO, Karachi Council on Foreign Relations visited the ISSI and held a meeting with the executive heads of the ISSI.



November 8: Visit of 14 faculty members and 90 course members including 18 officers from friendly countries.



December 4: MoU signed by Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico, between the ISSI and Elcano Royal Institute of Int'l & Strategic Studies, Madrid.



December 18: Mr. Harrison Akins, Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Tennessee Knoxville visited the ISSI.



December 28: Meeting with H.E. Qazi M. Khalilullah, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Russian Federation.



December 28: Meeting with Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria, Mansoor Ahmad Khan.

Chairman ISSI

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| 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-Haque | 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

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 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 June 24, 2018 |
| 19. Amb. (Retd.) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry | June 25, 2018 to date |

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