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Report – In-House Meeting

with

Dr. Geoffrey Shaw, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan

July 16, 2019



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PICTURES OF THE EVENT





The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an In-House Meeting on July 16, 2019 with H.E. Dr. Geoffrey Shaw, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan. Dr. Shaw was accompanied by Ms. Emma Leahey, First Secretary (Political) and Ms. Michelle Sullivan, First Secretary (Political). The delegation was welcomed by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI and Chairman Board of Governors Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry welcomed the newly appointed High Commissioner to Pakistan and invited Dr. Shaw for a public address to a larger audience of invitees at the ISSI's Ambassadors Platform. He also highlighted the various aspects of Pakistan-Australia relations, including the efforts by the former to assist Pakistan in dealing with the issue of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Ambassador Chaudhry emphasized on the developments in the Indo-Pacific, and said that recently, there has been a lot of academic and intellectual focus on this wider region, of which Australia is also a part, and which have a direct impact on the larger Asia.

The Chairman of the Board Ambassador Khalid Mahmood also expressed his personal thanks to the Australian High Commissioner and spoke about his interactions with Australian counter parts at the United Nations.

H.E. Dr. Geoffrey Shaw thanked ISSI for the warm welcome. Introducing his team, he expressed his desire to develop a relationship with the ISSI as members of the foreign ministry rarely get the chance to interact with experts working on thematic areas. He indicated that his area of interest is China, whereas his team members are working on a multiple areas ranging from counter terrorism to the peace process in Afghanistan. He said that the partnership with Pakistan on IEDs still continues, and the Australian experts work side by side with their Pakistani counterparts on this issue. Furthermore, he stated that Australia is also helping Pakistan on the FATF issue, and has recently arranged a workshop which invited all the stakeholders from across the country. Speaking on the Indo-Pacific terminology, Dr. Shaw stated that they have Pacific Ocean on their eastern rim and Indian Ocean on their western rim so this term makes a lot of sense for them.

Later on, the High Commissioner visited the ISSI library where he was briefed by the library officer, Mr. Abid Hussain, about the services offered by the library. Dr. Shaw expressed his

interest in subscribing to these services, and how they can be beneficial for the diplomatic community.

Dr. Shaw thanked the ISSI for the hospitality extended to him, and expressed a strong desire for future intellectual exchanges with ISSI. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI reciprocated the desire for increasing interaction with the Australian High Commission and the strategic community in Australia.