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INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES ISLAMABAD

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Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

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FOREWORD

From the desk of the Director General

The year 2019 witnessed a quantitative surge and qualitative improvement in the work of the Institute. In all three streams of our work – research, discourse, inputs – we strived to achieve excellence pursuant to our motto of ‘strategic perspectives through research and dialogue.’ The themes for our research and events were carefully selected in the light of guidance provided by the foreign ministry with which we remained engaged closely throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to the honorable foreign minister, foreign secretary and additional secretary for policy planning for their unwavering support to the Institute.

Quarterly journal *Strategic Studies* remained our flagship publication. Fifty percent of articles were contributed to this journal by Institute’s own research faculty. Considerable emphasis has been laid on improving quality through rigorous application of research methodology and continuous review of the themes under research. We follow the policy of zero tolerance for plagiarism. Among other research products of the Institute, our *Issue Briefs*, which are short write ups on happenings of importance for Pakistan and the region, are very popular, especially with university students and other researchers. During 2019, we published 45 Issue Briefs all of which are available on our website at (www.issi.org.pk).

In terms of policy discourse, the Institute organised over seventy events during 2019 including conferences, seminars, roundtables, and informal discussions. We also strived to achieve synergy between what we research on and our institutional activities.

The third stream of our work entailed provision of research-based policy inputs to foreign ministry and other stakeholders in the government of Pakistan. These policy inputs are in the form of two-pager *Confidential Briefs* which are evolved through what is called Tuesday Dialogue wherein we convene informal discussions on a given topic of interest to Pakistan. This Annual Report for the year 2019 covers brief exposé of every activity undertaken by the Institute during 2019. Separate detailed reports have been issued on each of the activity mentioned in this report and are available on our website.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain four-fold: Quality, Synergy, Relevance, and Narrative Building. Our vision is to attain more with less. To that end, the Institute now has three functioning centers of excellence. Our China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) has continued to serve the cause of promoting Pakistan-China relations in multiple domains since its inauguration in 2017. The Center was instrumental in bringing together China study centers based in Pakistan and Pakistan centers based in China for greater coherence in our work. The Center also produces a multi-disciplinary quarterly magazine *Pivot*, which is increasingly becoming popular. During 2019, we established two other centers, Arms Control and Disarmament Center (ACDC) and India Study Center (ISC), which are now engaged in dedicated research and dialogue in their respective domains. All three centers seek to monitor the situation, carry out studies, conduct policy discourse, maintain data bank, provide policy inputs and publish different products including books. Each center has

an advisory board for providing guidance. The establishment of a fourth center on Middle East and Africa is on the cards.

The Institute's human resource comprises directors and research fellows, all of whom are now seeking to achieve their best through a comprehensive system of evaluation that was launched in 2018 and has been implemented rigorously in 2019 with clearly defined KPIs (key performance indicators). The researchers were encouraged to participate in national and international events and contribute op-eds on topical issues of interest. The decision making in the Institute was participatory through the mechanism of ORMs (organisation and review meetings) attended by all directors, director general and chairman board of governors. The Institute made an attempt to conduct all its functions from within the existing budget resources and also followed the guidance of the leadership for austerity measures where ever possible. Efforts were also made to improve the work environment on self-help basis. The Institute benefitted from the valuable guidance of its board of governors and executive committee of the board.

Last, but not the least, the Institute expanded its reach-out programme through media and social media. The website www.issi.org.pk was revamped and made user friendly. We invite you all to visit our website and sign up to our social media handles.

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

Introduction

Established in 1973, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) is an autonomous, non-profit research and analyses organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of the pioneers in the field, the purpose of the institute 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.

Research Focus

The research interests of the ISSI cover all critical geographical regions. We seek to provide policy inputs on Pakistan's strategic and security concerns regarding regional and international issues in the light of changing patterns of international relations. 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.

Conferences, Seminars and Talks

The ISSI convenes national and international conferences and seminars on a regular basis. Distinguished scholars and policymakers 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.

Centres of Excellence

The ISSI has also established three dedicated centres, namely, China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), and India Study Centre (ISC) to carry out focused research in the respective fields. The ISSI is in the process of setting up additional area-focussed centres of excellence.

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)

The Board of Governors of the Institute has approved the establishment of the CPSC at the ISSI on August 19, 2016. The aim of the CPSC is to carry out dedicated and comprehensive research on China's role in the region and the world and see how it affects Pakistan. The Centre also serves as a forum for learning about Chinese society, history, culture, politics,

economy, and government. The Centre provides policy inputs to the Government of Pakistan on China-Pakistan relations as well as to act as a service-provider for business match-making between the two countries.

Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC)

Established in October 2019 as part of the ISSI, the ACDC seeks to contribute focused research and quality policy input through in-depth analysis and dialogue on issues of arms control, disarmament, nuclear safety and security, nuclear deterrence, emerging technologies, and challenges to peace and strategic stability.

India Study Centre (ISC)

The ISC was inaugurated in February 2020. The ISC is dedicated to conduct research and analytical studies on multi-dimensional aspects of India, and promote policy discourse on India's foreign, security and socio-economic policies and implications for Pakistan and the region as well as India-Pakistan relations.

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.

Library and Documentation Centre

The Institute's library has over 16,000 books, 2,000 journals, 3,000 magazines in print form, more than 200,000 E-books, 20,000 electronic journals and 15,000 magazines with back issues. The library has an access to 18 databases like JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, eLibrary USA, Springer eBooks etc. The library resources can be used by academics, researchers from think-tanks and universities, as well as students. So, far more than 100 memberships have been granted to external members with full access to online resources. For further information please visit our library website at: <http://issilibrary.org.pk/>

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 Issue Briefs, ISSI Confidential Brief (for limited circulation among policy makers), Islamabad Papers, Special Reports and Conference Reports, covering contemporary issues.

Internship Programme

The ISSI offers two kinds of internship programmes - Short-term and Regular Internships - to promising students and young researchers. The objective of these internships is to groom and train students and young researchers in research methods and orient them towards national security issues.

ISSI-Hanns Seidel Foundation Fellowship Programme

In collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Germany, 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.

Conferences

National Conference on “Pakistan-China Economic Cooperation: Next Level”

March 6, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a national conference titled, “Pakistan-China Economic Cooperation: Next Level,” on March 6, 2019. H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan was the chief guest at the occasion. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador People's Republic of China to Pakistan and Mr. Wang, Commercial Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, attended the occasion as keynote speakers.



In his inaugural address, Foreign Minister Qureshi praised the Institute for organising the event on a subject which is high on development agenda and for providing policy input to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He further stated that in the wake of the Pulwama attack the

Chinese provided sound counsel to both Pakistan and India for de-escalating the crisis. The Foreign Minister reiterated that Pakistan regards China highly in its foreign policy and, now, the leadership of two countries is looking at a new vision that he termed, "CPEC Plus", a new agenda of development and partnership.



Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, lauding the Foreign Minister's seasoned diplomacy in handling the crisis generated by Modi, he commented that today, our foreign policy resonates with Quaid's vision: "Peace Within and Peace Without."

Mr. Wang expressed his gratitude and reiterated that friendly perception is mutual. He informed the audience that "Early Harvest Projects" are near completion and, under the new leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the two countries are committed to complete the other projects as well.



The conference's proceedings consisted of 3 distinct sessions. Title of the first session was, "Next Level Economic Cooperation" and it was chaired by Dr. Safdar Sohail, Director

General National Institute of Management. The speakers in the session included: Dr. Fazalur-Rehman, University of Sargodha; Dr. Nadia Farooq, Asian Development Bank; Mr. Yasir Masood, CPEC Centre of Excellence, Islamabad and Mr. Muhammad Abbas Hassan, Research Associate ISSI.



Session two of the national conference was titled, "Leveraging Regional Connectivity for Development." This session was chaired by Mr. Muhammad Zubair Ghori, former Member of the Planning Commission. Speakers of the session included: Dr. Huma Baqai, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi; Dr. Zahid Anwar, University of Peshawar; Mr. Imran Shaukat, Senior Advisor to Minister for Health and Dr. Fida Mohammad Bazai, University of Balochistan, Quetta.



The third session of the conference was titled, "Realising Socio-Economic Development." The session was chaired by Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum (Retd.), Member Senate of Pakistan. The speakers in the session included: Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Government College University, Lahore; Dr. Samina Sabir, Azad Jammu & Kashmir University; Dr. Saranjam Baig, Karakorum International University and Syed Tanvir Abbas Jafri, COMSATS University, Islamabad.



During the three sessions of the conference, a wide-range of views were shared by the participants. There was a consensus among the panellists that there is a need to move beyond rhetorical jargons and fancy terms and true economic potential of the CPEC should be realised by conducting extensive research and feasibility studies.



In a vote of thanks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that all the ventures of the CPEC should be open to the third parties but, of course, with due consideration. The bilateral cooperation which is being taken to the next level is embedded in strong Pak-China relations that have stood the test of time.

International Conference on “BRI in the Changing Regional Dynamics”

November 20-21, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with PowerChina organised a 2-day international conference on November 21-22, 2019. H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, was the chief guest. The inaugural session was attended by Mr. Du Chunguo, President PowerChina and H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador People's Republic of China to Pakistan.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabir, Director CPSC, emphasised that there is a need to hold debates and generate constructive ideas through research and collaboration.



In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, aptly sketched the changing dynamics of the region and said that the new great power tussle, initiated mainly by the US, can either yield new globalism or bring the old globalism to halt altogether. He said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the CPEC can help us navigate the challenges of contemporary times.



Mr. Chunguo elaborated that his company has completed 40 power projects in Pakistan, focusing on socio-economic development of the people.

Ambassador Jing commended the efforts by the government of Pakistan in implementing the CPEC. The Pakistani government, the Ambassador said, has adopted an economy-oriented foreign policy which, he remarked, was the right policy.

Foreign Minister Qureshi in his remarks stated that these dialogues are critical to cultivating better understanding and synergising our efforts to benefit from the connectivity and other collaborative initiatives, such as the BRI. He said that the BRI, CPEC and other such connectivity initiatives are now being recognised as the most potent voices for globalism. At a time when multilateralism is coming under duress, the BRI philosophy tells us that globalism is still relevant and the best hope for humanity. He added that BRI and its flagship project CPEC offer a ray of hope that inclusive and pluralistic solutions would make our world safer, securer and more prosperous.



The conference was an august gathering comprising academia, think-tank community, media personnel from Pakistan and China. The participants at the two working sessions on the first day included: Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Salman Bashir; Professor Shi Yuanhua, Fudan University; Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, University of Sargodha; Prof. Guo Xuetang, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics; Dr. Zahid Anwar, University of Peshawar; Dr. Xu Jianying, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Dr. Huma Bqai, Institute of Business Administration; Prof. Lin Mingwan, Fudan University; Prof. Tang Mengsheng, Beijing University; Mr. Hassan Daud Butt, KPK Board of Investment; Dr. Liu Zongyi, Shanghai Institute for International Studies; Dr. Mirwais Kasi, University of Baluchistan; Prof. Song Zhihui, Sichuan University; Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Government College University and Dr. Li Qingyan, China Institute of International Studies.



The third sessions on the second day was chaired by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudrhay, Director General ISSI. The speakers for the third session included: Prof FENG Yujun, Fudan University; Mr. Aamir Rana, Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies; Prof ZHANG Jiadong, Fudan University; Dr. Muhammad Khan, International Islamic University Islamabad; Dr. WANG Shida, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations; Dr. Liaquat Ali Shah, CPEC Center of Excellence, PIDE, Islamabad; Prof YE Hailin, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Seminars

Seminar on “Understanding Strategic Coercion in the Realm of Gray Hybrid Conflict: Implications for Pakistan”

February 11, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar on February 11, 2019 titled, “Understanding Strategic Coercion in the Realm of Hybrid Gray Conflict: Implications for Pakistan.” General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was the chief guest at the occasion. The speakers at the seminar included: Mr. Leonid Savin, geopolitical analyst, Russia; Mr. Ikram Sehgal, defence and security analyst and Lt. Gen. (Retd) Naeem Khalid Lodhi HI (M), former Defence Secretary. The event was attended by politicians, ambassadors, academicians, journalists and students.

In his inaugural address, General Zubair said that in the prevailing international environment, this subject is of great relevance and interests to Pakistan. The country has been enduring a subtle and, at times, not so subtle strategic coercion. He added, it is not just Pakistan but the entire region that is subject to the strategic coercion: the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has become a hostage to this unfortunate phenomenon. This is undermining regional strategic calculus and negatively affecting the internal politics as well. He further stated that to ward off the spectre of strategic coercion in the realm of hybrid warfare, new methods and modalities are required. Pakistan has taken the direction and come a long way in establishing and strengthening its defence. He emphasised that the Pakistani nation fought off the scourge of terrorism, not only physically but emotionally and psychologically as well and that Pakistan is engaging the important world capitals and Muslim countries which will result in Pakistan’s success as it did in the past.



Earlier in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, elaborated on the evolving nature of strategic warfare and shed light on how fourth-generation warfare has taken hold of international politics. Deliberating on whether strategic coercion is real or just a perception, Ambassador Chaudhry stated that it is as real as the presence in the hall. Citing Pakistan's sacrifices and painstaking efforts in the War on Terror (WoT), he lamented that not everyone is happy with the country's achievements. He raised some important questions as to why anyone should target Pakistan and how should we tackle this perplexing issue?



Mr. Savin delved on "Identifying Doctrines and the Nature of Gray Hybrid Threats in the 21st Century." He began by saying that the very term, "Gray Hybrid Conflict," is a western construct and we need to come up with our own narrative. Mr. Leonid emphasised that we must look at this issue from the perspective of changing geostrategic challenges in the international arena.

Mr. Sehgal spoke on "Strategic Coercion in the Age of Hybrid Conflict: Adversaries and Challenges in South Asia." He described hybrid warfare as a mix of all the linear and non-linear, kinetic and non-kinetic warfare. All of its components are inter-connected, applied simultaneously and adopted likewise in time and space. He proposed a two-pronged

strategy: taking benefits from the military's experienced servicemen and making a proper geopolitical assessment of hybrid warfare threats.



Lt. Gen. Lodhi offered in-depth analysis on the topic of "Pakistan and Hybrid Conflict: Vulnerabilities, Capabilities and Policy Responses." He introduced Hybrid warfare as an acme of strategy to win a battle without fighting. He said that it is unleashed to impact worldviews, politics, culture, faith, social bonds and economy. He proposed that a combination of "Detection (fact-finding), Reaction (to tolerate or fight back), Mechanism (offensive or defensive), Whole Nation Effort (led by apex political entity)" can prove highly productive in this deceptive warfare.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that the concept of Hybrid warfare is not new. It goes back as early as 500 BC, the times of a famous Chinese strategist, Sun Tzu. Often, the objectives of hybrid warfare are not to defeat the enemy immediately but to demoralise, erode social and political cohesion and create internal chaos. He said that the fundamental aspects of Gray Hybrid Conflict necessitate the transformation of current security approaches and war-fighting strategies of Pakistan.



Seminar on “CPEC: Strategising Pakistan’s Narrative”

April 25, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar titled “CPEC: Strategising Pakistan’s Narrative” on April 25, 2019. Speakers at the seminar included: Mr. Amir Jehangir, Founder and CEO of DBTV Live, Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Chairman, Department of Media and Communication Studies, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Mr. Jiang Han, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of People’s Republic of China participated as a discussant.



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks stated that the CPEC is very important for Pakistan not only in the context of economic prosperity but also in terms of the strong commitment and historic friendship that Beijing and

Islamabad have maintained ever since their diplomatic relations began. Pakistan-China relations are multifaceted and, hence, there is much more to this bilateral equation than the economy only.

In his introductory note, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, contextualised the need for strategising narratives on the CPEC and stated that the project is a mega venture which has been depicted in both positive and negative light.



Mr. Jahangir talked about understanding the narrative gap on the CPEC. In a globalised world like ours, he said, new narratives are emerging with every interaction on social media, with every post and opinion article.

Dr. Iqbal discussed the ever-growing importance of symbolic interactionism that has come to play an instrumental role in building narratives on any topic.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks stressed upon the need for counter-narratives to compete against the existing negative narratives on the CPEC, particularly in the West.

Seminar on “Strategic Stability in South Asia: Is India a Responsible Nuclear State”

June 13, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled, “Strategic Stability in South Asia: Is India a Responsible Nuclear State?” on June 13, 2019. Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmad Kidwai (Retd.), former Director General SPD, was the keynote speaker at the occasion.



Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. He said that the world is changing rapidly. A new arms race is emerging in various parts of the world, which is why the concept of strategic stability has come under great stress. Time and again, India has tested the risk of nuclear deterrence and has adopted

aggressive war-fighting doctrines. He highlighted that India is likely to continue its aggressive posture against Pakistan. Something the world community should be worried about.

In his keynote address, Lt. Gen. Kidwai said that after the Pulwama standoff, India displayed reckless and immature conduct of foreign policy. He lauded the critical and timely response by Pakistani Air Force (PAF) which resulted in embarrassment for India. It also brought into question the lack of professionalism of the Indian army and how the Indian forces can be misused. He said that a responsible nuclear state does not develop nuclear technology for a place in the global order. Conversely, India's nuclear programme is designed to gain international prestige. The world should now be aware that India's nuclear weapons are not safe. Moreover, domestic changes in 'Hindu India' require critical rethinking in Pakistan, he said.



Other speakers at the seminar included: Dr. Rizwana Abbasi, Associate Professor at Bahria University (BU); Dr. Zafar Khan, Assistant Professor at the National Defence University (NDU); Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) and Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS). The working session titled "Responsible Nuclear Behaviour: Pulwama Crisis" was chaired by Ambassador Zamir Akram.

The speakers talked about patterns of nuclear behaviour, which include adopting a robust regime to avoid war and making genuine efforts to promote disarmament and de-weaponize space, land and sea. They agreed that India is a power-seeking state that aspires to build its soft image through democracy. It is, in essence, designing to expand itself as a power state based on realism.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks pointed out that India is trying to create military strikes within Pakistan as a "new normal." However, Pakistan's measured and rational response to the Indian incursion effectively deterred India on a conventional level. He emphasised that the festering issue of Kashmir is the biggest hurdle to an amelioration of ties between India and Pakistan. As rational, responsible nuclear states, they would have to pursue conflict resolution. This, he concluded, is the only rational way forward.



Seminar on “Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan: Learning from Success Stories”

July 10, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a national seminar titled, “Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan: Learning from Success Stories” on July 10, 2019. The chief guest at the occasion was H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. He said that for Pakistan, like many other developing nations, poverty is a real issue, connected directly to the lives of millions of people. He stated that the launching of Prime Minister Imran Khan's *Ehsaas* initiative to alleviate poverty in Pakistan was heartening and a welcome start.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, said that unlike the previous governments, the present government is bent on revitalising the ethos of Islam. Islam, he emphasised, has a long history of taking care of the people. He stated that the distribution of money needs to be in areas where people have knowledge about how to utilise the funds in an effective manner. President Alvi outlined how charity organisations are a remarkable illustration of how a society jumps in where the state has not been able to. The present government aims to alleviate poverty by not only through the provision of food and financial assistance but through initiatives of empowering women, especially by addressing the inheritance problem.



The working session of the seminar was chaired by Honourable Dr. Sania Nishtar, the Prime Minister's Special Aide on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, while Honourable Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education was the Keynote Speaker. Members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad, academics, civil society and former and current diplomats were also in attendance.



During her remarks in the inaugural session, Dr. Nistar observed that the State of Pakistan now realises that security has many dimensions and human security is a very important element of this. She stated that in today's day and age, the real wealth of a country lies in its human capital. She went on to outline the basic pillars of the '*Ehsaas Programme*' and called the initiative a practical illustration of what happens when a country's policy translates into practical steps.

In his keynote address, Mr. Shafqat Mahmood said that in Pakistan there is a great deal of *Ehsaas* in society as can be envisaged in the charity levels which are among the highest in the world. The *Ehsaas* programme has direct mandate to address issues of poverty and has that spirit of rising to this challenge. He further stated that through initiatives such as introducing a single national curriculum, the government aims to address the equity issue, as well as help rectify the fractured mindset of the nation.

Other speakers at the seminar included: Mr. Qazi Asmat Isa, CEO of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund; Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay, Acting-CEO Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and Ms. Fatima Rasheed, Director Parwaaz, Akhuwat Foundation.

Mr. Isa during his presentation said that in all development programs, it is important to factor in the heterogeneity of Pakistan because this enriches our culture – each district with its distinct features requires different blueprints. It is also important to improve governance at local levels and imperative to track and keep a record of all progress being made.



While giving his remarks, Mr. Tetlay said that poverty lies at the household level, the household members suffer from it. Each household has the potential to improve its own livelihoods and status. But in order to harness this potential, proper guidance and organisation are needed.



Ms. Rasheed highlighted that understanding poverty should just be a question of justice. She talked about lessons one can learn from her organisation's work is that microfinance is viable, it is possible to work with indigenous institutions and that the development process has to be organic and has to evolve. She emphasised that it is important that the Government of Pakistan should have a consolidated and coordinated window for charity.



Seminar on “Hindu Nationalism and the Kashmir Dispute”

October 17, 2019



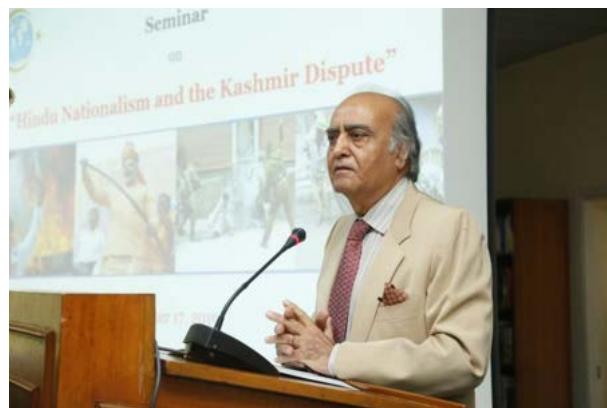
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled “Hindu Nationalism and the Kashmir Dispute” on October 17, 2019. Speakers at the seminar included: Dr. Mujeeb Afzal, Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU); Lt. Gen. Asif Yasin Malik (Retd.), Former Secretary Defence and Ambassador Muhammad Saeed Khalid. Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Coordinator Kashmir Cell, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also addressed the gathering as a Keynote Speaker. The panel discussion was chaired by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.



Ambassador Chaudhry in his welcome remarks stated that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is the fulfilment of a long ideological yearning under the Hindutva ideology of RSS as an attempt to establish "Akhand Bharat." He stated that the implications of the August 5 actions by the Indian government can be examined from various dimensions; legal, demographic, economic and military perspectives.



Dr. Afzal presented his views on "Hindu Nationalism and the Myth of Secular India." Lt. Gen. Asif Yasin Malik gave a presentation on "Fascist Leaders: Future of BJP?" Ambassador Muhammad Saeed Khalid expressed his views on "Kashmir: Dealing with Hindu Colonialism." While highlighting the Indian atrocities in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), Ambassador Tirmizi stated that for 11 weeks now, eight million people of the IOK are living in a surreal state of complete cut-off from the rest of the world and from one another too. With around 900,000 troops present in the Occupied state, the militarisation ratio is 1 to 8. He stressed that Hindutva in all its facets (ideological, political, social, cultural, religious and militaristic) is against the ideals of secularism.



In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, pointed out that Hindu nationalism is multifaceted. In recent decades, there has been a marked upsurge in the Indian atrocities; it is particularly displayed in the Modi government's aggression to quell Kashmiris' self-determination efforts. What is deeply troubling is how disenfranchisement of minorities in India is now institutionalised in India, he said.

Public Talks

Conversation/Public Talk by Ambassador Cameron Munter in collaboration with Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR)

January 15, 2019



On January 15, 2019, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) organised a public talk by Ambassador Cameron Munter, President of the East-West Institute (EWI), New York and Brussels. Dignitaries present on the occasion comprised of ambassadors, policymakers, journalists and businessmen.

The welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI. He said that it is well-evident that extreme volatility has been the hallmark of relations between Pakistan and the US. While acknowledging liberal aid and assistance provided by the US to Pakistan over the last seven decades, the bilateral relations have been heavy on security and transactional in nature. Now they are uni-dimensionally fixated on the situation in Afghanistan and the great power rivalry spawned by the rise of China. Ambassador Mahmood said that this does not mean that it is a substitute for the friendly mutually beneficial co-operative ties with the US, which Pakistan continues to aspire.

Ambassador Mahmood's welcome remarks were followed by Ambassador Cameron Munter's comments. He stated that it is important to not only think about the historical background but to focus a bit on the future and to try and think of the existing relationship, rather than to dissect the difficulties and try to speculate the strengths and possibilities of the future. He emphasised on the need to bring in the multilateral angle to see for example

what countries like China are doing in the region. He said that there is this whole strength outside the sphere of government that is being underutilised. Both countries need to look more long term and specifically talk about building ties between institutions, businesses, schools and universities.

Ambassador Munter further explained that it is better to look at the strengths of the Pakistani society and carry out the relationship through them. So instead of solving the problems, it would be better to go around the problems and invest in a long-term future by rebuilding trust and letting the governments follow rather than lead.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Chairman KCFR, thanked all the speakers. He praised the work the EWI has been doing especially in facilitating dialogue between Pakistan and the US. He said that if we had to rehash the past, we should not forget to rehash all the good things as well. He went on to say that the world is changing and is changing for the better for Pakistan. It is for Pakistan's best interests if it has good relations with all the countries in the region and not put its eggs in limited baskets alone.



Public Talk on “Role and Relevance of UN in the Contemporary Global Order”

January 22, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organised a public talk, titled “Role and Relevance of United Nations in the Contemporary Global Order,” on January 22, 2019. The guest speaker at the occasion was H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, academics, students and researchers.

Welcoming the speaker and the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the world today has changed in several ways. The UN has played a central role in forging a normative framework. Since 9/11, however, narrow nationalism is raising its head and the strategic landscape has undergone an enormous change as several conflicts have also festered. For Pakistan, the UN has a special place, given that the organisation has promised to resolve the Kashmir dispute but unfortunately, it has yet to deliver on this promise. Ambassador Chaudhry also said that Pakistan has played a special and important role in the UN Peacekeeping operations.

In her remarks, H.E. Ms. Garcés said that global challenges require global solutions. In fact, multilateralism offers the only way to address the complex challenges that no country can overcome alone. Ms. Garcés said that presently, the situation in the global order is convoluted to say the least. There are various challenges to peace and stability. She appreciated efforts by Pakistan to broaden its tax base, create more jobs and eliminate inequalities at all levels. She opined that this is a win-win cycle which empowers women,

men and youth. One way to further this cycle can be by leveraging new technologies to create new jobs, she said.

She reiterated that the world is better when nations work together and that authoritarian populists ride on the back of messages of anger, hatred and exclusion to scapegoat the very multilateral system and institutions that hold the world together. Speaking about the role of the UN in multilateralism in supporting peace and security, Ms. Garcés said the single best way to mitigate rising threats is to pursue dialogue and strengthen multilateralism.

The talk by Ms. Garcés was followed by an interactive question and answer session moderated by Ambassador Chaudhry.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, stated that Pakistan is proud of its role in the UN peacekeeping and will continue to be part of this cause. He also said that the UN has done a remarkable job in institution building and norm-setting to promote global development. He concluded by saying that the effectiveness of the UN has varied, depending upon the political commitment of its member states and the resilience and responsiveness of its structures.

Public Talk on “Resolving Pakistan’s Energy Dilemma: Critical Starting Point and Role of CPEC”

April 18, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Resolving Pakistan’s Energy Dilemma: Critical Staring Point and Role of CPEC” on April 18, 2019. Mr. Ziad Alahdad, former Director of Operations and Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank, was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that Pakistan has gone through one of the worst energy crisis in history. Though projects such as the Iran-Pakistan (IP), Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) Pipeline and Central Asia-South Asia (CASA-1000) are already being implemented, the launching of the comprehensive CPEC project of which energy is an important component, is a welcome step in order to facilitate industrial production at low cost.

In his address, Mr. Alahdad, emphasised that the state of the energy sector (and by extension the economy) is not beyond redemption. He attributed the widening energy deficit to lost opportunities, prohibitive delays, poor implementation and reform reversals. The CPEC programme and particularly its energy components have offered a crucial lifeline to Pakistan. If properly implemented, its potential benefits in terms of its sheer size, its contribution to GDP, foreign direct investment and infrastructure development are of a magnitude never encountered in Pakistan’s economic history. He recognised that Pakistan’s policymakers have been successful in articulating the overall objectives for energy policy within a national development context.

Public Talk on “Global Climate Change and its Implications for Pakistan”

May 8, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Global Climate Change and its Implications for Pakistan” on May 8, 2019. Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, Federick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the so-called traditional security discourse, while critically important, is also incomplete. To ignore non-traditional dimensions of security is, in fact, to make the modern stateless secure, including on national security. Pakistan is one of the countries at great risk of the impacts of Climate Change.

Dr. Najam started off by talking about the age of adaption. Institutional failures of any sort cause disruptions in the social fabric of a country. Countries, which are emitting the most of carbon waste are those which are least affected by the effects of climate change. Pakistan is in its 10th consecutive year of flood and 4th consecutive year of drought. However, these things do not make headlines anymore. Climate Change is a global phenomenon, which needs to be dealt in a wholesome manner as everyone is affected by its fallout.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, stated that there is now a growing awareness of the effects of Climate Change. Ignoring the impacts of climate change is no longer a luxury that any country can afford, least of all, Pakistan.

Public Talk on "Indus Waters Treaty and Water Security"

June 18, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, "Indus Water Treaty and Water Security" on June 18, 2019. Syed Mehr Ali Shah, Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, highlighted the importance of water, which has been critical for human life from times immemorial. Ambassador Chaudhry continued that Pakistan has been listed among water-stressed countries and is moving towards becoming a water-scarce country.

Mr. Ali gave an in-depth account of Indus water system; the historical perspective of Indus Water Treaty; perceptions and realities on water wars between India and Pakistan; present condition and governance issues of water security in the country. Regarding settlements of differences and disputes, he highlighted many grey areas in the treaty, which worked to the advantage of New Delhi. The Commissioner turned down the exaggerated account of India creating water-related problems for Pakistan and called for a comprehensive plan for managing this issue on the national policy front.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, concluded the talk by stating that, other than the technical aspects, it is political will that obstructs the implementation of the treaty. Water security is becoming a pressing issue for both Pakistan and India, therefore, both should be at a table to resolve their differences.

Public Talk by Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani President, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

June 27, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, for a public talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series on June 27, 2019. Honourable Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Investment, Industries & Production and Textile, also graced the occasion. Members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad, academics, civil society and former and current diplomats were also present.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, spoke about the work being done by the ISSI in the fields of security and foreign policy. He said that the Institute also has established linkages with similar institutions around the world and hoped that the think tanks in Afghanistan would find it convenient to establish linkages with the ISSI.

During his remarks, Foreign Minister Qureshi said that President Ghani's visit to Pakistan comes at a very crucial time in Pakistan. The future of both countries is interlinked as are the challenges they both face. The leadership of both sides have a responsibility for the betterment of their people.



President Ghani during his address stated that stability and prosperity are linked in order to achieve mutual sovereignty. It is important to make history by overcoming the past. He highlighted that normalisation of relations with Pakistan and political solution to the Afghan conflict are two of the most crucial items for the Afghan government. He spoke about regional connectivity and said a sovereign Afghanistan will be a partner of Pakistan in the reduction of poverty, overcoming institutional difficulty. He talked about the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI), calling it a breakthrough project, for which financing has been secured and work will begin in Afghanistan soon. He pointed out that the ports of Gwadar and Karachi can become the choice of the Central Asian firms. The existing system of railways is sufficient for this, he pointed out.



While concluding the talk, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are making progress and the peace process is moving forward. Pakistan is committed to the promotion of peace and cooperation with Afghanistan. He said that President Ghani's visit is significant and will provide an important impetus for the improvement of bilateral relations of the two countries.

Public Talk on “Dynamics of Pakistan’s Energy Security”

September 13, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Dynamics of Pakistan’s Energy Security” on September 13, 2019. Dr. Gulzar Ahmed, former Federal Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the shortfall of energy in Pakistan became a major impediment to economic development. He said that energy is the bloodline of industry and economy and the Government is taking diverse measures to circumvent this crisis. Expansion and refurbishment of the existing power plants, induction of new power plants and encouragement of renewable energy are some of the measures being taken.

During his presentation, Dr. Ahmed spoke about multiple issues linked with Pakistan’s management and development of the energy sector. He also gave an overview of the historical evolution of Pakistan’s energy mix and challenges generated as a result of the increasing share of imported oil as a source of power generation. He said that energy security is a complex interplay of numerous factors that cut across many sectors of economy, governance, planning and diplomacy. Dr. Ahmed also talked about the strengths and challenges to Pakistan’s energy sector.

Public Talk on “BRI & FOIP: Are they Compatible?”

September 30, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Dynamics of Pakistan’s Energy Security” on September 13, 2019. Dr. Akio Takahara, Dean, Graduate School of Public Policy and Professor of Contemporary Chinese Politics at the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo, was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the world around us is in flux. Asia especially is home to growing strategic competition between China and the US. Both countries have put forth competing strategies for the future of the region. For Pakistan, it brings forth new strategic challenges, which poses a major concern for policymakers.

While explaining BRI in the context of the Chinese foreign policymaking, Dr. Takahara said that President Xi Jinping wishes to stabilise big power relations and avoid confrontation between a rising power and its hegemonic counterpart, the US. He also talked about the domestic and international impact of BRI. He also spoke of the potential economic compatibility of BRI with the FOIP.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that countervailing initiatives to BRI are disturbing trends because instead of trying to build upon and improve existing ventures, such initiatives aim to destroy development efforts. The solution remains in finding a common ground, which can only be found in cooperation and avoiding confrontation.

Public Talk on “The Role of the European Union in the Global Scenario”

November 7, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “The Role of the European Union in the Global Scenario” on November 7, 2019. General Claudio Graziano, Chairman of the European Union (EU) Military Committee, was the guest speaker at the occasion. Ms. Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the EU to Pakistan also spoke on the occasion.

After the welcome remarks by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, Gen. Graziano gave a detailed overview of the challenges of contemporary times and the EU’s evolving role in the military and strategic context. He described the European Global Strategy and said that, in today’s age, the EU is planning to engage on the global peace and security issues with the international community. He briefed about the strategic priorities of the EU, its increasing responsibilities and the ever-increasing need to engage with its partners on the principle of strategic autonomy.

Ambassador Kaminara thanked the ISSI for hosting the talk. She said that the EU is not about trade and commerce only but security and strategy as well. Security cannot be achieved without development. On behalf of the European delegation, she welcomed any interaction with the Pakistani community on common security and foreign policy issues.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, concluded the talk by praising General Graziano for his wonderful and profound presentation on the workings of the EU, especially its defence and strategy sectors.

Public Talk on “How Pakistan and the US Can Provide a Plan B for Afghanistan”

November 12, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk on November 12, 2019 titled, “How Pakistan and the US Can Provide a Plan B for Afghanistan.” Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum, Director, Afghanistan and Pakistan Programme at the Middle East Institute, Washington, DC was the guest speaker.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that a critical first step towards the peace settlement is a credible intra-Afghan dialogue amongst all political and warring factions in Afghanistan, especially between the two principal stakeholders, namely the Afghan government and Taliban. He went on to say that Pakistan and the US have a crucial role to play in the future of Afghanistan and Pakistan is convinced of the continuing imperative of urgent resumption of the peace talks.

Delivering his talk on the subject, Dr. Weinbaum said that we have tried a political solution for Afghanistan for the past 10 years based on the premise, strictly speaking, that there is not a military solution, at least one that the international community can guarantee. Plan B is based on a compromised agreement with the Taliban, that features above all, power-sharing in which the Taliban in one form or another would be invited to share power. In order to reach this agreement, it was necessary to have extended negotiations. He also spoke of the nine rounds of negotiations, which he said had nothing to do with peace in Afghanistan since there was no truce and no concessions that would end the conflict. Plan B necessitates looking at a realistic picture. It is a rededication to the Afghan state and to the strengthening of the state we have lost sight of by thinking there is a shortcut out of this conflict. But all this refocusing cannot happen without the Afghan's themselves.

Public Talk on “Climate Change: Energy Strategies for Mitigation”

November 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled, “Climate Change: Energy Strategies for Mitigation,” on November 26, 2019 under its Distinguished Lecture Series. Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, former UN Assistant Secretary General and Chairperson of the Board at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), was the guest speaker. Policymakers, diplomats, academics and students were present on the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Pakistan has rightly supported and engaged with international efforts to mitigate impacts of Climate Change. However, there are indicators which show that it will now be nearly impossible to meet the Paris Agreement targets, which means that developing countries like Pakistan will have to bear the bulk of the burden of adaptation itself.

During his remarks, Ambassador Kakakhel gave an overview of Pakistan’s energy needs. He spoke of Pakistan’s vulnerability to Climate Change and pointed out that one of the problems Pakistan faces is because of overall governance challenges and poorly resourced disaster warning and preparedness system, especially at the provincial and lower levels of government.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks stated that even though climate change is a relatively new subject, it is a very multidimensional issue. He noted that the Paris Agreement provides a very forward-looking plan of action and it is important that it is adhered to.

Public Talk on “Pak and the UN: Challenges & Opportunities of Multilateralism”

December 4, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series on December 4, 2019 titled “Pakistan and the UN: Challenges and Opportunities of Multilateralism.” The guest speaker at the occasion was Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, former Pakistan’s Representative to the UN and Ambassador to the US and UK.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the distinguished speaker and the guests while giving a cross-sectional view of multilateralism, its evolving dimensions in the contemporary world order and its future.

In her wide-ranging lecture, Dr. Lodhi said that Pakistan’s engagement at the UN had, over the decades, involved contributions in both hard and soft power. In terms of hard power, Pakistan has for decades been among the world’s top and most consistent contributors to the UN Peacekeeping. Dr. Lodhi said whatever its drawbacks, multilateralism is needed more than ever especially when a rules-based international system is under assault. She suggested that an important way to strengthen multilateralism would be to strengthen the role of the UN.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, succinctly captured the structural flaws that are paralysing the functional spirit of the UN. He emphasised the UN needs to improve its structural barriers and must live up to the expectations of catering to the urgency for common good, global peace and security.

Public Talk on “Intellectual Property Rights: Creating Public Awareness”

December 10, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk in collaboration with Oxford University Press, on “Intellectual Property Rights: Creating Public Awareness,” on December 10, 2029. The event was a part of the ISSI’s Distinguished Lecture Series. The distinguished speaker at the event was Malik Muhammad Bilal Haider, a foreign qualified renowned lawyer and intellectual property rights work. Currently, he is associated with Oxford University Press.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, lamented the fact that, in a society like ours, there is a tendency to put the matters of intellectual property rights on the backburner. Mr. Rafique emphasised that the developed societies have come to the point of appreciating the importance of protecting intellectual rights and we, as a part of think tank and academic community, also need to encourage this trend.

While giving a detailed presentation on intellectual property rights, Mr. Haider touched upon three main subjects: intellectual property rights, its main normative and legal nuances; international treaties and Pakistan’s compliance and violations, penalties and misconceptions. Deploring the lack of awareness about intellectual property rights, Mr. Haider cited examples of some of our most celebrated literary personalities – Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Mushtaq Ahmed Yousufi and Qurat-ul-Ain Haider – who were deprived of royalties of their original works. He informed the audience regarding intellectual property rights enforcement data; total 811 cases were registered in the country and legal actions were also taken.

Public Talk on “Pakistan’s Macro Economy: Current Situation and the Way Forward”

December 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a public talk titled “Pakistan’s Macro Economy: Current Situation and the Way Forward,” on December 26, 2019. Dr. Ishrat Husain, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity, was the guest speaker at the occasion.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the ISSI plans to carry out a series of public conversations on the economy of Pakistan, starting with the discussion today on macroeconomy with Dr. Husain. He said that the ISSI hopes to cover other dimensions of the economy of the country including micro-economy, trade, planning and development.

Dr. Husain began his talk by placing the current economic situation in the historical context. He stated that the lack of political courage and inability to stick to reforms in the face of adverse sections is the main explanatory factor for the booms and busts of the Pakistani economy in the last 25 years. He drew lessons from past episodes of caretaker setups in that country and also touched upon on judicial reforms. Concluding his talk, he said that the current economic situation is improving as macroeconomic stability is achieved but the benefits to the common citizens would be gradually discernible with the resumption of socially inclusive economic growth and job creation.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, concluded the talk by stating that a rethinking in economic policy is in order as the present framework of the IMF programme will not allow the growth of the economy.

In-house Meetings

In-house Meeting with a 4-member Chinese Delegation from Chinese Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation

January 3, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a 4-member Chinese delegation from the Chinese Council of BRICS Think Tank Cooperation (CCBTC) on January 3, 2019. The members of the delegation included: Mr. Luan Jianzhang, Secretary General CCBTC; Mr. Chen Xi, Associate Researcher CCBTC; Suo Bugu, Staff CCBTC and Mr. Lijian Zhou, Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, welcomed the delegation and shared his perspective on current global affairs and emphasised on the significance of Pakistan-China bilateral relations and efficacy of economic interdependence via multi-lateral forums such as BRICS.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) presented an overview of China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC.

In-house Meeting with a 2-member Delegation from Qatar

February 1, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a 2-member delegation from Qatar on February 1, 2019. The delegation included: Dr. Marwan J. Kabalan, Head of Policy Analysis, Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS), and Professor Dr. Ibrahim Fraihat, Associate Professor and Programme Chair of Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action at Doha Institute of Graduate Studies.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Qatar is playing a very important role in facilitating the Afghan peace process and Pakistan recognises this role. He maintained that Pakistan can play a very important role in the Afghan peace process.

Dr. Kabalan observed that a similar situation could very soon present itself in Syria as the US has expressed its desire to withdraw. He inquired about the prospects of Pak-US cooperation during the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and Pakistan's possible policy orientation vis-a-vis Afghanistan post-US withdrawal from the country. While Dr. Fraihat was of the opinion that Pakistan's role has huge potential for bringing about peace in the Middle East.

Ambassador Chaudhry concluded the meeting by stating that Pakistan can play a role to provide sound advice that these countries must resolve their issues on the table, not on the battlefield.

In-house Meeting with Prof. Dr. Michael Jansen

March 22, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an informal in-house meeting with Prof. Dr. Michael Jansen from the German University of Technology, Muscat, on March 22, 2019.

Welcoming the guest, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, lauded the achievements of Prof. Jansen who was visiting Pakistan to receive his second award on March 23, 2019, from the Government of Pakistan for his valuable research on the cultural and architectural sites in Pakistan. A short introduction of the ISSI was presented by Ms. Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow ISSI.

Dr. Jansen talked about heritage national strategy and ways in which Pakistan can manage its culture. He said that one needs to understand the past in order to understand the future. He said that there is a need to spread awareness in Pakistan about the value of the heritage sites. Dr. Jansen emphasised that the Pakistanis need to develop their archaeological sites and attract more visitors. He also talked about the revolution of transport and how the world has moved from land to water transport and keeping this in mind, Gwadar should be developed in such a manner, so as to cater to its own country but the region as a whole.

In-house Meeting with a 4-member Delegation from Nepal Press Council

March 27, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on March 27, 2019, with a 4-member delegation from Nepal Press Council. Members of the delegation included: Mr. Kishor Shrestha, Acting Chairman, Press Council of Nepal; Mr. Gyanratna Shakya, Member, Press Council of Nepal; Mr. Khil Bahadur Bhandari, Member, Press Council of Nepal and Ms. Saraswati Shrestha, Member, Press Council of Nepal.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, highlighted Pakistan's good relations with Nepal and gave a brief overview of the changing global geopolitical scenario.

An interactive session followed Ambassador Chaudhry's briefing in which important points such as Indo-Pak relations, regional integration and current situation in South Asia.

In-house Meeting with a 5-member Chinese Delegation from Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

April 17, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a delegation from Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) on April 17, 2019. Members of the delegation included: Prof. Li Kaisheng, Director International Cooperation; Prof. Zhang Yifeng, Deputy Director International Relations, Dr. Liu Jinqian, Dr. Hao Qunhuan and Dr. Luo Hui. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI welcomed the delegation.

Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor CPSC, followed with an introduction of the ISSI and the work being done by the CPSC.

Dr. Li Kaisheng thanked the ISSI for hosting the delegation. He informed that every Chinese province has an Academy of Social Sciences, and SASS is the second largest. It comprises of 16 institutes working on the history, sociology, transport planning and international relations among others. He underlined that South Asia is important for China, especially Pakistan. For this delegation, he noted, the focus is on investigating the evolution and impact of the CPEC, as well as regional issues.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, briefed the delegation on the CPEC highlighting its vision, details, and future potentials.

Delegates asked incisive questions about Pakistan-China relations, the CPEC, and contemporary regional situation.

In-house Meeting with Ambassador Shahid Kiani

May 13, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with Ambassador Shahid Gul Kiani, HSF Distinguished Fellow at ISSI, on May 13, 2019. The meeting was attended by ISSI's executive heads and research staff.

During the meeting, Ambassador Kiani introduced himself and the research work that he was currently undertaking. Furthermore, he presented his most recent research paper on "Composite Dialogue with India" during the meeting.

Ambassador Kiani's presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

In-house Meeting with by Director General National Institute of Maritime Affairs

May 20, 2019



An 8-member delegation from the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), led by Vice Admiral (Retd) Khawar Ali Shah, Director General NIMA, paid a courtesy call to the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on May 20, 2019.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the delegation.

The delegation was briefed about the ISSI by Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow.

Introducing NIMA, Vice Admiral Shah stated that the Institute is a policy-oriented think tank, working on blue economy and maritime tourism. It aims to formulate strategies that are not divorced from realities. He suggested that the NIMA and ISSI should join hands and develop research linkages that cater to the needs of both institutes.

Ambassador Chaudhry, in his remarks, stated that the Indian Ocean Region is going to be the centre of international and regional politics for the years to come. Regarding cooperation with NIMA, he said that the ISSI analyses developments with a broader strategic perspective and cooperation with NIMA would be beneficial for both the institutes. This will allow the ISSI to focus more on the maritime domain. He thanked the NIMA delegation for their interest in the ISSI and strengthening institutional linkage.

In-house Meeting with a 2-member Research Team from PADA

June 17, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with a 2-member delegation from Centre of Policy Analysis and Development Agency (PADA), Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on June 17, 2019. Members of the delegation included Mr. Ahmad Gunawan Wicaksono and Mr. Adi Priyanto.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the delegation and introduced the members of the ISSI participating in the meeting.

Mr. Priyanto thanked the ambassador for hosting them and shared information about the work and activities of his organisation. He stated that the main focus of their visit was to learn more about connectivity and the developments taking place under the CPEC.

Ms. Mahrukh Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, gave a brief introduction of the ISSI to the delegation and informed them about the activities and research work carried out at the Institute.

Ambassador Chaudhry briefed the delegation on the evolving global and regional developments.

Ms. Neelum Nigar, Research Fellow, China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the ISSI, briefed the delegation on the CPEC. She elaborated on the political, strategic and economic aspects of Pakistan-China relations, and the progress on the CPEC projects in Pakistan.

In-house Meeting with a 3-member Media Delegation from Maldives

June 17, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a 3-member media delegation from Maldives on June 17, 2019. Members of the Maldivian delegation included: Mr. Waheed Ibrahim, Mr. Farooq Mohamed Hassan and Ms. Zihnath Hassan.

Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, welcomed the delegation and introduced himself and the South Asian team at the Institute.

Ms. Shahroo Malik, Research Associate ISSI, gave a brief introduction of the Institute, its working and contribution to the strategic discourse and issues relevant to Pakistan.

Mr. Rafique apprised the delegation on the strategic environment in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

The Maldivian delegation stated that due to the Indian influence in the Maldives, progress in Pakistan-Maldives relations has slowed down. Furthermore, the delegation also said that the Pakistani media should expose India's game plan in the region. The delegation praised the existing MOU on tourism between Pakistan and Maldives and hoped that the relationship between the two countries will strengthen.

In-house Meeting with a 12-member Malaysian Delegation

June 19, 2019



A 12-member delegation from Majlis Perundingan Pertubuhan Islam Malaysia (MAPIM) visited Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on June 19, 2019. Members of the delegation included: Mohd. Azmi Abdul Hamid, Datuk Seri Ahmad Awang, Mrs. Masadah Sajadi, Datin Seri Rosiah Salleh, Rozaidi Taib, Ust. Hj. Mohd. Nasir Zakaria, Fadhil Bin Osman, Muhammad Fadhil, Yusni, Johan Ariff Ismail, DW Ust. Hj. Abdul Othman Bin Samsudin, Datuk Rahat Bin, Mohammad Tahir Khan and Latifah Bint Mahmood.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the delegation and gave a detailed briefing of the regional situation and contemporary global politics, including how the CPEC will bring prosperity to Pakistan and the region. He also highlighted the brotherly relations that Pakistan enjoys with Malaysia.

Majid Mahmood, Research Associate ISSI, briefed the delegation on the Kashmir issue and the current situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Hamid, leader of the Malaysian delegation identified a number of areas where Pakistan and Malaysia could work together, which included joint research programmes, people-to-people connections, human capacity building, establishing strong relief work network and more cooperation on Palestine issue.

Concluding the meeting, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, highlighted the importance of people-to-people and government-to-government contacts.

In-house Meeting with a 3-member Chinese Delegation

June 19, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house meeting with a 3-member Chinese delegation for Pakistan-China Agriculture Cooperation Dialogue. The Chinese side was represented by agricultural stakeholders including Mr. Guanghui Chen; Ms. Zihan Mo; Mr. Guoxing Fo; Mr. Guihe Wang; Ms. Wenqing Xu and Mr. Zihai Wang. They were joined by Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, former VC Faisalabad Agriculture University; Dr. Farida Faisal, University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi; Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director SDPI; Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Executive Director, Zalmi Foundation; Mr. Asif Sharif, CEO Pedevar Group and Air Marshal Rashid Kaleem.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), welcomed the Chinese delegation and introduced the Pakistani participants.

Mr. Chen stated that there are multiple factors involved in agri-business and, thus, a systematic approach is required to address the issues. He encouraged both sides to adopt green and innovative agricultural practices. Given that climate change is likely to affect the agricultural activity in the coming years, he called for modernisation and further research.

The participants also discussed the financing and marketing of agricultural products to enhance exports.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Shabbir commended the participants for engaging in a fruitful discussion on a key area of cooperation.

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

June 20, 2019



A 6-member media delegation from Nepal visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on June 20, 2019. Members of the delegation included: Mr. Shubha Shankar Kandel, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, *ABC News TV*; Ms. Sharada Sharma; Mr. Rajan Paudel; Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Basnet; Mr. Purna Bahadur Gharti Chhetri and Mr. Dhruba Prasad Adhikari.

Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, welcomed the delegation and gave a brief introduction about the Institute. He spoke about the issues in South Asia and said that the most dangerous development has been the rise of Hindutva ideology in India under the Modi regime.

The members of the Nepalese delegation agreed that the road to peace in the region lies through dialogue and were positive that Nepal will choose not to follow the Indian line if the next SAARC summit comes through. Mr. Shubha Shankar Kandel informed that he is also Chairman of the Centre for the Asian Policy Research and Studies (CAPS) and looks forward to developing academic collaboration with the ISSI. He thanked Mr. Rafique for hosting them for an interesting interaction.

In-house Meeting with Dr. Geoffrey Shaw, the Australian High Commissioner

July 16, 2019



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 Leahy, First Secretary (Political) and Ms. Michelle Sullivan, First Secretary (Political).

The delegation was welcomed by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI.

The guests were given an introduction of the Institute's workings. During the meeting, various aspects of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Australia were discussed.

Dr. Shaw said that it was imperative to engage with the academic community to get a better understanding of the workings of a country's foreign policy. He also described the workings of the Australian High Commission.

After the briefing, the guests were given a tour of the ISSI's premises.

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

In-house Meeting with a 10-member Delegation of European Parliamentarians

July 30, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on July 30, 2019, with a delegation of prominent European Parliamentarians led by UK-based Jammu and Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI). The delegation was headed by Mr. Richard Corbett MEP, Leader of the Labour Party in Europe. Other members of the delegation included: Irina Von Wiese MEP, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI); Nazia Rehman MP, Cabinet Member for Finance; Sardar Sadique Khan; Lorraine Kirkwood, Assistant to Richard Corbett and Hussain Khan, Assistant to Irina Von Wiese.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that the Kashmir dispute has three dimensions to it: political, legal and human rights.

Members of the delegation said that on the political front, there have been lots of potential solutions to the Kashmir dispute, which have unfortunately not made any headway. The resolution in Ireland can be used as a blueprint in this regard. Human rights issue in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) should be a top priority. The members were cognisant of the fact that Pakistan has paid a high price in the war against terrorism and is still paying a high price because of internal, as well as external politics. Discussing the situation in Afghanistan, it was said that peace can only be achieved through a negotiated settlement.

In-house Meeting with Ambassador Paul W. Jones, the US Charge D'Affaires

August 29, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with the US Chargé D'Affaires in Pakistan, Ambassador Paul W. Jones, at its premises on August 29, 2019. The objective of the meeting was to discuss bilateral relations between Pakistan and the US.

The meeting was attended by former diplomats, members of academia and members of think tank community.

In-house Meeting with a 10-member Ethiopian Delegation

September 12, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on September 12, 2019, with a 9-member Ethiopian delegation headed by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Markos Tekle, State Minister of Foreign Affairs. Other members of the delegation included: H.E. Ambassador Misiganu Arega, State Minister, Ministry of Trade & Industry; Mrs. Munteha Jemal, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Assefa Mulugeta, Director General, Ministry of Trade & Investment; Mr. Woldehawariya Assefa, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Getachew Mekebo, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Yirgalem Behiresham, Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Haile Berhe, Businessman and Mr. Tewodros Yilma, Businessman.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the Government of Pakistan attaches great importance to the African continent. Pakistan is now following a 'Look Africa' policy and in this regard, the recent interaction between the prime ministers of both Pakistan and Ethiopia was a positive development and the beginning of Pakistan-Ethiopia ties.

Ambassador Tekle expressed his gratitude to the ISSI and said that Ethiopia has much to learn from Pakistan's experience, particularly the manner in which Pakistan has been able to cope in such a difficult neighbourhood. He said that Ethiopia has had similar experiences such as the failed state in Somalia, South Sudan and issues in Eritrea. Many countries wanted to set up a naval base in Djibouti. He concluded by saying that Pakistan should not merely have a 'Look Africa' policy but should revise it to a 'Go to Africa' policy.

In-house Meeting with a 21-member Turkish Media Delegation

September 16, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house meeting with a 21-member media delegation from Turkey. The Turkish media delegation included representatives from major news agencies, print and electronic media.

The discussion at the meeting covered major global issues including the deteriorating situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, gave a brief overview of global and regional situation in South Asia, with particular focus on the developments on the Kashmir dispute following the August 5, 2019 abrogation of the special status of occupied Kashmir by the Modi government. He apprised the Turkish delegation about the serious crisis of the human rights situation in the IOK.

The members of the Turkish media delegation were of the view that there is an increased level of awareness in the Turkish society about developments in Kashmir but more efforts are needed in this regard. The delegation was also comprehensively briefed about Pakistan's relations with major global powers and its neighbourhood policies. It was communicated that as a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan abides by the UN Charter and does not subscribe to warmongering and sabre-rattling as opposed to its belligerent neighbour, India. Pakistan's relationship with Russia, China and Afghanistan also came under discussion.

In-house Meeting with a 3-member Delegation from IDCPC

November 6, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on November 6, 2019, with a 3-member delegation from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC). The delegation was headed by Mr. Hu Xiaodong, Deputy Director of Bureau I, IDCPC and included Mr. Chen Yongpei, Attaché at the Chinese Embassy and Mr. Jin Enze Fourth-level Principal Staff Member of Bureau I, IDCPC.

Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor CPSC, gave a brief overview of the ISSI. It was followed by an overview of Pakistan-China relations by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC.

Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, apprised the delegation of the regional situation. He said that tensions have escalated after India's illegal annexation of the IOK. He also covered the developments in the South China Sea, Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

During his comments, Mr. Xiaodong stated that China was also affected by unconstitutional steps of Delhi on August 5, and both China and Pakistan will continue to support each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also discussed the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts.

The remarks were followed by an interactive discussion which was moderated by Director CPSC. Among other topics, the situation in Afghanistan, particularly the recent elections and future trajectory of the CPEC were also discussed.

In-house Meeting to Celebrate on International Human Rights Day

December 10, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house roundtable meeting at its premises to commemorate International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2019.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, was the keynote speaker and offered his remarks at the occasion and noted that concentrated efforts are being made by Pakistan to promote and protect human rights.

Ambassador Chaudhry's remarks were followed by short remarks by ISSI researchers and officers regarding International Human Rights Day celebrations.

The participants of the roundtable reaffirmed the need for all to strive towards promoting a culture of mutual respect, tolerance and gender equality in Pakistan. The participants reiterated Pakistan's resolve to always stand up for human rights, peace and the Kashmiris' right to self-determination against the tyranny of India.

In-house Meeting with Mr. Dominic Ziegler, Asia Correspondent, Economist Magazine

December 12, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting on December 12, 2019, with Mr. Dominic Ziegler, Asia Correspondent, Economist Magazine. He was accompanied by Mr. Ben Farmer and Mr. Waqar Gillani. Agenda of the discussion was Pakistan-China Relations and the CPEC.

The in-house was preceded by a one-on-one meeting of the delegation with Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. Mr. Ziegler and his team were later briefed by Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research, and members of the CPSC.

Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor CPSC, briefed the guests on the history and current activities of the Institute.

Mr. Rafique provided a background on the CPEC and overall Pak-China relations. Ms. Neelum Nigar, Research Fellow CPSC, briefed the Economist Magazine team about the operationalisation of SEZs that will help Pakistan to boost its industrialisation process.

The briefings were followed by an interactive discussion on various aspects of Pakistan-China relations and the CPEC.

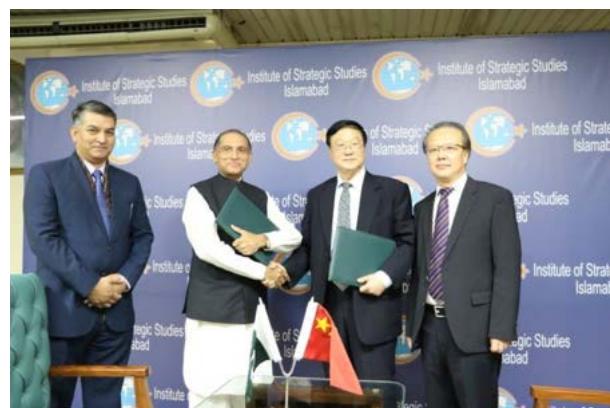
In-house Meeting with 8-member Delegation from Sichuan University

December 13, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house meeting with an 8-Member delegation from Sichuan University. The delegation was headed by Professor Yan Shijing, Vice President of the Sichuan University.

Earlier, China Centre for South Asian Studies (CCSAS) at the Sichuan University and the ISSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the Institute and the Centre. The MoU was signed by Professor Sun Shihai, Director General CCSAS and Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.



The purpose of the discussion was to exchange views on matters of mutual interest including Pakistan-China relations, the CPEC and regional environment so that ideas could be generated for future collaboration. There was consensus among the participants, both the Chinese and Pakistani on working on regional security matters, expanding relations with other countries outside the region and for joint research projects, exchange programmes and a lot more.

Concluding the discussion, Dr. Shabbir hoped for cooperation in various other avenues and stated that the joint efforts and collaborations between the Pakistani and Chinese scholars will benefit both the countries.

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

December 16, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 3-member media delegation from the Maldives for an in-house meeting on December 16, 2019. Members of the delegation included: Mr. Farooq Mohamed Hassan, writer and journalist; Mr. Abdul Shakoor Abdul Raheem, blogger and Mr. Abdullah Mohamed, news producer, *Channel-13*.

Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research ISSI, welcomed the delegation. Ms. Shahroo Malik, Research Associate, gave a brief introduction of the ISSI, its working and contribution to the strategic discourse, research and issues relevant to Pakistan. Dr. Talat Shabir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI, gave an overview of the traditional warm and friendly relations between Pakistan and China.

All the three delegates agreed to the suggestion put up by Mr. Najam that all the smaller South Asian states must resist pressure by India and work under the SAARC banner with Pakistan in order to develop trust and mutual respect for maximum benefits to the people in the region even if India chooses to stay out of these meetings.

Mr. Rafique thanked the Maldivian delegation for the discussion and exchange of views on regional and international issues.



Roundtable Discussion

Roundtable on “China Study Centres and Institutes in Pakistan”

March 7, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable, hosting a discussion between various China study centres and institutes in Pakistan on March 7, 2019. Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the occasion.



During her inaugural address, Ms. Janjua stated that Pakistan-China relationship is a two-way street. China is Pakistan's truly tested best friend and likewise, Pakistan is China's truly tested best friend. The Pak-China strategic partnership is a pillar and of peace and stability in the region and beyond. Ms. Janjua said that China is now the strong voice of the developing countries and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a vehicle for change

and is indeed a win-win model. She said that with the progress of the CPEC, China has now become the largest investor and partner of Pakistan.

Keynote address at the event was delivered by H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan. Ambassador Jing said that the coming together of China-focused centres was an important occasion. Sino-Pakistan relations figure very high in all of China's relations and China attaches special importance to its relationship with Pakistan, especially in the changing, complex world order.



Earlier in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, spoke about how Pakistan and China have maintained and strengthened their relationship ever since they were established in 1949. Regardless of the changes on the international scene and change of governments in both countries, this relationship has only strengthened with time. He said that this is the first time that most of China centres that exist in various parts of the country have come together from all provinces, as well as Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The agenda for the roundtable was to discuss the areas of research each centre is currently focusing on and to outline avenues of future collaboration. Participants included representatives from China studies centres and institutes from across Pakistan.



The discussion focused on opening new channels for further cooperation and the speakers agreed on the need for a renewed focus on building human resource capacity, which can

later be passed on to the younger generations. The discussants also emphasised that there should be joint skill-building programmes, including initiation of healthy and constructive debates. Furthermore, the culture of both countries needs to be leveraged and promoted as well and more focused research needs to be conducted on the CPEC and how it can benefit the region as a whole.



Roundtable on “How Successfully ECO has Achieved its Objectives of Regional Connectivity and Trade Promotion: A Critical Appreciation of ECO”

March 14, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion on March 14, 2019. The chief guest at the occasion was Honourable Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO). The agenda for the session was based on how successfully the ECO has achieved its objectives of regional connectivity and trade promotion.

Participants at the roundtable included: Ambassador Tariq Aziz ud Din; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Brigadier (Retd) Said Nazir, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS); Ambassador Tajammul Altaf; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Dr. Tughral Yamin, Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST; Ms. Anum Fatima, Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Studies (PIPS); Dr. Muhammad Munir, National Defence University (NDU); Ambassador Seema Ilahi; Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Director General ECO/CARs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Ms. Naila Israr, MOFA and Dr. Shaheen Akhter, NDU.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, highlighted how globalisation is spurring many responses, one of which is regionalism. He said that in order to lead the process of regional development, economic organisations can play the role of a catalyst and locomotive. Pakistan stands at the crossroads of regional connectivity and it is imperative to link together the landlocked member states of the ECO

he said. He emphasised that in order to harness the full potential of the ECO the member states need to work together in the domain of economic cooperation.



Dr. Soleimanpour thanked the Institute for arranging the roundtable discussion on ECO's vision. He began by saying that the ECO is the only regional organisation that interlinks the northern part of the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, as well as the Caspian Sea. It also connects the Indian Ocean to the Caucasus region and to Russia; and Central Asia to the Subcontinent. He stressed that the relationship among the ECO member states has been defined in terms of geo-economics and none of the ECO member states have strained their mutual ties over geopolitical rivalries or territorial disputes. This geo-economic approach is all cooperation and development, as well as integration. However, the facts and figures tell us that there is still a lot more to be done.



An interactive session followed Dr. Soleimanpour's presentation in which important points such as the educational role of the ECO, scholarships, people-to-people contacts, visa facilitation for member countries and the development of banking channels were discussed.

Concluding the discussion, Ambassador Chaudhry expressed his gratitude to Honourable Dr. Soleimanpour and all the esteemed participants for being part of the roundtable.

Roundtable with Delegation from Harvard Kennedy School of Government

March 20, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a briefing for a 40-member group of graduate students and alumni from Harvard Kennedy School of Government on March 20, 2019. The group members comprised students representing 24 countries, including the US, China, Germany, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, UAE, Brazil, Columbia and Singapore.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, welcomed the guests. At the outset, Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor CPSC, gave a brief introduction of the ISSI and CPSC.

Mr. Muhammad Ali, former Chairman Security and Exchange Commission, briefly introduced the members of the delegation and their programme in Pakistan. Mr. Ali thanked the Institute for accommodating them amid its hectic schedule and said that the group was interested in understanding the CPEC and its role in evolving regional dynamics.

Dr. Shabbir gave a presentation on the regional imperatives of the CPEC highlighting the vision, details and future potentials of the corridor. He elaborated that the Chinese vision involves promoting economic and social development in Western China and accelerating the development of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



Following the briefing, Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, warmly welcomed the delegates to the Institute. Ambassador Chaudhry situated the topic of interest to Harvard delegates in the broader context. He stressed the importance of understanding how Pakistan perceives its global and regional context in which it is pursuing its relations with China.



The talk by Ambassador Chaudhry was followed by an interactive discussion. Delegates asked incisive questions about Pakistan-China relations, the CPEC, Afghan peace process, Pakistan's relations with India and Iran.



Roundtable with a 3-member Austrian Delegation

March 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable on March 26, 2019 with a 3-member Austrian delegation of scholars led by Dr. Werner Fassalabend, former Austrian Defence Minister and currently President of Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES). He was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Dr. Walter Feichtinger, Director, Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management (IPSCM) and Mr. Peter Haider, President, Universal Peace Foundation (UPF), Austrian Chapter, Vienna. The agenda for the roundtable was based on how the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute is an international obligation.



Participants at the roundtable included: Honourable Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan; Honourable Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan; Ambassador (Retd.) Arif Kamal; Dr. Rukhsana Qamber, President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS); Mr. Shahras Asim, Director Kashmir, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); Senator Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum (Retd.); Mr. Hamza Iftikhar; Mr. Malik Asif Tanveer; Ms. Tahira Abdullah; Mr. Raja Najabat Hussain; Dr. Afsar Rathor; Mr. Ershad Mahmud; Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi; Ms. Farzana Yaqoob and Ms. Marium Nazir.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.



The main points raised during the discussion were that Kashmir is not a bilateral issue – it is an international flashpoint. Hence, the issue cannot be solved unless the UN along with the international community makes sure that its resolutions are implemented. So far, the international community, which claims that they are impartial has not raised its voice for the Kashmiri struggle. The Kashmiris should be allowed to travel without restrictions. The youth of Kashmir should be provided with opportunities to pursue their careers. People to people exchanges should be facilitated by the governments of Pakistan and India. Peace is the ultimate end game of humanity. All participants agreed that the people of Kashmir deserve a peaceful solution. The root cause of the issue needs to be addressed. In Kashmir, rape is being used as an instrument of war. It should be kept in mind that the gender dimension is important both politically and socially. The atrocities in Kashmir has reached a breaking point. Kashmir is not a piece of real estate to fight over. It is time that India should accept the formation of an independent international commission. Moreover, there should be no double standards: if India wishes to be part of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) then it must not selectively accept or reject the UN reports and resolutions.

Roundtable on “Role of Pakistani Diaspora”

April 23, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable on “Role of Pakistani Diaspora” on April 23, 2019. Mr. Irfan Murtaza, a prominent Pakistani community leader based in California was the guest speaker.

The discussion was followed by a lively poetry session. Along with experts, a number of prominent poets based in Islamabad also participated at the roundtable including: Mr. Khalid Iqbal Yasir, Mr. Wafa Chisti, Mr. Nasir Aqeel, Mr. Naseem-e-Seher, Mr. Qayum Tahir, Mr. Majid Jahangir, Mr. Anwar Fitrat, Ms. Parveen Tahir, Ms. Farheen Chaudhry, Mr. Rahat Sarhadi, Ms. Gia Qureshi, Mr. Naveed Malik, Ms. Bushra Hazeen and Ms. Kuaser Samreen.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, gave his welcome remarks and highlighted the importance of Diaspora and the major role it plays in promoting a country soft image.

Mr. Murtaza in his remarks said that people might migrate to other countries but the love for their native country never diminishes. He emphasised on the activities of Pakistani Diaspora in the US where Urdu literary and poetry events are regularly held. He also informed the audience about a webpage on social media by the name of “Re-paint Pakistan.” This page is used by the community to promote the soft image of Pakistan.

The roundtable discussion was followed by a poetry session where a number of poets presented their recent work. Concluding the session, Ambassador Chaudhry thanked Mr. Murtaza, other participants and poets for sharing their thoughts and poetry.



Roundtable with a 4-member Delegation of Al-Quds Parliament

June 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable discussion with a 4-member delegation of Al-Quds Parliament on June 26, 2019. Mr. Hamid Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmer was heading a 4-member delegation from Al-Quds Parliament including: Sayed Abu Musameh, Member of Board; Mr. Jarallah Bachir, Director General and Mr. Abeadallah Elbelti, General Coordinator of Relation.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, who lamented that news coming from Palestine is very tragic and grim. He stated that Israel has been usurping the rights of the people of Palestine and obliterating the Islamic legacy of Al-Quds with no regard for international law.



Mr. Al-Ahmer said that the Palestine issue is still unresolved because the Muslim states and the supporting voices in the world are not united. Therefore, we are visiting various capitals of the world to build a consensus among the world parliaments on this very critical issue of regional and global peace. Other participants at the roundtable reiterated that Pakistan's support to the rights of the Palestinians and said that the Pakistani people have always stood for Palestine irrespective of their ideological and political affiliations.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that like UN resolutions on Kashmir, resolutions on Palestine remain unimplemented. There are many factors behind it but we must remain persistent. He reiterated that there is a complete national consensus in Pakistan for the cause of Palestine.

Roundtable with a 10-member Delegation of Chinese Diplomats

June 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable discussion with a 10-member delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 26, 2019. H.E. Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was the chief guest. Officials from the Chinese Embassy were also in attendance. The agenda was to brief the delegates on Pakistan's foreign policy.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. He highlighted how Pakistan's relations with China are central to Pakistan's foreign policy agenda. He stated that Pakistan continues to believe that peaceful solutions should be found to all regional problems.





President Masood Khan stated that though it is now commonplace to say that Pakistan and China enjoy all-weather friendship but there is more substance to this hyperbole. He said that the emergence of the BRI is a global initiative and Pakistanis are proud that the CPEC is the flagship project of this. He also talked of the Kashmir issue, which he said was not about separatism, extremism or terrorism but about the realisation of the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

While concluding the discussion, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, talked of the depth of Pakistan-China friendship and how they have always supported each other on all forums.



Roundtable on “TORTURE- Indian State’s Instrument of Control in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir”

July 17, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion on July 17, 2019 with reference to the latest report by Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons and Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society on atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) titled, “Torture: Indian State’s Instrument of Control in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir.”



The keynote speaker at occasion was Syed Fakhar Imam, Chairman Kashmir Committee. Other speakers at the occasion included: Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Member Kashmir Committee; Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq; Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President, Research Society of

International Law and Saiyyed Abdullah Gillani, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). Prominent participants at the roundtable included: Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR); Mr. Ershad Mahmood, Executive Director, Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR); Ghulam Muhammad Safi, APHC Leader; Ambassador Riaz Khokhar; Mr. Khalid Rehman, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS); Ambassador Syed Faiz Naqshbandi; Member Parliament; Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif and many others.



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the speakers and participants and raised a number of important points on the issue. He said that India's heinous crime in the IOK documented in this report presents a grim picture. He further stated that together with the erstwhile UN OHCHR report on Kashmir, its follow-up report and this present document, the speakers and the participants had an important agenda before them for discussion.

Mr. Majid Mehmood, Research Associate ISSI, gave a brief presentation highlighting the main arguments of the latest report.

Mr. Fakhar Imam in his keynote address stated that the latest report is backed by dedication and commitment to documenting the horrific account of torture by the Indian armed forces in the IOK. Mr. Fakhar Imam said that Kashmir Committee can play a major role in this regard. Public awareness should spread about the sufferings of people of Jammu and Kashmir and we should never give up on our stance regarding Kashmir.

Summing up the debate, Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq said that torture of worst kind is being inflicted on the people of Kashmir since 1846. He further emphasised that the current report is also only the tip of an iceberg. The number of people who have suffered torture runs in thousands. Torture is only one aspect of violation of fundamental rights and is being used to break the will of Kashmiri people to resist the Indian occupation. Ambassador Haq concluded the discussion by stating that it only talks about the rights of the Kashmiri people to determine their own future under the UN plebiscite.

Roundtable with a 5-member Delegation from Iraq

July 25, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 5-Member delegation from Iraq. The agenda of the meeting was to underscore the contrasting human rights situation in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The Iraqi delegation was headed by Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi, Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (a political party & part of the ruling bloc) while the rest of the delegation included: Dr. Sana Al-Musawi, MP from Najaf and Member of the Services Committee of the Parliament; Mr. Amer Al-Fa'ez, MP from Basra and Member of Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament; Mr. Sami Araji, Chairman, Investment Commission of Iraq and Mr. Ahmad Al-Hassani, Director, Foreign and International Relations in the Office of Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, welcomed the delegation and briefed on the contrasting human rights situation in AJK and the IOK. He informed the delegation of the geopolitical and geo-economic landscape of the South Asian region and, afterwards, contextualised Kashmir dispute in this milieu.

Dr. Hamoudi expressed grave concerns over the grim human rights situation in Kashmir and put forward a proposal of collaborating in academic and research activities on Kashmir issue to develop an understanding of the issue and spread awareness about it. Responding to this suggestion, Ambassador Mahmood welcomed the proposal of joining hands with the Iraqi institutes as suggested by Dr. Hamoudi.

Pakistan-Africa Roundtable Dialogue for Commemorating Africa Day

July 30, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised “Pakistan-Africa Roundtable Dialogue for Commemorating Africa Day” on July 30, 2019. H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, was the chief guest. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, was also present at the occasion.



Participants at the roundtable included: Prof. Julius Kibet Bitok, High Commissioner Republic of Kenya; Mr. Lakhel Benkali, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; Mr. Tageldin El Hadi El Tahir Taha, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan; Mr. Muhammad Karmoune, Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco; Maj. Gen. Adebayo A. Olaniyi, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Fadel Yacoub, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Mr. Ali Sheikh Abdullah, CdA of the Federal Republic of Somalia; Mr. Marvin Nadrajen Chedumberum, CdA Republic of Mauritius; Mr. Nizar A. M. Nabiyah, CdA State of Libya; Mr. Cristo Jansen Van Noordwyk, CdA Republic of South Africa. Ambassador of Tunisia regretted due to the on-going official mourning for the passing of the Tunisian President.



In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests. He said that Pakistan-Africa relations are very deep-rooted and grounded in cultural, religious and social dimensions. However, we should put more emphasis on economic aspects as well.

The participants raised many important points and discussed the scope of Pakistan-Africa relations from the prism of wide-ranging themes. Africa, it was reiterated, is ready to commit its deep partnership with Pakistan and is looking forward to teaming up together for taking relations to the next level. The most promising joint ventures, it was suggested, could be made in the fields of textile, pharmaceuticals, high-tech and agriculture.





Representatives from the Pakistani think-tank and business community informed the esteemed audience that a great deal of work has already been going on for strengthening the relations. Emphasis was laid on enhancing cooperation in the maritime field, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), real estate sector, mining, human resource management and women empowerment.



Commending the vibrant discussions and welcoming the suggestions, Foreign Secretary Mahmood said that Pakistan is already working on some of the ideas presented here, and on others, work will start soon.



Representatives from all the African countries present at the roundtable also set up exhibition stalls displaying various products from their countries.

In his vote of thanks, Prof. Julius Kibet Bitok, the Dean of African Countries' Ambassadors in Pakistan, High Commissioner Republic of Kenya, appreciated the initiative of commemorating Africa Day and convening a roundtable dialogue.

Roundtable on “Kashmir: A Way Forward”

October 9, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement International (Islamabad Chapter), organised a roundtable on “Kashmir Crisis: A Way Forward” on October 9, 2019. Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, was the chief guest at the occasion. Lt. Gen. Agha Mohammad Umer Farooq (Retd.), former President of National Defence University and Lt. Gen. Naeem Khalid Lodhi (Retd.), former Minister of Defence, Pakistan also delivered remarks at the occasion. The roundtable was well-attended by members of academia, journalists, members of think tank community, media persons and students.



In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, stated that the brutal Indian lockdown of the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) seems to become perpetual. He further stressed that the Indian government has violated international laws and all norms of civilised behaviour. International humanitarian organisations and international media are now openly condemning the Indian atrocities towards Kashmiris.



The participants raised many important points and discussed the future of the IOK. They agreed that the Indian aggression is a deliberate attempt to crush the Kashmiri struggle for independence. The participants were of the opinion that Pakistan needs to continue with its diplomatic efforts in highlighting the cause of Kashmir and the human rights violations being committed by the Indian government in the IOK. Pakistan needs to actively reach out to the Kashmiri and Pakistani Diaspora living abroad in highlighting the cause of Kashmir at the international forums.



Roundtable with Participants of Trilateral (Afghanistan, China, Pakistan) Diplomatic Workshop

October 31, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable with trainees at the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) on October 31, 2019. The trainees comprised of Afghans, Chinese and Pakistanis young diplomats attending a trilateral workshop.

The agenda for the session was to discuss different facets of Pakistan's foreign policy, particularly its relations with Afghanistan and China.

Ms. Shahroo Malik, Research Associate ISSI, give a brief overview of the Institute.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), introduced the Centre and then went on to outline Pakistan-China relations.



Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow ISSI, gave a briefing on Pakistan-Afghan relations.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, described the role of think tanks in policymaking. He said that the primary objective of any think tank is to influence the policymaking process and shape policy agendas. Research is a methodology for achieving this. He went on to describe how think tanks are an important source for generating new ideas not only through research but by facilitating dialogue, especially in an age where narratives play an important role. He said that Pakistan's relations with both China and Afghanistan have immense potential and expressed hope that the diplomatic workshop process would continue in the future.



The remarks were followed by an interactive discussion.

Roundtable with a 4-member Delegation from Canada

December 13, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable with a 4-member delegation from Canada on December 13, 2019. The delegation included: Dr. Jonathan Kuttab, eminent Human Rights Lawyer; Ms. Karen Rodman, founder & Executive Director Justice Peace Advocates; Mr. Zafar Bangash and Ms. Michaela Lavis, a student working on Kashmir.



The roundtable was well-attended by members of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), researchers, academics and members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The agenda for the session was to discuss "The Role of Civil Society in Kashmir Dispute."

Book Launch

Rising Hindutva & its Impact on the Region

February 20, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a book launch on February 20, 2019 titled *Rising Hindutva and its Impact on the Region* authored by Group Captain (Retd.) S. M. Hali. The chief guest and the keynote speaker at the occasion was General (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC). Other speakers at the occasion included Senator Nisar Memon and Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, lauded the efforts by the author on a very special topic. He said that the societal march towards a narrow, extreme and hate-filled ideology in India needs greater analysis and focus, which this book presents. Elaborating on the book, he was of the view that it explains how a radical Hindu right would exacerbate existing fault lines within India and cautions that this would lead to increased violence and hatred against all other religious minorities, especially the Muslims.

The author of the book Mr. Hali in the introduction of his book thanked God Almighty that He has given him the opportunity to write this book on a sensitive subject. He also thanked the ISSI for launching his book. He said that Hinduism is a religion and no religion preaches evil but Hindutva is a phenomenon, which preaches extremism and hatred. Mr. Hali explained the methodology of the book and said that instead of giving his own views about Hindutva, he has pulled out opinions of the Indian scholars and there are a number of balanced and sane Indian authors that have written extensively on this subject.

The chief guest and keynote speaker General Haq thanked the ISSI for organising the launch and praised Mr. Hali for writing a book on a subject which is of enormous relevance and competently addresses a crucial subject. He said that there has been a serious dearth of studies and analysis of India in Pakistan. Given the history, current relations and future projections, India's impact over Pakistan and the regional situation will be dominant and critical. He further added that the book convincingly unmasks the draconian terror agenda of Hindutva and the mainstreaming of communalism in the Indian body politic. General Haq said that the book also covers social agenda of Hindutva of creating majoritarian domination that subjugates the very significant Indian minorities including Dalits, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs into perpetual tyranny. He noted that the books also discuss in detail a particular ominous facet of Hindutva, which is the increasing ingress in the armed forces of India.

Ambassador Qazi, in his remarks, said that this book by Mr. Hali is seminal and is a must-read book. He said that this book shows us an aspect of our great neighbour to the East that we need to be aware of. Ambassador Qazi said that since Modi has not much to show on the domestic front, therefore, the greater emphasis is now on the enemy at the door - Pakistan. So, we are now seeing what Mr. Hali has indicated in his book as a growing Hindutva phenomenon. He concluded by saying that Mr. Hali's book has come out at an extremely important time and what we are seeing now coming out of India is exactly what this book has discussed.

Senator Memon expressed his pleasure for being at the prestigious Institute and commended Mr. Hali for writing a book of contemporary importance for Pakistan and the South Asian region. Commenting on Hindutva and Hindus, Senator Memon was of the view that the history of Hindutva over a century, its actions, impact and myths have been documented in this book in a scholarly manner giving references of Hindu writers and their books. Senator Memon said that Hindutva has been used as a creed to get political control, like many other extremist philosophies like Nazism, Zionism, and Daesh. He said that intelligence agencies play a vital role in foreign and security matters and the author of this book has studied and analysed the rise of Ajit Doval, who is a key practitioner of Hindutva. He praised Mr. Hali for aptly explaining how Hindutva elements in the Indian polity have impacted relations with China.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, praised Mr. Hali for this wonderful book that attempts to deepen the understanding about the rise of Hindutva in the Indian polity and its implications. He sincerely hoped that this book would act as a catalyst for researchers, media and political medium for further deliberations on the topic.

UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia 1992-1995: A Pakistani Perspective

April 10, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a launch of the book titled *UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia 1992-1995: A Pakistani Perspective*. The book was authored by Dr. Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean, Centre for International Peace & Stability, National University of Science & Technology (NUST). Commentators for the book included: Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood, Defence Analyst; Dr. Arshi Saleem Hashmi, Head of Department, Peace & Conflict Studies, National Defence University (NDU) and Brig. (Retd.) Kamal Aziz. The launch was attended by foreign diplomats, scholars, journalists and students.

Introducing the book, Dr. Yamin gave due credit to various people who had helped in writing the book. He hoped that his book would become a textbook for the UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Commentators for the book noted that the author has set a benchmark for people for sharing their experiences through writing books. They said that the book a unique addition to peacekeeping missions and Pakistan should project its efforts as the West does.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Dr. Yamin has skillfully combined both geopolitical and tactical operational situation on ground at the time of the Somali civil war including the significant Pakistani

operational support, which saved numerous lives of other peace-keeping forces of US, India and Bangladesh to name a few.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks praised the author for his wonderful book that attempts to deepen understanding about an important aspect of Pakistan's history of international military engagement and preserves the memory of events in 1992-1995, which will be very useful in studying the other Pakistani contributions in peacekeeping missions abroad.

Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia New Technologies and Challenges to Sustainable Peace

September 18, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the launch of the book titled, *Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia – New Technologies and Challenges to Sustainable Peace*. The book has been authored by Dr. Rizwana Abbasi, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, NUML and Dr. Zafar Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Strategic Studies, NDU. Commentators for the book included: Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS); Mr. Khalid Banuri, former Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament (ACDA), SPD and Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor, School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), QAU. The event was attended by foreign diplomats, scholars, journalists and students.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the book is timely because tensions in South Asia are high after India's termination of the autonomous status of the IOK. He said that the core argument of the book is that the evolving technologies and competing strategies in South Asia make peace fragile and war more likely.

Introducing the book, Dr. Abbasi and Dr. Khan said that the security dynamics of India and Pakistan are interlinked. Based on emerging and futuristic perspective, she said that the book is, in essence, rational and considers the strategic dimensions of South Asia in the light of India's massive build-up of both conventional and non-conventional arms.

Ambassador Naqvi complimented the book as a symbol of evolving strategic thought on the matters of nuclear deterrence, particularly in South Asia. He said that the subject of nuclear deterrence has stimulated scholarly writings inside and outside Pakistan.

Mr. Banuri, appreciated the authors' intellectual input which comes with a refreshing element of objectivity and neutrality while navigating the complexities of security dilemmas. In his comments, Dr. Jaspal stated that the most commendable part of the book is that it is not a mere historical narrative. The authors, he said, have shed light on how the focus of strategic stability and nuclear deterrence is shifting from Europe to South Asia.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his concluding remarks said that the increase in crises between the two South Asia nuclear rivals bodes ill for the region and even small conventional crises have the potential to escalate into a nuclear exchange and must, therefore, try to mitigate crises and conflict between India and Pakistan.

Tuesday Dialogue

1st Tuesday Dialogue on “Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations”

January 29, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has begun a new series of *non-attributable informal discussion* on key relationships of Pakistan. The series titled “Tuesday Dialogue” brings together experts, academics, former diplomats and others for free-floating discussion. The objective of the series is to generate ideas for providing policy inputs to the government.

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held the first roundtable discussion on “Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations” under its Tuesday Dialogue series on January 29, 2019. The agenda for the session was to discuss the possible future of Afghanistan and the steps that need to be taken by Pakistan to contribute to bringing peace in Afghanistan and the region.

2nd Tuesday Dialogue on "Pakistan and Relations with the Gulf"

February 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on "Pakistan's Relations with the Gulf Countries" on February 26, 2019 under its Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

3rd Tuesday Dialogue on “Managing Relations with India – From Post - Pulwama to Lok Sabha Elections”

March 26, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion under its Tuesday Dialogue series on March 26, 2019 on “Managing Relations with India - From Post-Pulwama to Lok Sabha Elections.” Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

4th Tuesday Dialogue on “Pakistan-Russia Relations”**April 30, 2019**

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on “Pakistan Russia Relations” on April 30, 2019 under its Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

5th Tuesday Dialogue on “Pakistan and FATF”

May 28, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on “Pakistan and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF),” on May 28, 2019 under its Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

6th Tuesday Dialogue on “Indo-Israeli Nexus: Implications for Indian Occupied Kashmir”

October 1, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on “Indo-Israeli Nexus: Implications for Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK)” on October 1, 2019 under Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

7th Tuesday Dialogue on “Tensions in the Gulf: Options for Pakistan”

October 29, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on “Tensions in the Gulf: Options for Pakistan” on October 29, 2019 under its Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI moderated the discussion.

8th Tuesday Dialogue on “Is India Assuming a Security Role in the Gulf”

November 26, 2019



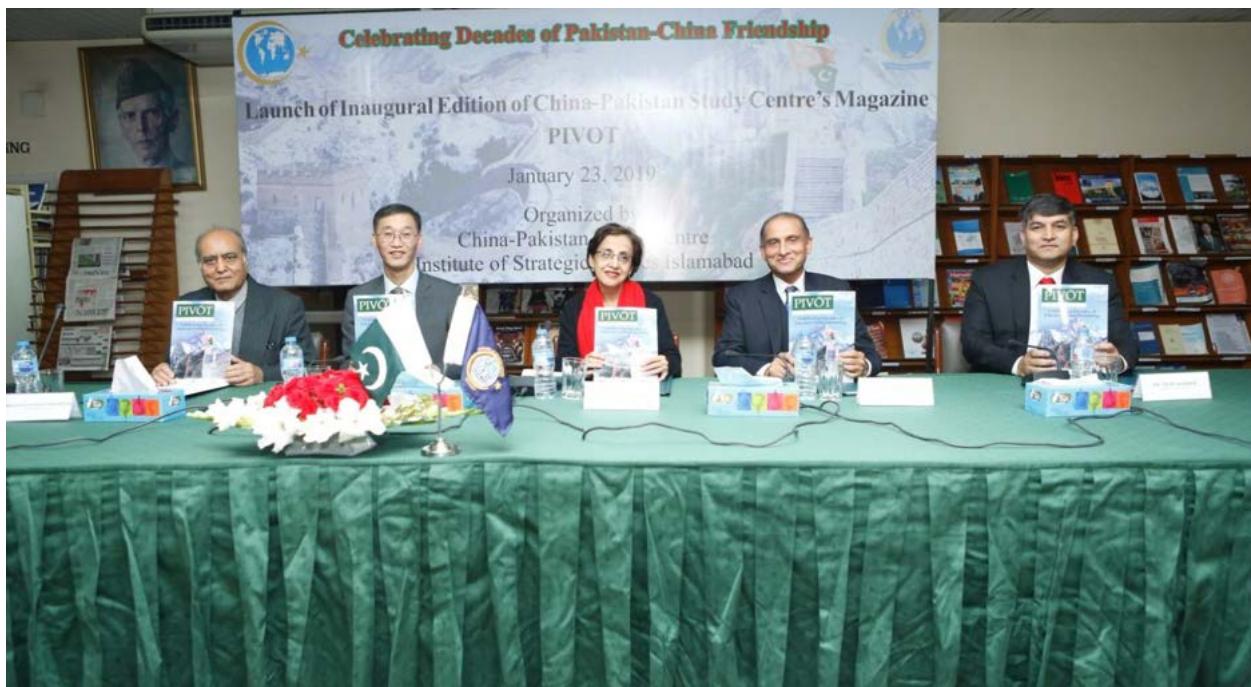
The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a roundtable discussion on “Is India Assuming a Security Role in the Gulf?” on November 26, 2019 under its Tuesday Dialogue series. Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, moderated the discussion.



Magazine

Launch of PIVOT Magazine

January 23, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the inauguration and launch of the China Pakistan Study Centre's (CPSC) magazine *PIVOT* on January 23, 2019. Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the occasion. The event was also graced by H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan. The launch was attended by academics, students, ambassadors and media personnel.



PIVOT is a quarterly magazine which projects Pakistan-China relations and developments in diverse spheres such as policy, economy, culture, tourism and people-to-people

exchanges. It is the latest addition to the ISSI's list of publications and will be published quarterly.



In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, talked about strengthening of ties between the two countries and extension of cooperation into multiple areas. He posited that the CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) stand for a stronger voice for globalism and seek to connect countries and communities especially at a time when we are noticing the rise of anti-globalism forces on the world stage.



Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC and Chief Editor of *PIVOT* briefed the audience about the role and activities of the CPSC and elaborated the concept behind the launch of *PIVOT* magazine. He said that realising the expansion of an all-encompassing bilateral relationship, the CPSC decided to introduce a new publication at the ISSI. The aim of the magazine is to showcase developments and contribute analyses in diverse spheres of Pakistan-China relations.

H.E. Ambassador Jing congratulated the CPSC team on the successful launch of *PIVOT* which he said is an excellent contribution for expanding knowledge regarding the relationship of the two countries. He said that the idea behind this magazine demonstrates the reality of this relationship, as Pakistan holds a pivotal position in China's diplomatic efforts for

peaceful development. He stated that China has a firm commitment to support Pakistan's development and we consider it as the most important partner for China's BRI.

In her remarks at the occasion, Foreign Secretary Ms. Janjua said that the word 'Pivot' is reflective of the relationship between the two countries since China is the pivot of Pakistan's foreign policy and vice versa. She said that the CPSC is fulfilling an essential requirement that is bringing discourse on Pakistan-China friendship to the forefront. She congratulated the ISSI for reinvigorating the Centre, which she said is a highly important component of the Institute. She stated that China is Pakistan's close partner, reliable ally and a time-tested friend.

Concluding the proceedings, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that *PIVOT* is an important and timely initiative. The fact that it covers various facets of Pakistan-China relationship makes it unique and significant. He stated that one must admit that there is a lack of knowledge at a public level about each other's culture, customs, ethnic makeup and history. *PIVOT* seeks to fill the knowledge gap between the two countries and lauded the CPSC team efforts for their initiative.



Launch of Special Edition of PIVOT Magazine

September 24, 2019



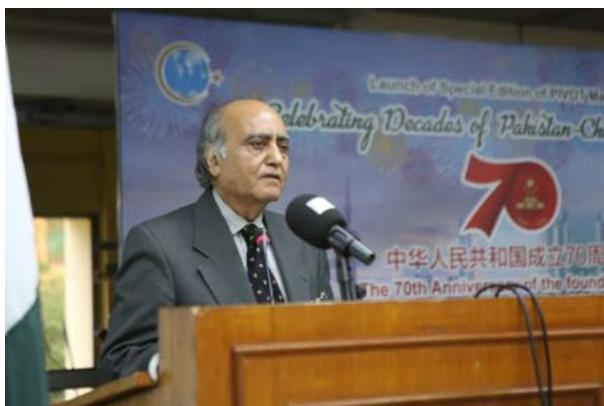
The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the "Launch of Special Edition of *PIVOT* Magazine" on September 24, 2019. Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Special Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, graced the launch as chief guest. H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, also attended the ceremony.



In his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC noted that *PIVOT* magazine projects Pakistan-China relations and developments in diverse spheres such as policy, economy, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks commended China on its 70th national day, stating that China's achievements are lessons for all nations to emulate. He further said that broad-based strategic relationship with China is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Delivering his remarks, Ambassador Jing stated that China has a trust-based historic relationship with Pakistan. He said, China values its relationship with Pakistan and sees it as a model inter-state relationship. He commended the CPSC for publishing a special edition to mark the 70th founding day of China.



Addressing the ceremony, Ambassador Moazzam said, Pakistan takes pride in its relationship with China. He lauded the CPSC for producing a quality magazine and looked forward to reading future editions.

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, noted that China only describes its relationship with Pakistan as "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." He highlighted that with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the relationship has reached new heights.

Think Tanks Meeting

3rd Coordination Meeting of Think Tanks

March 14, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the 3rd Coordination Meeting of Think Tank on March 14, 2019 at its premises. The main intention of the coordination between think tanks was to identify crucial topics affecting Pakistan and to avoid overlapping.

The two main agenda items of the 3rd coordination meeting involved: one, to carry forward the previous agenda and second, to focus on the regional and global trends affecting Pakistan. Participating think tanks emphasised that Pakistan faces profound challenges in every domain and all think tanks carry the same agenda of working for Pakistan. It was decided that each think tank will appoint a focal person for representation and also to identify the core capability of each think tank.

Participating think tanks in the meeting included more than 10 most renowned and well-reputed think-tanks of Pakistan.

One-day Think-Tank Dialogue

June 20, 2019



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Research and Development International (RDI) organised a “One Day Think-Tank Dialogue” as part of the CPEC Forum 2019 on June 20, 2019. H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the occasion.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, who highlighted Asia’s unprecedented economic growth and the centrality of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in bringing people and countries closer with the CPEC as a central plank of BRI.



In his introductory remarks, Mr. Cai Fang, Vice President, CASS, emphasised on international cooperation to further the BRI and pursue policy research in this mega project of intra and inter-regional connectivity. He stated that the CPEC is the best reflection of the ancient Silk Road, based on inclusivity and mutual success.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman PCI and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, in his comments, observed that BRI is the culmination of three words: corridors, culture and connectivity. He went on to identify the twenty-seven projects that are going to be included under the CPEC, which will help the less developed part of Pakistan.



During his inaugural address, Foreign Minister Qureshi stated that China and Pakistan are not just neighbours, they are good friends and 'Iron Brothers' and that this friendship has stood the test of time and is underpinned by shared values and interests. He further mentioned that the political goodwill between the people of Pakistan and China is now translating into newer, more impactful ways of cooperation from diplomacy to the economy to defence and there is so much that the two countries can gain from each other.

The keynote address was delivered by H.E Zhao Bai Ge, Vice-Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, who stated that persistence is key to development. The CPEC is for countries who want to progress. It is a model for the whole world, especially the developing countries.



While expressing his views, H.E Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, informed the audience of the near completion of the Early Harvest Projects. He emphasised that the CPEC has roots in both countries and has the extension potential in the business sectors.



The discussion was divided into two working sessions titled "Five Years of CPEC Cooperation and Shared Economic Development: Unlocking Future Potential respectively."

Speakers at the Forum included: Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute; Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, Director, Pakistan Institute of China Study, University of Sargodha; Mr. Baozhong Zhang, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited; Dr. Liaquat Shah, Executive Director CPEC Centre of Excellence; Mr. Yaobin Tian, Vice President of CETC International Co Ltd.; Mr. Faheem Sardar, MD TANGENT; Mr. Hailin Ye, Deputy Director General of the National Institute of International Strategy, Mr. Xiangyang Li, Director General of the National Institute of International Strategy, CASS; Mr. Hasaan Khawar, Independent Analyst; Dr. Sumeera Imran, National Defense University (NDU) and Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Executive Director Zalmi Foundation.





The main points raised by the speakers during the seminar were that from the perspective of enterprises, a good social security environment and a good business environment are important considerations for business investment and business activities. Concern about misperceptions regarding the CPEC was also raised and how the ambiguity surrounding the project needs to be dispelled.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, concluded the dialogue and stated that this event captured the evolution of China-Pakistan relationship and has enriched and diversified the relationship between the two nations.

1st Pakistan-China Think Tank Dialogue

November 21, 2019



The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the 1st Pakistan-China Think Tank Dialogue at the Institute.

Participants of the discussion included: Prof. Du Youkang, Dr. Zahid Anwar, Dr. Samina Sabir, Prof. Sun Hongqi, Dr. Khalid M. Butt, Prof. Song Zhihui, Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Prof. Ye Hailin, Li Qingyan, Wang Shida, Liu Zongyi and Dr. Fazul-ur-Rehman among others.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, opened the discussion with presenting a 5-point formula to carry the Sino-Pak think tank dialogue forward: jointly studying the global dynamics impacting the region & BRI; focusing on North-South connectivity; Infrastructure and energy; industrialisation and & socio-economic development.

Dr. Talat Shabir, Director CPSC, moved the discussion forward emphasising that we need to implement the recommendations and work done in the previous think-tank dialogue held at the ISSI this year.

Heads, directors and representatives of the Pakistani and Chinese think tanks suggested that much work needs to be done in enhancing the skills of the labour force, capacity-building and developing a culture of research and scholarly discussions among the two countries.

Inauguration of ACDC

Inauguration of Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC)

October 30, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) inaugurated its Arms Control and Disarmament Center (ACDC) on October 30, 2019. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the occasion.





Commencing the event, Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, said that despite the rapidly changing international security environment, Pakistan has always supported international arms control and disarmament instruments to promote regional peace and strategic stability. He went on to introduce the work plan of the centre – the task of which will include monitoring regional and international developments pertaining to strategic stability, organising dialogues and dissemination of the information through dialogue and research projects.





In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI briefly described the workings of the Institute and highlighted ISSI's activities past, present and future. He emphasised that the idea behind creating the ACDC was to redeploy the existing human resource in the ISSI to gain more from less through focused quality research. The end goal, Ambassador Chaudhry said is to build a positive narrative about Pakistan.



Brigadier Zahir Kazmi, Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs (ACDA), Strategic Plans Division (SPD); Mr. Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament Division (ACDIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Mr. Khalilur-Rahman Hashmi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN in Geneva, shared their thoughts on the launch. Air Commodore (Retd.) Khalid Banuri; Dr. Rizwana Karim Abbasi, National University of Modern Languages (NUML); Dr. Muhammad Khan, International Islamic University Islamabad; Dr. Zulfqir Khan, HoD SNS NDU; Dr. Maria Sultan, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI); Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU); Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) and Mr. Zafar Ali, MOFA (DG- SECDIV) were on the list of special invitees. The inauguration was also attended by former Pakistani military officers and ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, academia, think tanks, students and the media.



During their comments, the speakers talked about how Pakistan is in a region where the security dynamics are constantly changing. Resumption of dialogue and respect of existing treaties is very important at this time. They said that the launch of the ACDC comes at a crucial time when states are abandoning arms control. The ACDC can use this reprieve to study new techniques and recommend measures to reduce nuclear risk, they said.

Visitors, Guests, Delegations and Meetings



January 8: H.E. Makhdom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, visited the ISSI. He was briefed by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, on the work of the Institute. The FM provided his guidance for the future work of the Institute.



January 10: Meeting with Dr. Safdar A. Sohail, Director General, National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad.



January 13-18: On the invitation of China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China, a three-member ISSI delegation led by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, visited Beijing.



January 13-18: On the invitation of CICIR, China, a three-member ISSI delegation led by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, visited Beijing and held a bilateral dialogue with CICIR.



February 15: Meeting with Mr. Andreas Duerr, Acting Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation.



February 20: Meeting with Honourable Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan.



February 20: Meeting with Prof. UAM Dr. Hab. Andrzej Stelmach, Dean Faculty of Political Science & Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.



February 21: Meeting with Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, President/Convenor, Air Quality Asia.



February 27: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Hamad Obaid Alzabbi, Ambassador of UAE and H.E. MS. Ebtesam Alketbi, President of Emirates Policy Centre.



March 5: Meeting with Prof. Christophe Jaffrelot and Mr. Andreas Duerr, Acting Director Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan.



March 20: Interactive session on Research Methodology by Dr. Zafar Khan from National Defence University.



March 26: Meeting with Defence Attachés.



April 3: Visit of students and officers from Command and Staff College, Quetta.



April 9: Meeting with H. E. Kim Thae Sop, Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



April 11: Meeting with Dr. Iqbal Hussain Durrani, Secretary National Security Division.



April 23: Meeting with Ambassador Tanveer Akhtar Khaskheli.



April 26: Asadullah Khan, Research Fellow ISSI, visited Ankara Center for Iranian Studies (IRAM), and participated in a symposium on "Turkey-Pakistan-Iran Cooperation" in Ankara.



April 26: Muhammad Abbas Hassan, Research Associate ISSI, visited Ankara Center for Iranian Studies (IRAM) and participated in a symposium "Turkey-Pakistan-Iran Cooperation Symposium" in Ankara.



May 3: Welcome ceremony organised at ISSI for the new Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Sohail Mahmood.



May 6: Meeting with Mr. Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, DG (ACDIS), MOFA.



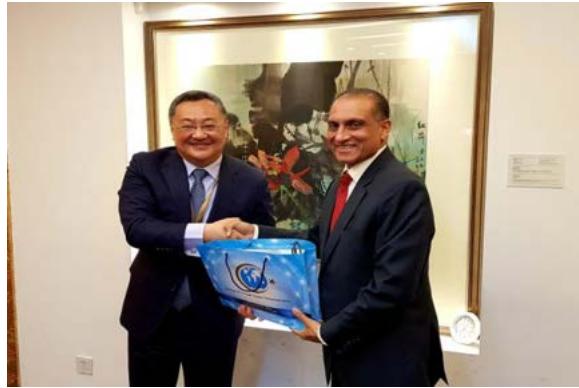
May 8: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan.



May 9: Meeting with Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR).



May 21: Mr. Dong Manyuan, Vice President, China Institute for International Studies (CIIS), received Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI, at CIIS, Beijing.



May 22: Amb. Fu Cong, DG, Dept. of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), China, received Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI, at Beijing.



May 22: A three-member delegation, led by Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry, DG ISSI, at the invitation of Amb. Zhang Yan, President CACDA, visited Beijing.



May 23: A three-member ISSI delegation, led by Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry, DG ISSI, visited CICIR and held a meeting with Mr. Hu Shisheng, Director South & Southeast Asian & Oceania Studies, and his team.



May 23: Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry, DG ISSI, on May 23, at the invitation of CACDA, visited China's State Nuclear Security Technology Centre (SNSTC). Mr. Gu Shaogang, Incharge Training & Multilateral Cooperation, received Amb. Aizaz and his team.



June 18: Meeting with Maleeka Bokhari, Prof. Rifaat Hussain and Qasim Niaz.



June 19: Farewell of Ms. Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow at ISSI.



June 25: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Shukrullah Atif Mashal, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



July 16: Meeting with Defence Attaché.



July 18: Meeting with Dr. Ali Ahmad Arian, Additional Secretary (Africa)



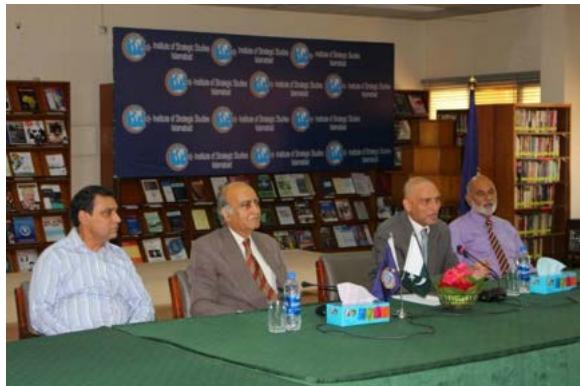
July 19: Meeting with prominent Pakistani-American Mr. Mahmood Ul Haq, Chairman & Chief Executive MTBC.



July 22: Meeting with Dr. Syed Mohammed Anwer, President, Maritime Study Forum (MSF).



July 30: Meeting with Mr. Moin-ul-Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to France.



August 26: Celebrating Hajj event of DG, ISSI



August 30: The ISSI observing Kashmir Hour, expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people.



September 6: Meeting with Amjad Islam Amjad, renowned Author and Poet, and Special Secretary Admin., Mr. Moazzam Khan.



September 13: Meeting with Dr. Zubair iqbal Ghouri, Bahira University, Islamabad.



Sept 16: Meeting with Mr. Terry Steers-Gonzalez, Political Counselor at the US Embassy in Islamabad.



September 18: Visit of a 35-member group of Armed Forces of Pakistan attending the Human Resource Development Programme at Da'wah Academy.



October 9: Meeting with Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation Islamabad.



October 16: Meeting with Mr. Khalid Hussain Memon, Additional Secretary (PP & PD) MOFA.



October 18: Meeting with H.E. Androulla KAMINARA, Ambassador-Designate of the EU Delegation to Pakistan.



October 18: Meeting with Brig. Talha Altaf, D. A. Morocco.



October 25: Meeting with Brig. (Retd.) Feroze H. Khan.



October 29: Meeting with Mr. Syed Moazzam H. Shah, Director General (Hqrs & Finance), MOFA.



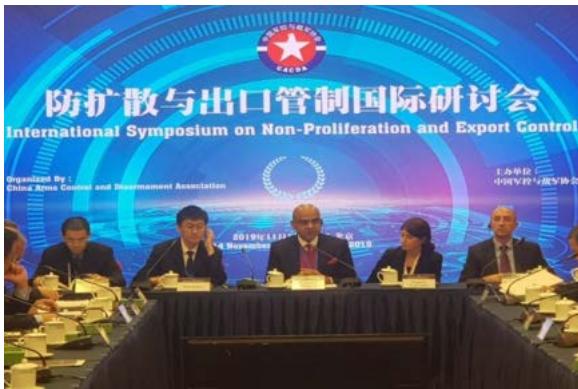
November 5: Meeting with Additional Secretary (MOFA).



November 6: Meeting with Ambassador Dr. Israr Hussain.



November 13: Meeting with Ms. Kanwal Shauzab, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Reforms.



November 14: ISSI was represented at the "International Symposium on Non-Proliferation & Export Control" by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC.



November 18: Meeting with Mr. Muhammad Ashraf, DG Trade Policy, Ministry of Commerce and Counsel General-designated to Consulate General of Pakistan in Sydney, Australia.



Nov 21: Meeting with Mr. Riaz Ajiz, CEO of FINE TV, Karachi.



December 6: Meeting with Mr. Janbaz Khan, Director General (Africa Division) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



December 12: Meeting with Mr. Umberto Angelucci, Regional Chair (Middle East) at the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Dr. Afsar Rathore, former Programme Coordinator at the UN.



December 18: Meeting with Mr. Hussein J. Husseynov, Head of Department, Analysis and Strategic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan.



December 18: Meeting with Mr. Tariq Karim, Director General, (EC&OIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



December 27: All officers and staff of ISSI marked Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birthday by organising an in-house discussion at its premises on Quaid's life and work.





December 31: Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for National Security Division and Strategic Policy Planning, called upon Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry.

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| 12. Amb. (Retd.) Gul Haneef | June 01, 2011 to November 21, 2013 |
| 13. Amb. (Retd.) Khalid Mahmood | November 21, 2013 to date |

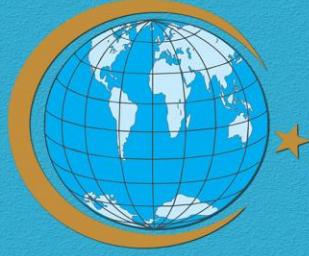
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| 9. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M. Zulfqar Akhtar Naaz | July 18, 1993 to August 22, 1993 |
| 10. Amb. (Retd.) Niaz A. Niak | August 23, 1993 to November 09, 1993 |
| 11. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M. Akbar | November 10, 1993 to January 14, 1996 |
| 12. Amb. (Retd.) 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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