

NEWSLETTER

Seminar on “Pakistan Stands with Kashmiris”

The India Study Centre at ISSI in collaboration with National Security Division (NSD) organized a seminar titled “Pakistan Stands with Kashmiris” at the Presidency on February 4, 2021. The occasion was graced by the President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi as the Chief Guest whereas, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Special Assistant to PM on National Security, Ms. Mushaal Mullick, Chairperson, Peace and Culture Organization/Human rights activist, and Mr. Ahmad Qureshi, Executive Director, YFK International Kashmir Lobby Group also shared their views during the course of the seminar.



All the participants were of the view that India is an irresponsible state and the world should take notice of its atrocities against its minorities, especially the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. All speakers urged the international community to hold India accountable for its transgressions and blatant disregard for international law. They expressed solidarity with the Kashmiris in the face of Indian oppression and ensured the full support of the Pakistani state and people. There was a unanimous agreement that there should be a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute under the auspices of UNSC resolutions.

Islamabad Security Dialogue

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the fourth working session “Regional Peace and Security” at the Islamabad Security Dialogue held on March 17-18, 2021. The session was convened and moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Foreign Minister H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The panel at the session included: Dr. Hu Shisheng, Director, CICIR; Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, Former Foreign Secretary; Ms. Laurel Miller, Director, Asia Programs, ICG; and Ambassador Dr. Akbar S. Ahmed, Professor, School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C. They discussed issues related to CPEC, Kashmir, Afghan Peace Process and Pakistan as a Bridge Builder in the Muslim World.

Concluding the session, the Foreign Minister stated that Pakistan has to recognize the new realities and engage constructively with rest of the world without compromising on its key positions.





Public Talk by Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezb-e-Wahdat-e Islami, Afghanistan

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) under its Distinguished Lecture Series organised a Public Talk by Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezb-e-Wahdat-e Islami, Afghanistan on January 13, 2021. The Afghan delegation included senators and members of parliament. Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq was also in attendance. Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) gave welcome remarks while DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave the introductory remarks and moderated the interactive session that followed Ustad Khalili's talk.

During his address, Ustad Khalili said that peace is a multidimensional phenomenon which has multifaceted effects in different dimensions of human social life and societies. He said that we are living in an interconnected world with a vast network of global issues, where war and peace are no exception. He appreciated the positive and constructive viewpoint of the Pakistani leadership and noted the visible support given during his visit. He acknowledged Pakistan's efforts in the first round of the peace process as well as the ongoing talks in Doha and hoped that with this current momentum the relationship would reach new horizons.



2nd International Kashmir Parliamentary Conference in collaboration with JKSDMI and YPP

Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI hosted the "2nd International Parliamentary Kashmir Conference", in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) and Youth Parliament of Pakistan (YPP) to commemorate Kashmir Day" on February 4, 2021. Welcome remarks were delivered by DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry while Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, Chairman of the Parliamentary Special Committee on Kashmir was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Mr. Abrar ul Haq, Chairman Youth Parliament of Pakistan & Pakistan Red Crescent, also spoke at the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, several Members of the UK Parliament were unanimous in their views that trade with India will not be acceptable as long as oppression by India in Kashmir continues. All of them condemned the steps taken by India in August 2019 to introduce demographic changes in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They were also of the view that the horrendous Hindutva ideology of the Modi government has been ruthlessly engaged in the abuse of civil liberties of Kashmiris by breaking laws and violating Geneva conventions.

The event concluded by a vote of thanks by the conveners of the conference, Ms. Yasmine Dar, Member, National Executive Committee of the Labour Party and Mr. Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman JKSDMI. The event was attended by several members of Pakistan's legislature as well.

Public Talk by Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Alsaheed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the State of Kuwait

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI organised a Public Talk by Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Alsaheed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the State of Kuwait on January 26, 2021. H.E. Nasar Abdul Rahman J. Almutairi, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan also attended the event.

Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) gave welcome remarks while the Q&A session was moderated by DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry.

Ambassador Alsaheed emphasized the importance of Pakistan as a significant country. He said that Kuwait is a small but active country with diplomatic outreach. There are a plenty of opportunities for both these countries to collaborate. He went on to say that Kuwait perceives Pakistan as a brotherly country and praised the strong and capable diplomats of Pakistan for their efforts to cultivate peace and prosperity in the entire region. Talking about the bilateral relationship, he was of the view that Pakistan and Kuwait must work to diversify their relations through commerce, exchange of expertise and cultural expertise.





Web Talk on Evolving Strategic Environment in the Western Indian Ocean and Significance on AMAN EXERCISE 2021

The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at ISSI organized a Web Talk on “Evolving Strategic Environment in the Western Indian Ocean and Significance of AMAN Exercise 2021” on February 10, 2021, by Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (Retd.). Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI, while introductory remarks were presented by Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, ISSI. Concluding remarks were given by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG, ISSI.



VA Iftikhar A. Rao (Retd.) emphasized that today, maritime interests and challenges are common such as freedom of navigation, safe flow of commerce, protection against criminal activities like piracy, smuggling, drugs, and human trafficking, deterrence against terrorism and protection of the oceans’ resources. He noted that today’s threats are of a transnational or global nature. Thus, the concept of collaborative maritime security has gained pre-eminence. He said that AMAN series exercises are very important and a commendable effort in promoting peace and security at sea. They are unique because they are not aimed at any country or perceived as a threat from any country or group of countries. They are aimed at common threats to peace and security at sea and in the region. Pakistan has chosen to act as a bridge in the region and a peacemaker in the maritime domain.

Visit of H.E. Najibullah Alikhil, Ambassador of Afghanistan

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the Honourable Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, H.E. Najibullah Alikhil on January 18, 2021. His Excellency met Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI and Ms. Amina Khan, Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA).

Ambassador Alikhil appreciated the work being done at the Institute under the leadership of Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. During the meeting, Pak-Afghan ties, the peace process, academic collaboration and further avenues for strengthening the bilateral relationship were discussed. Ambassador Alikhil acknowledged Pakistan’s constructive role in the on-going peace process and looked forward to establishing a well-rounded and robust relationship between the two countries. Both sides pledged continued exchanges and collaboration in future.



Public Talk by Ahmad Wali Massoud, Chairman, Massoud Foundation of Afghanistan

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI under its Distinguished Lecture Series organised a Public Talk by Ahmad Wali Massoud, Chairman, Massoud Foundation of Afghanistan on February 19, 2021. Ms. Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA gave welcome remarks while DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry moderated the Q&A session that followed Mr. Ahmad Wali’s talk.

Mr. Massoud spoke about the special bond Pakistan and Afghanistan share; be it politics, economics, security, culture and religion. He said that dialogue between the two countries is very important because direct discourse will strengthen the prospects for peace. While talking about the situation in Afghanistan, Mr. Massoud said that a strong government in Kabul is the first pillar of peace in Afghanistan. He talked about his late brother, Ahmad Shah Massoud’s contribution towards building a sovereign, inclusive and strong Afghanistan. Talking about Afghan foreign policy, he said a very balanced approach is required so that Afghanistan is not perceived as a threat nor used as a strategic tool by any party.





First Session of “MONDAY RETREATS”

ISSI initiated a new series of discussions called “Monday Retreats” by the former Foreign Service Ambassadors for a day long retreat to brainstorm on key foreign policy issues affecting Pakistan. The recommendations at the Monday Retreats will be shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the form of an ISSI Confidential Brief.



The first session of Monday Retreats was organized by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI on Pakistan-US Relations on February 22, 2021. The meeting was attended by several former ambassadors. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG-ISSI and moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI. Discussion at the meeting revolved around three specific questions: prospects of reset of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the US; geo-strategic priorities in Pak-US relations including China, India and Afghanistan; and Pakistan-US bilateral relations.

Public Talk by Lt. Gen. Nasser Khan Janjua, HI(M) (Retd.), Former NSA

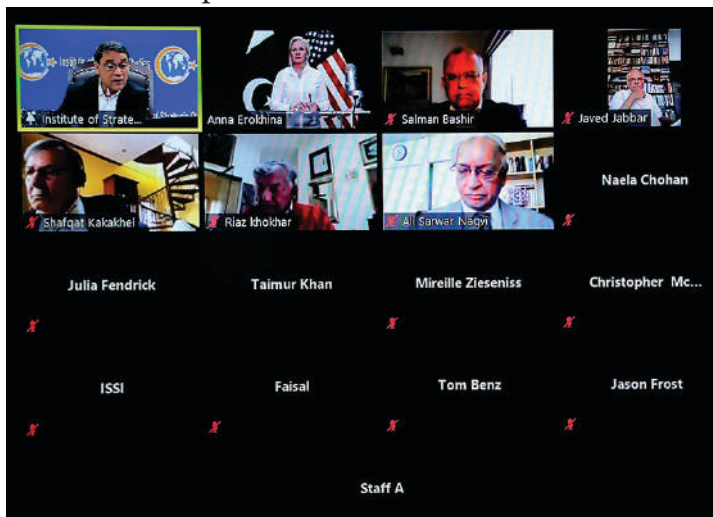
The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI organised a Public Talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series by Lt. Gen. Nasser Khan Janjua (Retd.), former National Security Advisor on February 24, 2021. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC delivered introductory remarks while welcome remarks were given by DG, ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry who also moderated the Q&A session.



Lt. Gen. Janjua, in his talk, gave an overview of emerging international geo-strategic environment and relevance of Pakistan. He was of the view that Pakistan’s strategic significance lies in Balochistan. He stated that Balochistan is gifted in terms of its geostrategic location as well as being a hub of natural resources. On CPEC, he said that on-going conflict in Balochistan requires political closure, which will open up new opportunities for people of Balochistan.

Distinguished Lecture Series - Ms. Angela Aggeler, US Charge d’Affaires

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Virtual Talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series by Ms. Angela Aggeler, US Charge d’Affaires on March 3, 2021. Ms. Aggeler spoke on the “Future of Pakistan-US Relations under the Biden Presidency”. The meeting was moderated by Director CSP, Mr. Najam Rafique and was attended by several former ambassadors, several members of the CSP Advisory Board and academics. Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Chairman, BOG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood also spoke on the occasion.



Roundtable on “CPEC & AJK”

The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI hosted a Roundtable on “CPEC & AJK” on March 11, 2021. The panel of experts included: Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG, ISSI; Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, Professor, NDU; Mr. Zulfiqar Abbasi, Former President, Azad Kashmir Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Iqbal Ratyal, Former AJK Civil Servant; Mr. Ershad Mehmood, Director, CPDR; Dr. Samina Sabir, Assistant Professor, AJK University; Dr. Rukhsana Khan, Assistant Professor Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, AJK University and Mr. Tahir Murtaza, Civil Society Representative.

During the discussion, participants agreed that CPEC will bring prosperity in the region by developing infrastructure and creating employment opportunities. The panellists suggested a comprehensive one roof mechanism for resolving issues related to CPEC in AJK.

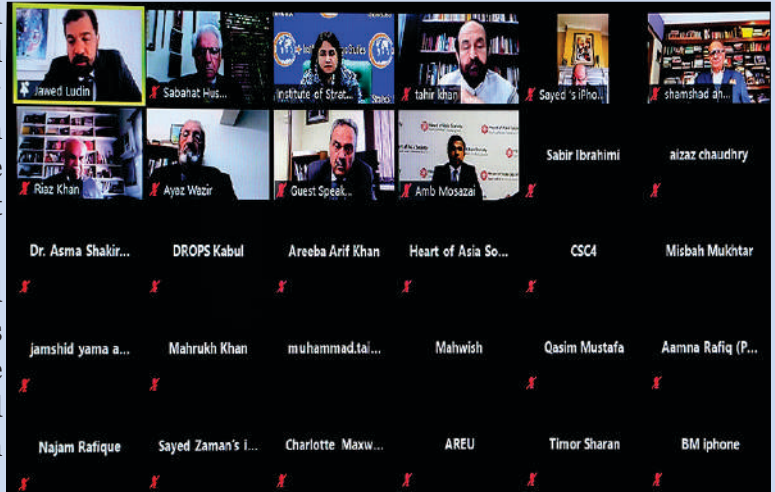




Bilateral Track 2 Dialogue on Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Heart of Asia Society (HAS), Kabul held a bilateral dialogue, titled “*Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan Bilateral Track II Dialogue*” on March 15, 2021. The dialogue was hosted by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI.

ISSI-HAS Track II was arranged in order to explore and debate core issues pertaining to the bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to provide recommendations on how to achieve a constructive and mutually beneficial agenda of dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.



Virtual Institutional Dialogue with South Asia Program at the Stimson Centre

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI held a virtual institutional dialogue with the South Asia Program at Stimson Centre on March 15, 2021. Representatives of CSP and the South Asia Program introduced their respective teams and briefed on the functioning and the kind of work being done at their centres.

Common areas of interest and specific theme-oriented dialogues relevant to the strategic stability of the region were identified for future discussion between the centres.



1st Advisory Board Meeting of the India Study Centre

India Study Centre (ISC) at ISSI organised its 1st Advisory Board Meeting on March 4, 2021. Introductory remarks at the meeting were delivered by Dr. Saif Malik, Director-ISC while welcome remarks were made by DG, ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry who also outlined the vision of ISC and explained the functions of ISC in building narratives and counter-narratives.

Members of ISC Advisory Board appreciated the centre’s vision and the work that it has produced so far and applauded the efforts of ISSI’s Executive Heads for taking up the initiative of establishing the first Centre of Excellence (CoE) that focuses specifically on studying India.



Visit of the Nepalese Army Command & Staff College Delegation to ISSI

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted 47-member delegation of the Nepalese Army Command & Staff College on March 16, 2021. DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry delivered a talk to the visiting delegates whereas the Chairman, BOG, ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Director, ISC Dr. Saif Malik were also present on the occasion. Director, CPSC, Dr. Talat Shabbir gave welcome remarks and briefly introduced the objectives, scope and achievements of the Institute. Ambassador Aizaz briefly covered Pakistan’s quest for regional connectivity and highlighted the transformation in the foreign policy orientation of Pakistan from geo-politics towards geo-economics.





Meeting with High Commissioner of South Africa, Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI hosted an in-house meeting with H.E. Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, the High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Pakistan on February 23, 2021. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI, warmly welcomed the Ambassador and briefed him about the structure and the activities of ISSI. Ms. Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA gave a presentation on the overall working of CAMEA.

Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza expressed his desire for closer collaboration with CAMEA and ISSI. He appreciated the work which CAMEA has done so far and remarked that this work will help in understanding how Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy will unfold in broader terms. In this regard, he expressed his desire to facilitate collaboration between the ISSI and reputed South African think tanks.



In-House Meeting with H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI hosted the Honourable Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta on January 5, 2021. First Secretary of the Iraq Embassy in Pakistan, Mrs. Wassan Jabbar Abdullah and Attaché, Mr. Asseel Noori Talib were also present on the occasion.

Director CAMEA, Ms. Amina Khan gave a briefing to the Ambassador on activities of ISSI and CAMEA. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG, ISSI welcomed the Iraqi ambassador and his delegation. Ambassador Lafta expressed his desire to translate these friendly sentiments into practical cooperation and coordination through increased research and dialogue. In this regard, he lay emphasis on the importance of Centers such as CAMEA. Both sides pledged continued exchanges and collaboration in future.



In-House Meeting with Ms. Fatchima Elise Hassane Paraiso, Founder & Chairwoman of EAO

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI hosted Ms. Fatchima Elise Hassane Paraiso, Founder & Chairwoman of Engage Africa Organization on January 25, 2021. Director CAMEA, Ms. Amina Khan welcomed her to the Institute and gave her a briefing on activities of ISSI and CAMEA and outlined the several aspects of the Engage Africa Policy and discussed several ideas on increasing interaction between Pakistani and African people.

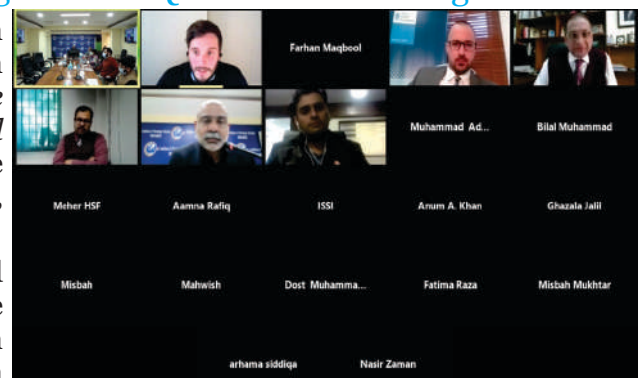
Ms. Paraiso said that the people of the African continent are eager to reach out to Pakistan but highlighted that language is a barrier. She further stated that Engage Africa policy is very welcoming in this regard and it will help enhance bilateral ties between Pakistan and African nations. She stated that Africa presents endless opportunities for trade and investment as it is a massive market of diverse populations spanning 54 countries.



Online Workshop on Internet, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies

The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at ISSI in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan organised an Online Workshop on "Internet, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies – Implications for Security and Foreign Policy" on January 20, 2021. The main presentation at the workshop was delivered by Dr. Daniel Voelsen, Senior Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry welcomed participants of the workshop while introductory remarks were given by Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC. Mr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan, was also in attendance and gave his brief remarks on the workshop's topic.





Roundtable with 15-Member Delegation of journalists from Gilgit Press Club

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI hosted a delegation of journalists from Gilgit Press Club on January 8, 2021. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, ISSI warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the structure of ISSI and its contribution in enhancing China-Pakistan ties and also highlighted the working of CPSC. Ms. Neelum Nigar, RF, CPSC, presented an overview of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

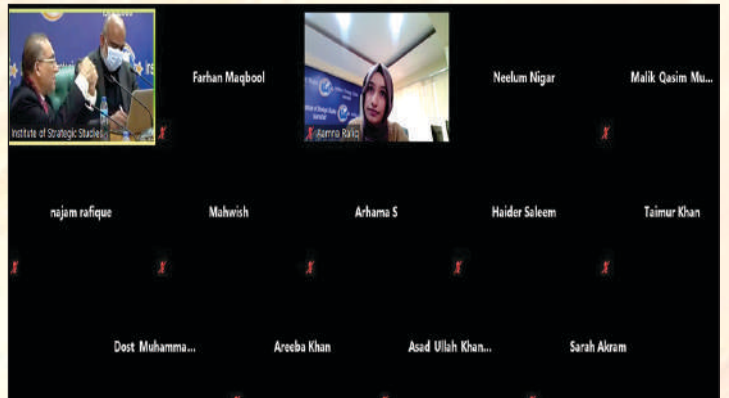
Later, an interactive session was held between Director, CPSC and members of the delegation. The members shared their ideas in order to speed up the work of CPEC projects in Gilgit-Baltistan and numerous suggestions were put forth. While concluding, Imtiaz Sultan, Coordinator of the delegation, thanked ISSI and Director CPSC for providing the platform for journalists from Gilgit-Baltistan to deliberate on various issues and hoped that such meetings will continue in future as well.



In-House Discussion on US-India Strategic Tech Alliance: Options for Pakistan

Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at ISSI held an in-house discussion on “US-India Strategic Tech Alliance: Options for Pakistan” on January 12, 2021. Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC gave welcome remarks while Ms. Aamna Rafiq, RA, ACDC, presented on the topic followed by an interactive discussion. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI, said that Pakistan has not focused on technological advancements and indigenization which has led to increase in imports.

The interactive discussion that followed highlighted the importance of indigenization for Pakistan, and the US goal to create a new global technological order that would benefit it, and the challenge this creates for India to balance its technological cooperation with the US and Russia.



Webinar on RSS-A Move Towards Fascism in South Asia

India Study Centre (ISC) at ISSI organized a webinar titled, “Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: A Move Towards Fascism in South Asia” on January 13, 2021. The speakers at the webinar included Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President-SVI; Lt. Gen. Asif Yasin Malik (Retd.), Former Secretary of Defense; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan, Former High Commissioner in New Delhi; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI.



In-House Meeting on Collaboration between CSP and ASC, QAU

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI hosted a meeting with the Dean and faculty members of Area Study Centre (ASC) for North and South America and Africa, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad on January 20, 2021. Members from the Area Study Centre included: Dr. Nazir Hussain, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), QAU, Dr. Sadia Suleman, Incharge, ASC and faculty members Dr. Brahmmand Shah, Dr. Tahir Jamil, Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi, Dr. Munawar Hussain and Ms. Sarah Ahsan, Senior Research Fellow at the ASC.





Visit by Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, VC, Karakoram University

Professor Dr. Attaullah Shah, VC, Karakoram International University (KIU) visited China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI on January 21, 2021. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI, warmly welcomed VC, KIU and briefed him about the structure of ISSI and the planned activities for the upcoming year. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, ISSI, also briefed about the working of CPSC.

Professor Shah thanked DG, ISSI and Director, CPSC for the warm welcome and gave a detailed briefing about various initiatives of KIU and its academic programs. He also highlighted the significance of research on issues like climate change, Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC and programs for youth development. The meeting concluded with ideas of strengthening cooperation in exchange programs, dialogue and scholarly engagements.



In-House Meeting with 3-Member Delegation from Embassy of Germany

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI organized an in-house meeting with a 3-member delegation from the German Embassy in Islamabad led by Minister Counsellor Dr. Philipp Deichmann, DHM on February 3, 2021. The delegation included Mrs. Shanti Helm, First Secretary for Political Affairs and Mr. Christian Böttcher, First Secretary for Economic Affairs.

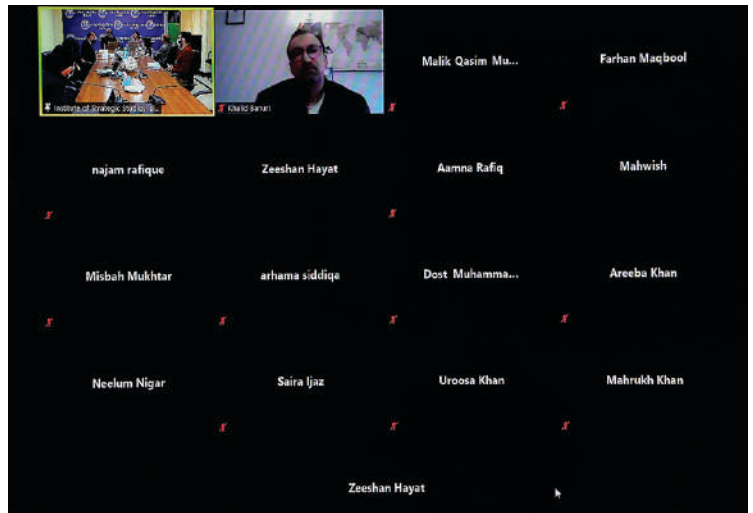
Director, CPSC, ISSI, Dr. Talat Shabbir, briefed the participants on the working of CPSC and its accomplishments. The two sides also discussed China-Pakistan relations and CPEC. Dr. Deichmann thanked the CPSC team for hosting them and deepening their understanding of China-Pakistan relations.



In-House Discussion Meeting on “Hypersonic Missile Race: Regional and Global Implications”

The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at ISSI organized an in-house discussion meeting on “Hypersonic Missile Race: Regional and Global Implications” on January 26, 2021. Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC, moderated the discussion while Ms. Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, RF, ACDC, provided a comprehensive technical overview of the hypersonic missiles.

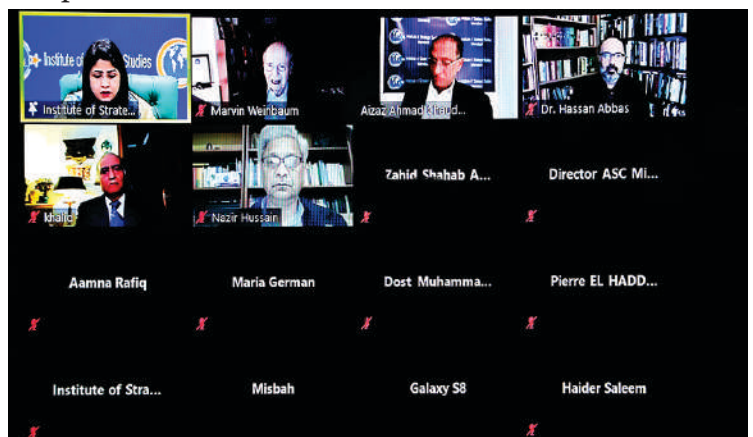
The presentation was followed by an interesting question and answer session between the ACDC Advisory Board members and ISSI research faculty including the Executive Heads of ISSI that were in attendance.



Panel Discussion on “Biden's Foreign Policy Approach Toward Middle East”

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI hosted a Panel Discussion on “Biden's Foreign Policy Approach Towards the Middle East” on February 18, 2021. The panel of experts included: Dr. Marvin Weinbaum, Director, Afghanistan and Pakistan Studies, Middle East Institute; Dr. Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor, NESU, National Defense University; Dr. Nazir Hussain, Former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU and Ms. Fatima Raza, RA, CAMEA, ISSI.

DG, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave welcome remarks while Ms. Amina Khan, Director-CAMEA delivered introductory remarks and moderated the panel discussion.





MoU between ISSI and ASC for Africa, North and South America, QAU University

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Area Study Centre (ASC) for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University signed a Memorandum of Understanding for promoting cooperation, mutual exchange of information, improvement of research and academic programmes, as well as exchange of experts and researchers on February 23, 2021. The MoU was signed by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI and Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, Director/Chairman BoG/Vice Chancellor, QAU.



Panel Discussion on “Biden’s Foreign Policy Towards Afghanistan”

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI hosted a Panel Discussion on “Biden’s Foreign Policy Towards Afghanistan” on February 24, 2021. The panel of experts included: Ms. Shinkai Zahine Karokhail, Member of the Afghan Parliament; Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan, former Ambassador and Mr. Michael Kugelman, Senior Associate, Wilson Center.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA while welcome remarks were given by DG, ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. Concluding remarks were presented by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG, ISSI who concluded the discussion on a positive note that peace will surely return to Afghanistan and the region at large.



In-House Meeting with Research Faculty from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI hosted an in-house meeting on “The Future of Pakistan-US Relations Under the Biden Administration” with the research faculty from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on February 12, 2021. The meeting was moderated by the Director, CSP Mr. Najam Rafique. Issues such as Pakistan relations with the US, situation in Afghanistan, human rights abuse in Kashmir, US-India relations, and US-China competition were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, President, IRS, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz and Chairman, BOG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.



Panel Discussion on “US Nuclear Policy Under Biden: Prospects and Challenges”

The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at ISSI organised a Panel Discussion on “US Nuclear Policy Under Biden: Prospects and Challenges” on February 25, 2021. The panel of experts included: Mr. James M. Acton, Co-director of Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowments for International Peace; Dr. Petr Topychkanov, Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI); Mr. Xu Chunyang, Senior Researcher, China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA); Mr. Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Director General, UN Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Adil Sultan, Dean/Head of Department, Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies (FASSS), Air University Islamabad.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, DG, ISSI, extended a warm welcome to the international and national panellists. The panel discussion was followed by an interactive discussion.





Panel Discussion on “Envisioning New Water Diplomacy in South Asia”

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI organized a Panel Discussion on “*Envisioning New Water Diplomacy in South Asia*” on March 9, 2021. The panellists at the discussion included: Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairman, BOG, SDPI; Mr. Ziad Alahdad, former Director, World Bank; Mr. Ashfaq Mehmood, former Federal Secretary, Water & Power, GoP; Dr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Consultant World Bank; and Mr. Feisal Naqvi, Senior Partner, BNR Law Firm. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Najam Rafique, Director, CSP, ISSI.

Experts stated that Pakistan is faced with both internal and external issues of water management. On Indus Water Treaty (IWT), the panellists stated that to make it work is a challenge for India and Pakistan and the regional countries need to include water in their discussions and examine existing treaties and try to plug holes in them.



Video Call Meeting with International Study Centre, Bangkok

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI hosted a video call meeting with Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, Director of International Studies Centre (ISC) in Bangkok, Thailand on March 12, 2021. The meeting was also joined by Mr. Muhammad Lutfee Useng, Chargé D’Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy in Pakistan and Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan’s ambassador to Thailand.

Ambassador Chaudhry and Dr. Chinvanho gave a brief introduction on the working and functions of their respective organizations and exchanged ideas on issues that could form the basis of an institutional dialogue between them. Dr. Chinvanho agreed to a proposal by Ambassador Asim to jointly organize a seminar later in 2021 on 70 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Thailand.



Meeting with H.E. Bernard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck on March 11, 2021. DG-ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry briefed the ambassador on the work being done by the Institute and the five Centres of Excellence established at ISSI.

Ambassador Schlagheck said that he was keen to deepen his engagement with Pakistan and said that the Embassy will be celebrating seventy years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and Pakistan in October 2021. The meeting was attended by all the Directors of the five Centres of Excellence at ISSI.



Seminar on “Gilgit-Baltistan a Gateway to CPEC: Harnessing the Opportunities of Economic and Knowledge Corridor for Sustainable Development”

The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI hosted a Seminar titled “*Gilgit-Baltistan a Gateway to CPEC: Harnessing the Opportunities of Economic and Knowledge Corridor for Sustainable Development*” in Collaboration with Karakorum International University (KIU), Gilgit on March 18, 2021.

An MoU between ISSI and KIU was also signed at the seminar by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI and Dr. Ataullah Shah, Vice Chancellor Karakorum International University to broaden cooperation in research and advocacy between KIU and ISSI.





Web-Celebration to commemorate Pakistan Day

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at ISSI held a commemoration meeting to celebrate Pakistan Day on March 23, 2021. The meeting was attended by DG, ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman BOG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, the Directors of the five Centres of Excellence and the entire research faculty.

Glowing tributes were paid to the father of the nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and other prominent leaders for their vision and struggle in the creation of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the Sub-continent.



Visit of 20-Members of Egyptian War College

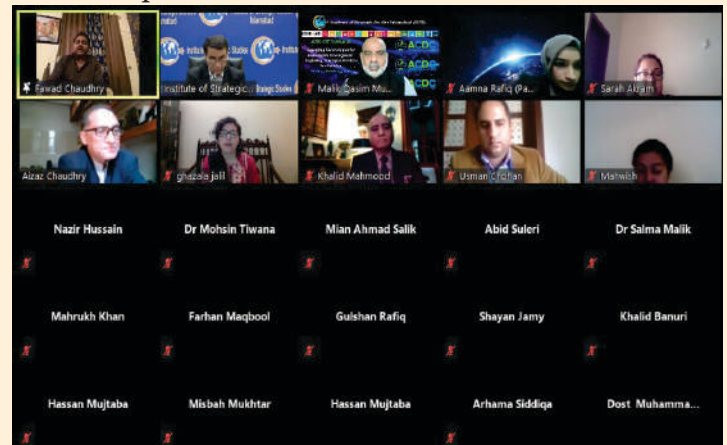
Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted 20-member delegation of the Egyptian War College on March 30, 2021. Director General, ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry delivered a talk to the visiting delegates whereas the Chairman, Board of Governors, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI, Dr. Talat Shabbir were also present on the occasion.



Webinar on “Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development: Exploring New Opportunities for Pakistan”

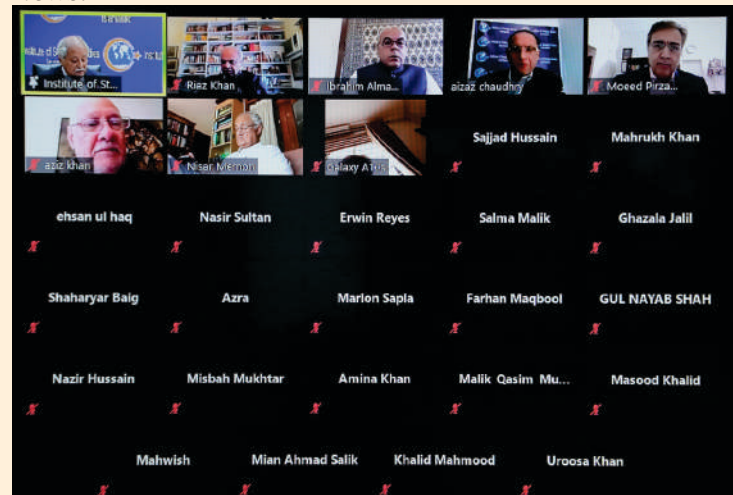
The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI organised a webinar on “Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development: Exploring New Opportunities for Pakistan” on March 25, 2021. Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was the Keynote Speaker at the event.

An expert group of panellists was also invited to speak on the subject. The panel included: Dr. Abid Qayyum Sulehri, Executive Director Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI); Dr. Usman Chohan, Director for Economics & National Affairs, CASS; Dr. Mohsin Islam Tiwana, Head of Research Department and GM Technology at EME, NUST; Mr. Khawaja Mohammad Ali, Chief Information Security Officer at ADBP; Ms. Sarah Akram, RF, CSP, and Ms. Aamna Rafiq, RA, ACDC. Panellists’ remarks were followed by an extensive question and answer session.



Book Launch - Reminiscences of My Wanderings

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI hosted a virtual launch of the book “Reminiscences of My Wanderings,” by Ambassador Arif Kamal on March 26, 2021. Review panellists at the launch included: Gen. Ehsan ul Haq, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Ambassador Riaz M. Khan, former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ejaz Rahim, former Federal Cabinet Secretary, and Dr. Moeed Pirzada, Anchorperson 92 News.



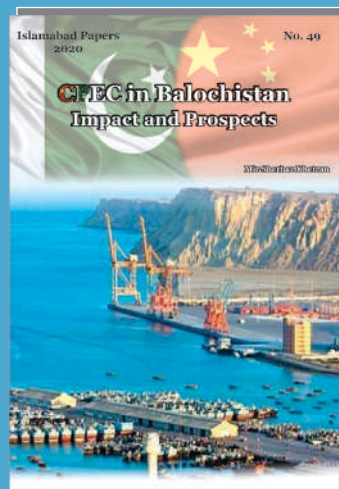
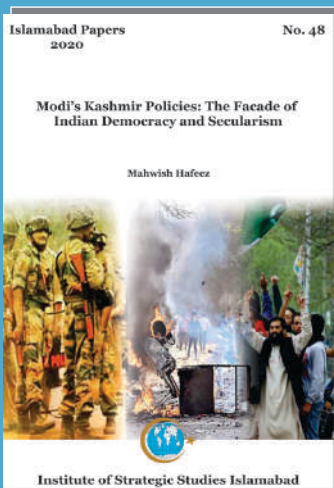


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