

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021



  
Institute of Strategic Studies  
Islamabad



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021





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The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) was founded in 1973. It is a non-profit, autonomous research and analysis centre, designed for promoting an informed public understanding of strategic and related issues, affecting international and regional security.

In addition to publishing a quarterly journal and a monograph series, the ISSI organises talks, workshops, seminars and conferences on strategic and allied disciplines and issues.

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# FOREWORD

## From the desk of the Director General

The year 2021 has been replete with challenges that have left a profound impact on the future discourse and conduct of inter-state relations. The COVID-19 pandemic, which brought a crippling effect on the entire world, developed and developing countries alike, underscored the need for the states to appreciate better the value of interdependence and globalism. The technology came in handy in keeping us all connected.

In fact, during the year 2021, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) witnessed a quantitative surge and qualitative improvement in all three streams of our work - research, discourse and policy inputs to the government. We strived to achieve excellence according to our motto of "strategic perspectives through research and dialogue." The themes of our research and events were carefully selected to be relevant to Pakistan and our region, reflecting also the priorities of the Foreign Ministry with which we remained engaged throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to the honourable Foreign Minister, who is the patron of the Institute, as well as high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their full support to the Institute.

The quarterly journal *Strategic Studies* remained our flagship publication. Considerable emphasis has been laid on improving quality through rigorous application of research methodology and continuous review of the themes under research. The journal has a separate fully functional website [strategicstudies.org.pk](http://strategicstudies.org.pk) where you can access the journal. 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 popular with students and researchers. During 2021, we published over 111 Issue Briefs, all of which are available on our website at [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk).

In terms of policy discourse, the Institute organised over 190 events during 2021 including conferences, webinars, seminars, roundtables, web talks, online panel discussions and informal discussions. We also strived to achieve synergy between what we research on and our institutional activities. The most notable feature of our work during 2021 was the shift from physical to virtual/hybrid events. The online events proved to be highly efficient, user friendly and cost-effective. The year-long activities culminated with the holding of the Islamabad Conclave, where 17 international and 6 Pakistani experts came together to discuss the important theme of making South Asia

peaceful and prosperous. The Conclave was inaugurated by the Prime Minister while the President addressed the closing session.

The third stream of our work entailed the provision of research-based policy inputs to the 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 2021 covers a brief expose of every activity undertaken by the Institute during 2021. Separate detailed reports issued on each of the activities mentioned in this report are available on our website.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain four-fold just like the previous year: Quality, Synergy, Relevance and Narrative Building. Our vision is to attain more with less. To that end, the Institute now has fully functional five centres of excellence. All five centres are now engaged in dedicated research and dialogue in their respective domains. They seek to monitor the situation, carry out studies, conduct policy discourse, maintain data bank, provide policy inputs and publish different products including books. Each centre has an advisory board for providing guidance.

The Institute's human resource comprises directors and research associates and 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 since 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). The Institute made an attempt to conduct all its functions from within the existing budget resources and exercised austerity measures where ever possible. Efforts were also made to improve the work environment on a self-help basis. The Institute benefitted from the valuable guidance of its Board of Governors and the Executive Committee of the Board.

Last, but not least, the Institute expanded its reach-out programme through media and social media. The website [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk) was revamped and made more user friendly. Efforts are being made with the HEC (Higher Education Commission) and various international accreditation and research platforms to get our quarterly journal into a higher quality category and made available for a larger readership. This will not only improve the impact and credibility of the research being done at the Institute but will also reach a larger audience. We invite you 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 foreign universities, with diverse expertise and covers major areas of the ISSI's research interests.

## Conferences, Seminars, Webinars and Talks

The ISSI convenes national and international conferences, seminars and webinars regularly. 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 five dedicated centres, namely, the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), India Study Centre (ISC), Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) and Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) to carry out focused research in the respective fields.



### **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 acts 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 conducting research and analytical studies on multi-dimensional aspects of India and promoting policy discourse on India's foreign, security and socio-economic policies and implications for Pakistan and the region as well as India-Pakistan relations.

### **Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA)**

CAMEA aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa. It envisions a synergy of inquiry and cooperation with these important regions in line with Pakistan's foreign policy. Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority and a vital component of Pakistan's vision for a peaceful neighbourhood. Cultivating closer ties with the Muslim countries in the Middle East and identifying areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Africa in keeping with Pakistan's Engage Africa policy are key priorities that underline the vision of CAMEA.

### **Centre for Strategic Perspective (CSP)**

CSP is the fifth Centre of Excellence at the ISSI. The Centre had its soft launch on September 14, 2020. CSP's vision is to monitor global and regional trends of strategic importance and their implications for Pakistan through quantitative and qualitative analyses and dialogue sessions to formulate tangible inputs for policy makers in Pakistan.



## 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 20 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: <http://issilibrary.org.pk/>

## Publications

The Institute uses its websites 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. The ISSI's journal can be accessed at: <https://strategicstudies.org.pk/>

## 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.

# ISLAMABAD CONCLAVE









## Inaugural Plenary “Quest for Peace and Prosperity in South Asia” December 09, 2021

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted its first-ever two-day flagship project Islamabad Conclave-2021 on December 9, 2021. The Islamabad Conclave 2021 was inaugurated by the Chief Guest the Honorable Patron In-Chief of ISSI, Prime Minister, Imran Khan. The Patron of ISSI the Honorable Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, was also present at the event.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the functioning of the ISSI and shed light on the purpose of the Islamabad Conclave.





## Session I: “Quest for Peace and Prosperity in South Asia” December 09, 2021



The first working session of Islamabad Conclave-2021 entitled “Quest for Peace and Prosperity in South Asia” was hosted by the India Study Centre (ISC) at the ISSI. The session was moderated by Dr Saif Malik, Director ISC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To identify the areas of cooperation that may be mutually beneficial for all South Asian states. also, to identify ways to remove the dark clouds of mistrust that hover over the South Asian states so that they may find their rightful place among the league of developed regions of the world.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Nishchal N Pandey, Director, Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS), Kathmandu, Nepal, Prof Dr Rupa Chanda, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok and Ms Laura Schuurman, an independent writer and researchers.

### Takeaways:

- Trust in the United Nations has been depleted.
- Pakistan must seek peace but must not beg for it.
- The US-China, the US-Russia, China-India and Pakistan-India are embroiled in bilateral tensions simultaneously.
- Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal are the top contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping missions. Nevertheless, there is no peace in the region.
- Dialogue between India and Pakistan is important and it should include the Kashmiri people as well.
- South Asia is among the least integrated regions in the world, with intraregional trade accounting for only 6.1 per cent of total trade in 2015.
- There is scope to expand trade and related flows of capital and persons in segments such as tourism, healthcare, education, IT and IT-enabled services, business and professional services.



## Session II: “Strategic Stability in South Asia” December 09, 2021



The second working session of Islamabad Conclave-2021 entitled “Strategic Stability in South Asia” was hosted by the Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the ISSI. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI, moderated the session.

**Objective:** To explore how existing and emerging challenges affect Strategic Stability in South Asia?

**Chief Guest:** Lt General (Retd) Mazhar Jamil, Advisor SPD.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Walter C Ladwig III, Mr Li Chijiang, Dr Lora Saalman, Major General (Retd) Ausaf Ali.

### Takeaways:

- The Cold War mentality, risky doctrines, ambiguous nuclear red lines, shaky commitment to No First Use, militarisation of dual-use emerging technologies and CBM fatigue paint a pessimistic outlook for strategic stability in South Asia.
- The onus to achieve strategic stability always falls on Pakistan while trying to pursue conflict resolution.
- It is time for India to act as a responsible nuclear state and exercise restraint.



## Session III: “Road to Durable Peace in Afghanistan” December 10, 2021



The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the ISSI hosted the third working session of the Islamabad Conclave titled, “Afghanistan: Road to Durable Peace.” Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI, moderated the session.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ms Tamanna Salikuddin, Director of South Asia programmes at the US Institute of Peace, Ms Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the South Asia Programme at the Stimson Center, Dr Sultan Barakat, Founding Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and Professor at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and Ambassador Jawed Ludin, President Heart of Asia Society.

### Takeaways:

- The sanctions regime is a big hurdle and US\$10 billion of foreign exchange reserves are frozen and due to which no banking transaction can be made.
- Owing to the situation in Afghanistan and the threat of a civil war or a protracted humanitarian crisis, Pakistan is likely to be affected the most.
- The threat of a worse outcome and its implications for the international community needs to be addressed more articulately and stabilising the region without losing leverage on the Taliban is one of the most important concerns of the international as well as the regional players.
- Catastrophe and chaos are impending in Afghanistan and providing economic aid alone will not address the challenge, therefore a workable compromise should be agreed on.





## Session IV: “Development through Connectivity” December 10, 2021



On December 10, 2021, day 2 of the Islamabad Conclave, China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the ISSI hosted the fourth working session of the Conclave under the theme titled “Development through Connectivity.” Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI moderated this session.

**Objective:** To highlight the potential and importance of development through connectivity.

**Keynote Speaker:** Ambassador Masood Khalid, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China

**Guest Speakers:** Professor Jin Canrong, Professor and Associate Dean, School of International studies at Renmin University of China; Professor Lin Minwang, Professor and Deputy Director of the Center of South Asian Studies, Fudan University, China; Professor Akbota Zholdasbekova, Vice Rector for International Cooperation at the Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan, and Mr Sanjar Valiev, Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### Takeaways:

- In the context of the CPEC, both Pakistan and China need to undertake a comprehensive review of its implementation to remove any bottlenecks and impediments. This process should not wait until the next JCC, which will be due in 2022.
- Pakistan, as a gateway to the Central Asian countries, should also explore the possibilities of untapped cluster trade routes. In this vein, one can point to the prospect of a possible conjugation of the “Trans-Afghan Corridor” with the CPEC, which is an essential element of the BRI.
- It is imperative for the countries, regional groupings and inter-governmental bodies to continue their efforts for ensuring smooth connectivity. Once the CARs have an opening to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan, we would have reason to forget that Central Asia is landlocked.



## Session V: “Addressing Pakistan’s Non-Traditional Security Challenges” December 10, 2021



The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute held the fifth working session on “Addressing Pakistan’s Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Challenges” on December 10, 2021, day 2 of the Islamabad Conclave. Dr Neelum Nigar, Director CSP-ISSI, moderated the session.

**Objective:** The essence of the session was to highlight and target the rising non-traditional security threats to Pakistan that are equally consequential to the existence of the country as a military and strategic threat.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

**Guest Speakers:** Ms Florence Rolle, Country Representative in Pakistan for FAO, Dr Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative HSF and Dr Ning Shengnan, Senior Research Fellow, CIIS.

### Takeaways:

- The reduced supply of water due to Climate Change will not only adversely affect Pakistan’s agricultural outputs but also hydropower generation. Moreover, diminished flows of the western rivers could spark tension between Pakistan and India and undermine the effectiveness of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- Since 2015 the number of people affected by severe food and water insecurity has increased along with the population affected with micro nutrition, obesity and stunted growth.
- The traditional understanding of security is not consistent with the increasing global security; individual security of human beings is helpful as an eye-opener for the vulnerabilities of societies, groups and individual persons, including minorities.
- Pakistan has great potential for geo-economics as it at the geographical location that connects the East and the West as it lies at the juncture of South and Central Asia, especially guarding the transport hub between the Indian Ocean and Central Asian countries as well as seated at the strategic economic channel between East Asia and Middle.



## Concluding Plenary “Presentation of Conclusions” December 10, 2021

The Honourable President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, was the chief guest for the concluding plenary on the second day of the Islamabad Conclave. While presenting the conclusions of the Conclave, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, briefed the President about the over-arching objectives of the Conclave.





## Key Takeaways

- ❖ Pakistan is not joining any blocs in the unfolding major power competition in the region, as it wants relations with both China and the US.
- ❖ Kashmir remains central to the peace and stability of South Asia.
- ❖ Despite shared heritage, South Asia remains a region marred by disputes. It has locked horns over the Kashmir dispute in particular. India and Pakistan need to leave behind their animosity towards each other and work together for a brighter future.
- ❖ Disruptive technologies like killer robots etc., would impact negatively the strategic balance in our region. It was also noted the nuclear factor has had a prohibitive effect on the outbreak of all-out war between India and Pakistan, despite military escalations. CBMs are needed to reduce the threat of any accidental outbreak of nuclear hostilities.
- ❖ There could be an imminent humanitarian crisis and economic collapse in Afghanistan. Economic collapse means there is a liquidity crisis. We need to engage constructively with the new political reality in Afghanistan to avert humanitarian crises and economic collapse.
- ❖ Connectivity remains a defining feature of today's world. Connectivity should be both; hardware and software. By software, they meant that there should also be a harmonisation of rules and procedures so that connectivity becomes more meaningful. There is also a note of satisfaction that the CPEC is a prime example of "Development through Connectivity."
- ❖ National security should be pursued in its holistic form. It must include human security and economic security. Everyone has recognised the climate crisis as an existential threat to Pakistan as it could affect water security, food security, agricultural security even health security and so on.
- ❖ Our image is worse than our reality. While we should work on our reality, we must also work on our image. What we need to do is to highlight the positivity that Pakistan represents and counter the false negativity that has been associated with the country.
- ❖ Traditional security could not be bolstered unless it was accompanied by economic security and human security. It is a paradigm shift and if Pakistan can be built upon that, it would be a much better placed country.
- ❖ There is a need to bridge the gap between the executive and the world of research and dialogue; the academia and the intelligentsia and the thought leaders; between the theory and the practice.
- ❖ There is a need to reach out to tell the outside world that Pakistan means well; that Pakistan wants to work with them; that Pakistan is an element of stability in South Asia and that Pakistan is ready to engage.



# CONFERENCES





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## 2nd International Parliamentary Kashmir Conference February 04, 2021



**Objective:** The CSP at the 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.

**Chief Guest:** Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister Pakistan.

**Guest of Honour:** Mr Shehryar Khan Afridi, Chairman of the Parliamentary Special Committee on Kashmir.

**Guest Speakers:** Senator Sherry Rehman, Pakistani policymakers, members of the Pakistan UK and EU Parliament, Kashmiri activists and members of the Youth Parliament.

### Takeaways:

- India has been involved in a disinformation campaign against Pakistan and the oppressed Kashmiri people. Pakistan is resolute in its support for the people of Indian occupied Kashmir and the victims of Indian state-sponsored barbarism.
- Several members of the UK Parliament were unanimous in their views that trade with India will not be accepted as long as oppression by India in Kashmir continues and condemned the steps taken by India in August 2019 to introduce demographic changes in illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- The people of Kashmir are suffering for the last 70 years and it is time that they get justice as generations of Kashmiris have suffered for decades with resilience and a strong spirit.
- 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.





## Conference on “Regional Security in Asia in the Context of Preventing New Challenges and Threats” July 14, 2021



The CSP at ISSI participated at the International Scientific-Practical Conference on Regional Security in Asia in the Context of Preventing New Challenges and Threats Held within CICA.

Title of speech: Assessment of Climate Change in CICA Region and Non-Traditional Security Risks.



# SEMINARS





  
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## Seminar on “Pakistan Stands with Kashmiris” February 04, 2021



This seminar was organised in lieu of “Kashmir Solidarity Day” by the ISC at the ISSI in collaboration with the National Security Division at Presidency on February 04, 2021.

**Chief Guest:** Dr Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Dr Moeed Yusuf, Special Assistant to PM on National Security, Ms Mushaal Mullick, Chairperson, Peace and Culture Organisation/Human rights activist and Mr Ahmad Qureshi, Executive Director, YFK International Kashmir Lobby Group.



## Seminar on “Gilgit-Baltistan a Gateway to CPEC: Harnessing the Opportunities of Economic and Knowledge Corridor for Sustainable Development” March 18, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI hosted this seminar in Collaboration with Karakorum International University (KIU), Gilgit on March 18, 2021.

**Objective:** To build upon activities in future and address the concerns of the people of Gilgit Baltistan.

**Takeaways:**

- Opportunities of the CPEC should be grasped to unleash the potential of the youth of Gilgit Baltistan.
- Economic opportunities should be inclusive and sustainable.
- The role of women in the success of CPEC should be highlighted.





## Seminar on “730 Days of Hell: Kashmir Under Siege” August 04, 2021



“Kashmiris know how to sacrifice” this was stated by Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, Minister of Interior while addressing a seminar titled “730 Days of Hell: Kashmir Under Siege.”

**Objective:** To analyse the implications of the abrogation of Articles 370 and Article 35A of the Indian constitution for Kashmiris, Pakistan, as well as for the whole region.

**Chief Guest:** Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, Minister of Interior.

**Other Speakers:** Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to OIC; Mrs Mushaal Hussain Mullick, Human Rights Activist; Mr Jamal Aziz, Executive Director RSIL, Islamabad; Ambassador Arif Kamal; Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasul, Director General, Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue and Diplomatic Studies.

**Video Messages:** Dr Yousef A Al-Othaimeen, Secretary-General of OIC and Mr Arif Hyder Ali, Co-Chair, Dechert LLP, USA.

### Takeaways:

- Hybrid war is being unleashed against Pakistan by India and social media is one of the main sources of it.
- Following August 5, 2019, it will not take long before the Muslim and Hindu populations will be the same in IIOJK.
- An umbrella organisation for political action representing Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Hurriyat from the Indian side of Kashmir is worth considering.
- Lawfare cannot occur in a vacuum and it has to be a part of a larger political-diplomatic strategy.
- If the Modi government is not prevented by the international community, there will be turbulence in South Asia.



## Seminar on “Freedom from Want through Business and Entrepreneurship: Take away from China” October 06, 2021



In collaboration with the Human Security Institute (THIS), the CPSC at the ISSI organised this event.

**Objective:** To educate people regarding entrepreneurship and what lessons can be learnt from China in this regard.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI; Mr Rafique Ahmad, DG THSI; Maj Gen Samraiz Salik, former DG ISSRA; Hina Ayra, CEO BGT; Raja Amer Iqbal, President DBOM; Zeeshan Ahmed, Director Planning and Strategic Alliance; Fouzia Qazi, Executive Director Rove Pakistan Travel and Tours; Ms Sbahat Rafiq, CEO Lampro Mellon; Mr Faheem Sardar, Founding Director TANGENT; Sam Ali Dada, President Women Chamber of Commerce and Fashion Designer; Naureen Ghaffar, CEO N G Marketing; Maj (Rtd) Syed Ali Shazad, Director Grand City; Fouzia Noreen, CEO Creative Horizons and Chairperson of All Pakistan Furniture Exporters Association; Usman Shah, CEO Nifty Sphere Institute of Arts and Designing; Urooj Raza Sayyami, Journalist, Media Entrepreneur Trainer; Nayyar Ali, Special Correspondent, Anchor Person; Dr Maaz ENT; Sami Ullah Khan Barki, Burki Group of Companies (Pvt) Ltd and Mian Muhammad Ali Moeen, CEO Grand Enclave Housing Society Gujrat.



## Seminar on “Commemorating the Black Day: India’s Plunder of Jammu and Kashmir” October 27, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI in collaboration with National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad organised this seminar.

**Objective:** To mark Kashmir Black Day.

**Chief Guest:** General Ehsan Ul Haq, NI (M), (Retd), former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Ahmed Qureshi, Executive Director YFK-International Kashmir Lobby Group, Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, HOD Department of Strategic Studies, NDU and Maj Gen Dr Raza Muhammad, HI (M), (Retd), Advisor to President NDU.

### Takeaways:

- There needs to be a diplomatic innovation to convert the progress that has been made into the final conflict resolution.
- Kashmiris’ struggle was justified by the 4th Geneva Convention.
- Kashmiris are going to resist until they get their due rights.
- By maintaining the status quo and staying on the backburner, Kashmiris have been forced to pick up arms.





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# PUBLIC TALKS







## Public Talk by Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezb-e-Wahadat-e Islami January 13, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** Enhancing Pak-Afghan Ties.

**Chief Guest:** Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezb-e-Wahadat-e Islami.

### Takeaways:

- Peace is a multidimensional phenomenon that has multifaceted effects on different dimensions of human social life and societies.
- In Afghanistan, the peace discourse has become a serious issue especially given that peace in Afghanistan is complex, multidimensional, with internal and international consequences. The people of Afghanistan need cooperation and joint efforts from all countries, especially the region.
- Peace in Afghanistan will create a situation that will benefit all countries, especially the region and our neighbours. With such peace, new horizons for progress and development will emerge in the region.



## Public Talk by Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed January 26, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan Kuwait Ties.

**Chief Guest:** Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed.

### **Takeaways:**

- 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.
- There are plenty of opportunities for Pakistan and Kuwait to collaborate for the betterment of the entire region.
- Pakistan and Kuwait must work to diversify their relations through commerce, exchange of expertise and cultural expertise.





## Public Talk by Ahmad Wali Massoud, Chairman, Massoud Foundation of Afghanistan & Former Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UK February 19, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To discuss the bilateral ties and prospects of peace in Afghanistan.

**Chief Guest:** Ahmad Wali Massoud, Chairman, Massoud Foundation of Afghanistan & former Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UK.

### Takeaways:

- Dialogue between the two countries is very important because direct discourse will strengthen the prospects for peace. Both countries need to define their security and economic relations, understand each other's views and build trust and subsequently a shared vision.
- Like any other relationship, there are always conflicts of interest and instead of wasting time on them, competing claims from all sides should be put on the table and resolved.
- A strong government in Kabul is the first pillar of peace in Afghanistan. This entails a formula based on a decentralised system rooted in the social fabric of Afghanistan.



## Public Talk on “CPEC and Baluchistan” February 24, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To evaluate and examine how the CPEC can bring economic growth and development to Balochistan.

**Guest Speaker:** Lt Gen Nasser Khan Janjua HI(M), (Retd), former National Security Advisor.

### Takeaways:

- The future of the world lies in the Afro-Eurasian region that begins from Balochistan and its significance has grown manifold with Belt and Road Initiative.
- The ongoing conflict in Balochistan requires political closure, which will open up new opportunities for the people of Balochistan.
- The Federation needs to address the apprehensions of the people of Balochistan about their access to natural resources.



## Public Talk on “China Pakistan COVID-19 Cooperation” April 01, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To create awareness regarding COVID-19 and to highlight the joint efforts undertaken by Chinese & Pakistani medical experts.

**Guest Speaker:** Major General Aamer Ikram, Executive Director National Institute of Health.

### Takeaways:

- The fight against Coronavirus requires commitment and collaboration beyond borders.
- Measures have been taken to strengthen Pakistan’s capacity of manufacturing vaccines, which will save the country millions of dollars on imports.





## Public Talk by the Russian Ambassador on “Future of Pakistan-Russia Relations” April 14, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** The Russian Ambassador aimed to shed light on three major areas of interaction between Moscow and Islamabad: the future of bilateral ties, particularly the most promising ones, areas of mutual interests and, how think tanks like ISSI can help strengthen the relations with a great country like Russia?

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Danila Ganich, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- The most promising areas of bilateral cooperation lie in the political arena, international affairs, Afghanistan and multilateral forums such as the UN, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- Afghanistan is an identical long-term area of interest since both states want a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem without any external interference.
- Pakistan seems to be more inclined toward western markets and that is a big hindrance in tapping the true potential of economic cooperation.





## Public Talk on “Australia’s Perspective on the Indo-Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities” May 26, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Speaker:** H.E. Dr Geoffrey Shaw, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- The world was experiencing a strategic realignment, with increasing geostrategic competition between major powers and pressure on international rules, norms and institutions and tensions over territorial claims.
- Countries like Australia and Pakistan were facing an increasingly complex and uncertain strategic landscape.
- Digital technologies offer huge potential but misuse poses risks and Australia is seeking new domains, such as cyberspace, governed by international law that reinforced stability, supports openness and facilitates trade and innovation.
- The Quad complements the existing regional and multilateral architecture, particularly the ASEAN Regional Forum, in promoting peace, security and prosperity in the region.



## Distinguished Lecture Series on “Pak-Tanzania Ties” September 22, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this lecture.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan-Tanzania Ties.

**Guest Speaker:** Ms Tanzeela Qambrani, Member Provincial Assembly Sindh and H.E. Muhammad Saleem, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Tanzania.

### Takeaways:

- One of the high priority areas for Pakistan’s Foreign Office is engaging with the African continent.
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA) is a substantial opportunity for Pakistan to tap into the African markets.
- East Africa is a gateway to exploit the business opportunities in Africa and it will open the vistas of opportunities for Pakistan to benefit from.



## Public Talk on “Pakistan and the US: Next Steps in Relationship” October 14, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** The objective of the talk was to understand the mood in the US policy circles regarding Pakistan after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

**Guest Speaker:** Pakistan’s Ambassador to the US, Dr Asad Majeed Khan.

**Discussants:** Dr Rifaat Hussain, Professor of Public Policy, National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad and Dr Rabia Akhtar, Director Centre for Security, Strategy and Policy Research at the University of Lahore.

### Takeaways:

- The Biden administration inherited a lot of unprecedented issues and problems including the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan.
- The collapse of Kabul came as a surprise for the US. This has given rise to internal finger-pointing in the US generating a sentiment of reflection and introspection.
- Over the years, Pakistan has reduced its dependence on the economic and military assistance that the US once provided.
- Pakistan has been on the giving end in the context of providing and facilitating the peace process.
- While the conversations between the two countries remain cordial, however, there are two additional stress points in the relationship, the US-China escalation and US-India strategic partnership.
- There is tremendous ambiguity that exists in the US Congress as well as in the Pentagon about the kind of relationship the US wants with Pakistan.
- Pakistan is free of tags with regards to its relationship with the US with the breaking of the Af-Pak prism and the Indo-Pak de-hyphenation.





## Public Talk on “Celebrating 70 Years of Pakistan-Germany Diplomatic Relations” October 21, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To celebrate 70 Years of Pakistan-Germany Diplomatic Relations.

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- Germany and Pakistan are engaged in high-level bilateral visits, which show the level of trust between the two countries.
- Germany is appreciative of Pakistan’s assistance in the Doha Process and in securing safe passage for its nationals from Afghanistan.
- There are several areas in the political sphere where the two sides can work closely; Afghanistan being one of them.





## Public Talk by H.E. Amir Khan Muttaqi, Interim Foreign Minister of Afghanistan November 12, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan and Pak-Afghan Ties.

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Amir Khan Muttaqi, Interim Foreign Minister of Afghanistan..

**Takeaways:**

- The new Government of Afghanistan does not pursue a policy of revenge.
- More than 75 per cent of girls have returned to school and the focus of the international community is on women's education. There is very little focus on the teachers who need to be paid, hence this appears to be quite contradictory on part of the international community.
- Aid has been cut by 'International human rights champions' and the assets of the people of Afghanistan – their basic source of sustenance – have also been frozen. There no longer exists any rationale behind any such sanctions.
- Due to the unique placement of Afghanistan geographically, it can serve as a point of connectivity for the entire region. Efforts are being made by the Taliban to have a dialogue with the Central Asian States so that trade can be resumed between Pakistan and Central Asia, which will benefit Afghanistan as well.



## Public Talk on “Conversations on the Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: Concluding Session” November 29, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Chief Guest:** Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

**Guest Speaker:** Ambassador Ayaz Wazir; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan; Dr Murat Aslan, SETA Security Researcher and Faculty Member of Hasan Kalyoncu University (Turkey); Dr Marvin Weinbaum, Director, Afghanistan and Pakistan Studies, Middle East Institute and Mr Hashim Pashtun, Advisor for Research Analysis to the Kabul Institute for Peace.

### Takeaways:

- A stable Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan as Pakistan has greater stakes in Afghanistan than any other country.
- Migration in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover is a serious concern as a refugee influx from Afghanistan will not only affect Pakistan but Iran and Europe as well.
- Most countries in the West view the Taliban as terrorists and there is a need to change this approach as there are some prejudices.
- The internal concern for the Taliban is about governance and the external concern is about legitimacy and recognition. They have to fulfil responsibilities to achieve both.
- The brain drain from Afghanistan is a huge concern resulting in capacity issues.



## Public Talk on “Climate Diplomacy” December 22, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this public talk.

**Objective:** To understand the idea of Climate Change diplomacy and how it can be used and implemented to gain collective goals that go beyond borders.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Adil Najam, Inaugural Dean, Frederick S Pardee School of Global Studies and Boston University.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan needs to take climate diplomacy differently and look at it more as a strategic issue than any other.
- Climate is no longer a future issue and has become an everyday concern with constant human adaptation and Pakistan is no exception.
- Approximately a third of Pakistan’s population is facing challenges regarding climate adaptation primarily in the agricultural sector mostly because of water.
- Countries like Pakistan, which are more climatic, agricultural and water-dependent, will have to bear the maximum cost of Climate Change, hence, Pakistan has to change its efforts both nationally and internationally to address the issue diplomatically and make it a diplomatic cause.





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# WEBINARS/ WEBTALK/ WEBCELEBRATION







## Webinar on “Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: A Move Towards Fascism in South Asia” January 13, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To understand the phenomenon of Hindutva and RSS better as well as to ponder upon its implications on the region.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President Strategic Vision Institute Islamabad; Lt General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik HI (M), former Secretary of Defense; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan, former High Commissioner to New Delhi; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, Chairman BoG ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The current government of Modi is the manifestation of RSS ideology posing a threat to South Asia.
- New Delhi is likely to exploit the new US Arab-Israel nexus and may conduct surgical strikes against Pakistan.
- Pakistan needs to continue the fight against terrorism launched by India inside Pakistan.



## Web Talk on “Evolving Strategic Environment in the Western Indian Ocean and Significance of Aman Exercise 2021” February 10, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this web talk. The web talk was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To discuss today’s maritime challenges and how best to deal with them through cooperative security and to assess the role of AMAN exercises in promoting peace and security.

**Guest Speaker:** Vice Admiral (R) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao HI (M).

### Takeaways:

- Maritime threats are of a transnational or global nature.
- The concept of collaborative maritime security has gained pre-eminence.
- AMAN exercises have brought 45 countries together including China, the US and Russia with Pakistan as a bridge in the region and a peacemaker in the maritime domain.





## Web Talk by Ms Angela Aggeler, US Charge d'Affaires March 03, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this web talk.

**Objective:** To explore the future of Pakistan-US relations under the Biden presidency.

**Guest Speaker:** Ms Angela Aggeler, the US Charge d'Affaires, the US Embassy, Islamabad.





## Video Call Meeting with International Study Centre (ISC) Bangkok March 12, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this video call meeting.

**Objective:** To explore the working and functions of the ISSI and ISC and future cooperation between both organisations.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Anuson Chinvanno, Director of the International Studies Centre (ISC) in Bangkok, Thailand, Mr Muhammad Lutfee Useng, Chargé d' Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy in Pakistan and Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Ambassador to Thailand.



## Web Commemoration of “Pakistan Day” March 23, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this Web Commemoration.

**Objective:** A commemoration meeting to celebrate Pakistan Day.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, the Directors of the five Centers of Excellence and the entire research faculty.

### Takeaways:

- 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 in India.
- It is our collective responsibility to work hard in our respective professions with a high level of dedication, commitment and sincerity to make Pakistan one of the greatest countries in the world.
- The meeting concluded with the resolve to play a role at an individual level to make Pakistan a strong, viable, inclusive and progressive state.





## Webinar on “Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development: Exploring New Opportunities for Pakistan” March 25, 2021



The ACDC & CSP at the ISSI jointly organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To identify key emerging technologies and their impact on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Pakistan.

**Chief Guest:** Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Abid Qayyum Sulehri, Dr Mohsin Islam Tiwana, Mr Khawaja Mohammad Ali, Ms Aamna Rafiq and Ms Sarah Akram.

### Takeaways:

- Need a national environment where policies encourage technological innovations and exploration of new ideas.
- The political instability, a technological disconnect between civil and defence sectors and an unnecessary ban on technologies and tech companies are greatly affecting initiatives.





## International Webinar on “Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) and State Behaviour: Global & Regional Implications” April 07, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To highlight the emerging interplay between LAWS and state behaviour and its global and regional implications.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Elisabeth Hoffberger-Pipani, Major General (Retd) Ausaf Ali and Ms Aamna Rafiq.

### Takeaways:

- All regional states have collective responsibility for the regulation of LAWS.
- LAWS are highly questionable as they are extremely vulnerable to cyberattacks, reprogramming and jamming.
- LAWS along with hypersonic and laser weapons would reduce the time for strategic decision-making options.
- They can trigger crisis instability and conflict escalation to a nuclear level.



## Web Celebration on “Africa Day” May 25, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this web celebration.

**Objective:** To commemorate Africa Day.

**Chief Guest:** Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ambassador Ali Javed, Additional Foreign Secretary Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, Maj General Zahid Mehmood from the Ministry of Defence and Mr Mohammad Nasir Mirza, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan’s relations with African nations have been strong and Pakistan has always extended support to Africa.
- The African continent is the economic powerhouse of the future.



## XVI Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum May 25, 2021



**Guest Speakers:** Mr Yerzhan Saltybaev, Director, Institute of World Economy and Politics at the N Nazarbayev Foundation, Republic of Kazakhstan; Ms Aisha Farooqui, National Coordinator SCO, Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Mr Rong Ying, Vice President, China Institute of International Studies, China; Mr Akhmetov Tulondievich, Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic; Prof Alexander Lukin, Director, Centre for East Asian and SCO Studies, Moscow State Institute of International Relations; Ziyoi Khurhshed, Director, Center for Strategic Studies, Republic of Tajikistan; Mr S Valiev, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Interregional Studies, Republic of Uzbekistan.

### Takeaways:

- SCO has progressed over the last two decades and collective efforts by member states can help forge a path together for greater progress.
- The SCO has grown in its scope and functions in the past few years and the new challenges make it imperative for SCO to move forward.
- SCO has proved its importance as a unique cooperation platform and has gained astonishing achievements to maintain regional peace and security.





## Webinar on “Youm-e-Takbeer: Celebrating Peaceful and Prosperous Nuclear Pakistan” May 28, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To celebrate the efforts of Pakistan’s nuclear community and the sacrifices of the nation during the historic nuclear journey of Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Brig Zahir Kazmi, Mr Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, Dr Rizwana Abbasi, Mr Pervaiz Butt and Air Cdre (Retd) Khalid Banuri.

### Takeaways:

- Nuclear technologies are contributing towards achieving poverty alleviation and zero hunger, development of health, agriculture, industry, environment and energy sectors.
- Pakistan’s work and potential in peaceful uses of nuclear technology make a case for access internationally to associated technologies for which Pakistan has the right prowess, responsible approach and a track record of safety and security.





## Web Talk on "Climate Change: Challenge and Options for Pakistan" June 02, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this web talk.

**Guest Speaker:** Honourable Malik Amin Aslam, Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan is not a big emitter but we are the victims of greenhouse emissions.
- The government is taking elaborated nature-oriented programmes to mitigate the impact of Climate Change.
- Pakistan is redesigning policies and smart infrastructures and it is not waiting for any external aid to make the country adaptable and resilient in terms of the climate crisis.
- The introduction of the Green Eurobond will add to the green credibility of the country's business profile.
- New ways of cooperation need to be formed to move forward in South Asia on water issues, data sharing is one such method, which can help in water diplomacy.



## “48th Foundation Day of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad”

### June 16, 2021

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) celebrated its 48th Foundation Day with full zeal and zest on June 16, 2021, and renewed its commitment to further deepen its work of providing objective analyses on national and international issues and enhancing the understanding of the public on issues of peace and security in Pakistan.

The ISSI’s five Centres of Excellence included Administration received a Certificate of Recognition by Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Chief Guest at the 48th Foundation Day of the Institute.













## Webinar on “Cyber Technologies and Responsible State Behaviour: Achieving Peace, Security and Sustainable Development” June 29, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** To identify the issues related to malicious activities in cyberspace and their implications on peace, security and sustainable development. Analyse the various ways to enhance responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.

**Guest Speakers:** Brig Mohammad Yasin, Dr Tughral Yamin, Dr Khashif Kifayat and Ms Aamna Rafiq.

### Takeaways:

- The Cyberspace regime should be part of the overarching national security architecture.
- Cyber technologies could be an essential building block in the ability to achieve the Global Goals in 2030.
- There is a need to develop human resources in Pakistan to tackle the problem of cybersecurity.



## Webinar on “Strategies for Mitigating Impacts of Climate Crisis” August 12, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Climate Change and water expert.

**Speakers:** Mr Ashfaq Mehmood, former Federal Secretary, Water and Power, GoP; Dr Gulfaraz Ahmad, former Federal Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Resources, GoP; Dr Arjumand Nizami, Country Director, Helvetas, Pakistan and Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG, SDPI.

### Takeaways:

- The world has passed beyond the linear changes of Climate Change and moving towards abrupt system changes; in Pakistan heat waves, droughts and flash floods can be associated with Climate Change.
- Pakistan needs to build to store water, as it will be available for a shorter period. Water pricing is also needed for the efficient use of water.
- Pakistan needs to improve energy efficiency by implementing effective policies and energy sustainability needs to be investigated by keeping in mind Climate Change.
- In Pakistan, many policies about Climate Change have been postulated but their effective implementation needs to take place.




## Web Celebration “Pakistan’s Independence Day” August 14, 2021



The ISSI held a celebratory meeting to commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, the Directors of the five Centers of Excellence and the entire research faculty.







## Web Talk on “Issues and Debate at the Conference on Disarmament (CD): A View from Pakistan” August 17, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this web talk. The web talk was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : To analyse the existing and emerging issues related to arms control and disarmament, which require an effective response from the CD and to discuss Pakistan’s role in the revival of the CD.

**Guest Speaker:** Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan Mission to the UN, Geneva.

**Discussant:** Ambassador Tehmina Janjua.

### Takeaways:

- There is frustration due to non-compliance with legal obligations and deliberate disregard for established norms of global arms control and disarmament regime and growing mistrust among member states.
- There is a need to reverse the policies that caused the stalemate and revive the old global consensus on the issue of nuclear disarmament.
- The integration of AI with existing weapons, nanotechnologies, synthetic material, militarisation of cyberspace and hypersonic missile race as matters of serious concern, which must be brought to the CD agenda.





## Webinar on “Evolving Situation in Afghanistan” August 26, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI in collaboration with the Middle East Monitor (MEMO), UK held this webinar.

**Objective:** : To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Abdullah Anas, author of *To the Mountains: My Life in Jihad, from Algeria to Afghanistan*, Mr Tamim Asey, Founder & Executive Chairman of the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul, Mr Adam N Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute, Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO), Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- There had long been recognised that the war in Afghanistan was unwinnable.
- Taliban could achieve political stability in Afghanistan, provided they form an inclusive setup and honour their commitments and adopt a more moderate outlook.
- The previous government in Kabul was mired in strategic incompetence and pursued its short-sighted political gains; as a result, Afghans suffered.



## Webinar on “Saudi Vision 2030: Opportunities for Pakistan” September 02, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** To find synergies between Saudi Vision 2030 and the Government of Pakistan’s Vision.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Ali Awad Alasiri, former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan; Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the OIC; Senator Sehar Kamran, Patron in Chief, Centre for Pakistan & Gulf Studies-CPGS; Dr Muhammad Azam Roomi, Professor of Entrepreneurship at Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College (MBSC) of Business & Entrepreneurship, King Abdullah Economic City.

### Takeaways:

- The Saudi economy is thriving and Pakistan would do well to explore ways to benefit from it.
- Pakistan can send its technicians to provide support in the mega project – NEOM city. Moreover, both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia can sign several agreements in areas like agriculture, health, labour etc.
- Both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia should think of legal and technical methods to ensure that both parties are safe and have an equal share in the advantages of bilateral trade.
- Pakistan should not only focus on the opportunities arising out of Saudi vision 2030 but should learn and try to emulate the Saudi Vision 2030 model as it is one of the best visions in the world at the moment.



## Web Celebrations on “Pakistan Defence Day” September 06, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this web celebration. The web celebration was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : To pay tribute to all the martyrs of the 1965 war and praise Pakistan’s robust defence capability.

### Takeaways:

- The global strategic landscape is shifting from kinetic to hybrid/5th generation warfare. Therefore, defending the ideological borders is as important as defending the physical borders of Pakistan.
- Full-spectrum deterrence capabilities of Pakistan eliminate space for the Indian limited war doctrines.





## Webinar on “Evolving Regional Situation and Pakistan-China Cooperation” September 08, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective :** To assess the changing situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the region.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI and Dr Yuan Peng, President CICIR chaired the proceedings. The speakers included Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Mr Liu Jinsong, Maj Gen (R) Dr Samreez Salik, Dr Rong Ying, Prof Li Li, Ms Amina Khan, Dr Wang Shida, Dr Sumeera Imran, Dr Mukesh Khatwani, Dr Wang Xu and Dr Yuan Peng.

### Takeaways:

- The irresponsible withdrawal of the US is also going to have a long-term impact on the peace and stability in the region.
- The regional countries must join hands to avert any spill-over effect of the evolving situation.
- Employ diplomatic means; enhance economic cooperation and expand humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.





## Webinar on “Make in Pakistan: Pakistan’s New Industrial Policy” September 09, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** : The objective of the webinar was to discuss Pakistan’s new industrial policy and how it can benefit the country in the longer. Options and challenges also came under discussion.

**Keynote Speakers:** Dr Salman Shah, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Humayun Akhtar Khan, Dr Usman W Chohan, Ms Nazish Afraz and Dr Liaquat Ali Shah.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan is the fastest urbanising country in the world and clusters of manufacturing are forming around major cities in Pakistan, especially Punjab.
- Pakistan’s focus should be on industries of exports, with increasing levels of technology and value addition and a new industrial policy should be a commitment of the top leadership and long-term vision.
- If a strong industrial policy is implemented a strong industrial base will help, ensure national economic sovereignty.
- Value-added production is necessary for the industrial growth of Pakistan.



## Webinar on “Indian Naval Modernisation and its Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia” September 14, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : To discuss the dynamics of Indian naval modernisation both conventional and nuclear and its impact on South Asian security.

**Guest Speakers:** Vice Admiral (Retd) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique HI(M), Commodore Baber Bilal Haider SI(M), Dr Syed Aqeel Akhtar Naqvi and Mr Sufian Ullah.

### Takeaways:

- It improves the Indian reconnaissance capabilities, warfighting capabilities and anti-submarine capabilities that provide the Indian Navy with a strategic outreach in the Indian Ocean.
- The nuclearisation of the Indian Ocean is a threat to all the littoral states, especially Pakistan.
- Indian nuclear submarines will not only generate an escalatory effect during the crisis but also drives a new regional arms race.



## Webinar on “China-Pakistan Relations in Changing Geopolitical Environment and its Role in Regional Security and Stability” September 27, 2021



The ISSI and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) organised this joint webinar.

**Objective:** Analyse Pakistan-China Relations in changing geopolitical environment. Exchange of views on regional security and stability.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Moeed Yusuf, National Security Advisor; Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific); Ambassador Liu Jinsong, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI; Ambassador Zhang Chunxiang, former Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan; Lt General (Retd) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, former Defence Secretary; Senior Col (Retd) Zhou Bo, former Director of the Centre for Security Cooperation in the Office for International Military Cooperation, Chinese Ministry of National Defence; Mr Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute; and Dr Liu Zongyi, Secretary-General of South Asia and China Center at SIIS.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan’s geostrategic location provides it with three opportunities i.e., connectivity through CPEC; development partnerships with other countries and peace within Pakistan and good relations with neighbours.
- There is strong support and clarity at the leadership level between Pakistan and China on major issues of mutual interest, regional and international organisations.





## Webinar on “Emerging Global Military Trends and National Security: Challenges and Options” October 21, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : Identify the emerging military trends at the global level and their impact on the nature of conflicts and analyse how they will shape the imperatives of national security for states.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, Dr Ivan V Danilin, Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) Faaiz Amir and Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal.

### Takeaways:

- Four global trends: incentives for an arms race, preference for preemption, declining respect for global norms and morality are increasing reliance on emerging technologies.
- Military modernisation is about more than hardware, it is about organisational reforms, command and control and doctrines.
- The competition for the formulation of global standards for digital technologies and artificial intelligence and power projection on the global landscape.



## ACDC “Second Anniversary Celebrations” October 29, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this event.

**Objective:** : Review the annual performance of the Centre & receive overall policy directions from ACDC Advisory Board.

**Speakers:** Director General ISSI, Chairman BOG ISSI, Director and ACDC Team, ACDC Advisory Board Members & other Directors of ISSI. .

**Takeaways:**

- The advisory board members appreciated the work of the ACDC and gave new suggestions and ideas to enhance the Centre’s research, activities and outreach.



## Webinar on “Conversations on Afghanistan: Middle East’s Perspectives” November 10, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this webinar.

**Objective:** : To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Ali Awadh Asseri, former Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO), Mr Hashmat Moslih, an independent political analyst with a special focus on Afghanistan and Mr Ahmad Shah Durrani, author of *An Outside the Box Look at Afghanistan: New Ideas for Lasting Peace and Stability*.

### Takeaways:

- Countries such as Saudi Arabia are reluctant to take any step without having prior assurance from the Taliban.
- Even if countries in the Middle East do not engage with the current dispensation in Afghanistan, other countries are willing to do so. Therefore, states in the Middle East have more to lose than to gain from a disintegrated and destabilised Afghanistan.
- Iran feels threatened and encircled by the shifting alliances in the Middle East. Iran has maintained a relationship with the Taliban and at the same time has managed to avoid isolation from the West by supporting the Afghani movement.





## Webinar on “Pakistan’s Peaceful Nuclear Programme” November 11, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this webinar. The webinar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : To discuss how Pakistan’s peaceful nuclear programme is contributing to socio-economic development and highlight its achievements in the energy sector, the health sector, industry and the development of the agricultural sector.

**Speakers:** Mr. Muhammad Naeem, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr Parvez Butt, Dr Tariq Mahmud Shah, Mr Asghar Ali Khan, and Dr Shazia Fatima..

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan has made strides in the energy sector with four operational plants that provide clean and sustainable energy that helps in controlling greenhouse gases.
- Nuclear energy is the way to clean, cost-effective and sustainable energy security.
- The application of nuclear technologies in agriculture is contributing tremendously to food and water security.
- Nuclear technologies have contributed to the health sector especially in diagnosing and treating cancer.



INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES  
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# VIRTUAL DIALOGUES/ PANEL DISCUSSIONS/ ONLINE DISCUSSIONS









## Panel Discussion on “Biden’s Policy towards the Middle East” February 18, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** : To discuss Biden’s Policy toward the Middle East.

**Panellists:** Dr Marvin Weinbaum, Director, Afghanistan and Pakistan Studies, Middle East Institute; Dr Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor, NESU, National Defense University, US & author of *The Prophet’s Heir: The Life of Ali ibn Abi Talib*; Dr Nazir Hussain, former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU and Ms Fatima Raza, Research Associate, CAMEA, ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The former US President, Donald Trump’s tenure in office has been quite tumultuous and unpredictable. Iran is an important country in the region and economic activities between Pakistan and Iran have been severely impacted due to harsh economic sanctions imposed against Iran.
- The US administration’s approach would oscillate between continuity and substance. Israel will be a new character for the US in the Middle East and might sideline Saudi Arabia in the region.
- Biden’s policy style appeared to be different from the previous administrations, as Biden wants to use diplomacy as a tool and focus on a political resolution of conflicts in the region – there will be a return of strategic maturity to the White House where it will continue to support its allies.



## Panel Discussion on “Biden’s Foreign Policy Approach towards Afghanistan” February 24, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** : To discuss Biden’s foreign policy approach toward Afghanistan.

**Speakers:** Ms Shinkai Zahine Karokhail, Member of the Afghan Parliament (Wolesi Jerga) Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan, Author of *Afghanistan and Pakistan: Conflict, Extremism and Resistance to Modernity* and Mr Michael Kugelman, Senior Associate, Wilson Center.

### Takeaways:

- The biggest hurdle for the new administration was that it could not be brought up to speed on the Afghan issue during the transition period. Negotiating for an extension of the US troop stay is what the new administration is currently looking into,
- The mutual relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is critical to securing lasting peace in Afghanistan. There is a consensus inside Pakistan that stability in Afghanistan translates into stability for Pakistan.





## Panel Discussion on “US Nuclear Policy Under Biden: Prospects and Challenges” February 25, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this panel discussion. The panel discussion was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** : To discuss the prospective nuclear weapons and non-proliferation policies that the Biden administration follows and its implications for global and regional security.

**Panellists:** Mr James M Acton, Dr Petr Topychkanov, Mr Xu Chunyang, Mr Usman Iqbal Jadoon and Dr Adil Sultan.

### **Takeaways:**

- The greatest challenge for the US is North Korea’s nuclear capability.
- START extension is not the end. It must be followed by a broader conversation to include more items and more countries.
- Great powers must seek new arms control arrangements to maintain strategic stability and prevent an arms race.



## Panel Discussion on “Envisioning New Water Diplomacy in South Asia” March 09, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The aim was to highlight water mechanisms that need to be established by Pakistan to ensure water security vis-à-vis its neighbours. As Pakistan is a water-stressed country, water Diplomacy needs to become a part of Pakistan’s policy dialogues with its partners both at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairman BoG, SDPI; Mr Ziad Alahdad, former Director, World Bank; Mr Ashfaq Mehmood, former Federal Secretary, Water & Power; Dr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Consultant World Bank and Mr Feisal Naqvi, Senior Partner, BNR Law Firm.

### Takeaways:

- The South Asian countries share river basins and various bilateral agreements on water like the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) (Pakistan-India), Ganges Treaty (India-Bangladesh), Mahakali Treaty (India-Nepal), unfortunately, India has played a spoilsport in all of these bilateral treaties.
- New ways of cooperation need to be formed to move forward in South Asia on water issues, data sharing is one such method, which can help in water diplomacy.
- The regional countries need to include water in their discussions and examine existing treaties and try to plug holes in them. Water and Climate Change issues need to be separated from political agendas in South Asia, which is already one of the least integrated regions in the world. Civil society linkages need to be established and strengthened in the region to talk about these issues.



## Virtual Institutional Dialogue with South Asia Programme at Stimson Centre March 15, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The meeting aimed to introduce the participants from the Stimson Centre to the Working and structure of the ISSI, which was followed by a brief introduction of the South Asia Programme at Stimson Centre by Mr Sameer Lalwani, Senior Fellow and Director of the South Asia Programme. Common areas of interest and specific theme-oriented dialogues relevant to the strategic stability of the region were identified for future discussion between the institutes.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan today revolves around understanding the Indo-Pacific strategy and its application and relevance to South Asia. Similarly, major power competition is another area of great interest in Pakistan and the US's increasing tilt towards India has emboldened it to undertake ventures and adventures of concern to Pakistan.
- The US intends to push the strategic environment of today in a zero-sum world. The orientation of the QUAD is not to divide the world into certain camps but rather to augment the international economic order.
- While the atmosphere of relations between the US and China is competitive, it still has cooperative elements and could be non-conflictual.





## Track II Dialogue on “Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan” March 15, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan and Pak-Afghan Ties

**Keynote Speakers:** Pir Sayed Hamed Gailani, Head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers from Pakistan:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISSI; Lt Gen Syed Sabahat Hussain, former Corps Commander Multan; Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar; Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad Khan, former Foreign Secretary; Ambassador (Retd) Riaz M Khan, former Foreign Secretary; Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow IPRI; Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, Pakistan representative in OIC’s Committee on Afghanistan (1999-2000); Ghulam Sarwar Mohmand, former President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Tahir Khan, Journalist, Daily Times; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI and Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, Associate Professor, National Defense University (NDU).

**Guest Speakers from Afghanistan:** Ambassador Jawed Ludin, Co-Founder & President Heart of Asia Society, Kabul; Janan Mosazai–former Afghanistan ambassador to Pakistan and China. Current Vice President Heart of Asia Society; Pir Sayed Hamed Gailani, Head of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan; Ms Shaharзад Akbar, Chairperson of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Ms Mariam Safi, Director of the Organisation for Policy Research and Development Studies; Dr Timor Sharan, Adjunct Professor at the American University of Afghanistan, Mr Shoaib Rahim, Economist and Mr Sayed Zaman Hashemi, former Chief Executive Officer at Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI).





## Participation in Islamabad Security Dialogue March 17-18, 2021



The five think tanks collaborated as co-hosts for the event including the ISSI.

The ACDC team along with other Centers of Excellence at the ISSI participated in the event and performed coordination and other related tasks for the dialogue.





## Partner Islamabad Security Dialogue by CSP March 17-18, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI was part of the Islamabad Security Dialogue.

**Objective:** The ISSI hosted the fourth working session “Regional Peace and Security at the Islamabad Security Dialogue. The session was convened and moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

**Panellists:** Dr Hu Shisheng, Director, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Secretary, Ms Laurel Miller, Director, Asia Programmes, International Crisis Group and Ambassador Dr Akbar S Ahmed, Professor, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC.

### Takeaways:

- The world is going through a profound transformation and new partnerships are being created, moreover, the policy of containment of China is sowing seeds of a new cold war.
- Pakistan is advocating peaceful coexistence and cooperative multilateralism and durable peace and development in the region hinges on the peaceful settlement of the longstanding Kashmir dispute.
- Pakistan’s focus is increasingly shifting from geopolitics to geo-economics.
- CPEC has advanced despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and has already changed the economic and demographic landscape of Pakistan.
- Countries like the US and UK can play a significant role in de-escalating the tensions and bringing the two sides on one page.



## Introductory Virtual Meeting with the Executive Heads of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (CAIR), BAKU April 06, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** It was an introductory Virtual Meeting with the Executive Heads of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (CAIR), BAKU.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Farid Shafiyev, Chairman, Centre of Analysis of International Relations (CAIR), Baku, Azerbaijan, Dr Esmira Jafarova, Deputy Chairman, Dr Javid Valiyev, Head of Department, Fuad Chiragov, Head of Department and Dr Vasif Huseynov, senior advisor.





## Panel Discussion on “Biden Administration: Options & Challenges for Pakistan-US Relations” April 22, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** The panel discussion was aimed to initiate a debate on the challenges that Pakistan and the US relationship face and the options available to make it better and move ahead from the past.

**Panellists:** Dr Hassan Abbas, Professor, NDU, Washington DC; Dr Kenneth Holland, former President, American University of Afghanistan; Dr Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS and Dr Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Associate Professor, University of Peshawar.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan is the most important neighbour for the US in its fight as well as stability in Afghanistan.
- The importance may reduce once the US troops leave Afghanistan, however, the US will continue its counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan over the horizon.
- Indo-US relations have been on the rise for many years and the reason is that the top tech and AI companies, as well as American businesses, have the opportunity to talk with Indians in terms of investments and return emphasising its strategic relationship.



## Panel Discussion on “The Next Chapter for Afghanistan” April 28, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Keynote Speaker:** Pir Sayed Hamed Gailani, Head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

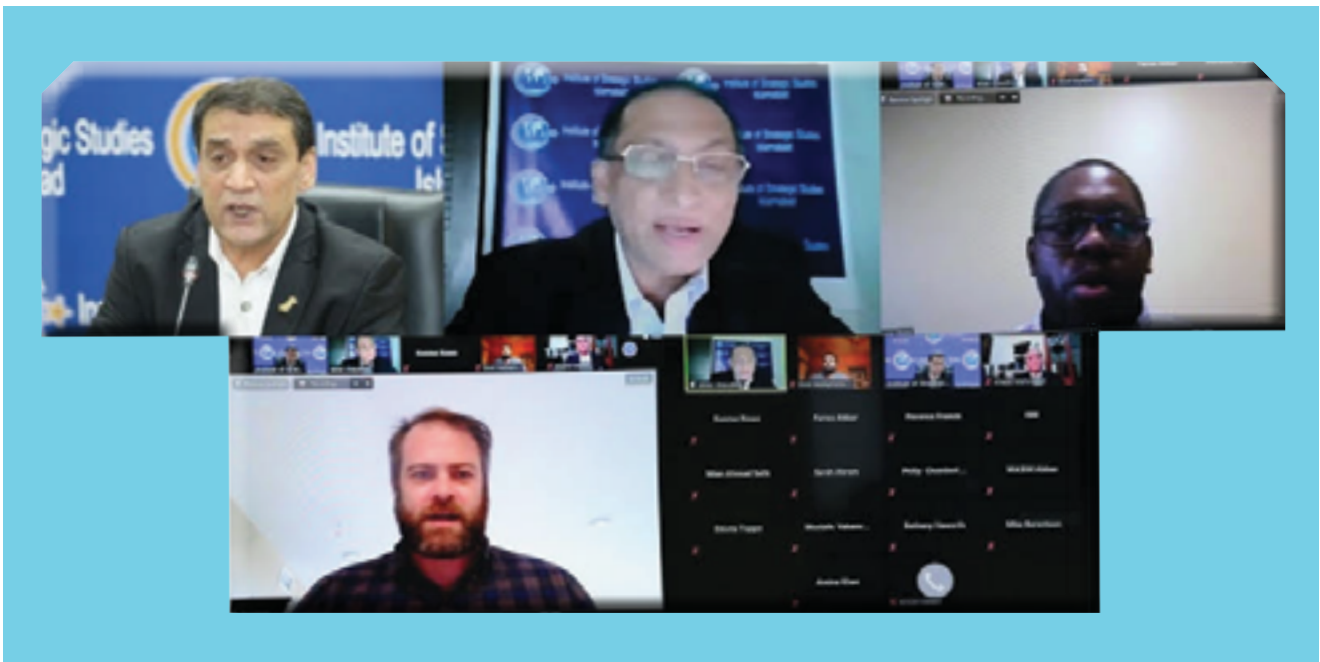
**Panellists:** Mr Mirwais Yasini, former Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament; Dr Jonathan Schroden, Director of Countering Threats and Challenges Programme (CTCP) at the Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA); Ms Suzanne Schroeder, Independent analyst on Afghanistan and Ambassador Riaz M Khan, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- President Biden has stated his withdrawal plan, the onus has been shifted on the Afghans. The four months are meant to provide the Taliban and the Afghan government room to demonstrate their willingness to compromise and ultimately achieve a negotiated settlement.
- A major concern is that once the US forces withdraw and the attention of Afghan factions is towards infighting, the focus of militants – especially Al-Qaeda and ISIS – will be in the direction of ungoverned spaces in Afghanistan. Moreover, any agreed settlement should enjoy regional support as well otherwise it will be very fragile.



## Virtual Briefing for the FAST Diplomats at the US Embassy May 06, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual briefing.

**Objective:** To brief the First and Second Tour (FAST) diplomats at the US embassy in Pakistan on Pakistan-US Relations.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI.





## Virtual Dialogue with Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia May 10, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI hosted this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To have fruitful exchange on Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations, evolving development, peace and security in Asia etc.

**Speakers:** Mr Herizal Hazri, Chief Executive Officer ISIS, Malaysia, Ambassador Amna Baloch, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Malaysia, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI and Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- As leading national research institute, both sides identify areas of mutual collaboration for policy research and dialogue on shared interest.
- The two sides agreed to hold dialogues and enhance collaboration in future.



## Panel Discussion on “Palestine Under Siege” May 21, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Israeli aggression and shed light on the root cause, which lies in the continued Israeli occupation and the denial of rights to the Palestinians.

**Panellists:** Mr Nader Alturk, Deputy Head of Mission/Counselor at the Palestinian Embassy in Pakistan. Dr Mohammad Makram Balawi, Palestinian writer and President of Asia Middle East Forum; Ambassador Javid Hafeez, former Pakistani Diplomat; Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO); Mr Muhammad Oves Anwar, Director Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Dr Nazir Hussain, former Dean School of Politics and International Relations, QAU; Dr Bilal Ahmed, Director General Middle East Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan and Mr Haitham Naser, Palestinian Journalist based in Islamabad, correspondent of TRT Arabic channel.

### Takeaways:

- Israel’s pattern of violence resurfaces every few years and these ‘symptoms’ are emblematic of a much deeper problem.
- Legal technicalities have been invoked to justify the wrongful targeting of civilians.
- The sheer magnitude of illegal, disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force, tyranny and injustice being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinians is appalling.



## Virtual Meeting between DG ISSI and Executive Head of Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIJA) May 24, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** The meeting was held to extend collaboration between the ISSI and JIJA.

**Participants:** The meeting was attended by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Executive Head of JIJA and members of the CSP and JIJA.





## Panel Discussion on “Pakistan-China-Afghanistan: Prospects of Trilateral Cooperation for Regional Stability” May 27, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion

**Objective:** To discuss prospects of trilateral cooperation for regional stability and shed light on the potential of such cooperation.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Masood Khalid, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to China. Ambassador Omar Samad, Nonresident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council and Prof Lin Minwang, Deputy Director of the Center for South Asian Studies and Assistant to the Dean of the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University, China.

### Takeaways:

- China for most of the part has deliberately kept away from the security aspect and instead has focused on playing a more proactive and constructive role in terms of economic and political investment.
- What connects Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only shared geography but also geostrategic, common threats like poverty, inequality, oppression and counter-terrorism, which can only be countered through interaction and cooperation.



## Virtual Meeting between Centre for Strategic Perspectives & Institute for Peace Studies & Conflict Management, Vienna June 09, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the two research organisations and to reach an understanding of extending research and events collaboration between ISSI and the Institute for Peace Support & Conflict Management.



## Panel Discussion on “China-Iran Deal: Prospects for Pakistan” June 10, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss major milestones in the relationship between China and Iran.

**Panellists:** Dr Syed Qandil Abbas, Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, QAU, Dr Ali Ahmadi, scholar and analyst of economic statecraft and US foreign policy in the Middle East based in Tehran and Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI.

**Takeaways:**

- China is increasing its foothold in the Middle East both economically and diplomatically.
- The US and China are trying to increase their sphere of influence in the region.





## Virtual Meeting with Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires in Paris on "Current State of relations between Pakistan and France: Challenges and Way Forward" June 22, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the challenges, prospects and the way forward for improving bilateral Relations between Pakistan and France.

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Amjad Aziz Qazi, Pakistan's Charge d' Affaires in Paris.

**Discussants:** Ambassador Ghalib Iqbal, former Ambassador of Pakistan to France and Dr Uzma Shujaat, Director, Area Study Centre for Europe, Karachi University.

### Takeaways:

- The participants discussed the challenges, prospects and the way forward for improving bilateral relations between Pakistan and France.
- They made some valuable and positive suggestions to break the current deadlock and improve Pakistan-French relations.



## Panel Discussion “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Turkey’s Role in Afghanistan” June 30, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Turkey’s role in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Haroon Shaukat, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey; Dr Merve Seren, Assistant Professor at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Department of International Relations; Dr Zalmay Nishat, Researcher at the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS); Dr Salim Cevik, Researcher at the Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) and Dr Murat Aslan, SETA Security Researcher and Faculty Member of Hasan Kalyoncu University (Turkey).

### Takeaways:

- There is a realisation within the region that geopolitical dynamics are not what they used to be, new and multiple actors have taken centre stage and strategic rivalries over and in Afghanistan have increased.
- Turkey has evolved itself into a reconstruction and capacity building role in Afghanistan.



## Pakistan ASEAN Experts Dialogue on “Pakistan-ASEAN: Shared Future and the Way Forward” July 01, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Sohail Mahmood, Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary.

**Speakers:** Dr Dewi Fortuna, Indonesian Academy of Sciences; Dr Fithra Faisal Hastiadi, Executive Director of Next Policy; Dr Shofwan Al Bana, Executive Secretary, ASEAN Study Centre; Ambassador Mian Sanaullah, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia and Dr Usman Chohan, Director, Economic Affairs, CASS.

### Takeaways:

- Pakistan must increase its cooperation with ASEAN and a quantum leap is required in this regard and there is great potential for Pakistan-ASEAN relations.
- ASEAN region is highly dynamic and offers an interactive window to the interested players based on soft and open regionalism.





## Virtual Meeting with Parep Moscow on “Pak-Russia Relations - Present and the Future” July 13, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To explore Pak-Russia relations - present and the future.

**Speakers:** Mr Shafqat Ali Khan, Pakistan’s Ambassador to Russia.

**Discussants:** Professor Dr Shabbir Ahmad, Director, Area Study Centre, Peshawar University and Mr Taimur Fahad Khan, an expert on Pakistan’s relations with Russia at the CSP.

### Takeaways:

- Russia is a big power having influential clout in terms of economy and geopolitics in the areas like Central Asia, the Middle East, Gulf countries and Asia overall as well as in multilateral forums.
- There has always been a school of thought in Moscow that wants to have some sort of semblance in its relations with Islamabad.
- Islamabad must increase its relevance to Moscow while understanding that India is a big economy and one of the largest importers of Russian military spare parts as 70 per cent of its military equipment is of Russian origin.



## Panel Discussion on “The Myth of India’s Impeccable Nuclear Non-Proliferation Record” July 15, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this panel discussion. The panel discussion was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objectives:** To discuss the risks posed by India’s proliferation activities and how the world should deal with it.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Zamir Akram, Dr Naeem Salik, Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal and Syed Muhammad Ali.

### Takeaways:

- Nuclear security and safety lapses indicate a failure on the part of the Indian nuclear establishment to protect its domestic nuclear supply chain.
- Pakistan should make a strong nuclear proliferation case against India’s nuclear support to North Korea, Iraq and Iran.
- Pakistan’s case against India should focus on exploring the historical record of criminals, identifying intended customers and determining whether material is being stolen from processing plants or criminal stockpiles and intention to use domestically or internationally.



## Introductory Virtual meeting with Bait ul Amanah, Malaysia July 15, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this virtual meeting.

**Objective:** To explore avenues of research and cooperation.

**Panellists:** Mr Abdul Razzak Ahmad, Founding Director Bait ul Amanah, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI and members of CPSC.

### Takeaways:

- During the meeting, heads of both institutes introduced their respective research organisations and exchanged views on evolving global developments, peace and security in Asia and Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations.
- As leading national research institutes, both sides identified areas of mutual collaboration for policy research and dialogue based on shared interests.





## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Qatar’s Role in Afghanistan” July 29, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Qatar’s role in the Afghan peace process.

**Panellists:** Dr Majed al-Ansari, President of Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS); Dr Marwan Qabalan, Director of Policy Analysis at the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies, Qatar; Dr Omar Sadr, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF); Ambassador Sarfraz Khanzada, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- Qatar has established trust with both the Taliban and the US, which is why it is in a unique position to facilitate the peace process.
- Challenges that Qatar faces in its mediation efforts include the very complicated situation concerning the different factions in Afghanistan, the involvement of so many regional players all trying to fill the security vacuum and the desire of some countries for Qatar’s mediation efforts to fail.



## “Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan Bilateral Track II Dialogue” August 11, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this track II dialogue.

**Objective:** 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.

**Panellists from Pakistan:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Lt Gen Syed Sabahat Hussain, former Corps Commander Multan; Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at IPRI, Pakistan; Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, former Representative of Pakistan in OIC’s Committee on Afghanistan (1999-2000); Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of BoG ISSI; Dr Asma Shakir Khwaja, Associate Professor at National Defense University (NDU); Dr Shabbana Fayaz Professor at Quaid e Azam University (QAU); Mr Adnan Jalil, President of Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); Mr Hassan Khan, journalist; Mr Oves Anwar, Director of Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Mr Admiral Mohammad Afzal Tahir, former Chief of Staff to the Pakistan fleet commander and instructor; Mr Sayed Soherwardi, Head of International Relations at University of Peshawar and Mr Mohammad Nasir Mirza, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce (RCCI).

**Panellists from Afghanistan:** Ambassador Farid Zarif, former Afghanistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations and United Nations SRSG to Liberia; Ambassador Jawed Ludin, President and Co-Founder of Heart of Asia Society and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan; Ambassador Janan Mosazai, Vice President and Co-Founder of Heart of Asia Society and former Ambassador to China and Islamabad; Mr Sardar Mohammad Nadir Naeem, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Kabul Institute for Peace; Ms Wazhma Frogh, woman rights activist and peace & conflict practitioner; Ms Samira Hamidi, Campaigner at Amnesty International’s South Asia; Mr Mohsin Amin, economic analyst Afghanistan; Ms Shafiq Khpalwak, writer and poetess and Mr Shoaib Rahim, Economist.

### Takeaways:

- Both sides acknowledged that maintaining a dialogue in challenging times is crucial. All speakers agreed that a military takeover is not the solution.
- A political settlement through intra-Afghan dialogue and support from the region especially Pakistan is the need of the hour.



## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Iran’s Role in Afghanistan” August 17, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Iran’s role in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Dr Saeed Ghaderi, Researcher at Institute for Political and International Studies (Iran); Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, Deputy Director (International) of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Australia; Professor Amin Saikal, Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Western Australia; Mr Mohammad Hashim Pashtun, Adviser for Research & Policy to Kabul Institute for Peace; Dr Mohsen Shariatinia, Assistant Professor of International Relations; Shahid Beheshti University (Iran) and Ambassador Asif Durrani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran.

### Takeaways:

- Due to the close historical political, cultural, and linguistic relations Iran shares with Afghanistan, it can play a vital role in Afghanistan.
- Iran must remain cognisant that third parties may try to play the role of a spoiler therefore, Tehran must maintain brotherly relations with the government in Kabul for peace and prosperity of the region.





## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Uzbekistan’s Role in Afghanistan” August 31, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To shed light on the role of Uzbekistan in the Afghan peace process.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Ibraheem Bahiss, Consultant with Crisis Group’s Asia Programme.

**Panellists:** Dr Baktyor Mustafaev, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Central Asia Tashkent, Uzbekistan Dr Akram Umarov, Senior Research Fellow, the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent Dr Vladimir Paramonov, Director/Founder, Central Eurasian Analytical Group, Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Pakistan Counselor to Uzbekistan from 1995-98.

### Takeaways:

- There is unity among international players as well as regional countries when it comes to ensuring that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for terrorist organisations.
- Uzbekistan can play a very active role in the development of Afghanistan especially the northern provinces of Afghanistan by initiating infrastructure projects.



## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Russia’s Role in Afghanistan” September 07, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Omar Samad, Nonresident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council, Dr Alexander A Kornilov, Professor Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, Head of Region Studies of Foreign Countries, Dr Nigel Gould-Davies, Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Ambassador Qazi M Khalilullah, Executive Director Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) & former Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia.

### Takeaways:

- The highest politico-military leadership of Russia is convinced that Afghanistan cannot be conquered and the imposed Western democracy has failed in the country.
- The Russian leadership realises the military potential of the Taliban, the level of public support for the group, particularly from the rural areas of Afghanistan and the multiple initiatives of the peace process within Afghanistan.
- Russia has three key concerns, the spread of extremism and terrorism, the possible flow of refugees and drug trafficking.
- Russia has adopted a dual approach towards Afghanistan, one of which is diplomatic and the other which encompasses securing the borders of the Central Asian Republics with Afghanistan.

## Discussion with the Political Officer at the Embassy of US, Islamabad on “Pak-India Relations” September 07, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak-India relations.

**Guest speaker:** Mr David W Mauro, Political Officer at the Embassy of the United States, Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- The following issues were discussed:
  - o European Union DisInfo Lab (Indian Chronicles)
  - o Money Laundering
  - o Sewa International (RSS Charity Wing) promoting Hindutva extremist ideology
  - o The smuggling of Uranium
  - o Human rights violations in IIOJK (recent episode of Syed Ali Geelani)
  - o Dossier on Indian atrocities and terrorism activities at UN
  
- Mr Mauro appreciated the peace/goodwill initiatives taken by the Government of Pakistan and reiterated that he will convey the concerns/questions raised by the Director ISC-ISSI to the Embassy.





## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Europe’s Role in Afghanistan” September 16, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Mr Graeme Smith, former Senior Consultant on Afghanistan at the Crisis Group; Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, former Pakistan Ambassador to Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia & current President Institute of Regional Studies (IRS); Mr Daud Khattak, Managing Editor, Radio Mashaal (a Pashto language unit, broadcasting to regions on both sides of the Pak-Afghan border); Dr Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and Mr Sangar Paykhar, founder of Afghan Eye podcast, freelance journalist & commentator on Afghan affairs.

### Takeaways:

- Key concerns for Europe revolve around instability, terrorism and increased migration.
- European countries cannot afford an unstable Afghanistan because it will ultimately cause a refugee crisis in Europe.
- The Taliban would not agree to have a Counter-Terrorism (CT) mechanism with European countries, because they remained a part of the US/NATO coalition forces which the group opposed.
- Europe has learnt lessons from the failure of the US in Afghanistan and Europe should set up its own Rapid Crisis Force to deal with such crises, independent of the US influence.



## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: America’s Role in Afghanistan” September 28, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Dr Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the South Asia Programme at the Stimson Center; Dr Anatol Lieven, Senior Research Fellow on Russia and Europe at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft; Mr Shehzad Qazi, a public opinion researcher based in the United States; Mr Faiz Zaland, Professor in Kabul University and Mr Tameem Bahiss, an analyst specialising Afghan and Pakistani affairs.

### Takeaways:

- There are several issues that the US will have to address which include, how far the US holds itself responsible as it has not achieved the entirety of its objective of creating a liberal democracy in Afghanistan.
- The US has three key interests; preventing terrorist attacks, stability in Afghanistan, and the prevention of negative fallout in case the situation worsens as it desires to prevent a return to the 1990s era and refugee influx.
- The US’s current approach to imposing sanctions is counter-productive. The short-term outlook for Afghanistan includes a lot of uncertainty regarding the US interests and actions.
- The credibility, reputation and reliability of the US has been severely dented in Afghanistan.



## Panel Discussion on “Pakistan and SDGs Targets” October 05, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To explore the status of SDGs targets in Pakistan.

**Panellists:** Dr Lubna Naz, Assistant Professor IBA Karachi, Nadeem Ahmed, Social Policy Advisor, Mr Amir Hussain and Ahmed Naeem Salik, Research Fellow, CSP.

### Takeaways:

- The current SDG framework has provided an enormous opportunity for sectors to participate in the development of Pakistan and move forward.
- Under the current government, the SDG task force and support units have been established at the federal as well as provincial levels for effective implementation of the devised policies.
- There is an increased need to engage men in the country in educating them to prevent violence against women as it is one of the major components of the SDGs.
- Through a properly orchestrated and dedicated approach as well as a policy, which is properly implemented, Pakistan has been able to achieve the goal of climate action and is ahead of many countries.



## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: China’s Role in Afghanistan” October 08, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to China, Mr Wang Shida, Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Dr Haiyun Ma, Associate Professor, Frostburg State University and Dr Haroun Rahimi, Assistant Professor of Law at the American University of Afghanistan.

### Takeaways:

- The Taliban have very limited experience in dealing with economy and governance because of which they need to be assisted. It is in all stakeholders’ interest to make sure that Afghanistan does not face any humanitarian crisis.
- East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) cannot be pushed too hard because if they join hands with ISKP it will be even more dangerous for China as well.
- China’s peaceful rise, the success of BRI and maintaining regional order are all interconnected with regional security which depends on peace in Afghanistan.



## Online Discussion between ISSI-SOPHIA Security Forum (Bulgaria) on “Security Implications of Developments in Afghanistan- Views from Europe and Pakistan” 25 October 2021




The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sophia Security Forum; Mr Plamen Tonchev, MERICS European China Policy Fellow and Head of Asia Unit, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Greece, Executive Director of SEECAPS; Ambassador Asif Durrani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; Mr Krzysztof Iwanek, Contributor to The Diplomat, Warsaw, Poland; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI; Ms Barbara Kelemen, Research fellow at the Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS) and Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- Two key factors which determine a country’s attitude to engage in Afghanistan are geographical proximity and willingness to engage with the Taliban and to what extent these countries are accepted by the Taliban.
- The Taliban have evolved and learnt the art of diplomacy where they have been extensively engaging with the international community, which entails de-facto recognition moreover, the group has other sources of support.
- China being the global economic power is one of the prominent investors in Eurasia; therefore this deep engagement allows Beijing to make various connectivity routes passing from South Asia to Central Asia, Russia and Europe. Therefore, if peace and stability prevail in Afghanistan, the benefits of economic connectivity will multiply and that is why peace in the region and specifically in Afghanistan is of utmost importance.



## Panel Discussion on “Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Pakistan’s Role in Afghanistan” November 02, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this panel discussion.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Panellists:** Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, former Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr Arash Yaqin, National Security Analyst with a focus on South and Central Asia and Mr Hassan Khan, Senior Journalist.

**Takeaways:**

- Pakistan is working with the regional countries to help avert a humanitarian crisis and has also sent humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. The region has to play a concrete role as well.
- Afghanistan is on the verge of economic collapse and if the looming situation in the country is not dealt with urgently, it can result in a civil war. The current situation in Afghanistan has adversely impacted trade and to ensure hassle-free trade, Pakistan should keep all routes open.
- If peace prevails it will be very difficult for terrorist organisations to use Afghan soil against any country in the region. However, it is important to engage with the Taliban to bring peace into the country because it will ultimately lead to peace in the region.





## Policy Dialogue on “The Afghan Situation & the Regional Plans for Peace-Building” November 24, 2021



The ISSI in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Affairs & National Security, South Korea hosted this Policy Dialogue.

**Objective:** To assess the evolving humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and proffer actionable recommendations for policy-makers.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Mr Suh SangPyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea; Ambassador OH Younghju, President IFANS; Ambassador Zahid Nasrullah, Director-General Foreign Service Academy; Mr Lee Kyung-Chul, Special Representative for Afghanistan & Pakistan; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Dr Jang Ji-Hyang, Senior Fellow, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies; Ms Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative; Mr Chris Kaye, WFP Representative and Dr Shabana Fayyaz, Head of Department Defence & Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- Humanitarian and economic crises must be dealt with in an all-comprehensive manner.
- The international community keep the channels of communication open with the Taliban for positive and fruitful results in Afghanistan.
- Regional players should engage with the new Interim Afghan government to install moderate elements to ensure peace and stability.
- Since the Taliban took over, Pakistan’s policy toward the group should be guided by a regional approach.



## ISSI-HAS, Kabul Track II Dialogue “Shared Peace, Security & Prosperity: Afghanistan-Pakistan Bilateral Track II Dialogue” November 23, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this track II dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan and Pak-Afghan ties.

**Keynote Speakers:** Sardar Nadir Naim and Ambassador Ayaz Wazir.

**Afghan Panellists:** Ambassador Farid Zarif, former Afghanistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations and United Nations SRSG to Liberia; Ambassador Jawed Ludin President and Co-Founder of Heart of Asia Society and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan; Ambassador Janan Mosazai, Vice President and Co-Founder of Heart of Asia Society, and former Ambassador to China and Islamabad; Ms Wazhma Frogh, woman rights activist and peace & conflict practitioner; Mr Shoaib Rahim, Associate Professor at AUAF; Dr Faiz Zaland, Afghanistan analyst and lecturer; Ms Muqaddesa Yourish, Country Head of Lapis, former Deputy Minister Trade Afghanistan; Mr Obaidullah Baheer, Afghanistan analyst and lecturer; Mr Sayed Madadi, former DG external relations of the state ministry of peace; Mr Mohammad Younas Mohmand, President of ACCI and Mr Hojat Fazly an economist.

**Pakistani Panellists:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI, Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at IPRI Pakistan, Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, former Representative of Pakistan in OIC’s Committee on Afghanistan (1999-2000); Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI; Dr Shabbana Fayaz, Professor at Quaid e Azam University (QAU); Mr Adnan Jalil, President of Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); Mr Hassan Khan, journalist; Admiral Mohammad Afzal Tahir, former Chief of Staff to the Pakistan Navy; Mr Tahir Khan, journalist and Dr Salma Malik, Assistant Professor QAU.

# IN-HOUSE MEETINGS









## In-house Meeting with H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan January 05, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To translate the friendly sentiments into practical cooperation and coordination through increased research and dialogue.

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- The people of Pakistan regard the land and people of Iraq with high respect and reverence and the Pakistani government is keen to forge lasting ties with the Government of Iraq.
- Academic and research interaction between both sides is key to strengthening Pakistan-Iraq bilateral relations.
- Think Tanks can play a key role in enhancing bilateral ties.



## In-house Discussion on “US-India Strategic Tech Alliance (UISTA): Options for Pakistan” January 12, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house discussion meeting. The meeting was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** Analyse the scope of the US-India Strategic Tech Alliance (UISTA) and its implications for Pakistan.

**Speaker:** Ms Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate, ACDC-ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The main component of the broader US agenda is to keep India “as a key focal point” for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue for emerging technologies in Indo-Pacific.
- Along with LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA, UISTA will enhance data collection and analysis, access to advance satellite imagery, target acquisition capability, hypersonic missile capabilities, advanced encryption of classified communication and drone capabilities for the Indian armed forces.
- Pakistan should focus on international cooperation, public-private partnerships and indigenisation of emerging technologies.





## In-house Meeting between Centre for Strategic Perspectives, ISSI and Area Study Centre for North and South America, & Africa, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad January 20, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To explore avenues of cooperation.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Nazir Hussain, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU; Dr Sadia Suleman, Incharge, Area Study Centre; Dr Brahmmand Shah, Dr Tahir Jamil; Dr Ayesha Siddiqa, Dr Munawar Hussain; Ms Sarah Ahsan, Senior Research Fellow at the ASC.



## In-house Meeting with Ms Fatchima Elise Hassane Paraiso, Founder & Chairwoman of Engage Africa Organisation January 25, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the potential of Pak African ties

**Guest Speaker:** Ms Fatchima Elise Hassane Paraiso, Founder & Chairwoman of Engage Africa Organisation.

**Takeaways:**

- Africa presents endless opportunities for trade and investment as it is a massive market of diverse populations spanning 54 countries.
- India and China have a very strong presence in the continent but Pakistan lags in this respect.



## In-house Discussion Meeting on “Hypersonic Missile Race: Regional and Global Implications” January 26, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house discussion meeting. The meeting was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** Assess the dynamics of hypersonic missile technology and its global and regional implications.

**Speaker:** Ms Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, Research Fellow ACDC-ISSI.

### **Takeaways:**

- Hypersonic missile technology would start a new arms race that would change the nuclear deterrence calculations between India and Pakistan.
- The introduction of hypersonic would create first strike temptations on the part of New Delhi, making the South Asian nuclear theatre more unstable.





## In-house Meeting with a 3-member Delegation from German Embassy February 03, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Pakistan-China relations and the CPEC in the emerging regional dynamics.

**Guest Speaker:** Minister Counsellor Dr Philipp Deichmann, Deputy Head of Mission and members from the German Embassy in Islamabad.



## In-house Meeting on “Future of Pakistan-US Relations under the Biden Administration” February 12, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To explore issues such as Pakistan relations with the US, the situation in Afghanistan, human rights abuse in Kashmir, US-India relations and US-China competition.

**Guest Speaker:** Research faculty from the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).

### Takeaways:

- The US interest in Pakistan, which has mostly been through the lens of security, will diminish as it is not only ending its priority on the War on Terror (WoT), it is also pulling its troops out of Afghanistan, Iraq and the region.
- The US-China competition will continue to intensify and Pakistan might be pressurised by the US to choose sides.
- Afghanistan will continue to be an important factor in Pakistan-US relations under Biden.
- The Biden administration will move to deepen its ties with the former rather than putting pressure on India about its policies in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.
- While there is no chance of regression, there are no chances of progress either in Pakistan-US relations; Pakistan will have to be cautiously optimistic in furtherance of its relations with the US and Pakistan must conduct its foreign policy in a manner in which the US remains engaged with Pakistan.



## In-house Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza February 23, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the avenues of collaboration between CAMEA and Think Tanks in South Africa

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza.





## In-house Meeting with H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany March 11, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss issues of mutual interest.

**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany.

**Takeaways:**

- A fruitful discussion was done about Pakistan's perceptions of the Indo-Pacific strategy, its shift from geopolitics to geo-economics and the rationale behind the new approach being adopted by Pakistan, the ceasefire on the Line of Control with India and the peace process in Afghanistan.



## In-house Meeting with Ms Angela Aggeler, US Charge D' Affaires, US Embassy Islamabad April 01, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** The meeting was held to introduce the newly established Center for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and the research areas being covered by its team members.

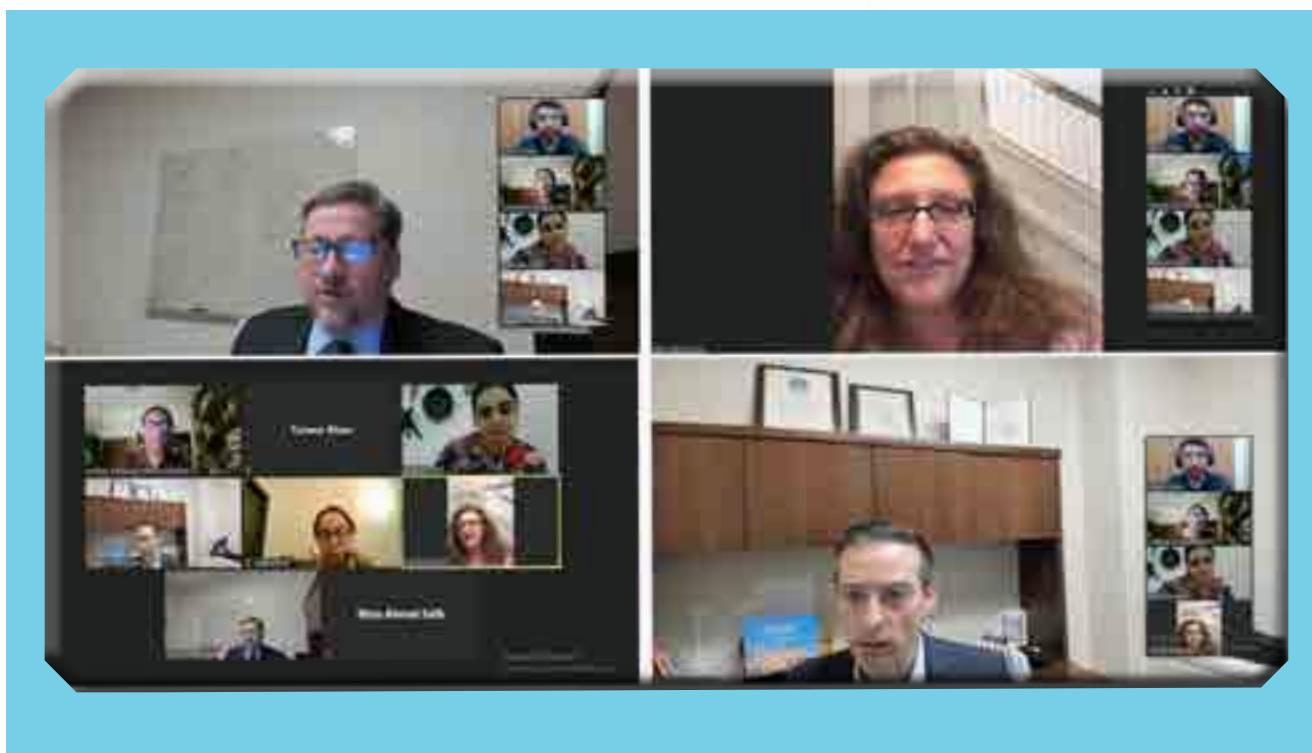
**Speaker:** Ms Angela Aggeler, US Charge D' Affaires, US Embassy Islamabad.

### Takeaways:

- Both the sides expressed the desire to expand collaboration with think tanks and resources experts in the US in the relevant research areas being covered by the Centre, particularly concerning nontraditional threats and Pakistan relations with the US.
- Ms Aggeler extended all possible cooperation in putting the Centre in touch with the relevant institutions and people in the US.



## In-house Meeting with the United States State Department South and Central Asia Bureau: Pakistan Desk April 28, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** An introductory meeting with the Department of South and Central Asia Bureau: Pakistan Desk at the US States Department.





## In-house Meeting with Mr Jean Arnault, UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy on Afghanistan June 18, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Jean Arnault, UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy on Afghanistan and Regional issues.

**Takeaways:**

- Afghanistan may appear to be a regional issue, it has the seeds to become a global issue once again and therefore Afghanistan must not be abandoned.
- A regional consensus exists amongst Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, which entails regional ownership, recognition of a negotiated settlement and Afghan Taliban as a major component of the peace process, as well as curbing transnational terrorism and groups like the ISKP.



## In-house Meeting with Participants of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies of Nigeria July 14, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss issues of mutual interest.

**Guest:** The delegation was headed by Mr Emmanuel S Mamman, a senior member of the Institute. The delegation was comprised of policymakers, government officials and academics.

### Takeaways:

- Three indicators define the changing world order; first, the shift from unipolarity to multipolarity and second, the change in global norms.
- Islamophobia and Xenophobia are spreading.
- There is major power competition between the US, China and Russia – something which he called the most defining factor of contemporary times.
- Pakistan is focusing on geo-economics where Africa is a key area for Pakistan.



## Briefing to Senior Management/Team from British Council on Pak-India- Relations July 19, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss issues of mutual interest.

**Guest:** TRuss McPartland, Head of the Indo-Pak team and Ali Khan, Senior Political Advisor from the British Council.

**Takeaways:**

- They had a healthy discussion on Pak-India Relations, Kashmir and the prevailing situation in Afghanistan.





## In-house Meeting with a 2-member Delegation from the US Embassy August 02, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** : To discuss Pakistan-China relations, the CPEC and emerging regional dynamics.

**Guests:** Mr Jacob Choi, Head of Political-Military Affairs and Mr David Mauro, Political-Economic Officer.

**Takeaways:**

- The discussion was focused on Pakistan-China relations, the CPEC and emerging regional dynamics.



## In-house Meeting between ACDC-ACDIS August 04, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To apprise ACDIS of the work of ACDC and to explore avenues of cooperation and coordination between ACDC and ACDIS.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General, ACDIS MOFA and Dr Muhammad Adeel, ACDIS MOFA.

**Takeaways:**

- The two sides identified areas of mutual collaboration for policy research and dialogue based on shared interests.



## In-house Meeting with Ambassador of South Korea August 17, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To exchange views on issues of mutual interests.

**Guest:** H.E. Ambassador Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan.

**Takeaways:**

- Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry briefed visiting Ambassador on the functioning of the Institute.
- Both sides exchanged views on evolving regional dynamics and possible collaboration between the ISSI and counter-part think-tanks in South Korea.





## In-house Meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan September 24, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To exchange views on issues of mutual interests.

**Guest:** H.E. Mr Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan.

**Takeaways:**

- Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry briefed visiting Ambassador on the functioning of the Institute.
- Both sides exchanged views of cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakh think-tanks.



## In-house Meeting with Dr Andrew Wilder, Vice President of Asia Centre & Ms Tamanna Salikuddin, South Asia Director at USIP November 17, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the potential for further cooperation and collaboration.

**Guest:** Dr Andrew Wilder, Vice President of Asia Centre and Ms Tamanna Salikuddin, South Asia Director at USIP.

**Takeaways:**

- Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Ms Amina Khan briefed the USIP Delegation on the working of the Institute and discussed the potential for further cooperation and collaboration.



## In-house Meeting with H.E. Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan December 03, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak-Iran Ties.

**Guest Speakers:** HE Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Mr Ehsan Khazaii, Cultural Consulate at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Hamaneh Karimikia, Head of Press section and Mr Habib Baqir.





## In-house Meeting with Dr Barnett R Rubin December 15, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Tariq Azizuddin; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Lt Gen Sabahat; Mr Hassan Khan; Ambassador Ayaz Wazir; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan; Admiral Tahir; Mr Taimur Shamil; Mr Oves Anwar and Mr Hashim Pashtoon.

**Takeaways:**

- As a political matter, the US cannot have good relations with the Taliban.
- The Taliban this time around have been engaging very actively in regional diplomacy.



## In-house Meeting with a 5-member Iranian Delegation December 17, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this in-house meeting.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak-Iran ties.

**Guest Speakers:** Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, Director General of West Asia at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohammad Sorkhabi, Deputy Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Masood Haghighi, First Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Dr Hamaneh Karimi-Kia, Head of Press Section, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



## In-house Session on “OIC & Afghanistan” December 22, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this session.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the OIC; Dr Murat Aslan, SETA Security Researcher and Faculty Member at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University; Mr Sabah Al-Mukhtar, Partner at Arab Lawyers Network; Dr Sibghatullah Ghaznavi, former Deputy Minister of Municipalities at the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG); Senator Sehar Kamran, Patron in Chief, Centre for Pakistan & Gulf Studies (CPGS); Ambassador Abrar Hussain, former Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan; Dr Daud Abdullah, Director Middle East Monitor (MEMO), UK; Dr Fayez Farahat, Director of Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies; Mr Hashmat Moslish, independent political analyst with special focus on Afghanistan; Ambassador Naela Chohan, former Pakistan Diplomat; Dr Nazir Hussain, Professor and Dean Social Sciences and Humanities at University of Wah; Mr Ahmad Shah Durrani, author of An Outside the Box Look at Afghanistan: New Ideas for Lasting Peace and Stability; Dr Qandeel Abbas, Associate Professor, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad; Mr Hashim Pashtun, Advisor for Research Analysis at the Kabul Institute for Peace and Dr Adil.

### Takeaways:

- Without the removal of sanctions, we cannot see expeditious relief for the Afghan populace and it is not only Afghanistan that will suffer but the entire world and most importantly the whole region will suffer, which is why politics should be kept aside.
- Speedy transmission of humanitarian assistance is the need of the hour and OIC is best placed to provide a unique platform because of its unique position.
- Four things that are important to analyse to understand the future of Afghanistan, first how the Taliban will rule the country, second public perception of the Taliban, third, their plans regarding the development of the country and last but not least the regional approach towards Afghanistan.
- There must be a mechanism that ensures that the pledges are delivered not just in Kabul but across Afghanistan. OIC is in the best position to ensure stability in Afghanistan.





## In-house Meeting on “Quaid-e-Azam Day & Christmas Celebration” December 25, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this celebration.

**Objective:** To pay tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and to celebrate the festivities of Christmas along with the employees of ISSI belonging to the Christian faith.

**Participants:** The meeting was moderated by Dr Saif Malik, Director ISC-ISSI and was attended by the research and administration faculty of the Institute to commemorate the occasion.

### Takeaways:

- Religious intolerance in the country goes against the vision of our great Quaid.
- In line with Jinnah’s vision, Pakistan has a formidable defence system that includes the armed forces, a conventional deterrent and a nuclear deterrent that ensures our safety against a hostile foe.
- Pakistan will eventually find its way to progress and prosperity if its leadership and nation understand Quaid’s vision.

# ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS









## Roundtable Discussion on “CPEC and AJK” March 11, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this roundtable discussion.

**Objective:** : To highlight the barriers and hurdles which need to be addressed to facilitate investment in AJK.

**Discussants:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI; Dr Shaheen Akhtar, Professor, National Defence University; Mr Zulfiqar Abbasi, former President, Azad Kashmir Chamber of Commerce; Mr Iqbal Ratyal, former AJK Civil Servant, Mr Ershad Mehmood, Director Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (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.

### Takeaways:

- For the development of AJ&K, there is a need to ensure the smooth implementation of CPEC projects in AJ&K.
- A tourism corridor can also be developed vis-a-vis CPEC.
- The federal government should give priority to projects such as the 4M and the construction of a Special Economic Zone.
- Bureaucratic barriers should be removed for private investors so that they can be made stakeholders in the CPEC.



## Roundtable Discussion on “National Security Policy” December 16, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI organised this roundtable discussion. The discussion was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** The purpose of this session was to discuss the comprehensive national security framework to formulate the National Security Policy of Pakistan.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Moeed Yusuf, National Security Adviser (NSA).

# TUESDAY DIALOGUE









## Tuesday Dialogue on “Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: Prospects for Pakistan” July 13, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan and the prospects for Pakistan.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Ambassador Ayaz Wazir; Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Sabahat Hussain; Mr Oves Anwar, Director of Research, Research Society of International Law (RSIL); Dr Salma Malik, Assistant Professor Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU); Dr Simbal Khan, Senior Fellow United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr Tahir Khan, Independent Journalist and Mr Hassan Khan, Independent Journalist.



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# BOOK LAUNCH/ REPORT LAUNCH







## Book Launch: *Reminiscences of My Wanderings* March 26, 2021



The CSP at the ISSI organised this book launch. The author of the book is Ambassador Arif Kamal.

**Panellists:** Gen Ehsan ul Haq, former Chairman of 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.

### Reviews:

- The book not only focuses on the political and strategic aspects but goes beyond that and highlights socio-cultural aspects of countries and regions where the author had served during critical times of the 80s and 90s.
- The book is a delightful read, engaging, emotional and meaningful. It is a blend of socio-political landscapes, and diverse societies, varying from the Arab lands to Japan, Russia and Canada and encapsulates an elegant and simple style and brings out the flavours of the societies that the author has lived in and reveals their soul.
- It is not a reassertion of ideological self but a fresh foray and exploration of one's self. The book presents a personal and non-prescriptive approach and elaborates on the centrality of identity and self-actualisation.





**Book Launch:**  
*The Covid Challenge: Impact on  
the Middle East & Africa*  
**April 12, 2021**



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was edited by CAMEA and Published by the ISSI.

**Objective:** To understand the Covid challenge and its Impact on the Middle East & Africa.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant of Pakistan's Prime Minister and Federal Minister, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Ministry.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Khalid Hussain Memon, Special Secretary Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, Mr Ali Javed, Additional Secretary Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan and Ambassador Rizwan- ul-Haq Mahmood, former Pakistani Diplomat to Muscat, Abu Dhabi & Jeddah.



## Book Launch: *Higher than Karakoram: Seven Decades of Pakistan China Partnership* May 20, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book is edited by CPSC and published by ISSI.

**Objective:** The CPSC attempts to bring the two countries even closer and help people understand why this relationship is considered to be higher than the Karakoram.

**Chief Guest:** Mr Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

**Guest of Honour:** H.E. Mr Nong Rong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr Moin ul Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Dr Fazal ur Rehman, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha; Dr Di Yuna, Executive Director, Pakistan Study Center of Science & Technology and Economy and Dr Li Jingfeng, Director Regional & Strategic Research Office, Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences.

### Reviews:

- The relationship between China and Pakistan has set a model for other countries.
- This book is unique as it marks the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. The authors have provided the readers with valuable information on the past, present and future trends in the multiple dimensions of bilateral ties between China and Pakistan.
- The book focuses on science & technology, cultural cooperation, health education, trade etc. under the umbrella of Pak-China relations. It also sheds light on the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean.



## Book Launch: *Pakistan's Response towards Terrorism – A Case Study of Musharraf Regime* July 27, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was authored by Dr Shabana Fayyaz.

**Objective:** The book is based on the author's research at the doctoral level. The author has interviewed more than 100 people including Pakistani former President, General Pervez Musharraf. .

**Chief Guest:** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman, Senate Defence Committee.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Shabana Fayyaz, the author of the book and the Chairperson of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, QAU Islamabad; Mr Ihsan Ghani, former National Coordinator, NACTA; Dr Syed Rifaat Hussain, Head of Department of Government and Public Policy at NUST Islamabad; Mr Muhammad Ali Babakhel, Director General Research, NACTA; Dr Yang Da, Professor of International Politics, Ghuizhou University, Guiyang, China. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI.

### Reviews:

- It is very fascinating to see that a very important part of history has been written by a Pakistani writer. Such books are mostly written by foreign writers. Dr Shabana Fayyaz needs to be admired for her valuable work in which she produced very empirical work.
- The concept of traditional security has not been transmitted into citizen security and there should be equal focus on the state as well as on human security.
- Pakistan's interface with terrorism will continue till such time that the state's policies and priorities converge on eradicating the root causes domestically.
- Terrorism is an indigenous problem and its root causes are internal and are exploited by the external actors.





## Book Launch: *India's Relations with Neighbours: Cooperation or Confrontation?* August 13, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was edited by ISC and published by the ISSI.

**Objective:** To explore India's relations with its neighbouring countries.

**Guest Speakers:** General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, NI (M), former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

**Other Speakers:** Prof Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Prof Dr Engr Attaullah Shah, Vice-Chancellor, Karakorum International University, Gilgit-Baltistan and Prof Dr Masoom Yasinzai, Rector, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

### Reviews:

- India has been eating up territory around its peripheries.
- India's face of terrorism has been hidden because of the great narrative that they had been able to craft.
- Unfortunately, India has been claiming to be one of the largest democracies in the world but it has been one of the worst kinds of hegemonic and bureaucratic kind of government.
- All nations of this region must be very responsible and they should believe in peaceful coexistence.
- India uses Afghan land to support terrorist and separatist groups in Pakistan and wage a proxy war against this nation and county.
- The RSS - a staunch Hindu organisation and the main driving force behind the ruling BJP does not believe in a secular India and is trying to make India a Hindu dominant country with no acceptance for the minorities.



## Report Launch: “Towards Annexation & Indianisation of Kashmir in Broad Daylight - Context, Machinations and Implications” September 06, 2021



The ISC in collaboration with KIIR organised an event to pay homage to Late Syed Ali Shah Geelani for his lifelong struggle for Kashmir Cause, the event was followed by a Research Report launch at ISSI.

**Chief Guest:** Ms Tehmina Janjua, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.



## Book Launch: *Hundred Years of the CPC* September 22, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was authored by Group Captain (Retd) S M Hali SI (M).

**Objective:** To have a better understanding of the Chinese Political system and its history.

**Guest Speakers:** Mr S M Hali, Senator Nisar A Memon, former Information Minister, Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China and Ambassador Nong Rong, Ambassador of China.

### Reviews:

- The CPC has strived continuously to make China a better place with remarkable achievements in science and technology and new endeavours to reach outer space.
- The CPC has come a long way since its inception in July 1921. The CPC now has become an institutional organisation with vast grass-roots support.
- The political system of China is designed for the people of China and the results are for the world to see.





## Book Launch: *Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations: Pitfalls and the Way Forward* September 30, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised this book launch.

**Objective:** Enhancing Pak-Afghan Ties.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Huma Baqai, Associate Professor of Social Sciences, IBA Karachi; Dr Nausheen Wasi, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Karachi; Dr Jochen Hippler, Country Director FES; Ambassador Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI; Mr Zahid Hussain, freelance journalist and Ambassador Qazi Humayun.

### Reviews:

- Counter-terrorism is an area of crucial importance not only for the US but all neighbours of Afghanistan.
- The task is to find a mating ground for both sides and bridge the perception gap which exists. The thrust in Afghanistan has changed and the situation is evolving rapidly. There is soon going to be chaos in Afghanistan and old patterns are once again rearing their heads.
- Pakistan should work on making certain strategies to deal with the emerging economic crisis.



## **PIVOT Magazine Special Edition Launch “Seventy Years of Pakistan-China Relations” October 12, 2021**



The CPSC at the ISSI organised the launch of the Special Edition of its *PIVOT* Magazine.

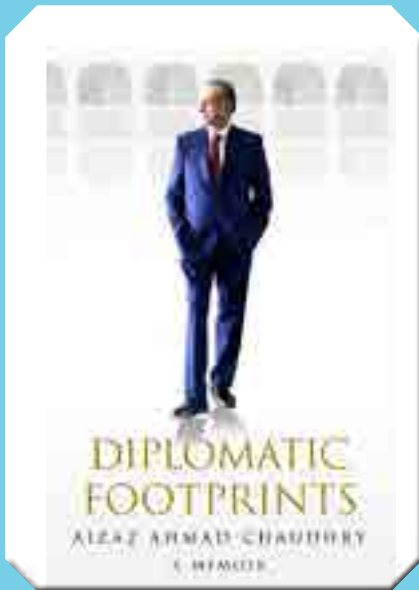
**Objective:** Mr Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

**Chief Guest:** General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, NI (M), former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

**Guest Speakers:** Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Dr Moeed Pirzada and Mr Faraz Zaidi, DG China Division, delivered keynote speeches.



## Book Launch: *Diplomatic Footprints* November 02, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI.

**Objective:** To bring forth Pakistan's narrative on foreign policy and diplomatic issues. Ambassador Chaudhry wrote the book with the aim to inspire youth who are thought leaders of tomorrow, professionals and especially those who wish to build a career in the field of international relations.

**Guest Speakers:** ACM Sohail Aman, former Chief of Air Staff; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Ambassador Salman Bashir, former Foreign Secretary and Dr Rifaat Hussain, foreign policy expert.

### Reviews:

- The book is a timely contribution to the diplomatic history of Pakistan, especially in the age of contradiction where it provides an authentic perspective of Pakistan's foreign relations.
- The book is a great source of first-hand information on the recent history of Pakistan.





## Book Launch: *Tormented Truth 1971 & Beyond...* November 16, 2021



The ISC at the ISSI organised the book launch. The book was authored by Group Captain (Retd) S M Hali SI (M).

**Chief Guest:** General Ehsan ul Haq, NI (M), (Retd), former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

**Guest Speakers:** Group Captain (Retd) S M Hali, SI (M) Ambassador Salahuddin Chaudhry and Air Vice Marshal Zubair Alam, HI (M), (Retd).

**Video Message:** Senator Javed Jabbar.

### Takeaways:

- The myth of the three million Bengalis genocide is a part of the Bangladeshi syllabus. Truth must be told to the world.
- There is a need to move forward with the message of friendship.
- The creation of Bangladesh did not reject the reality of Muslim nationalism or the Two-Nation theory in South Asia.
- Pakistan should come out of the “Bangladesh Syndrome” and should move ahead by learning from the past mistakes.



## Book Launch: *No Win War* November 23, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this book launch. The book was authored by Mr Zahid Hussain.

**Guest Speakers:** Senator Sherry Rehman, Ambassador Salman Bashir and Ambassador Asif Durrani.

### Takeaways:

- It was not Pakistan that got strategic depth in Afghanistan, it was the Taliban who got strategic depth in Pakistan.
- During the US presence in Afghanistan, there was a systemic disconnect between the US and Pakistan which has been the US's adherent ally.
- Pakistan's position was very clear on Afghanistan from the very beginning and it was the US that had no clarity.



## Book Discussion: *Diplomatic Footprints* authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry December 06, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI in collaboration with the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies (DSS) at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad held this discussion.

**Discussants:** Dr Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, DSS, QAU, Prof Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, SPIR, QAU, Assistant Professor Dr Salma Malik, DSS, QAU, Air Commodore Rtd Khalid Banuri, former DG, ACDA, SPD, and visiting faculty DSS, QAU.

### Takeaways:

- The book is a good narrative for students of political science since it brings together theory and practice while alluding to issues of key importance for Pakistan.





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# THINK TANKS MEETING









## 6th Think Tank Forum on “the Situation in Afghanistan: Options for Pakistan” September 02, 2021



The ISSI hosted the sixth Think Tank Forum under the theme, the Situation in Afghanistan: Options for Pakistan.

**Objective:** The forum was a virtual event and was attended by representatives of think tanks and the heads of Area Study Centers from across the country.

**Chief Guest:** Honorable Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

### Takeaways:

- The happenings in Pakistan’s neighbourhood have far-reaching implications for the region; the situation in Afghanistan is fragile, with the loss of lives in terrorist attacks; therefore, the international community has a shared responsibility.
- In the quest for finding regional solutions, Pakistan has engaged with the regional countries. The change in the Afghan situation has progressed at an unprecedented pace and the West’s presumptions failed, as they were not apprised about the reality just as they should have been.
- The Afghans must decide their fate and Pakistan is supportive of that and that this is a shared responsibility for the international community.
- Pakistan must have a proactive and pragmatic approach regarding Afghanistan. Some of the participants were of the view that Pakistan must closely watch how India-US relations will play out in the region.
- Pakistan must address the challenge regarding its image and must start engaging with the Afghan media.
- The 6th Think Tank Forum concluded with the resolve to consolidate the recommendations of the discussion and carry on further engagement in this regard.



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# INAUGURATIONS









## Inauguration of Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) June 03, 2021

The CSP at the ISSI was formally inaugurated on June 03, 2021.

**Chief Guest:** Lt. General Mian Hilal Hussain HI (M) (Retd.), Secretary of Defense, Government of Pakistan





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# ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS/ REVIEW MEETINGS







## ACDC Annual Review 2020-21: Briefing to Director General ISSI March 03, 2021

### ACDC-ISSI ACTIVITY REVIEW 2020-21

#### "PROMOTING STRATEGIC STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA"

**MAJOR EVENTS HELD (17 EVENTS IN 2020 AND 9 IN 2021)**

1. 1ST MEETING OF THE ACDC REGIONAL SUMMIT, JANUARY 29, 2020
2. ROUNDTABLE ON "INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME," FEBRUARY 25, 2020
3. SEMINAR ON "EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON STRATEGIC STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA," ON MARCH 12, 2020
4. WEBINAR TO COMMEMORATE "YOUME-E-TAKHEER," MAY 28, 2020
5. WEBINAR ON "COVID-19: USE OF TECHNOLOGY AS A NEW NORMAL," JUNE 9
6. WEBINAR ON "SHIFTING INDIAN NUCLEAR DOCTRINE," JULY 2, 2020
7. WEBINAR ON "CHANGING GLOBAL ARMS CONTROL NORMS: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH ASIA," JULY 21, 2020
8. WEB DAY CELEBRATION OF "DEFENCE DAY," ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2020
9. WEB TALK ON "CHANGING GLOBAL DYNAMICS OF OTHER THREATS AND THEIR IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY," ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
10. ACDC FIRST ANNIVERSARY REVIEW MEETING, OCTOBER 30, 2020
11. ACDC-ISSI IN-HOUSE MEETING WITH PAKISTANI NUCLEAR SOCIETY (PNS) DELEGATION, DECEMBER 21, 2020
12. 2 BRIEFINGS TO OFFICIALS FROM ACDA & SPD

**IN 20201:**

1. 2 IN-HOUSE MEETINGS ON "LEIYA" & "HYPERSONIC MISSILES," JAN
2. 1 WORKSHOP ON "INTERNET AND AI," 1 WEB TALK ON "AMAN 2021," JAN-FEB
3. 3 WEBINARS ON "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT," "LAW," AND "TODD C. TARBEEK," March, April and MAY
4. 1 PANEL DISCUSSION ON "IS NUCLEAR POINT?" & 1 ACDC ANNUAL REVIEW

**TUESDAY DIALOGUES:**

1. 9TH TUESDAY DIALOGUE ON, FEBRUARY 11, 2020.
2. 10TH TUESDAY DIALOGUE ON, AUGUST 18, 2020 (CONTRIBUTED 3 ICB'S)

**RESEARCH ARTICLES: 8 . ISSUE BRIEFS: 28 . REPORTS 17 . NEWS & VIEWS WEEKLY**

**ACDC BOOK PROJECT 2021: "SHIFTING DOCTRINES AND EMERGING THREATS: CHALLENGES TO STRATEGIC STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA"**

2 DISCUSSION MEETINGS, OCTOBER 21, AND 23, 2020

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, chaired the meeting to review the performance of the ACDC.

Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI and his team briefed on the performance and activities of the ACDC and highlighted the Programme of Work of the Centre for the year 2021.

### Takeaways:

- The DG appraised the performance of the ACDC and showed satisfaction with the Director and team's effort.
- The DG recommended that the researchers should also expand their research publications as an op-ed under the revised rules by publishing in national and international publications.





## 1st Advisory Board Meeting of the India Study Centre at the ISSI March 04, 2021



The meeting was attended by all advisory board members including Ambassador Salman Bashir; Dr AsmaShakir Khawaja, Associate Professor of the Department of Strategic Studies, National Defence University, Islamabad; Lt Gen Asif Yaseen Malik (Retd.); Mr Khalid Rehman, President of Islamabad Policy Studies (IPS); Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sargodha; Mr Jamal Aziz, Executive Director, Research Society for International Law (RSIL); Maj Gen Raza Muhammad (Retd) serving as Advisor to the President National Defence University; Mr Ahmed Quraishi, Executive Director, Youth Forum for Kashmir (YFK); Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi; Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, VC, Muslim Youth University; Dr Mujeeb Afzal, Associate Prof, IR Dept, QAU and Dr Amna Mahmood, Dean, Social Sciences, IIUI.



## 1st Advisory Board Meeting of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the ISSI July 06, 2021



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, chaired the meeting to review the performance of the CSP

### Takeaways:

The CSP Advisory Board gave the following suggestions and recommendations:

- Focus on history
- Multilateralism
- Russia
- Central Asia
- Food, and Energy security
- Development of Pakistan
- Climate Change policy
- Institutional Mechanisms
- Cooperation with US and China on Climate Change.





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# MoU's







## MoU between ISSI and Karakoram University March 18, 2021



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ISSI and Karakoram University. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG-ISSI and Dr Attaullah Shah, signed on behalf of their respective sides.





## MoU between ISSI and Rinstra Technologies (Pvt) Ltd April 27, 2021



An MoU was signed between the CPSC and Rinstra Technologies (Pvt) Ltd. Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC and Mr Amir Jehangir, Chief Executive Officer, Rinstra Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, signed on behalf of their respective sides.



## MOU between ISC and National Defence University August 06, 2021



A graceful MoU Signing Ceremony was held at National Defence University. The MoU focused on Academic and Research Cooperation between ISSI-NDU.



## MoU between ISSI and the Kabul Institute for Peace (KIP) August 25, 2021



The ISSI represented by its Director General, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Kabul Institute for Peace (KIP), Kabul, Afghanistan represented by its Chairman of the Board, Sardar Nadir Naim signed an MOU on August 25, 2021. This MoU was facilitated by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the ISSI.





## MoU between ISSI and Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Republic of Korea August 27, 2021



The ISSI signed an MoU with the Institute of Foreign Affairs & National Security (IFANS), the Republic of Korea on August 27, 2021, in a virtual signing ceremony. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI, and Ambassador Younghju OH, President IFANS, signed the MoU documents on behalf of both institutes.



## MOU between CPSC and Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar August 31, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI signed an MoU with the Department of International Relations at the University of Peshawar on 31 August 2021 in an MoU signing ceremony. Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI and Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Chairman Department of International Relations, signed the MoU on behalf of both institutes.



## MOU between CPSC and The Human Security Institute September 03, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI signed an MoU with The Human Security Institute (THSI). Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI and Mr Rafique Ahmed Qureshi, DG-THIS signed the MoU on behalf of both institutes.





## MOU between CAMEA and Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) September 29, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI represented by Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI and the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) represented by Dr Mohammed Farahat, Director ACPSS, signed an MoU.



## MOU between CSP and Romanian Institute for Europe-Asia Studies (IRSEA) November 03, 2021



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) represented by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad, DG ISSI and the Romanian Institute for Europe-Asia Studies represented by Ambassador Gheorghe SAVUICA, President IRSEA, signed an MOU. The MoU was facilitated by the CSP at the ISSI. His Excellency Dr Zafar Iqbal, Pakistan's Ambassador to Romania and His Excellency Nicole GOIA, Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan also joined the MoU signing ceremony.



## MoU between ISSI and SETA, Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, Turkey November 18, 2021



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI and SETA, Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research Turkey represented by its General Coordinator, Mr Burhanettin Duran, signed and MoU.





## MOU Between ISC and Punjab University March 07, 2021



We take immense pride in sharing the unique experience of signing an MoU between the India Study Centre at the ISSI and the South Asia Study Centre, at Punjab University. Worthy VC and Pro VC of PU and DG ISSI also graced the occasion.



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# BILATERAL DIALOGUES









## Bilateral Dialogue between ISSI and Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) October 12, 2021



The CAMEA at the ISSI organised this bilateral dialogue.

**Objective:** To discuss Pak-Iran ties and the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

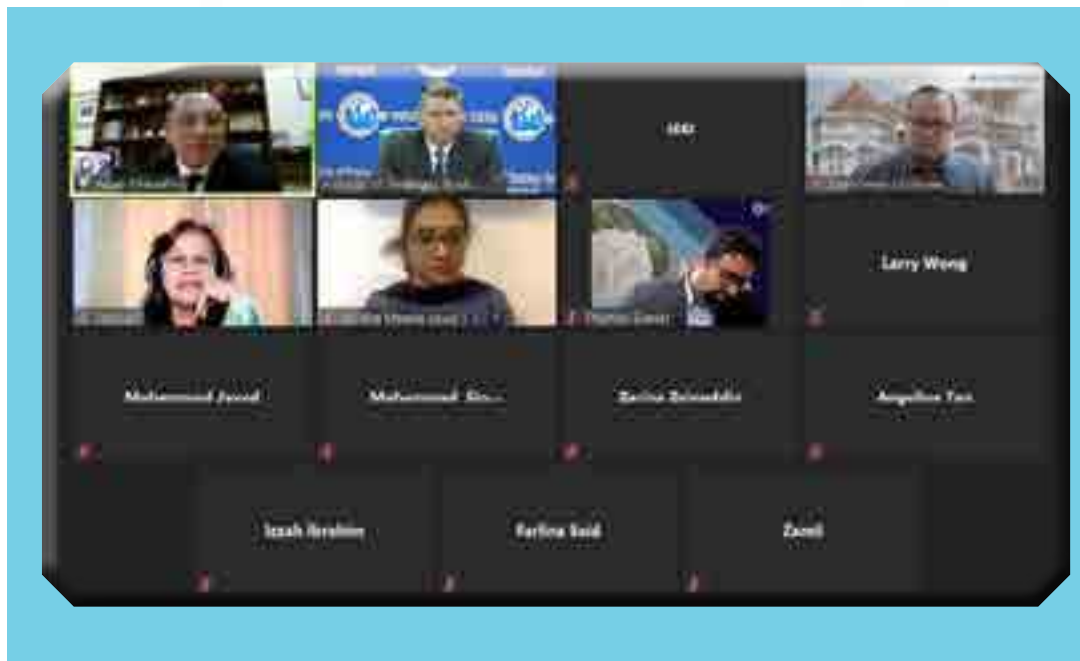
**Guest Speakers:** Dr Mohammad Hassan Sheikholeslami, President, IPIS; Dr Hossein Ebrahim Khani, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS; Ambassador Riffat Masood, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; Dr Saeed Ghaderi, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS; Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA-ISSI; Dr Mohsen Roothisefat, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS and Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC-ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- The changed atmosphere in the region can pave the way for Pakistan to enter into closer cooperation and collaboration with Iran and revive existing arrangements as well as find new vistas, especially in terms of trade to boost the economies of both countries.
- Both countries should work towards making the border safer - especially for the religious pilgrims - in the background of the COVID pandemic.
- The new government in Iran paves way for enhanced regional connectivity.
- The shadow of terrorism needs to be abolished if any economic activity is to succeed in the region. Joint research is needed in this regard and would be beneficial for all.



## ISSI-ISIS Malaysia Bilateral Dialogue July 28, 2021



The CPSC at the ISSI organised this dialogue.

**Objective:** Food Security Cooperation under the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) framework.

**Speakers:** Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI; Mr Shahrman Lockman, Director of Chief Executive's Office ISIS; Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Assistant Professor Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi; Professor Fatimah Mohamed Arshad, Head Agriculture and Food Security Cluster, Academy of Professors of Malaysia (APM); Ms Yanitha Meena Louis, Researcher at ISIS; and Ms Ume Farwa, Research Associate ISSI.

### Takeaways:

- Invest in R&D for food sufficiency, increasing crop production and combating Climate Change etc.
- For OIC countries critical challenge is ensuring “supply chain stability” while dealing with a pandemic.
- OIC member states are engaged in multilateral cooperation and can leverage their respective experiences.



# WORKSHOPS





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## Online Workshop on “Internet, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies - Implications For Security and Foreign Policy” January 20, 2021



The ACDC at the ISSI in collaboration with HSF organised this workshop. The Workshop was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI.

**Objective:** Identify the opportunities and threats posed by the complex interplay of the internet, AI and quantum technologies in the global strategic landscape.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Daniel Voelsen, Senior Associate, German Institute For International and Security Affairs.

### Takeaways:

- Emerging new security risks like advanced cyber-attacks, lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) and breaking the existing encryption mechanisms.
- International regulatory processes vis-à-vis these technologies are much slower than the pace of defacto technological development.
- Developing states have to raise awareness about the global technological transformations.





## Research Workshop: Enhancing Research Quality July 07, 2021



To improve the quality of research, the Editorial Team and ISC team at the ISSI organised a daylong research workshop on “Enhancing Research Quality.” The workshop was conducted by an eminent expert in research methodology Dr Zahoor Sarwar.

# MONDAY RETREATS









## Monday Retreats on “Pakistan-US Relations” February 22, 2021



**Objective:** The ISSI has 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 were shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the form of an ISSI Confidential Brief.

**Guest Speaker:** Ambassador Shamshad Khan; Ambassador Riaz Khokhar; Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan; Ambassador Ashraf; Jehangir Qazi; Ambassador Salman Bashir; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Ambassador Naila Chohan and Mr Faisal Tirmizi, Additional Secretary (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad.



## Monday Retreats on “Second Session: ‘Evolving Situation in Afghanistan’” August 16, 2021



**Objective:** To discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

**Guest Speaker:** Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, Ambassador Masood Khalid, Ambassador Tariq Fatemi, Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, Ambassador Tehmina Janjua and Ambassador Tasneem Aslam.



## Monday Retreat on “Evolving Situation in Kashmir: Options for Pakistan” November 01, 2021



**Objective:** To discuss evolving situation in Kashmir and options for Pakistan.

**Guest Speakers:** The retreat was chaired by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI and was moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. Other distinguished ambassadors participating in the event included: Ambassador Inamul Haque; Ambassador Shamshad A. Khan; Ambassador Riaz Khokhar; Ambassador Javaid Hussain, Ambassador Asif Ezdi; Ambassador Aziz A. Khan; Ambassador Shoukat Umar; Ambassador Shahid Malik; Ambassador Salman Bashir; Ambassador Zamir Akram; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Ishtiaq Andrabi; Ambassador Tehmina Janjua and Ambassador Tasnim Aslam.





  
**Institute of Strategic Studies**  
**Islamabad**

# VISITORS, GUESTS, DELEGATIONS AND MEETINGS









**Jan 08:** Delegation of journalists from Gilgit Press Club.



**Jan 18:** Visit of H.E. Najibullah Alikhil, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan at the ISSI.



**Jan 19:** Visit of Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Mr Adam Mulawarman Tugio.



**Jan 21:** Prof Dr Attaullah Shah, VC, Karakorum International University (KIU) visited CPSC-ISSI.



**Feb 03:** Brigadier Waheed, Director of Plans & Operations National Logistics Cell (NLC) visited CPSC-ISSI.



**Feb 23:** MoU between ISSI and Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University.



**Feb 26:** Meeting with Raja Najabat.



**March 12:** In-house meeting with H.E. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh.



**March 16:** Visit of 47 members of Nepalese Army Command & Staff College delegation.



**March 17-18:** Participation in Islamabad Security Dialogue in collaboration with the National Security Division.



**March 30:** Visit of 20 members of Egyptian War College.





**Apr 06:** Meeting at DG office with Mr Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani, DG South Asia.



**Apr 27:** Meeting with Mr Tariq Karim, Consul General, Pakistan Consulate in Chicago.



**June 16:** 48th Foundation Day of the ISSI.



**June 22:** Meeting with Ambassador Ghalib Iqbal.



**June 29:** Meeting with Mr Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador to the Netherlands.



**June 29:** Meeting with Mr Hamid Asghar, Ambassador to Morocco.





**July 15:** Meeting with S.M. Hali.



**July 16:** Informal Briefing on Electronic Voting.



**July 19:** In-House meeting with H.E. Philippe Bronchain, Ambassador of Belgium.



**Aug 25:** Visit of Youth Delegation from SASSI.



**Aug 27:** Meeting with DG Foreign Service Academy.



**July 27:** Meeting with Ms Mariam Aftab, Ambassador to Bulgaria.



**Sep 01:** Meeting with S M Hali.



**Sep 02:** Meeting with Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, Chairman Muslim Institute.



**Sep 27:** Visit of Political Science Students from Pakistan and Afghanistan organised by the Political Science Department, the University of Peshawar in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation.



**Sep 27:** Mr Ubaid ur Rehman Nizamani, DG SAARC, MOFA.



**Sep 27:** Meeting with Nabeel Munir, Additional Secretary UN&ED.



**Oct 28:** The visit of the National Youth Parliament, delegation was led by its chairman M. Rizwan Jaffar.





**Oct 28:** Meeting with Mr Wahid Khurshid Kanwar.



**Oct 29:** Meeting with Ikram Sehgal.



**Nov 04:** Visit of South Korean Ministry of National Defence Delegation.



**Nov 05:** Visit of Royal Norwegian Embassy Team. The team was led by Ms Silje Marie Andersen, Political Secretary at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad. The CPSC hosted the visit.



**Nov 17:** Visit of Dr Nadeem ul Haque Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).



**Nov 19:** Visit of Students from the Faculty of Aerospace Sciences and Strategic Studies at the Air University, Islamabad. The ACDC-ISSI hosted the visit





**Nov 29:** Visit of the UNAMA Delegation.



**Dec 16:** Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, Cabinet Secretary, visited ISSI and met with Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI.



**Dec 30:** MOU signing with Ibne Sina Lab.







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