

# PAKISTAN Dialogues with the **WORLD**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR LEADERSHIP AND SECURITY**  
(26 FEBRUARY - 02 MARCH 2024)  
**POST WORKSHOP REPORT**

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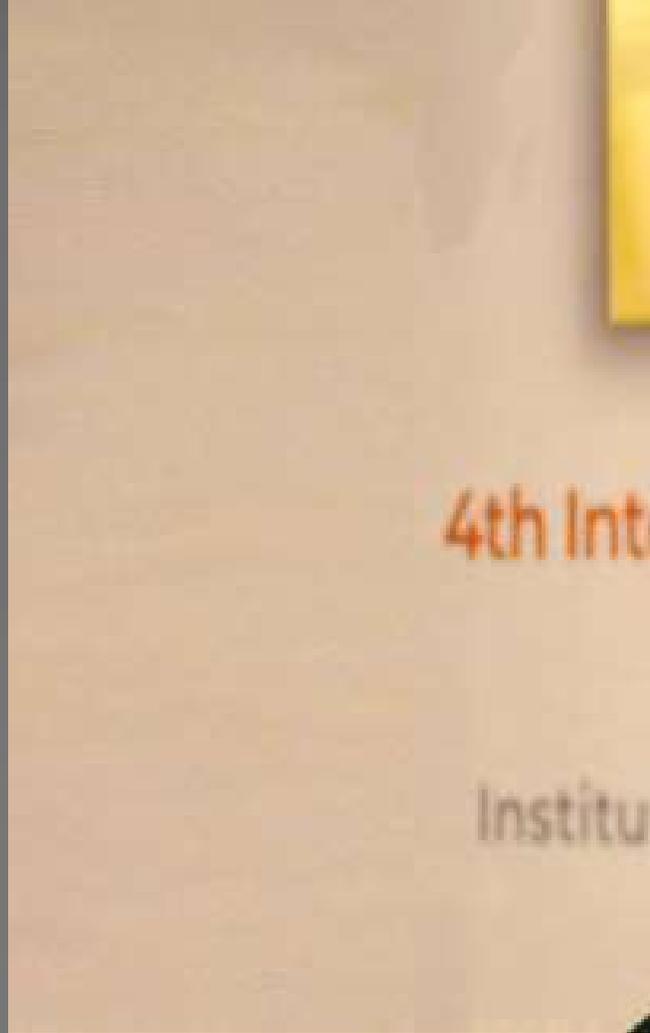


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# Inaugural Session

26 February, 2024





# DAY 1

26 February, 2024  
Session I

## Evolving Global & Regional Order



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
Ambassador Shahid Malik



SPEAKER - I  
Mr Michael Kugelman



SPEAKER - II  
Dr Li Li



SPEAKER - III  
Ambassador Zamir Akram



SPEAKER - IV  
Dr Maria Sultan



MODERATOR  
Ms Amina Khan

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In the evolving global order, US administration is pursuing three primary goals: working with partners and allies to manage the great power competition; pivot to Asia from Middle East; and to embrace and boost the US-backed global economic architecture.
- Ukraine and Palestine Wars have threatened the global security architecture not only in terms of traditional and non-traditional security domain (human, food and energy security) but has also increased the possibilities of terrorist incidents in a reaction; thus making Global South more vulnerable.
- Global South has become a major battleground for India-China competition, which are eyeing to have dominance in the region; US appears quiet on this issue, though, it needs to be more concerned about the outcome of this contestation which can impact the global politics.
- Due to major transition in the global politics, the multi-polarity is gaining momentum, thus creating challenges like growing Great Powers' Competition and fragmentation of the global economy.
- US' approach anchored around bipolarity is resulting in power vacuum for regional conflicts and formulation of multiple power centers, making cooperation on global issues challenging.
- China's idea of world order is based on multi-polarity where countries have equal power, bringing an end to bloc politics and hegemony.
- As a policy, China believes that confrontation with US is not in China's interest; endeavoring to manage the bilateral differences and stabilize its relations with US. On the contrary, US is pressurizing its allies to join the 'Policy of Containing China'.
- US-China relations should be seen through the lens of confrontation not contestation, driven by the grand strategy where US desires to attain full-spectrum dominance.
- Due to US assistance, India is modernizing its military and has become more aggressive and belligerent, posing an existential threat to Pakistan; albeit, it is still nowhere to replace China.
- The world is witnessing an intense competition between security and economic order led by US and China.
- Almost 90 % of oil transport routes are traversing through the Indian Ocean, therefore, the global power dominating this part shall eventually lead the future global economic and security order.

# DAY 1

26 February, 2024  
Session II

## Global Trends: Human Rights, Climate Change and Islamophobia



# SPEAKERS



**SPEAKER - I**  
Mr Asad Rahim



**SPEAKER - II**  
Ms Kashmala Kakakhel



**SPEAKER - III**  
Ms Myriam Francois



**MODERATOR**  
Dr Marium Fatima

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Instead of acting as an honest broker of Human Rights among the nations, UN is transforming as a guarantor of 'semi imperial' world that has emerged after the cold war.
- Due to systematic erosion of liberal world order and democratic backsliding, the global trend of human rights is on constant decline.
- At the center of any conversation pertaining to human rights, there has to be a question of equal distribution of resources, economic well-being and equality. On the contrary, the international system is consistently evading this aspect of human rights.
- Response towards climate change shall decide the winners and losers of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The phenomenon of climate change will decide superpowers of the future by strategically reshaping the fundamentals of global equilibrium.
- Energy security is directly proportional to the economic growth of any country. The traditional sources of fuels such as coal and petroleum are shrinking and there is a focus on cleaner energy sources. China is on its way to shape the global solar and green hydrogen market.
- The annual Global trade of approximately \$25 trillion is becoming weaponized, forcing countries to take actions to reduce carbon emissions. Therefore, countries with less stringent climate policies will be penalized for exporting to countries having stronger climate policies.
- For Pakistan to succeed tomorrow, it has to start building on climate change eco-system forthwith to compete for energy race, trade goals and to secure the rightful role in the global leadership.
- Islamophobia emerged as a political theme for right wing politicians to sway public opinion in their favour, adding to the popular threat perception amongst the white Europeans.
- Islamophobia is used as a tool like other forms of racism & anti-Semitism to divert the focus of population from other issues and to make Muslims a scapegoat
- Few elements in a society end up tarnishing the reputе of wider Muslim Community either due to lack of education or indoctrination of a narrow perspective that vast majority of Muslims would not subscribe.

## DAY 2

27 February, 2024  
Session I

### Culture & Heritage of Pakistan



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
Ms Feryal Gohar



SPEAKER - I  
Mr Rohail Hyatt



SPEAKER - II  
Ms Fizza Ali



SPEAKER - III  
Mr Kamran Lashari



SPEAKER - IV  
Dr Amjad Saqib



MODERATOR  
Mr Farooq Hasan

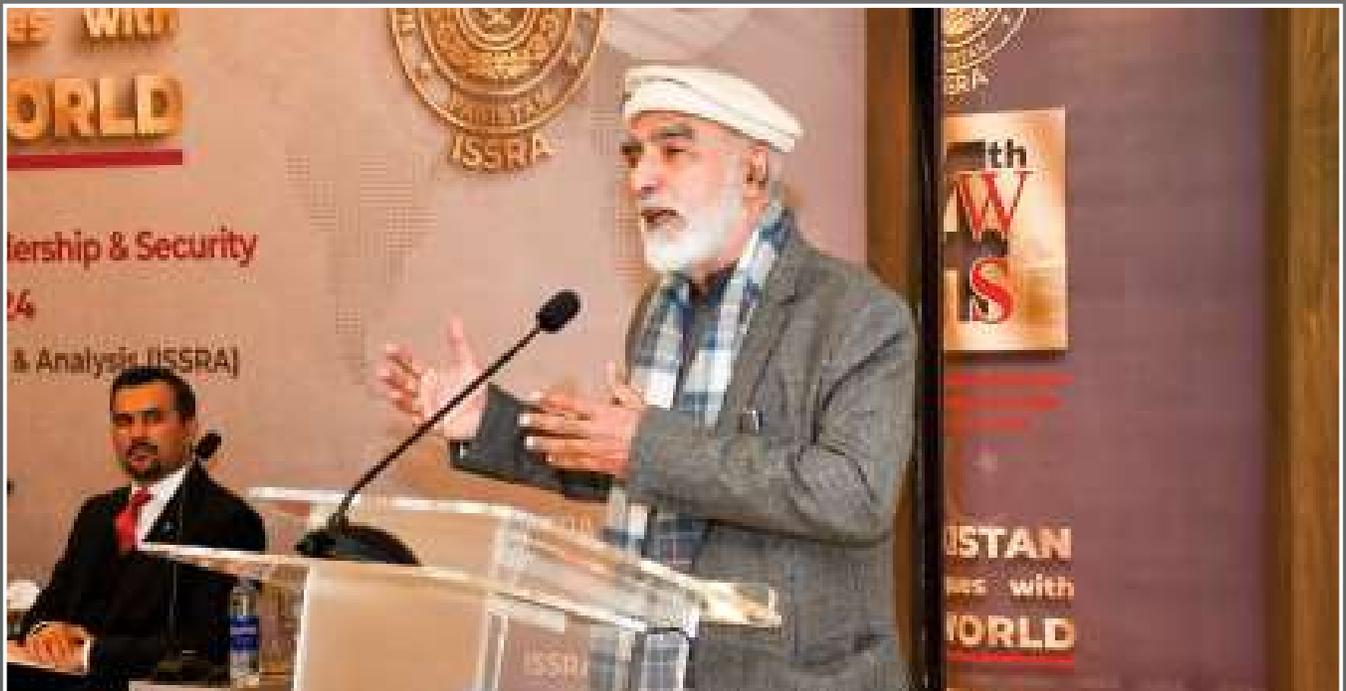
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan comprises numerous communities with their own languages and cultures, reflecting a rich tapestry of sub-cultures.
- Despite Western influence, Pakistan's music industry retains its distinctiveness, particularly evident in platforms like Coke Studio which are preserving and promoting the unique Pakistani musical styles and poetry.
- There is a need to delve deeper into Pakistan's diverse cultures, particularly through the exploration of music, which serves as a fundamental aspect of multicultural progress.
- While culture and religion coexist, it's essential to acknowledge their distinctiveness. Film industries, for example, play a significant role in reflecting cultural nuances beyond stereotyped narratives.
- Pakistan's cultural identity is rooted in its history and the ancient Indus Valley Civilization.
- Political influences have often overshadowed cultural narratives, leading to the neglect of festivals and traditions, however, the essence of Sufi culture, with its emphasis on social welfare and mutual assistance, remains integral to Pakistan's cultural fabric.
- Deeply embedded in the Pakistani society, the culture of sharing and charity is a strong tradition with the belief that true happiness can only be achieved when everyone's needs are met. This ethos of generosity and community support is essential for fostering a more equitable society.
- Pakistan exhibits stark contrasts between its elite and impoverished populations. Civil society organizations are actively engaged in poverty reduction and educational initiatives, emphasizing the importance of social welfare in enhancing overall well-being.

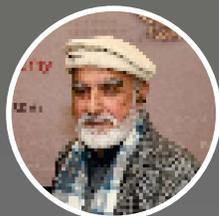
## DAY 2

27 February, 2024  
Session II

# Regional Cooperation and Stability



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani



SPEAKER - I  
Ambassador Asif Durrani



SPEAKER - II  
Ambassador Abdul Basit



SPEAKER - III  
Mr Jamal Aziz



MODERATOR  
Dr Maria S. Effendi

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Peace and stability in Afghanistan should be the priority for Pakistan and regional powers. Assurance extended by Taliban regime to relocate TTP, IMU, ETIM are promising; need to follow up its progress on relocation of such groups.
- Pakistan has to manage its affairs with Afghanistan and endeavour to maintain friendly relations with the Taliban regime. Continue exerting pressure on Taliban regime to curb TTP activities; at no cost, TTP or other groups be allowed to interfere with the rule of law in Pakistan
- Together with Iran, Pakistan should make a strong pitch for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. In close liaison with US and EU, Pakistan should also raise voice for extending global assistance to Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds
- The unresolved Kashmir dispute and nuclear dimension of India and Pakistan are major obstacles to regional cooperation; confidence-building measures are needed to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation. This ongoing conflict undermines stability and hinders potential economic integration in South Asia.
- Regional organizations like SAARC play a critical role in promoting regional cooperation. However, their effectiveness is often hampered by geopolitical rivalries and conflicts among member states.
- Non-traditional security threats like terrorism, climate change, and cyber warfare pose new challenges to regional cooperation and stability; collective and coordinated response is required to address these issues.
- Economic disparities among countries in the region can hinder regional cooperation; efforts should be made to promote inclusive growth and reduce economic inequalities.
- Strategic interests and policies of major powers like US, China, and Russia significantly influence the prospects for regional integration and stability.
- Media also plays a key role in shaping perceptions, thus significantly influencing the regional cooperation; responsible and balanced reporting can contribute to mutual understanding and peacebuilding.
- There is immense potential for regional cooperation in technology and innovation; collaborative projects in artificial intelligence, renewable energy and biotechnology can boost regional competitiveness and economic integration.

## DAY 3

28 February, 2024  
Session I

# Trade, Investment and Entrepreneurship in Pakistan



# SPEAKERS



**SPEAKER - I**  
Ms Maria Kazi



**SPEAKER - II**  
Syed Aftab Haider



**SPEAKER - III**  
Mr Faisal Aftab



**MODERATOR**  
Mr Ather Imran Nawaz

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Comparing the last three years' macroeconomic indicators, Pakistan's GDP (%) was 5.7 in 2021, 6.17 in 2022 and -0.17 in 2023. Respectively, inflation (%) was 8.9 in 2021, 12.2 in 2022 and 28.2 in 2023.
- Pakistan's top export destination in 2023 was the US along with the China and UK.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan remained inconsistent in the last 23 years. Pakistan's low FDI is caused by continuous economic fragility, fluctuating negative GDP, high inflation, import-export imbalance and inconsistent policies.
- Among remedial policy measures, SIFC may focus on large FDI / privatisation projects, the SEZ Act needs to be revised, and Provinces/district governments may be given the lead to establish SEZs/ Industrial Parks.
- Pakistan's Trade in Goods & Services amounted to a 13% increase as compared to 2021.
- Pakistan Single Window (PSW) is an Integrated Digital Platform that allows parties involved in trade to lodge standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.
- PSW covers 95% of seaports, 70% of border stations, 95% of Dry ports and 95% of dock terminals nationally.
- Venture capital funds should be allowed to create holds for companies that are running operations in Pakistan and have 100 per cent ownership of those companies.
- Pakistan's structural reform process has to go in parallel with the opportunity of the digital footprint outlay and the associated data that the private sector businesses are capturing.

## DAY 3

28 February, 2024  
Session II

## SIFC & CPEC



# SPEAKERS



SPEAKER - I

Mr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan



SPEAKER - II

Mr Mushahid Hussain Syed



MODERATOR  
Ms Aiza Azam

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan faces cyclic instability, making it hard for foreign as well as the domestic investors.
- There are investment positives like potential for agricultural productivity, huge copper and other mineral reserves and 4<sup>th</sup> largest IT force with 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in freelancing.
- Foreign direct investment will enhance productivity and boost the managerial capacities.
- There are many existing investment framework & physical infrastructure including Industrial Estates, Special Economic Zones, Export Processing Zones & Free Zone and Connecting inter-provincial ports & road network.
- Pakistan has the necessary infrastructure and has become even more connected due to Karachi-Peshawar motorway, having potential to connect to Afghanistan and Central Asian States.
- Existing investment climate has not attracted the level of capital/FDI necessary for essential economic growth & development.
- The Belt and Road initiatives by China, including those in Pakistan, is a sign that the three hundred years of Western hegemony is at the beginning of its end, also indicated by President Macron of France in his recent remarks.
- China is rising through investment, trade, and development; Pakistan should utilize CPEC to its maximum.

## DAY 3

28 February, 2024  
Session III

# Economy of Pakistan: Opportunities & Challenges



# SPEAKER



SPEAKER

Dr Gohar Ejaz HI, SI



MODERATOR

RA Khadija Younis

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan faces economic hurdles due to its volatile borders, especially with Afghanistan, where decades of war have disrupted trade and stability.
- Transit trade with Afghanistan led to a significant increase in trade volume, raising concerns about the authenticity of the goods being traded; a significant increase noted from \$2.8 billion in 2016-17 to \$7.2 billion in 2022-23, raising questions about goods origin and destination.
- The caretaker government implemented strategic measures, including bans on selective imports and imposition of processing fees (10%), resulting in a notable decline in imports and stabilizing the economy.
- Despite initial setbacks, exports exhibited promising growth, notably in non-traditional sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, showcasing resilience and potential for further expansion.
- High energy tariffs remain a significant challenge, affecting export competitiveness. Reforms are imperative to address this issue and support industrial growth.
- Pakistan boasts considerable potential in key sectors like agriculture, information technology, minerals, and energy, presenting lucrative investment opportunities.
- With prudent financial management, effective governance, and proactive marketing of its economic potential, Pakistan aims to achieve sustainable economic prosperity.

## DAY 4

29 February, 2024  
Session I

# Art & Science of Narrative Shaping in the Post Truth Era



# SPEAKERS



**SPEAKER - I**  
Ms Diane Rubino



**SPEAKER - II**  
Mr Asad Baig



**SPEAKER - III**  
Ms Liu Xin



**SPEAKER - IV**  
Mr Fahad Hussain



**MODERATOR**  
Ms Maheen Jaffri

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Traditional media continues to exert significant influence in shaping narratives, however, there is a growing movement for more diversity and inclusion in storytelling, leading to incorporate previously marginalized voices and perspectives.
- Commercial interests heavily influence narrative construction, with media outlets prioritizing sensationalized or negative stories to capture consumer attention and maximize profits.
- Social media platforms have revolutionized narrative building by democratizing content creation and dissemination.
- Echo chambers, algorithmic bias and the monetization of user data raise questions about the quality and diversity of narratives presented on these platforms that influence public discourse and perception.
- The biased portrayal in mainstream media contributes to a one-dimensional view of China in Western media, disregarding the complexity of perspectives from the Chinese side.
- Digital platforms dominance disrupts traditional media, skewing revenue and influence. Therefore, there is need for balancing the power dynamics between platforms and content creators to empower credible journalism and combat misinformation effectively.
- In a post-truth world, objective facts are overshadowed by appeals to emotion and personal belief, leading to a polarization of narratives and public discourse.
- Traditional gatekeepers of information face challenges in controlling the flow of information, leading to a breakdown of filters and verification processes.
- Polarization becomes a tool for narrative building in politics, where appealing to echo chambers garners more attention and support, regardless of factual accuracy.
- Finding common ground and valuing factual reporting in mainstream media can help counter the effects of polarization and post-truth narratives.

## DAY 5

01 March, 2024  
Session I

# Looking into the Future - Tech & Society



# SPEAKERS



**SPEAKER - I**  
Dr Umar Saif



**SPEAKER - II**  
Lt Gen Aamer Riaz (Retd), HI (M)



**SPEAKER - III**  
Dr Faisal Khan



**MODERATOR**  
Dr Qurat ul Ain Abbas

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The contemporary technology landscape is characterized by social media, universal access to connectivity & information, AI, robotics, genetic editing & re-engineering and quantum computing.
- The immediate challenge for Pakistan is a denial of critical technologies such as semiconductors, AI and cyber security, by the western countries.
- Pakistan's IT industry is estimated to be growing to \$10 billion in the next three to five years offering exponential opportunities to become a digital connectivity hub for the region.
- Pakistan's Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development (IRADA), would be working towards the indigenisation of commercial technologies critical for national security.
- Biology is (a data-driven) the field of engineering today; Synthetic Biology would be a \$30 Trillion market in the world by the end of the decade.
- By using engineered bacteria and yeast, countries can brew anything out of Biomass; DNA sequencing and DNA synthesis are the core technologies that need to be emphasized.
- From being a political discourse by other means, warfare now is a socio-political activity, restructuring socio-political order in the target State and even breaking a State.
- Current warfare comprises both its direct and indirect elements; conventional military and indirect elements which include extremism, information & propaganda campaigns, financial & economic coercion, and exploitation of social, ethnic and political lines etc.
- Warfare decision-making is more autonomous and tactical whereas the impact of technology is rendering warfare pervasive by State and non-State actors.

## DAY 5

01 March, 2024  
Session II

# Strategic Leadership & Statesmanship



# SPEAKER



SPEAKER

Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat  
(Retd), NI (M)



MODERATOR

RA Faiza Qureshi

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Strategic leadership is a key aspect of decision-making and organizational direction, focusing on the power of ideas and embracing change. It emphasizes adaptability and innovation, as fear of change can lead to stagnation.
- Strategic leadership is not about power, rather is to accepting the responsibilities.
- Technology is crucial in breaking down the barriers and driving progress, however, the human element remains central to strategic leadership. Human mind provides vision, empathy, and creativity, essential qualities for navigating complex challenges, despite machines augmenting our capabilities.
- A strategic leader has a bold vision, deep understanding of societal dynamics, and precision in navigating the environment, leveraging opportunities for growth and influence.
- Strategic leaders require to understand context of the issue to navigate diverse landscapes and establish meaningful connections. They exercise discernment in determining their sphere of influence and focusing on areas for meaningful change.
- Strategic leadership requires courage, foresight, and ethical decision-making, as every decision holds historical significance and is ultimately judged by the recorded history.
- The world is facing a global leadership crisis, necessitating a renewed commitment to visionary leadership, rooted in integrity, empathy, and a focus on the greater good, not just in specific regions.
- Strategic leadership must possess sense of history, geography, sense of culture, sense of moment, and must have sense of purpose.
- Strategic leader must understand the global, regional, institutional, personal and national context and nuanced linkages between international and personal levels.

# VISIT - FAISAL MOSQUE



# VISIT - MOFA



# VISIT - LOK VIRSA



# VISIT - PAKISTAN MONUMENT

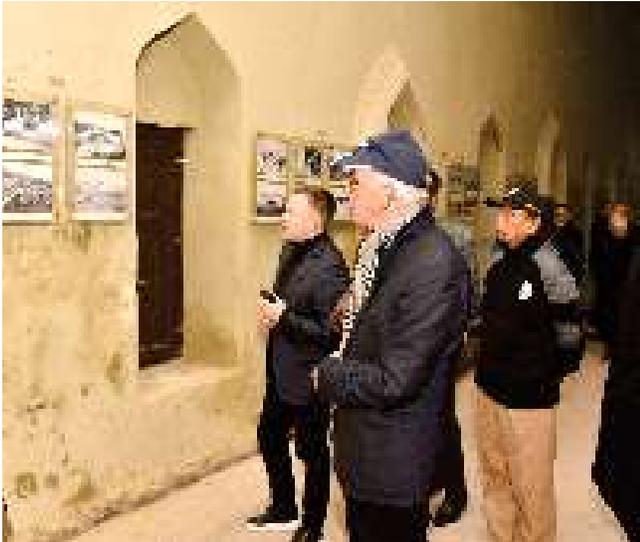


# PICTURE GALLERY









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