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**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**

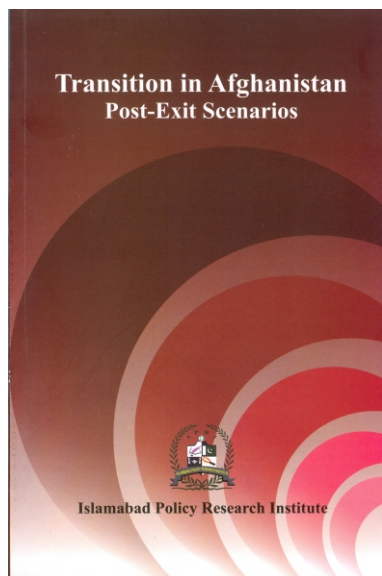


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October 2013

IPRI Publishes Two Books in October

IPRI has published two books in the month of October in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation.



The book on *“Transition in Afghanistan: Post-exit Scenarios”* is based on the proceedings of a two-day international conference organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation.

It contains research papers of prominent scholars, academicians and policy analysts from Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, India, US, Sweden and Germany who participated in the Conference.

The volume provides answers to important post withdrawal questions such as how political stability and good governance be

ensured in Afghanistan in the long run? What has to be done to rebuild Afghanistan's economy? What would be the role of international community? What would be the impact of withdrawal on the regional balance of power? And, what would be the situation in the Pak-Afghan borderland after the withdrawal? The book is a good reading for general readers and a guide for policy makers. Softcopy of the book is available on IPRI website.

The book titled *“Rights of Religious Minorities in South Asia: Learning from Mutual Experiences”* presents the proceedings of a two-day international conference on the subject organized by IPRI in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation. The book discusses the rights of minorities and their violations in South Asian countries.

In the book, research papers presented in the conference by prominent academicians, scholars, human rights' activists and analysts from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka highlighting their views about the status of the religious minorities in their respective countries have been published.

The book also identifies the problems, discusses the remedial measures and offers recommendations for the concerned governments with the objective of addressing the issues of religious minorities. While the book provides a useful insight to policy makers to address the issues of minority rights in South Asia, it would also be a good reading for the general readers. Softcopy of the book is available on IPRI website.

RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS
MINORITIES IN
SOUTH ASIA



Learning from Mutual Experiences



October Highlights

- IPRI Book “Transition in Afghanistan: Post-Exit Scenarios”
- IPRI Book “Rights of Religious Minorities in South Asia”

IPRI Review Meetings

- October 7: “Women Empowerment in Pakistan”
- October 21: “Food Security”

Food Security in Pakistan

Mr. Usman Ghani, Assistant Research Officer IPRI gave a presentation on “Food Security in Pakistan” at IPRI Review Meeting on October 21, 2013. He said that the World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”. According to this definition food security is built on three pillars:

- Food availability: sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
- Food access: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- Food use: appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

He said that the world population was

estimated to rise to 9 billion by the year 2050 whereas food producing resources such as water and agricultural land was depleting at alarming rates.



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Two-Member IPRI Delegation Visits Baghdad

On the invitation of Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) and Iraqi Group for Strategic Studies a two-member IPRI delegation comprising Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin, President IPRI and Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow, visited Iraq from October 27-30, 2013 to attend the Preparatory Meetings for the 5th OIC Think Tanks Forum to be held in Baghdad. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress on the preparations of the 5th OIC Think Tanks Forum being organized by the Iraqi Group for Strategic Studies in collaboration with TASAM on February 21-22, 2014. The representatives of other countries who participated in the meeting were: Dr. Torhan M. Al-Mufti, State Minister of Provincial Affairs, Republic of Iraq; Mr. Wathaq Al Hashemi, Head, Iraqi Group for Strategic Studies; Mr. Suleyman Sensoy, Chairman TASAM (Turkey); Ambassador (r) Omur Orhun, Turkish Member of the Wise Men Group of OIC Think Tanks Forum; Dr. Muharrem Hilmi Özev, Middle East Expert, TASAM (Turkey); Dr. Mostafa Zahrani former DG Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran; and Mr. Mehrdad Kiaei, Director (Studies of the Persian Gulf), IPIS, Iran.

The “OIC Think Tanks Forum” is an initiative of the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) supported by the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). It aims at gathering think tanks from member countries of the OIC to develop creative dialogue on present and future common political, socio-cultural and economic challenges faced by the region and to assess collective knowledge and developmental efforts.

The First Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey on January 28-30, 2010, under the theme of “Civilization of Peace and Cooperation”. Think tanks from 40 member States of the OIC, delegates from the OIC observer countries such as Russia, Thailand and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, General Secretariat of the OIC, representatives of the diplomatic missions of the OIC countries, experts, eight think tank organizations from Turkey as well as media professionals were among the participants of the Forum. In that context, it was decided that a “Platform of Think Tanks of the Member States of the OIC”, with the aim of coordination and cooperation, would be established in Istanbul and that hosting of subsequent annual meetings of the Forum would be open to all participating institutions and countries.

The Second Forum was held in Istanbul on March 30-31, 2011 under the theme 'Public Diplomacy'. Around 50 member countries were present in the Forum. The Third Forum was organized by Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) and TASAM Institute of Islamic Studies in Baku with the main theme “Change and Transformation in the OIC Countries”, from March 2-3, 2012. The Forum ended with the announcement of “Baku Declaration”.

According to the declaration it was decided that 4th, 5th and 6th Forums will be

interacting with the Islamic World especially through the OIC Forum. The Iraqi Minister assured TASAM Chairman that the Forum's meeting in Baghdad was extremely important to them and all arrangements were being firmed up by the Iraqi government to ensure its success. Referring to the precarious security situation in Iraq, he said that security in Baghdad was obviously a serious matter but Iraq had been holding international and regional conferences in the Green Zone which was absolutely safe from security point of view. He said that



held in Egypt, Iraq and Pakistan respectively. As per Baku Declaration, the 4th Think Tanks Forum of OIC Countries was organized by the Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) in collaboration with TASAM in Cairo, Egypt on March 26-27, 2013. The theme of the 4th Forum was “Economic Integration in OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges”.

The 5th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC Countries scheduled to be held in Baghdad on February 21-22, 2014 is part of series of annual forums TASAM is organizing in collaboration with one of the prominent Think Tank in the host country. In order to make these forums a success, preparatory meetings are held with the representations of TASAM, previous and future host countries. The preparatory meeting in Baghdad was chaired by Dr. Torhan M. Al-Mufti, State Minister of Provincial Affairs, Republic of Iraq who is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the 5th Forum. While briefing the participants on the preparations of the Forum he stated that the new regime in Iraq was keen on

adverse propaganda against Iraq had badly tarnished its image and they will work hard for the success of the event. He said that the Prime Minister of Iraq will inaugurate the Fifth OIC Think Tanks Forum and also deliver a key note address.

In his remarks Mr. Suleyman Sensoy, Chairman TASAM highlighted the importance of holding the 5th Forum in Iraq under the theme “Unity in Diversity: The Source of Power”. The administrative and logistic issues such as list of participants, issuance of invitations, visa arrangements and provision of security to the participants of 5th Forum were discussed in detail.

The Preparatory Meeting was followed by a Talk by Dr. Torhan M. Al-Mufti, State Minister for Provincial Affairs, Republic of Iraq on the idea of Creating Strategic Alliance of Iraq-Kuwait-Jordan as a buffer zone to overcome the issue of sectarian conflict. Besides Iraqi high civil and military officials, IPRI delegation along with other participants of the Preparatory Meeting also attended the talk.

IPRI Scholars' Publications in October

- “Rights of Minorities in Pakistan” by Dr. Noor ul Haq, Senior Research Fellow was published in *The Frontier Post*, October 2, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/45184/>
- “Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia” by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow was published in *Pakistan Observer*, October 3, 2013, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=219947> & “Advantages of Intra-regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia” was published in *The Frontier Post*, Oct. 28, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/50672/>
- “The Steep Summit” by Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *The Nation*, October 21, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/21-Oct-2013/the-steep-summit> & “Make it behind the curtain activity” was published in *The Nation*, October 14, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/14-Oct-2013/make-it-behind-the-curtain-activity>
- “Prospects of India-Pakistan Relations” by Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow is being published in *IPRI Insight*, Volume I, No. 1
- “US Shutdown” by Mr. Khalid Chandio, Research Officer was published in *Pakistan Observer*, October 12, 2013, <http://ipripak.org/articles/latest/uswn.pdf> & “Propaganda against Pakistan” was published in *The Frontier Post*, October 3, 2013, <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/45441/>
- “Indian Engagement in Afghanistan” by Ms. Saman Zulfqar was published in *Pakistan Observer*, October 20, 2013, <http://ipripak.org/articles/latest/ieia.pdf> & “India-Afghanistan Strategic Relations: Implications for Pakistan” is being published in *IPRI Insight*, Volume I, No. 1
- “Strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Ties: Social Dimension” by Ms. Maria Syed is being published in *IPRI Insight*, Volume I, No. 1
- “Kashmir, Human Rights Violations and Indian Ideals” by Mr. Muhammad Mustansar Billah Hussain is being published in *IPRI Insight*, Volume I, No. 1

French Scholar Joins IPRI as a Visiting Fellow



Mr. Didier Chaudet, Head of the Programme on Iranian and South Asian Studies at European Institute for Prospective and Security (IPSE), a French think tank based in Paris, joined IPRI on October 15, 2013 as a visiting Fellow for six months.

Previously, Mr. Chaudet had been a Research Fellow at the Institute for South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore (2012-2013), in charge of Pakistani affairs and Afghan diplomatic and security-related issues; a Lecturer at the Institute for Political Studies in Paris (2007-2011), teaching about Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia; a Research Fellow at the

French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), one of the most important think tanks in Paris (2008), in charge of Central Asian and Afghan affairs; and a Fox Fellow at Yale University (2006-2007).

Currently, he is working specifically on Pakistani political and diplomatic affairs. He has two books to his credit (in French, English, and Romanian languages), and is completing the third one (on Iranian foreign policy towards Central and South Asia, in French language). He has also published four book chapters, as well as 20 academic articles.

So far Mr. Chaudet has given 60 talks at international and European conferences, mostly in English. He is a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post* (French and Canadian versions) and *The News*, and is regularly interviewed by the French-speaking media on Pakistani, Afghan, Iranian and Central Asian affairs.

During his fellowship at IPRI, he would be working on Pakistan's regional diplomacy (most particularly towards Iran, Afghanistan and China). Besides other projects, he would publish an *IPRI Paper* on Iran-Pakistan relations.

Food Security in Pakistan

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Access to food for world population was a daunting task for the world community and thus food security had become a central challenge in today's world. According to the, “Global Food Security Index 2013”, more than 870 million people globally did not have a secure source of food, he noted.

He said that despite sufficient national food production to meet the needs of Pakistan's 180 million people, the state of food security had been deteriorating in Pakistan. The number of food insecure individuals was on a rise. The problem of food crisis had then led many to believe that issues of food security in Pakistan were not merely food production issues but food availability issues as well, he said. Escalating food prices, floods, economic slowdown, poverty, armed conflicts, terrorism, energy crisis, and political instability were some of the major factors blamed for rising number of hungry people in the country, he mentioned.

Mr. Ghani noted that major issues regarding food security in Pakistan included rising food prices, impact of floods, insufficient storage capacity and water shortage. It was recommended that food security discourse adopted by the government must incorporate the entire food value chain, from 'production to plate' including improvement in agricultural production, reducing waste, and improvement in food storage.

Women Empowerment in Pakistan

Ms. Saira Rehman, Assistant Editor, IPRI presented the subject at IPRI Review Meeting on October 7, 2013. According to a World Bank report, in 2011 female population of Pakistan was 49.19 per cent. Though several indicators show improvement in women's living conditions and empowerment in Pakistan, this achievement was not spread out evenly in the country. Ms. Rehman observed that urban women in Pakistan were living in better social conditions as compared to the rural women.

To make progress in women empowerment in all major aspects of human life, women of some areas in Pakistan particularly rural and illiterate needed preferential treatment in the spheres of health, education, jobs and social and political development. In this context, she said that women themselves had to take lead in order to secure a better status in society. They should be proactive in gaining their deserved political, social and

economic status. Lack of awareness and education among the rural women were the main obstacles in the way of development of Pakistani women. It was suggested that members of civil society such as teachers,



lawyers, and religious scholars should also play their role to bring greater awareness about advantages of women empowerment.

Without active and consistent support and involvement of informed members of

society, it would be difficult to achieve needed progress in this field. Media could play a critical role in educating society about the rights of women. It was highlighted that bottom-up approach towards marginalized women could be more effective to make women realize their role and rights at all levels.

It was recommended that targeted interventions were required in girls' education and skills development in women. Focused government policies were also needed to tackle gender inequality and exploit the talent and full potential of the women in the areas where they are being neglected.

The related development agencies and civil society should also contribute towards women empowerment at individual, group and societal levels. She concluded that conservative attitudes needed to be reformed, unless the society had a liberal orientation, women rights would continue to suffer.

November Schedule

- November 4: IPRI Review Meeting "Governance Issues of Pakistan"
- November 12: Guest Lecture "Geo-politics of Water in South Asia: Regional Analysis"
- November 18: IPRI Review Meeting "Climate Change and Environmental Security"
- November 20-21: International Conference "Towards an Asian Century: Future of Economic Cooperation in SAARC"

International Conference in November

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation is organizing an international conference on "Towards an Asian Century: Future of Economic Cooperation in SAARC Countries" on November 20-21, 2013 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad.

Main objective of the conference is to promote debate on important questions such as what are the regional drivers for economic cooperation? What are the extra-regional incentives which could encourage the SAARC countries to unite and boost economic cooperation in South Asia? What are the imperatives for regional cooperation and how those could be overcome? And, what are the ways to resolve political issues and differences to create better environment

for economic cooperation?

Learned scholars from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, EU, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would present their papers in the conference.

(Conference can be attended through invitation only).

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