



IPRI
Building Consensus



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IPRI SCHOLARS' PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS OF FOREIGN THINK TANKS

5th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC Countries on “Unity in Diversity in the Islamic World: The Source of Power”

Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin, President IPRI and Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow, IPRI participated in the 5th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC countries held in Baghdad, Iraq on 21-22 February 2014. The Forum was organised by Iraqi Prime Group of Strategic Studies, Baghdad, Iraq and TASAM (Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies) with the support of the Ministry of Communications of Iraq and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The topic of the forum was “Unity in Diversity: Source of Power.” It gave the opportunity to think tanks in the OIC countries to present policy papers and hold constructive dialogue in order to conclude relevant recommendations and means of their implementation. The Forum was attended by about fifty delegates from foreign countries (mostly OIC countries). Think Tanks from Europe and the US also participated as observers.

The speakers from various think tanks from OIC countries presented policy papers on sub-themes: 1) Historical Background and Economic, Cultural and Psychological Factors, 2) The Effects of Ideological and Theological

Backgrounds, 3) Outside Powers, Dynamics of Governing, 4) OIC Countries' Perspectives; Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, 5) Models of Governing with Regional References, 6) Difficulties of Developing Original Policies in a New Multipolar World System and 7) Systemic/Structural Issues, Opportunities, Cooperation. Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin,

Noting that religious and cultural diversity provides an opportunity to OIC Countries if they use it as a motivating force for making positive contribution to the socio-economic development of multi ethnic or multicultural societies and underlining Islam's message of equality, fairness and harmony,

Noting that economic interdependence can lead to greater cooperation at international fora and international financial institutions which can supplement member states efforts in achieving not only economic prosperity but also a solid basis to achieve unity among the OIC Countries,

Underlining role of women in providing internal and external peace and harmony, Drawing attention to the need to formulate a clear vision about values and culture of peace, tolerance, unity and respect and to develop the role of the OIC in this field and to facilitate constructive interactions among the peoples of OIC Countries, Underlining the need to strengthen civil societies in all OIC Countries. Also underlining the need to take concrete steps in combating

terrorism and extremism to ensure global peace and stability,

Have concluded following:

OIC countries should give more weight to channels of political communication and public diplomacy and should rationally evaluate external efforts and their own internal weaknesses that may have caused divisions either on the basis of political differences or varying interpretation of Islam.

OIC countries need to work in tandem with each other and look for their own home-grown solutions that are most suited for improving the state of OIC societies.

Religious scholars should dissuade the followers of Islam from criticizing ethnic and cultural dissimilarities that exist in societies. At the same time, Muslim scholars, academicians, intellectuals and media should play a proactive role in undertaking research and promoting dialogue and discourse among themselves and their constituencies to deliberate on addressing the issues of human rights, rule of law, intolerance, extremism and sectarianism.

Continued on p. 4



President IPRI gave a presentation on “Unity in Diversity: Pakistan's Perspective.” He also announced that IPRI would organize the 6th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC countries in Islamabad, Pakistan in March 2015.

At the end of the forum, Baghdad Declaration was announced as under:-

The participants;

Emphasizing the significance of the Forum and recognizing the contributions and recommendations that had been discussed during the past four fora held in Istanbul, Baku and Cairo providing a platform for communication and dialogue around crucial issues listed on the OIC agenda,

Referring to previous statements of the OIC, such as the decisions of the 6th Islamic Summit Conference held on 9-11 December 1991 in Dakar and the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit in Mecca on 14-15 August 2012, which addressed the issue of unity, solidarity and harmony among the Muslims, realizing its importance to overcome sectarian, ethnic, religious issues and developmental, economic, political and social challenges facing many OIC Countries,

February Highlights

- Guest Lecture
“Evolving Relations between Pakistan and India”
February 10
- IPRI Review Meeting
“Civil-Military Relations”
February 17
- IPRI Scholars' Participation in Events of Foreign Think Tanks
“5th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC Countries, Baghdad”
February 21-22
- “Strategic Studies Network's Summit, Bangkok”
February 23-26

- “Why Afghan President is Refusing to Sign BSA” by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI, was published in *Frontier Post*, February 2, 2014, <http://thefrontierpost.com/article/72699/Why-Afghan-president-is-refusing-to-sign-BSA/>
- “Strategic Dialogue and Tactical Effects” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Nation*, February 3, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/03-Feb-2014/strategic-dialogue-and-tactical-effects>
- “Fresh Round of Pak-US Thaw” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Frontier Post*, February 4, 2014, <http://thefrontierpost.com/article/73126/Fresh-round-of-Pak-US-thaw/>
- “Geneva-II Outcome So Far” by Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer IPRI, was published in *Pakistan Observer*, February 5, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=232595>
- “Kashmir: Key to Regional Peace” by Saman Zulfur, Assistant Research Officer IPRI, was published in *Daily Times*, February 7, 2014, <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/07-Feb-2014/kashmir-key-to-regional-peace>
- “Peeking over Balochistan” by Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI, was published in *Pakistan Observer*, February 9, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=233009>
- “Kashmir: A Lingering Anguish” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Nation*, February 10, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/10-Feb-2014/kashmir-a-lingering-anguish>
- “Turkey Strives to stabilise Afghanistan” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Pakistan Observer*, February 17, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=228685>
- “Post-2014 Withdrawal & Pak Response” by Col. (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI, was published in *Pakistan Observer*, February 14, 2014, <http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>
- “Message of Peace from Ankara” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Frontier Post*, February 19, 2014, <http://thefrontierpost.com/article/76614/Message-of-peace-from-Ankara/>
- “Harnessing Coal and Atom” by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI, was published in *Nation*, February 24, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/24-Feb-2014/harnessing-coal-and-atom>

Indian Journalists Visit IPRI

A twelve member Indian delegation of journalists, led by Mr. Sudipta Sengupta, visited IPRI on February 18, 2014 to have an in-house discussion with IPRI scholars. One of the IPRI scholars in response to a question asked by the delegation said that Pakistan wanted the solution of Kashmir issue according to the resolutions of United Nations (UN). The issue could be solved through negotiations and the inclusion of Kashmiri people in the process was necessary. Former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had endorsed United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Kashmir and agreed to hold plebiscite in Kashmir but it never took place. Non-implementation of UNSC resolutions due to Indian intransigence and repeatedly rigged elections in Kashmir created resentment among the people. Highly rigged elections of 1987 frustrated Kashmiri people and they started their freedom struggle in 1989.

Pakistan wanted to solve all the issues through composite dialogue process. In this regard, the delegation was informed that Pakistan undertook various initiatives. Few years ago Pakistan and India had reached an agreement over Siachin but Indian army did not agree to the solution of the issue



and later on the Indian government also withdrew from the agreement.

Another IPRI scholar added that both Pakistan and India needed to move beyond the cold war syndrome and should understand that geo-politics had been replaced with geo-economics. Both countries could gain lots of benefits if they solved bilateral issues. Pakistan wanted to address all outstanding bilateral issues with India simultaneously through composite dialogue process.

A member of Indian journalists' team said both the countries needed to improve people to people contacts and media could play a positive role in the promotion of relations. He said the common people in both countries wanted to have good bilateral relations. He said the issue of Kashmir and other issues can be discussed through composite dialogue process.

IPIS Delegation Visits IPRI

A three member delegation, led by Dr. Mostafa Tork Zahrani, Director General, Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran visited IPRI on February 6, 2014 for an in-house discussion with IPRI researchers. One of the scholars from IPIS said Pakistan was a very important country for Iran and peace and prosperity in Pakistan was in the interest of Tehran as well. In response to a question by the member of the Iranian delegation, an IPRI scholar said that terrorism was the legacy of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan when religious forces were encouraged by the US and the West to fight against the Soviets. Pakistan and Afghanistan were left to deal with the left over weapons,



drugs and extremism. That extremism led to terrorism and no other country suffered more from terrorism than Pakistan and this was demonstrated by the sacrifices

Continued on p. 3

Strategic Studies Network (SSN) Moot in Bangkok

The Strategic Studies Summit “(R) EVOLUTION” was held in Bangkok, Thailand on February 23-26, 2014 by Strategic Studies Network (SSN), National Defence University (NDU), Washington, USA. Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin, Air Commodore (R) Khalid Iqbal and Ms. Saman Zulfqar represented IPRI at the summit.

The summit explored the drivers of change that transform the global political and economic environment. It examined the key shifts in the global system and categorized these changes as a result of revolutionary or evolutionary process. In the plenary session on, “Energy (R) EVOLUTION”, it was discussed that change was a constant in strategy. Change can be evolutionary or revolutionary but in the middle of changing process it was difficult to anticipate whether the change would be revolutionary or evolutionary. The changing dynamics in the Middle East would have global implications.



Plenary Session II on “Energy (R) EVOLUTION” deliberated upon the implications of the use of unconventional gas. Speakers focused on geopolitical implications of the use of unconventional gas. Energy related issues such as; sustainability, availability, affordability and accessibility were highlighted. Climate change was identified as a major global challenge.

In addition to plenary sessions, the strategic conversations on six different topics i.e., Regional Security

in the Middle East; The Future of Education; Water and Food Security; Arab Transitions; Economic Security and Asian Dynamism were also held. President IPRI participated in strategic conversations on Water and Food Security and Asian Dynamism; President IPRI also participated in the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Strategic Studies Network. Mr. Khalid Iqbal participated in Future of Education and Economic Security and Ms. Saman Zulfqar participated in Regional Security in the Middle East and Arab Transitions.

Six working groups have also been formed to work on the existing and emerging strategic challenges. Mr. Khalid Iqbal from IPRI is the member in “Trends in Peacekeeping” working group and Ms. Saman Zulfqar, ARO in IPRI has joined the working group on “Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region”.

IPRI REVIEW MEETING

Civil-Military Relations

Ms. Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI gave a presentation on “Civil-Military Relations” in a meeting of IPRI scholars on February 17, 2014 at IPRI Conference Hall. She said that the balanced civil-military relations were an important characteristic of democratic regimes and indicate the political stability of the state. The imbalance in civil-military relations was basically experienced by developing states where political institutions were not developed fully due to one reason or another. Pakistan has also experienced difficulties in balancing the civil-military relations. She put forward several factors that impacted civil-military relations like the structural and situational factors that transformed the pattern of civil-military relations in any state. Structural factors were deep-rooted in society and were the outcomes of socio-economic forces and set the preconditions for a military take over. Situational factors were inadvertent in nature and episodic in character. These often arose abruptly and influenced the course of history and often triggered military's involvement in politics.

In conclusion, Ms Saman summarized the discussion by saying that the civil-



military relations had always been dealt with as a separate issue by ignoring the fact that these were linked with the broader governance issues. Political leadership headed the Defense Committee of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee of National Security. These Committees would help in sharing the decision making process by both civil and military leadership. There was also a need to evolve civil institutions that worked within their own sphere and to empower the political parties to develop a participatory culture. Media and civil society could also play a role to balance these relations.

IPIS Delegation Visits IPRI

Continued from p. 2

made by Pakistanis. Pakistan's sacrifices were not acknowledged by the international community the way they should have been recognized as thousands of civilians and Pakistan's security personnel have sacrificed their lives in the war on terror.

A delegation member put forward the question whether the new government in Pakistan had new foreign policy regarding India. An IPRI scholar replied that there was consistency in Pakistan's policy towards India. Pakistan aimed at discussing all outstanding issues with India through composite dialogue process; the present government was also following the same. The Kashmir issue was the core issue for the people of Pakistan and the issue had to be addressed according to the UN resolutions and in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir. There was a consensus among all political parties of Pakistan to have peaceful, durable and working relations with India. Cooperation between Pakistan, India and Iran would have new dimension to the solution of regional problems.

Evolving Relations between Pakistan and India

Prof. Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean, Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad, visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) as a guest speaker on February 10, 2014 and gave a talk to IPRI scholars on “Evolving Relations between Pakistan and India.” Dr Cheema said that Pakistan-India relations can be divided into three phases. In the first phase spanning from 1947 to 1972, three major wars were fought between two countries, in 1947, 1965 and 1971 and a minor war of Rann-of-Kuch was also fought. This was obviously a very difficult period as things started getting worse right from the beginning in Pakistan's history. He commented that British rulers of India, previously applying the principle of “divide and rule,” left India on the principle of “divide and run” and left many things incomplete in the sub-continent which, with the passage of time, were further complicated.

Dr Pervaiz stated that in the second phase, from 1972 to 2004, although there were no major wars between the two states but there had been many loaded crises such as Exercise Brasstacks held in 1986-87, intense freedom struggle by Kashmiris in 1990s, the 1999 Kargil war and the troops deployment in 2001-02.

He noted that in the third phase, from 2004 to 2014, the war on terror started, 12th SAARC Summit was held successfully and

the peace process was initiated. Dr Cheema identified some supporting factors for the peace process. Both the states had probably realized that being nuclear powers, the military approach would not yield the desired dividends. Major powers had intensified their efforts for peace between the two nuclear rivals and the people on both sides were also favouring the initiation of the peace process. He said that although in the initial years of the peace process, progress was made in some areas, namely people to people contacts, trade, and the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), but since there was always an element of mistrust between the two, it often hampered the peace process. Dr Cheema also pinpointed some factors for the existing mistrust. These factors are; historical legacy between the two; different security policies and approaches of the two states; different domestic compulsions; and the negative images and perceptions of each other.

Dr Cheema was of the view that in bilateral negotiations, Indians had always applied delaying techniques very well as they recognised the weakness in their stance on Kashmir dispute and the Indian military exerted tremendous amount of influence invisibly in the policy formulation in India.

Dr Cheema noted that building India against China would not serve the US interest in the long run as Indians would squeeze everything whatever they could and give almost nothing in return to the US. He,



however, noted that India's partnership with the US and western countries will enable it to acquire modern weapons and missile and nuclear technologies from them which will tilt the conventional and strategic military balance in favour of India. This is likely to become a reason for initiation of an arms race in South Asia.

Dr Cheema said that over the years, Pakistan and India have been behaving realistically recognizing the fact that only reconciliation would benefit both. He concluded his lecture by suggesting that the first thing Pakistan must do is the revival of its economy and making peace within as the internal cohesion and economic power have direct linkage with defence capabilities of any nation which in turn also favourably influences behavior of the rival country in bilateral talks.

March Schedule

- Guest Lectures
“Structural Weaknesses of Pakistan’s Economy”
 March 11
“US Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Impact on Pakistan and the Region”
 March 13
- One-day Conference
“Pakistan-China Friendship: Taking it to New Heights”
 March 26
- IPRI Review Meetings
“Pakistan’s Foreign Policy Issues vis a vis Real Politik”
 March 4
“Educational Policies of Pakistan after 18th Amendment: Prospects and Challenges”
 March 31

5th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC Countries

Continued from p. 1

Religious bodies, media, civil society organizations, regional and global international organizations and states should play an important role in promoting fundamental freedoms, rule of law, human rights, cooperation, understanding, dialogue, tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity.

In the OIC countries women need empowerment and education to enhance their contribution to prevent conflicts. What OIC countries need is “women diplomacy”, that is much larger participation of women in the conventional official diplomacy and in the track two diplomacy.

OIC countries should establish sectoral diplomacy channels especially in defense and security matters and ensure sectoral and financial deepening on the basis of interdependence.

OIC countries should review their present

structures and should reorganize state institutions to adapt to the globally changing nature of states, observing the balance between power and justice.

In order to pursue common goals and provide domestic peace through competition and rapid development, OIC countries should promote specific vision projects for each member.

OIC member states should perform political reforms to rotate power in a peaceful democratic framework.

It has been decided that this declaration should be submitted to the high attention of the Secretary General of the UN and the Secretary General of the OIC, and to the state managements in the OIC countries.

Finally, the participants noted with appreciation that the 6th Think Tanks Forum of the OIC countries will be held in 2015 at Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, which will be hosted by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).