

IPRI Scholars' External Publications

Khalid Chandio
Research Fellow
"Protracting US-Iran Standoff"
Daily Times

Muhammad Nawaz Khan
Research Officer
"New Trajectory"
Daily Times

Khurram Abbas
Research Officer
"Think Globally and Act Locally"
The Nation
"BJP's Castle in the Air"
Express Tribune
"The Politics of Seizing Oil Tankers"
Express Tribune

Amna Ejaz Rafi
Assistant Research Officer
"India, the Attention Seeker"
Express Tribune

Gulshan Bibi
Assistant Research Officer
"Prisoners of Paradise"
The Nation
"Heaven Beyond the Golden Lotus"
Daily Times

Adeel Mukhtar
Assistant Research Officer
"Dose of Humility"
Daily Times
"Kashmir 2.0 and Options for Pakistan"
Daily Times

Waleed Yawer
Assistant Research Officer
"The Evolving Nature of US and British Leadership"
Daily Times

Usama Nizamani
Consultant
"Flood of Crisis: Beginning of a Long End"
The Nation
"Realpolitik of Liberalism: Test of Liberal Europe"
The Nation

Zeeshan Javed
Consultant
"The Conundrum of Afghanistan"
The Nation
"India's Self-sabotaging Designs for Regional Peace"
Daily Times

**Institutional Visit:
Maritime Study Forum**

On 7 August 2019, the Islamabad Policy Research Institute hosted participants of the Maritime Summer School - a five-day course initiated by the Maritime Study Forum (MSF) for students, academicians and young policymakers from across the country. The participants gave presentations as part of a simulation aimed at holistically analysing Pakistan's maritime industry and offering policy guidelines to help develop it. President of IPRI **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique**, President of MSF **Dr Syed Mohammed Anwer** and MSF Board Member **Dr Aneel Salman** set the stage for the presentations.



The interplay of power in the Indian Ocean is ne plus ultra that Maritime Affairs have overtaken land-based dynamics in the struggle for regional influence.

The discussions outlined that the focus of geopolitics has transitioned from Europe to the Asia Pacific region. Concurrently with this shift, maritime affairs have displaced land-based intergovernmental diplomacy.

The interactive session highlighted the importance of shipping and aquaculture sectors for ensuring success of Pakistan's blue economic growth:

- The budget for maritime development needs to be increased.
- Private entities should be provided with a favourable environment for investment to encourage domestic shipbuilding and the utilisation of the Karachi shipyard which has been dormant for a significant period. Given its potential to boost domestic ship making, its upgradation to a functioning shipyard can help Pakistan significantly develop the sector.
- The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation's monopoly has resulted in decreased competition in the shipping industry. Allowing the private sector to invest will increase projects, enhance research and analysis and raise industry standards for maritime development.
- Extensive research needs to be done about the possible limitations and prospects of AI and smart shipping for improving efficiency, reliability and safety.

It was pointed out that the Indian Ocean (IO) is prone to conflicts given lack of formal security mechanisms. Foreign major powers exercise their influence in the Ocean since it is home to various trade and energy routes. Despite the volume of trade passing through IO, conflicts have not been deterred effectively. Participants discussed how India's claims over IO, disregarding all other littoral states, are misdirected and short-sighted.



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**Media Workshop:
Strategic Importance of Maritime Affairs for Pakistan and the Role of Media**



On 28 August 2019, the Islamabad Policy Research Institute organised its second Media Workshop of the year on **Strategic Importance of Maritime Affairs for Pakistan and the Role of Media**. The workshop, attended by students of media communications, journalists and reporters from all major news and print agencies, concluded that **achieving sea-based deterrence, developing blue economy and creating maritime awareness through the media is vital for Pakistan**.

President of IPRI, **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique**, in his Welcome Address, emphasised the importance of understanding maritime affairs for Pakistan and the role of media in creating sea awareness. He said that it is imperative for nations to utilise their maritime resources for economic development which ultimately fortifies defensive capabilities. Vice Admiral Saddique remarked that Pakistan's sea resources, if strategically, used can provide seamless connectivity and commerce with the rest of the world, and strengthen the country's economy. He further said that Pakistan is gifted with a geostrategic position which offers opportunities to have a key role in trade and oil routes across the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan's coastline needs to be developed if the country wants to undergo an economic renaissance.

Renowned academician **Prof. Dr Muhammad Ali**, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, in his Inaugural Address, called for efficient use of ocean resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods, especially of fishing communities and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

When 80 per cent of the global trade is carried via sea routes and aquaculture is the fastest growing food sector, Pakistan can harness this potential and move towards becoming a blue economy.

In the working session of the media workshop, **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Syed Khawar Ali, HI (M)**, Director General, National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Bahria University discussed contemporary maritime dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and Pakistan's preparedness. He shared that seas are major lines of communication, and hence, nations must be able to subordinate their individual political agendas for the common good. Vice Admiral Ali pointed out



that, unfortunately, the sea had become an arena for competition between states, characterised by naval build-ups and military competition to influence others. Strategic debate in modern international politics is now focused on maritime issues like the

US pivot to Asia and emergence of China as a naval power, he remarked.

Epicentre of Indo-Pakistan nuclear rivalry is slowly drifting outward from the sub-continental landmass into the Indian Ocean. Nuclearisation of Indian Ocean does not bode well for the peace and stability of this vital region.

Dr Salma Malik from Quaid-i-Azam University gave a presentation on 'Pakistan's Maritime Imperatives -

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Strategic Importance of Maritime Affairs for Pakistan and the Role of Media



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Awareness & Media', and pointed out that with the expansion of the Exclusive Economic Zone to 350 nautical miles, effective investment in the EEZ can easily double the size of Pakistan's economy. Offering an overview of coastal security challenges, Dr Malik opined that Pakistan is a destination and transit country for both migrant smuggling and human

trafficking. In this regard, under Regional Maritime Security Patrol, Pakistan Navy is operating against pirates and terrorism at many choke points around the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz, she shared. While giving her recommendations,

Dr Malik strongly urged the media to focus more attention on the resource-rich Sir Creek marshlands dispute between Pakistan and India.

Sir Creek has important security dimensions since it is linked to demarcation of the maritime boundary between Pakistan and India in the Arabian Sea.

Discussing nuclearisation of Indian Ocean and concerns for Pakistan, **Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal** from Quaid-i-Azam University highlighted that deployment of the Arihant in the Indian Ocean was alarming for Pakistan because the vessel can remain underwater, virtually undetected, for months at a time. Moreover, India's sea-based missiles have augmented the strike capability of the Indian Navy. Dr Jaspal warned that the Indo-US strategic relationship

had increased asymmetry in the balance of power between India and Pakistan, and lowered the nuclear threshold between the two neighbours and in the IOR.

Pakistan's navy cannot ignore India's blue water naval build-up, especially its nuclear weapons. It is important to invest in the development of Pakistan's sea-based nuclear weapons capable of providing second-strike capability.

Concluding the media workshop, **Dr Azhar Ahmad**, Head of Department, Humanities & Social Sciences, Bahria University stressed that media not only influences perceptions, but also influences decisions and policy-making. Such an important tool should be used with caution and prudence. In order to do this, the media needs to understand all aspects of the issues they cover. Sea

blindness is a global concern, one which the media in Pakistan needs to highlight more, he concluded.



Practical Recommendations

The workshop was followed by an interactive Q/A session between the media participants and speakers. The following practical recommendations were made:

- Given lack of understanding and coverage of maritime issues, Pakistani media needs to be galvanized and trained to project the maritime potential of the country. In this regard, universities should offer specialised Maritime Journalism courses.
- Celebrating Maritime Day once a year is important, however, country-wide exposure through travelling seminars and study tours for media personnel to various ports is vital.
- Media houses should allocate more airtime to coastal communities and maritime issues such as shipping, aquaculture, maritime assistance, disaster relief efforts and coastal conservation.
- Acknowledging remarkable maritime-related security work will deepen understanding about the capabilities of Pakistan's naval forces. Naval/maritime PR offices, should therefore, become more proactive in projecting the Navy's work, such as AMAN exercises and celebrating Naval heroes.

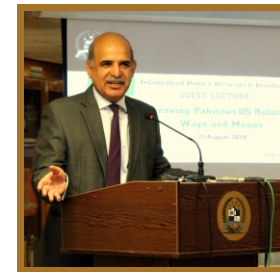
Guest Lecture: Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means



Pakistan should not seek a strategic relationship with the US. Instead, we should aspire for a Working Relationship, which is cordial and dynamic, and does not curtail our sovereignty and national interest.

IPRI organised a Guest Lecture by **Ambassador Riaz Khokhar** on 21 August 2019. Ambassador Khokhar has been Pakistan's envoy to Dhaka, New Delhi, Washington, D.C. and Beijing before becoming Foreign Secretary in 2002. The lecture on **'Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means'** explored Pakistan's relationship with the US, in light of the former's ties with China and the latter's with India. The Ambassador also discussed Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with US President Donald Trump and the situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

In his Welcome Address to the eminent speaker, diplomats, senior academics, students and media channels, President of IPRI **Ambassador Vice Admiral Khan Hasham bin Saddique** provided a brief historical overview of Pak-US relations and said that despite multiple centres of power emerging around the globe, the US remains a preeminent power given its economic, technological and military muscle.



Unfortunately, our relationship with the US has historically suffered due to lack of trust on both sides and one word which best describes this relationship is transactional.

Vice Admiral Saddique highlighted the consultative role being played by Pakistan to facilitate the US in bringing a peaceful solution in Afghanistan. He was of the view that both sides recognise that despite some policy divergences and challenges to their bilateral ties, working together will accrue mutual benefits, whereas, antagonism will serve neither party.

Ambassador Riaz Khokhar opined that neither side can easily brush this relationship aside in spite of President Trump's choice of hard words at times, and vacillating approach towards Pakistan.

He shared that Pakistan's relationship with the US cannot be analysed in isolation since the international order is in flux, with China rising phenomenally, Russia re-asserting itself, and the Middle East in extreme turmoil.

Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US, followed by Russia, North Korea and Iran. Pakistan has historic relations with China that go as far back as the 1950s. This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine.

On the issue of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the US, Ambassador Khokhar strongly held the view that while both leaders 'clicked' and had chemistry, the US' main interest remains Afghanistan. He pointed out that India was also an important actor influencing Pak-US dynamics. The US expects India to be a partner in the containment of China. In this regard, Pakistan's overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative may also be problematic for Washington. Western countries have a soft corner for Delhi. That is why India is painted as a responsible nuclear power, he said.



Discussing the rising tensions in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the Ambassador remarked that mild US statements on Indian atrocities were indicative of where their sympathies lie.

War is neither an option for India nor for Pakistan, both have nuclear capabilities. We should engage with India but not beg for dialogue.

Future Dynamics

- The US is a superpower and the only way forward is to have sustained diplomatic dialogue, and to collaborate in areas where there is convergence such as trade, energy, transport, technology and education.
- While Washington realises that there is no military solution to the Afghan tangle, Pakistan does not have overwhelming influence over the Taliban nor over the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes. It would not be in Pakistan's interest to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a any future political settlement agreement.