



Islamabad Policy
Research Institute

IPRI-SAM ONE-DAY SEMINAR



Current Geopolitical Trends in the Region and Prospects for Deeper Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan



Date: November 22, 2018

Venue: IPRI Conference Hall, Islamabad

***“The aim of the seminar is to understand
the Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations in
their broader perspective and the
effects of regional geopolitics upon
the national security of both countries”***

Concept Note

Pakistan and Azerbaijan share amiable relations characterized by unique political nature that have transcended geographical boundaries and distance. Both the countries share commonalities on religious and historical grounds. They observe homogeneous approach of like-minded ideals important for the regional connectivity and integration. They maintain that all the regional and global disputes should be settled by peaceful means and dialogue under the system of International Law.

What drives the two states closer is the complete belief in promoting peaceful neighbourhood for development, in the face of regional belligerence and hostility. Therefore, both the states have similarity of perceptions on various regional and global issues like resolving the territorial disputes of Indian held Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh through the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

This shows the uniqueness of their relations, which resides in the strong support that both states extend to each other on matters of shared interests. Pakistan supports Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories. It neither till date recognizes Armenia nor has established any kind of diplomatic relations. Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stance on Indian held Kashmir at regional and global levels.

Leaderships in Islamabad and Baku uphold that the international principles of sovereignty and right to self-determination must be guaranteed in these disputed territories.

Pakistan was the second country, which recognized independence of Azerbaijan in 1991. Since then, both the states enjoy cordial relations in the realms of economics, diplomacy, culture, technology and defence. Consequently, they reckon each other as strategic partners. The absence of geographical contiguity between the two states has been a hurdle, yet they aim at offsetting this territorial impediment by enhancing the mutual partnership in areas of joint cooperation.

By boosting bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, the existing potential can be directed at crafting positive transformation in regional geopolitics. The rapidly shifting geopolitics and the new regional developments project significant influence over the prevailing security arrangements of West and South Asia.

Particularly, these involve phenomenal shifts kicked off by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the indefinite presence of the US forces in Afghanistan, expanding pockets of ISIL in Afghanistan, the Indo-US strategic alliance, US countering Chinese and Russian influence by its presence in the region and the instability being perpetuated in Pakistan by the hostile agencies (RAW and NDS).

Resultantly, most of the regional countries are revisiting their policies focusing on a greater regional approach. The regional strategic imbalances encourage Islamabad and Baku to move closer to each other to mutually address the challenges of regional geopolitics.

In this regards, recently, the most important development took place when Islamabad, Baku and Ankara moved to establish tri-nation defence industrial cooperation in spheres ranging from military, technical, science, research and defence production that could further boost Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations.

Pakistan's leadership is fully cognizant of the significance of its relations with Azerbaijan, especially with reference to possibilities offered by China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which holds significance in terms of initiating new trade businesses between them. Through the North-South Transport Corridor, Azerbaijan could be directly connected with Russia, Iran, Pakistan and China.

To understand the Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations in their broader perspective and the effects of regional geopolitics upon the national security of both countries, the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) is organizing a Seminar on **“Current Geopolitical Trends in the Region and Prospects for Deeper Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan”** at IPRI Hall, Islamabad on **November 22, 2018**. Eminent scholars from Pakistan and Azerbaijan will address the forum, sharing their knowledge and expertise in devising meaningful policy recommendations.

Welcome Address

Brig. (R) Muhammad Mahboob Qadir, *Acting President, IPRI*



Brig. (R) Muhammad Mahboob Qadir has an academic background with MSc in Defense and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University. He has extensive experience in International Relations, particularly in matters related to United Nations. He regularly contributes articles in national and international dailies and magazines.

Keynote Address

Dr. Cavid Veliyev, *Head of Foreign Policy Analysis Department SAM, Azerbaijan*



After graduating from Egean University (Faculty of International Communication) in 2002, Dr. Veliyev completed his Masters Degree at University of Gazi and his Doctorate at University (Faculty of International Relations) of Ankara. His academic studies mainly concentrate on South Caucasus politics in particular; Azerbaijan and Turkish foreign policy. Presently, Dr. Cavid Veliyev is the head of Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he has worked since 2009. During 2005-2009, he served as head of the South Caucasus Department at the National Security Strategic Research Center (TUSAM) in Turkey. He is contributing analyst for the National Interest, Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor, Hurriyeta dailynews, and has previous editorial experience in Azerbaijan and Turkey. He has co-edited the books: *South Caucasus Energy, Geopolitics, Rivalry and Territorial Integrity* and *Main Directions of Azerbaijan Foreign Policy*.

Session Chair

Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen, *Advisor, COMSATS*



As the first female Pakistani career diplomat after women were permitted to join the ranks in 1973, Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen was posted to embassies around the world, including in Iran, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Italy. She rose to become Ambassador to Nepal, Poland, and the Czech Republic, and High Commissioner to Australia and Fiji. She also served as Director General of the Foreign Service Academy.

Ambassador Nasreen's academic grounding is in Defence and Strategic Studies. Since her retirement from the diplomatic service, she has taught as visiting faculty at various universities of Pakistan. She was a visiting fellow at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University. She is associated with PAIMAN, a Pakistani trust dealing with peace and security issues. Presently, Ambassador Nasreen serves as advisor to Sustainable Development Goals under Commission on Science and Technology in the South COMSATS. Among her decorations is the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, which she was awarded by the government of Poland.

Abstracts

Mr. Fuad Chiragov, *Research Fellow, SAM, Azerbaijan*



The world we live in has entered the state of turbulence and unpredictability in the recent decade. There are a number of reasons and explanations of these developments. We are entering the new area when the geopolitical epicenter, economics, and international politics are shifting to Asia from the West. It looks like these tectonic shifts in the geopolitics will not be a

smooth transition and will accompany with confrontations, conflicts, and rivalry of great powers. Azerbaijan and Pakistan should be more interested in outcomes, threats, and challenges of these developments rather than causes of the negative trends since we are not drivers and causes of these developments. The tension and confrontation in the world, especially in our region, are becoming more explosive and dangerous that makes us think about all possible scenarios, as well as the areas and ways to mitigate the possible negative outcomes for our countries and people of the region. Therefore, the countries in our region that culturally, historically are bound that have common values and background should seek more cooperation, peace and sustainable development-oriented policies.

The sincere relations, similar vision to the international issues and very positive synergy between our countries since the independence of Azerbaijan are the very good foundation for cooperation, peace, stability, and security broader region from which not only people of our countries but also all people in the region might benefit.

Dr. Nazir Hussain, *Director, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad*



The inter-regional scope is going through a gradual change as new perspectives and realities emerge. In this changing environment, there is growing regional connectivity especially between South Asia and Central Asia. Because of the Chinese initiative of OBOR, Pakistan has an important part to play in this regional inter-connection. Pakistan always had cordial ties with the Central Asian Republics largely due to shared value systems. Pakistan has extending its hand towards the CARs in terms of economic, strategic and political cooperation. Now with CPEC on the rise and newly developing geopolitical realities, there is scope for much more interaction. With China emerging as a prominent stakeholder in economic and security fabric of Asia, there is a change of pace for geo-economics. There is a growing need for security and strategic cooperation between major states of the region as the global discourse as well as the regional configuration is going through a change. Another way via which the regional dynamics are undergoing a systemic change is the energy and pipeline politics, which is now more of a reality. Pakistan and Azerbaijan share a distinctive bond with each other. Both states have more than 25 years of bilateral relations and the two sides are collaborating with each other in economy, strategy and defence. Therefore, in the changing geopolitical milieu, Pakistan and Azerbaijan need to further strengthen their ties and forge sustainable relations with each other as there is great potential for the two states for the common benefit for each other.

Mr. Mahir Hambatov, *Research Fellow, SAM, Azerbaijan*



After centuries of neglect, the transport corridors connecting Asia and Europe are on the brink of a rebirth. There are different initiatives to set routes via land connections with TIRs, railways, pipelines, air connection with air routes, sea connections with maritime ways. Each of the initiatives has advantages and disadvantages for either transporters or hosting countries or investors.

That is why there is fierce competition among the major players for control in shaping the Asia-Europe transport corridors. Therefore, various types of Silk Road initiatives have been made by different global powers. As a result, a considerable amount of infrastructure projects has been started around the world. Some of these projects have been funded by the hosting country's own funds, but some others by an external debt received either from international financial institutions or a foreign state. However, in spite of this competition, there are also new and exciting possibilities for cooperation among the various players. Azerbaijan is more on the side of cooperation rather than the competition when it comes to the revival of old Silk Road channels. It has invested huge amounts into its infrastructural development. It has also assisted neighbouring countries to develop their logistics and transit potential. The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project, newly developed Baku International Sea Trade Port, renovated and reconstructed GYD airport, advancement of Caspian shipping, new legislation, presidential orders and other relevant hard and soft infrastructural developments will be assessed in this context. Besides, Azerbaijan's collaboration with its neighbouring countries as well as its allies will be one of the main themes of the topic.

Dr. Fazal-ur-Rahman, *Director, Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha*



The CPEC and the ECO have undoubtedly a huge potential for creating direct or multimodal transport connectivity, which could enhance regional economic integration in a globalized environment. Pakistan has always been supportive of connectivity related initiatives for achieving regional cooperation be it ECO or CPEC. Similarly, the completion of KKH in 1979 and later signing of a 'Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement' in 1995 involving China, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan show the interest of regional states in getting connected. Moreover, the overlapping membership of states in multilateral cooperative frameworks such as ECO, SAARC, SCO, as well as CPEC will certainly promote connectivity, economic integration and development. With the launch of BRI, and CPEC, the prospects of creating a web of multifaceted connectivity has become real. However, peace and stability is a precondition for successful implementation of regional connectivity related initiatives.

Programme

1000-1030 hrs	Arrival of Guests/Registration
1030-1035 hrs	Recitation from the <i>Holy Quran</i>
Inaugural Session	
1035-1040 hrs	Welcome Address Brig (R) Muhammad Mahboob Qadir <i>Acting President, IPRI</i>
1040-1050 hrs	Keynote Address Dr. Cavid Veliyev, <i>Head of Foreign Policy Analysis Department, SAM, Azerbaijan</i>
	Presentation of Memento

Working Session	Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations
Presentation 1	Common Threats and Challenges to the National Securities of Azerbaijan and Pakistan under Current Geopolitical Trends
1050-1105	Mr. Fuad Chiragov, <i>Research Fellow SAM, Azerbaijan</i>
Presentation 2	Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations under changing Geopolitical Realities (Pakistani Perspective)
1105-1120 hrs	Dr. Nazir Hussain, <i>Director, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad</i>
Presentation 3	Azerbaijan as a Transit Country: Infrastructure and Logistics
1120-1135 hrs	Mr. Mahir Hambatov, <i>Research Fellow, SAM Azerbaijan</i>
Presentation 4	CPEC and ECO: Partners towards Regional Connectivity and Prosperity
1135-1150 hrs	Dr. Fazal-ur-Rahman, <i>Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha</i>
1150-1250 hrs	Q/A and Discussion

1250-1300 hrs	Remarks by the Chair <i>Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen, COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad</i>
	Presentation of Mementos
1300 hrs	Refreshments

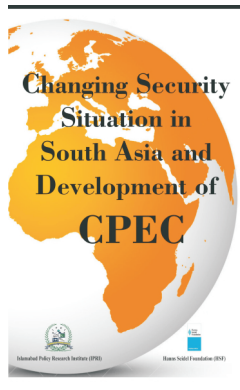
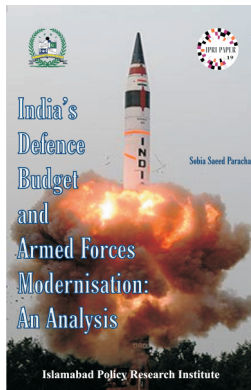
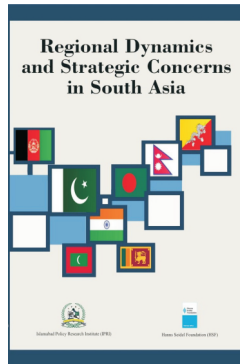
Notes

IPRI PUBLICATIONS



Management of Pakistan-India Relations: *Resolution of Disputes*

Islamabad Policy Research Institute



ABOUT IPRI

Being one of Pakistan's leading independent policy research organisations, IPRI has a broad-based yet holistic mandate. The Institute not only conducts multidisciplinary research, it also promotes civil society-government interactions and policy dialogues through national, regional and international conferences, which enhance the country's research capacity and environment by facilitating issue-centric discourse. It disseminates its findings and policy recommendations through its publications (peer-reviewed journals, books and monographs). In order to foster goodwill and North-South and South-South communication of cultures and ideas, IPRI also supports academic exchange programmes between regional and international researchers and think tanks.

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