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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



Dealing with Climate Change

I write this on the first day of the two-week long conference on climate change that began work in Paris on November 30 and will be in session for two weeks. As the United States Secretary of State John Kerry wrote in an article for the *Financial Times* published a month before the Paris parleys began, “a strong Paris deal would transform the global energy economy and help avert the worst effects of climate change. Success would reflect a new level of partnership: government leaders from every region, working constructively alongside the private sector and civil society to address an enormous challenge that no one could solve alone. Success in Paris is not a given”¹

The approach being followed in Paris is different from the one that was adopted at Kyoto by those who managed that meeting in 1992. They worked out the targets the nations attending were required to adopt. The protocol reflected commitments from only small subset of nations. Even the United States that had taken the lead in negotiating the agreement failed to ratify it. Vice President Al Gore in the administration headed by President Bill Clinton was one of the more active participants in Kyoto. However, Clinton was succeeded by George W. Bush who, like most of those in the Republican Party, was not a believer in global warming.

For Paris, the United Nations managing the meeting has opted a bottom-up approach. Governments around the globe were required to submit their “nationally determined greenhouse gas reductions plans” with an indication of the actions they will take to meet them.

Coal is the main culprit for producing carbon accumulation in the upper atmosphere. Two-third of the total coal production comes from only three countries: China, the United States and India. The same three account for 71 percent of the total coal consumed in the world. By the time, the Paris meeting began 150 countries representing about 85 percent of the world’s total emissions had submitted their contributions to global reduction. The United States and China came in with impressive commitments.

Meeting in Beijing in the summer of 2014 Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping agreed to commit their countries to ambitious carbon reduction plans. The US target is to reduce carbon emissions by 2025 to 26 to 28 percent lower than they were in 20 years earlier. China pledged to have the carbon emissions begin to decline by 2030.

At the previous global climate meetings, main opposition to an international agreement had come from China with some support given by India and other major developing nations. This time around India was the main holdout. Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister outlined his country’s position, also using the *Financial Times* to put across his case.

Publications



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In an article that appeared on November 30, the day the Paris parleys began he wrote: "I hope that the climate conference that begins today will produce an agreement that restores the balance between ecology and economy – between our inheritance and our obligation to the future."² The balance the Indian leader sought was for the countries such as his to grow their economies at a pace sufficient to take care of the poor with some but not a great deal of attention given to environment. The reference to inheritance was to the unconstrained burning of coal by the developed world when it was also emphasizing growth. Developing countries should not be required to make sacrifices at the mid-point of their development cycle.

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH



I write this month's message keeping in mind the tragic events which unfolded in France, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Nigeria and Pakistan, to name a few . It is heart

wrenching to see how precious lives are being lost and innocent civilians being killed as a result of hate speeches promoting extremism and intolerance. Freedom of speech being stretched beyond reasonable limits to hurt and insult others thus creating a vicious cycle of violent retaliations.

EXPANDING REGIONAL LINKAGES IN SOUTH ASIA – FROM THE THINK-TANK WING

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) in collaboration with the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) Singapore have teamed up to organize a series of workshops in the South Asia region beginning with one in Lahore in the first half of March 2016. The idea is to deliberate upon major challenges and issues of vital significance confronting this region in the wake of emerging extra-ordinary changes in the world political and economic order.

A two person team from ISAS comprising Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and currently associated with ISAS and Ms. Chandrani Sarma, Research Assistant visited BIPP Lahore 14-18 November to, *inter alia*, discuss the format

While India is a large producer and consumer of coal, Pakistan, also with large reserves, relies very little on this particular fuel for producing power. That may change as China comes in with large investments in coal-fired power plants. Islamabad should part company with India by indicating that it will allow only those investments which will not unreasonably pollute the atmosphere.

¹ John Kerry, "Humanity's climate hopes cannot rest on Paris alone," Financial Times, December 30, 2015, p. 9

²Narendra Modi, "Do not let the lifestyles of the rich world deny the dreams of the rest," Financial Times, November 30, 2015, p. 13.

Shahid Javed Burki

The only way to prevent such catastrophic events is through compassion, courage and tolerance. Compassion towards others in need of our help, courage to come out of our comfort zones to help and tolerance towards others' opinions and beliefs. We see suffering all around us in the form of poverty, hunger and sickness which breed anger and frustration. A global resolve to rid the world of inequality will eventually lead to tolerance and peace.

Nasreen Kasuri

the major thematic areas of discussion for the Lahore event. It was agreed that in all ten papers, 5 each by BIPP and ISAS, covering the following themes will be prepared and presented: *A rapidly changing world, Globalization and its impact on South Asia, Trade as a contributor to South Asian economic integration, South Asian urbanization, South Asia's frozen conflicts, Institutions for resolving conflicts, Religious fundamentalism in South Asia, Technology for Development, Coal and climate change, water management issues in South Asia.*

A follow-up workshop will be held in Dacca toward end 2016 to be succeeded by similar events during 2017 in Colombo and Kathmandu and New Delhi. The immense amount of analytical work and prescriptive choices presented in these

workshops will hopefully find expression in the country specific policies as also facilitate a collective regional response to the emerging global challenges.

THE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY WING

(i) MOU WITH PUU:

The Vice Chairman Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol BIPP), Mr Shahid Najam and the Chief Executive Officer, the Urban Sector Planning and Management Services (Pvt) Ltd (PUU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26 November 2015 at PUU Head Office, Lahore. The MoU will serve as a *framework of cooperation* between the two institutions with focus on: urban public policy; institutional strengthening; peri-urban and urban planning; delivery of social services in the urban centers; ICT for development; and sustainable human development. The objectives of MoU will be realized through joint research endeavour; knowledge management including generating, sharing and disseminating knowledge products, publications, best practices etc.; and training and learning activities involving joint conduct of the training and internship



programmes in public policy, capacity development etc. Special efforts will be made to develop social services delivery models for replicating and up-scaling in the urban areas with a view to establishing socially cohesive, economically sustainable and empowered urban communities. The two sides are committed to improving the quality of life of the citizens.

(iii) PROGRESS ON THE SMART PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY CHAIN AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES AT GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES

Deployment of TEEMARDAR at DHQ Hospital and the Office of the District Officer, Health Sheikhpura.

Funded by DFID through SNG/DDCF program, the project was signed in June 2015 as milestone initiative in healthcare service delivery. Over the last two quarters of its implementation, the project has picked up the pace and achieved all the envisaged targets as per the quarterly work plans.

First of its kind, inventory management system "Teemardar" has since been deployed at DHQ Hospital as well as in the District Health Officer's office, Sheikhpura. Prior to the installation, the whole process was remodelled to conform to the new regulations

issued by the Punjab Government for medicine procurement for government health facilities. As per the new regulations, each health unit (DHQ/THQ/RHC) procures medicines independently through the central rate contract concluded at the provincial level by the Health Department. Earlier, the procurement function at the District level was performed by EDO Health. Post remodeling of TEEMARDAR system, the scope of the project has expanded substantially to record the distribution of medicines to all BHUs of the district. As such, the entire primary health care sector of the district will now be covered which initially was limited to 2 BHUs only. This has also resulted in the increase of the installed capacity of POS from initial 13 to 18. Hopefully, the additionalities will be covered from within the approved budget through, inter alia, efficiency savings.

The communication and branding strategy is also being implemented vigorously. The Project Director and Assistant Project Directors promoted the project and sensitized the residents of district Sheikhpura about the project objectives through FM radio program and distribution of project briefs.

FROM THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING WING

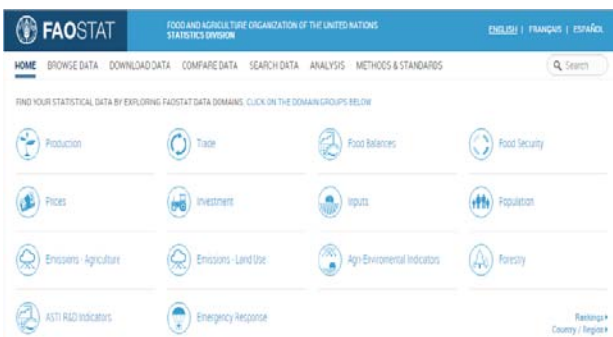
Dr. Mahmood Ahmad Advisor (Research and Coordination) made a presentation to BIPP staff on the use of database as a powerful tool for policy analysis. The criticality of reliable set of data and information cannot be over emphasized. Indeed the quality of decisions or recommended policy choices, inter alia, depend on how well the issue and the arguments justifying the recommended course of action were presented and supported by quantitative and empirical evidence. There is a plethora of databases available and accessible through internet on all areas of BIPP's strategic focus including social, economic, political, sustainable development issues covering the national, regional and global dimensions. Just to demonstrate, for agriculture and water which is the major theme for 2016 BIPP annual report, he demonstrated to the participants how data could be extracted and used for comparative analysis from the FAOSTAT and AQUASTAT databases of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

At the same time, the survey of both control and treatment groups is underway to, among others, identify the research issues for further analysis and possible policy recommendations.



AQUASTAT Search Categories

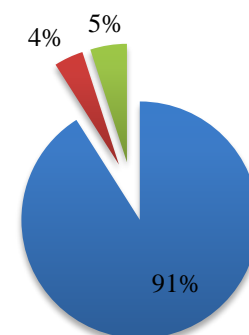
The presentation shed further light on ways to display information to accurately compare it among countries, sub-sectors and services. The AQUASTAT database is similar but sector specific to water. It includes detailed information on irrigation, water use, wastage and dams only to mention a few.



FAOSTAT Search Categories

A Figure from the Database

■ Agriculture ■ Industry ■ Domestic Use



FROM THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT WING

Launch of BIPP's 8th Annual Report: "The State of the Economy: Technology and Development"

BIPP launched its eighth annual report entitled "The State of the Economy: Technology and Development" on Monday 16th November 2015 in Lahore. Eminent individuals from the federal and provincial governments, international institutions, academia, civil society organizations and donor agencies attended the event. Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, former Minister for Foreign Affairs Pakistan was the Chief Guest while Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh presided over the ceremony.

The report presented objective analyses of the state of the economy during the first two and a half years of the term of the present government. It spells out the critical challenges that need to be addressed to achieve the desired level of economic growth of 6-7 per cent per annum on a sustainable basis.

The report urged the government to focus, without losing the strategic perspective, on a number of priority areas that are hindering the development of economy. A robust long-term strategy can be developed once these problems have begun to be addressed. More specifically, in addition to the government's priority areas of "3Es" i.e., the revival of the *economy*, overcoming serious *energy* shortages and address the problems created by the emergence of *extremism*, the report underscores the need to add some more "Es" to the administration's initial list: *education*, *environment*, *external relations* and *exports*.

While noting some improvements in the macro-economic indicators, the report pointed out serious weaknesses in the economy in the key economic fundamentals – savings and investment, exports, governance and level of human



On the prescriptive part, the report recommends establishment of a high level representative commission to develop a 10 years export plan; formulation of a comprehensive energy policy including Gas with priority development of hydel resources; increasing public spending on education, reversing the almost steady decline in the quality of public education by devolving authority to local governments, tightening accountability mechanism, mobilizing and encouraging high performing civil society and private non-profit educational institutions to expand and lead especially in the new areas of vocational training and adult literacy; addressing the etiology and root causes of terrorism through inter alia inclusive political and economic development.

Regarding the major theme "Technology and Development", the report highlighted the ICT importance and its phenomenal potential in spurring socio-economic growth, inclusive development and improved governance and productivity. Through case study, some ICT driven initiatives and ICT based integrated development models have been suggested to improve the governance and delivery of social services at local level.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY BIPP AND OUR PARTNER INSTITUTES

- 8th Annual Report: The State of the Economy: Technology and Development
- Adapting to Climate Change and Ensuring Food Security
- Water Crisis in Karachi: Old Issues Needing a New Look
- Islam in Europe
- Peshawar and Paris: response to terrorism
- Eurasia: a new political entity
- Aspirations of the Pakistani youth
- Educating the Pakistani adult
- India under extremist threat
- What Nawaz should tell Obama

UPCOMING EVENTS

(i) Launch Teemaardar: The software "Teemaardar" will be launched and operationalized in Sheikhpura during the third week of December 2015 under the BIPP/PSAS SMART Health project to ensure better governance and management of delivery of health services, assured access and availability of medicines in the selected government health facilities, and, eliminate corruption, wastage and pilferage.

(ii) BIPP - ISAS Joint Workshop: The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol in collaboration with the Institute of South Asian Studies of National University Singapore is convening a workshop on " Expanding Regional Linkages in South Asia" in Lahore from 7 to 9 March 2016 to examine and discuss the economic, social, political impediments currently rooted in South Asia that stand in the way of for adequately responding to global change. For details, please contact Mr. Muhammad Imran, Research Fellow. BIPP at:



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Policy for Present, Gains for Posterity,
Reducing Deficit, Producing Results

Mission Statement

IPP's mission is to improve welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive growth, socio-economic stability and sustainable development, besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration.

Partners

