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NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the Vice Chairman

Launch of BIPP's 9th Annual Report

The State of the Economy: Agriculture and Water"

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) launched its ninth annual report titled "The State of the Economy: Agriculture and Water" on Monday 3rd April, 2017 in Lahore at the Pearl Continental hotel.

The launch ceremony was attended by a large number of people from all walks of life i.e., eminent citizens, senior officials from the federal and provincial governments and representatives of international and donor agencies, academia, civil society organizations and research and knowledge generating institutions.

Among the distinguished participants were Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, Lt. Gen (R) Muhammad Maqbool, Ms. Shaheen Atiq-ur-Rehman, Mr. Yawar Ali, Mr. Hasan Askari, Mr. Shahid Ali, Dr. Mangla of Michigan State University, USA and Mr. Ayub Ghauri of NetSol.

Syed Babar Ali, Pakistan's leading businessman, philanthropist and former Finance Minister graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Dr. Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh presided over the ceremony.

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Previous Publications



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The ninth report came in two parts. In the first, the authors reviewed the state of the Pakistani economy; in the second, they dwelt on the potential role of agriculture sector and water in putting the economy on a high growth trajectory. The report argued that the Pakistani economy might be turning the corner and approaching a sustainable rate of growth which has already been attained by high-performing economies of the Asian continent. However, policymakers in the country need to focus on agriculture to speed up the pace of growth and social transformation. Unfortunately, the policymaking regimes in Pakistan have not given the needed attention to this resource.

The report also brought out the successes, weaknesses and growing challenges which the sector faces and highlighted the key policy concerns

Message of the Month

Promoting Agricultural Exports



The last fiscal year witnessed a substantial decline of 27% in agricultural exports. While too much should not be

read into one year's performance, this trend is indicative of the structural issue faced by exports over a longer period. The reasons for the poor performance of exports include weak external demand, lost textile share to new competitors in international markets, lack of value-addition, unfavorable terms of trade for exports and appreciation of the real exchange rate (by 20% in recent years).

including productivity and pricing issues, need for a robust seed policy, weaknesses in the horticulture marketing, low yields in livestock sector and importance of setting quality standards, stagnation of agricultural exports etc., and proposes specific policy reforms for consideration by the government. The report also suggested innovative model for increasing agricultural productivity based on value chain and underscored the importance of access of farmers to finance; establishment of agriculture infrastructure; capacity building of all the actors and entities involved in agriculture

and access to technology; and institution of a robust market information and intelligence system. In discussing the potential of agriculture, the authors also stressed the importance of judicious and economic use of water in advancing the sector. They emphasized the need to address both supply and demand side issues in the wake of increasing scarcity of this precious resource. A comprehensive water use and pricing policy is absolutely imperative to regulate and govern water and its efficient use not only for agriculture but for all sectors of the economy.

Shahid Najam



Energy shortages did affect exports for a while though improvement in energy supplies did not have much positive impact on exports in 2015-16.

The Ministry of Commerce has developed a Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) that aims to achieve annual exports of US\$ 35 billion by 2015-18 by encouraging transition from a "factor-driven" economy to an "efficiency-innovation-driven" economy. However, the STPF objective can only be achieved if due priority is given to agricultural exports with a focus on:

(a) competitiveness (quality infrastructure, labor productivity, access to utilities, and level of technological development); (b) compliance with standards (convergence of local & international standards, protection of intellectual property, and efficient dispute resolution mechanism); (c) creating conducive policy environment (monetary policy, tariff & tax regime, and synergistic industrial & investment policies), and; (d) ensuring market access (multilateral, regional, and bilateral).

Dr. Mahmood Ahmed

received in the history of Pakistan to lead Pakistan to becoming the 'Asian tiger'. However, since 2007-08, Pakistan is facing hard times to attract FDI which shows a declining trend as is evident by its drop to \$3.72 billion in 2008-09; \$ 1.72 billion in 2009-2010; \$824 million in FY12.

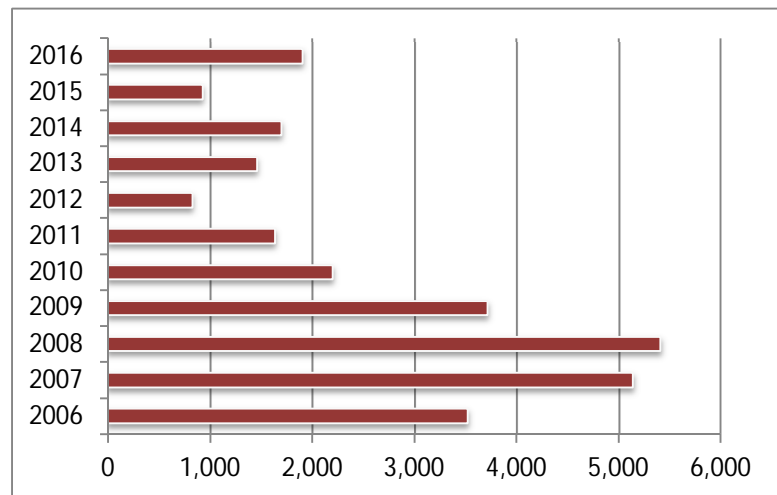
However, these incentives and FDI friendly environment have not fructified as yet. In 2007, Pakistan received more than five billion dollars in FDI, the highest FDI ever

From Research and Consultancy Wing

Foreign Direct Investment: A Major Challenge

As per the World Bank report, Pakistan's economy is the 23rd largest in the world in terms of GDP growth and 26th in terms of purchasing power parity. Pakistan has a significantly dynamic market and a vast purchaser base of more than 200 million people to attract foreign investors. The Government has provided a package of incentives e.g. formation of exclusive economic zones; co-production and joint ventures; 100% foreign equity for foreign investors; repatriation of profits and dividends; attractive concessions and tax exemptions, and one-window operations.

FDI in Pakistan 2006 to 2016



Progress Report of the Smart Health Project "TEEMARDAR"

TEEMARDAR project has entered in its 8th and final quarter. Earlier project was extended to ensure the smooth transition of the project. A final Project Transition plan has been devised and approved by DC Sheikhpura. Project Transition Plan was built to accomplish the two key aspects of project sustainability i.e. amalgamation of project staff into mainstream government health staff & provision for project operational budget for TEEMARDAR. DHO Sheikhpura has initiated the process by forwarding the summary to CEO-DHA for approval after project evaluation. CEO-DHA will evaluate the project and forward it to Secretary Primary & Secondary Healthcare through DC Sheikhpura for further approval.

Before this the TORs for Transition Management Team were approved by DC Sheikhpura. A transition management team

was formed with representation from BIPP & district government Sheikhpura. DC Sheikhpura has nominated Mr. Farhan Rashid- DO planning as his representative & Dr. M. Saeed Sajid as representative of CEO-DHA. The transition management team was notified by SJBIPP. A formal meeting of TMT was held on 24th Feb, 2017 with representation from SNG to discuss and finalize the Transition work plan. The Work Plan was focused on three key areas (1) Absorption of HR in mainstream

government employment, (2) provision of operational expenses for TEEMARDAR by district government (3) Development of PC-1 for Project expansion. After discussion and inputs from district government representatives and SNG, the Transition work plan was finalized and sent to DC Sheikhpura for his approval. DC Sheikhpura has approved the work plan.



From Think Tank Wing Fikr-e-Farid Forum

Mr. Shahid Najam Vice Chairman, accompanied by Dr. Shahzad Qaiser, a Lahore based renowned scholar and writer, visited Southern Punjab on 18-19 March 2017 to participate in the annual convention of the Fikr-e-Farid Forum at Kangan Bangla, Tehsil Yazman, Bahawalpur, deep inside the Cholistan desert. The objective was to gain from the rich and versatile perspectives presented in the Forum by eminent citizens, members of academia, writers and political and religious leaders on various facets of life including spiritual, cultural and mundane, and, to directly acquaint with the prevailing socio-economic and living conditions of people in the rural areas of Southern Punjab. While the intellectual discourse unanimously voiced a pervasive sense of cultural, political and economic alienation and deprivation and governance exclusion, it was encouraging to note that the speakers, at the same time, came up with very convincing and innovative ideas based on the rich social, cultural and spiritual heritage and infrastructure of the area for developing and resuscitating a strong Pakistan narrative. If properly articulated, they averred, it would serve as an effective and potent instrument to solidify the forces of integration and to combat radicalization and extremism in the poverty stricken and disenfranchised people of South Punjab.

The field visits validated the incidence of abject multi-dimensional poverty estimated up to 60% and gross lack of access of the

poor to social services including education, health, water, sanitation and electricity. It is our well-considered opinion that "Rad-ul-Fasad" or "Zarb-e-Azab" alone will not rid the country of the terrorists activities unless and until the use of force is simultaneously complemented by responsive pro-poor and need based and adequately resourced sustainable development programs. Employment opportunities, access to education, water and health facilities for decent living and equally importantly, political and governance empowerment are absolute imperatives to integrate the regionally poor and deprived areas in the mainstream development effort.

However, in the wake of this bleak and gloomy scenario, there appeared a glimmer of hope and promise especially for the poor who were profusely appreciative of the scale and coverage of the outreach and advisory services of the Punjab Livestock and Dairy Development Department.

A surprise visit to their field office near Qila Derawar spoke eloquently of comprehensive, efficient and cost-effective services provided to the herders and cattle owners throughout the length and breadth of Cholistan. The visually pleasing yellow color represented their brand; the well-equipped stations, water camps and mobile units spoke of the restoration of erstwhile dilapidated infrastructure; the highly motivated and competent staff with the ability to work as a team was reflective of the quality of top leadership; and the well formulated work plan with in-built accountability and performance measurement mechanism provided abundant evidence of the operational efficacy and responsiveness of the local apparatus. The paradigm shift with emphasis on prevention rather than cure

has already started paying dividends. People when randomly asked reported up to 200% increase in the milk production within less than a couple of years of targeted interventions. It was extremely pleasing to note that the minority community (Hindu families) were not left behind and were fully partaking the benefits of the PL&DD outreach program. The Department demonstrated unequivocally that given the will and tenacity, focus and discipline and leadership and good governance, a transformative change is very much possible in the provided budget to pursue development with equity, rights- based approach and pro-poor inclusive growth.



From Education and Learning Wing The Burki University of Advanced Science and Technology (BUAST) at the Lahore Knowledge Park

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy in partnership with NetSol Ltd., and Meinhardt Group, Singapore plans to setup a world class university namely University of Advanced Sciences and Technology (BUAST) in affiliation with a top ranked American university – the University of Missouri- Saint Louis (UMSL) - in Pakistan. An affiliation agreement has already been concluded with UMSL to introduce first ever dual degree program in Pakistan with a US university.

The overall aim is to establish an institution of higher learning in Pakistan which could serve as a centre of excellence in technology, social sciences and international business studies on the one hand, and on the other, position Pakistan as a knowledge and education hub in the region. BUAST is committed to not only developing the much-needed human capital

for Pakistan to competitively respond to the development challenges of the 21st century but also to contribute to building the human resource for the region and beyond in an increasingly globalized and inter-connected world.

BUAST value proposition derives from the unique amalgam of global and national dimensions in the field of knowledge and learning; mutually beneficial linkage between the academic institutions and successful business ventures; and amalgam of theory and practice to equip the students with the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for the national, regional and global job market. Globalization, international business development and technology will constitute an integral part of BUAST's academic activities.

BUAST, to start with and as agreed with UMSL, will establish the following schools and faculties: School of Technology and Computer Sciences; School of Arts and Sciences; Institute of Public Policy and Global Leadership; and Institute for international business.

These Schools and Institutes will offer baccalaureate and graduate degrees as well as executive, technical and para-professional skills and programs.

Joint research ventures with UMSL on issues of global, regional and significance and knowledge management will be a regular feature of BUAST mandate. While the executive and short term programs will commence from Sept 2017, the regular degree programs are planned for August 2018. UMSL has already been engaged to share and develop the curricula, assist in the recruitment of the faculty, provide access to their knowledge reservoir, help in implementing the administrative and logistics support function, and, design evaluation/examination system.

South Asia and Global Change

BIPP has initiated, from April 2017, monthly "Internal Speaker Series, 2017" to discuss and analyze issues of key policy significance for sustainable development in Pakistan involving national, regional and global dimensions. To start with, the first seminar on "South Asia and Global Change" was held on 3rd April, 2017 at the BIPP office in Lahore.

Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman, BIPP) chaired the seminar. While Mr. Shahid Javed

Burki (Chairman, BIPP), spoke on "The Rise of Donald Trump and the Likely Emergence of a New Global Order", the guest speakers namely, Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) in the [National University of Singapore](#) and Former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh) dwelt on "Contemporary South Asia and Global Matrix" and Ms. Silvia Tieri (Research Assistant at ISAS) presented a paper on the "Uttar

Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections, 2017" in the context of rising extremism in India.

The discourse mainly focused on the multiplicity of emerging challenges which "globalization" faces in the wake of changing economic and political order and especially the likely setback due

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The South Asia as a region and the countries within need to take cognizance of these changes pro-actively and make necessary policy and institutional adjustments for intraregional and sub-

regional consolidation. Ms. Tieri, while providing her assessment and perspective on UP elections and the choice of the new Chief Minister, indicated the possibility of intensification of communal politics, erosion of minority rights and the wider impact on the democratic tradition in India

to the election of Donald Trump as USA President and the initial policy decisions and statements he has made ever since joining the office in January. The global trade and the role of multi-national agencies like UN or even WB are likely to be adversely impacted.



From Knowledge Management Wing

In pursuit of our knowledge management revival plan that began with a system overhaul of our website development and social media advocacy and design processes, we have recently added a new tab of BIPP alumni on website to include a list of former employees of BIPP.

Recent Publications

Annual Report

- 9th Annual Report 2016 “The State of the Economy: Agriculture and Water”.

Editorials

- Pakistan operating in statistical darkness
- The Huntingtonian clash of civilisations?

- Women experience an uneven playing field
- Agriculture and an intrusive state
- Policymakers, raise your hopes and sights
- The US contagion – from Trump to Modi
- Interplay of politics with economics
- The real size of Pakistan's gross domestic product
- Trump's attack on multilateral trade agreements
- Donald Trump is off to a poor start

Policy briefs

- Climate Change Linkages with Water and Agriculture
- Pakistan Day Reflections for Policy Making
- International Women's Day and Gender Equality

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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

District Delivery



THE URBAN UNIT
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