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- Knowledge Management Wing

# NEWSLETTER

Editor in Chief: Dr. Ejaz Sandhu  
 Editor: Kainat Shakil  
 Designer: Samra Naz



## From the Desk of the Chairman

### ***Russia is getting back in Afghanistan***

There is a consensus among those who watch Afghanistan and speculate about its future that it is a hard country to understand and also to predict the direction in which it is moving. What is contributing to the present situation is the involvement once again of Russia in the country. The Russians humiliated in the 1980s by a rag-tag army of Afghan fighters who refused to tolerate the presence Moscow's forces in their country is trying again. This time it is playing a different game: not occupation but influence. John W. Nicholson who commanded United States (US) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led international

forces in Afghanistan from March 2016 to September 2018 was the longest-serving commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan was the first to sound the alarm that the Russians were cultivating the Taliban. "In late 2017 when I was commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, an Afghan governor whom I knew well and trusted came to my headquarters in Kabul," wrote the retired general in a article published by *The Washington Post* in its issue of July 14, 2020. "He brought a small cache of weapons that he said had been provided to the Taliban by the Russian operatives coming across the northern border from Tajikistan."

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### Previous Publications



What should the US do as the story of the provision of arms to the Taliban became public. The general summed up his advice in the heading he gave to the article: "We must respond forcefully to Russia and the Taliban." The change in the Russian strategy that was brought to the attention of the general was significant. Before this switch, Moscow had facilitated the United States logistics through Central Asia, providing an alternative route for the supply of men and equipment to the NATO forces in Afghanistan. The Russians were now providing money to the Taliban to kill the Americans who, despite the thinning in their ranks, were still present in large enough numbers to present easy targets for the Taliban. What kind of response was the general advocating? He wanted senior American leaders in Washington to give a clear signal to the Russians that this behavior would not be tolerated. He would like to see a pause in the withdrawal of American troops until the time it becomes clear that the Russians were out of the Afghan game. "Our long war in Afghanistan will have an enduring end only if agreement is reached at the peace table. The current peace process rests on a foundation of hard-fought gains by Afghan security forces, with the support of the US and our coalition partners. In recent months each time progress is made at the table,

it is met with increased violence on the ground by the Taliban, who are supported by Russia."

This advice is based on several assumptions that may not hold. The general believes that Donald Trump is pursuing a strategy in Afghanistan that would advance the interests of his country in the Middle East and Central Asia Afghanistan.

The US is now embarked on the process of disengaging itself from Afghanistan. The troop pullout is a part of the agreement Washington reached with the Taliban on February 29, 2020 when the two sides signed a deal in Doha. The United States departure has begun without the various ethnic, religious, and political groups having arrived at any kind of agreement on how to manage the country. Not only is there a lack of agreement among the many players within the country, those outside the country's borders have not defined their interest in Afghanistan. Once we factor in foreign interests the situation is considerably more complicated than was the case during the post-World War II Cold War. Then basically two world powers competed for influence in the country. Now there are several nations that would like to influence developments in Afghanistan.

**Shahid Javed Burki**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Message of the Month

### Socio-Political- Economic Context of Pakistan

In today's world knowledge is an important factor that determines socio-economic progress of a nation. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, for a nation, socio-economic-political development is gradually replacing the importance of natural resources. However, these aspects are confronting challenges of development of political, economic and social governance, which need reforms. To achieve the reform sustainability, in turn there is dire need to control corruption; primary nullifying factor. Besides, the scenario can also include other critical issues such as, bad governance and lack of accountability.

Combined together, these problems are affecting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of Pakistan; there are various potentials through which Pakistan may not only overcome its these problems but also secure a path of sustainable development. The solution focuses on three main pillars of growth for the country:

- Well planned government policy with practical implementation with the aim to make knowledge-based progress.
- Formation of research think-tanks and academic institutions/universities with major focus on the fields of national importance.
- To support private enterprises in enhancing production capacity and export.

All of the above are only possible with the joint effort of academia, government and private sector in the "Triple Helix Model". In pursuance of the aforementioned,

we at Lahore Garrison University (LGU) have embarked on a very ambitious programme in which it is envisioned to generate USD 500 billion *knowledge economy* by 2020 through "Innovation Management" The concept revolves around two prong-strategy for empowering corporates to innovate like startups and transforming academia into innovation hubs. Within this ambit the objective is to achieve economic growth as well as employment opportunities through entrepreneurship. In the process it is planned to have 1 million innovators and 0.5 million entrepreneurs per year.

Owing to the large volume we therefore invite all academia and industry to join hands in this national endeavor to make it a success.

**Major General (R) Obaid Bin Zakria,**  
**Vice-chancellor**  
Lahore Garrison University



### The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) marked its 75th anniversary with a one-day, high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Monday, 21 September 2020 on the theme, "The

Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'.

The General Assembly adopted a declaration for the anniversary, which inter alia, says,

*"There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people."*

While some of the accomplishments to the UN credit include prevention of a Third World War, reduction in hunger and poverty, assistance to millions of victims of conflict and disaster, and the eradication of diseases, the progress on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seems far from being optimal. Then this year's anniversary is taking place amidst an unprecedented challenge of



COVID-19 pandemic with severe economic and social impact for the world. The situation for the developing countries, with already very low level of human development is very worrying. COVID-19 crisis is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable people widening incidence of inequality, increasing the stress on already fragile healthcare systems, accentuating the inadequacy of the social safety nets and aggravating the sub-optimal crisis preparedness and responsiveness of the countries. On top, there are major issues of phenomenal proportions such as climate change, rising inequality,

new forms of conflict, intensification of frozen conflicts, violence and associated human rights violations, geo-political tension, rapid demographic changes and widening gap in the access to digital and technological innovations.

Global cooperation and multilateralism is sine qua non to deal with these challenges especially when the agenda for 2030 and the timeframe for achievement of SDGs is just 10 years away. This in itself sadly is being severely undermined given the discord among the major powers of the world i.e., United States of America assiduous and strong emphasis on “nation first”, European Union’s rising and overt tilt towards regionalism though simultaneously supporting multilateralism; and

China’s together with many developing countries, like Tanzania, obvious inclination towards multilateralism and achievement of “common objectives”. The enormity and magnitude of the development challenges, however, entail a sincere espousal of multilateralism to ensure that “no one is left behind”.



**Shahid Najam,  
Vice Chairman**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



**Research  
and  
Consultancy  
Wing**

## Climate Change and Water Productivity in Pakistan

Mountain sources of water in the Indus Basin are vulnerable to climate change. While Pakistan is not a significant global contributor to increasing greenhouse gases it has no choice but to prepare to face the consequences. Optimizing the utilization of water resources in the Indus Basin should be among our higher priorities. This priority requires evaluation of options

with a 50 plus-year perspective.

Pakistan’s population is increasing while the water supply is likely to decrease due to Climate Change. The Indus Basin is already experiencing water scarcity. A recent estimate puts water availability at below 1000 Cu meters per capita. The United Nations medium population projection puts Pakistan’s population at 246 million and 335 million for 2025 and 2050 respectively. This translates to water availability of 711 and 522 cubic meters per capita for 2025 and 2050 respectively.

The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) latest

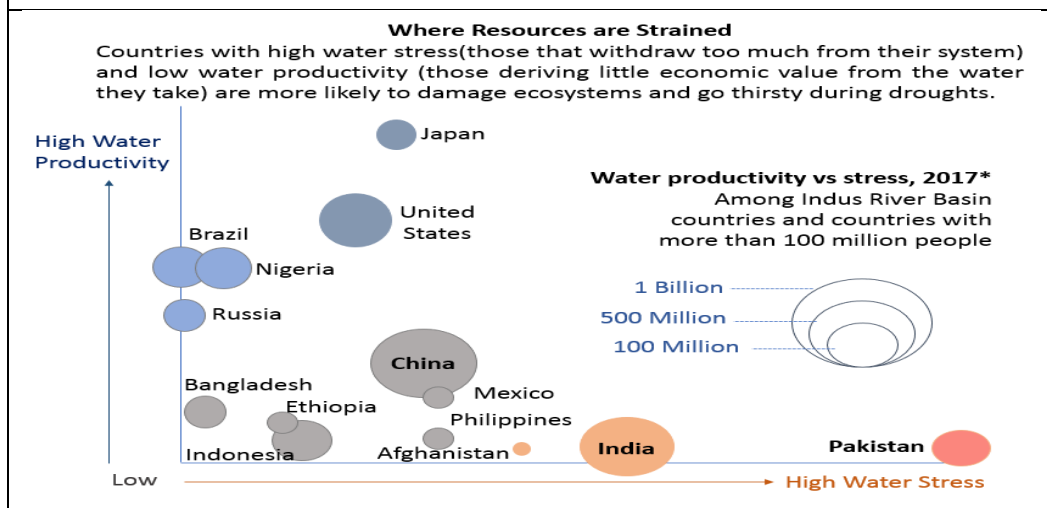
Report finalized in 2019 firmly concluded that global warming is unequivocal and the observed changes since 1950 are unprecedented. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea levels have risen. The period from 1980 to 2010 was the warmest 30-year period of the last 1400 years in the Northern hemisphere. During 1980-2010 Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have been losing mass. Glaciers have continued to recede worldwide.

A recent National Atmospheric Science Agency (NASA) study<sup>1</sup> predicts that the Himalayan Glaciers could see ice loss run

from 29 to 67 percent depending on the level of greenhouse gas emissions over the period modeled. According to the study, water flow in monsoon fed rivers, driven largely by melting glaciers could hit its peak by 2050-potentially reducing runoff beyond that time. Understanding the coming changes in such flows is critical to proper planning for hydropower, irrigation and water supply for Pakistan. Pakistan's water productivity in agriculture is at the low end in the world country league. See Chart 1 for Pakistan's current water productivity in an inter-country context.

With the inevitable increase in urbanization, water availability to agriculture will decrease further.

**Chart 1**



Source: National Geographic Magazine, July 2020, Page 75

Increasing water productivity via water pricing policy; water conservation investments in agriculture, urban and industrial water supply; and, cropping pattern changes will be needed.

This policy and action program should be our highest priority for sustainable development as a water stressed country.

**Tariq Husain**  
**Member, BOD**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Education and Learning wing

### Kisan Ki Beti (KKB)

Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP), Community Development Foundation (CDF) and AgriByte, have launched project "KISAN KI BETI" in 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2020. The aim of the project is to improve the living standards of

rural women especially women in agriculture and people living in marginalized areas of Punjab, Pakistan through training, business competences, entrepreneurship, education and support. It aims to make rural women to become the center of professional excellence in agricultural, social, cultural and economic ambits supporting circular economic growth.

Project aims to ultimately generate a collective mission; KKB is committed great success for women in the agricultural

sector which is defined as its primary responsibility by securing women at larger scale with their needs and interests mutually. The overarching goal of KKB is the strategy to "promote inclusive agricultural development for women's economic empowerment."

Skills and knowledge are the engines of socio-economic growth and development of any country. KKB shall focus on value added products to produce best results in rural areas of Punjab through capacity building of farmers' daughters.

Project core teams have collected ground information under the set framework with timelines in which they found major gaps and deficiencies for this segment of society which are unable to speak because of the profession of their family's patriarch- confined due to the cultural bounds they face socioeconomic disadvantages for being land tenants, consequently large number of women in the youth bracket are limited to their homes, having no skills, very little educated and with bleak prospects of economic sustainability or suitable marriages.

The Pilot Project for KKB shall take place between September 2020 to December 2020 in three major districts of Toba Tek Singh, Sahiwal and Jangh. From January 2021 to December 2021 the piloting will be followed by expansion of the project to the rest of the districts of Punjab targeted by Community Development Foundation (CDF), Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and AgriByte. With the support of trainings sponsored by international financing KKB will support these young women for starter ups in their respective niche.

KKB's platform shall support the young rural women to develop

their livelihoods assets in four ways:

- (1) Earning through certified vocational courses
- (2) Selling their own local brands as entrepreneurs
- (3) Link them with local markets
- (4) Providing access to online selling- especially agriculture-based products and engage them in agricultural activities like farm fresh supply, sustainable food supply, kitchen gardening, and organic cosmetology.

**Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu**  
**Director**

Operations, Education & Learning  
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
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## Education and Learning wing

### Populism Reshaping Democracy in the Twenty- first Century

On November 11, 2018 the world commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the First World War on Armistice Day and stood at another tempestuous point in history. The first Great War was fueled by a blend of imperialistic, militaristic, and nationalist forces that raged across Europe and its colonies; the end of the war ushered economic stagnation which led to the Great Depression

of the 1930s ushering the world into the Second Great War.

World War II saw rise of populist driven fascism in countries such as Italy and Germany. While right-wing populism witnessed under Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini diminished in force during the post-war era, a new spectrum of populism emerged across colonies of various European countries. In the Middle East pan-Arabism gained momentum under Gamal Abdel Nasser who carved out Egypt's contemporary identity; in South Asia populist anti-imperialism, anti-Western, pro-nationalism and religious narratives led to the partition of Indian Subcontinent; populist-socialist gained

momentum in Soviet Russia.

Gradually neo-liberalism and democratic values took precedence. This system's sanctity is rooted in its democratic values that guarantee and safeguard basic human rights and freedom of speech. The economic elements are embodied in the Washington Consensus that has led to liberalization, including privatization, deregulation, globalization, free-trade, austerity, and reductions in government spending in order to increase the role of the private sector. Francis Fukuyama in his seminal work *The End of History and the Last Man* indicated that liberal democracy and neo-liberalism was the 'ultimate form of society' that humans had



evolved to.

Though, two decades into the twenty-first we see turbulence caused by inequality, poverty and an increasing feeling of political alienation combined with religiosity and xenophobia that have revived populism across the globe. The fight is now against the 'corrupt' elite of the status quo and the 'oppressed and deprived populace'. Far-right populism has taken over US politics where slogans such as 'Make America Great Again' have replaced the

country's openness towards and presence in the global arena. In India religion has been a galvanizing force to support mainstream Hindutva politics. Places such as Italy display right- and left-wing hybrid populism. In Pakistan Islamist populist opposition has repeatedly challenged the government's legitimacy. The volatile nature of populist movements leads them to generate instability. Moreover, once in power populist governments have been known to squash any form of opposition. Anti-state narrative can galvanize popular vote, but the populist leaders mostly fail to address the core issues themselves after assuming power.

Today Winston Churchill's prudent observation is relevant more than ever,

*"Many forms of Government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."*

**Kainat Shakil**

**Research Associate**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Education and Learning wing

### Pakistan's Economic Challenges for the Year 2020-21

The economy of Pakistan was in desperate straits even before COVID-19. Since the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) government assumed office, exports have fallen, the budget deficit has widened, large-scale manufacturing has declined, and unemployment has increased. Financial experts estimated economic growth to be 1.9% for

the first year of PTI government. The government estimates that the gross domestic product (GDP) will contract by 0.38 per cent for the fiscal year 2019-2020. The World Bank has forecast even sharper drop of 2.6 per cent for 2019-2020 and 0.2 per cent for 2020-2021. A study by the KPMG Pakistan highlighted the following economic challenges that Pakistan is expected to face during 2020-21.

- Fiscal Year (FY) 21 is expected to remain under the shadow of the pandemic. The IMF has predicted a positive growth of 2% which seems optimistic at this stage.

- Inflation is expected to remain low given the suppressed demand and falling global commodity prices.
- State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) policy rate is likely to be reduced further due to inflation combined with the need to jump start the economy.
- Pakistani Rupee (PKR) is expected to depreciate further against the USD. The extent of such depreciation depends primarily on debt restructuring initiatives.
- Remittances are predicated to be lower due to negative impact on the

Pakistani workers in Middle Eastern countries both due to the pandemic as well as declining oil prices.

- Exports are expected to be significantly impacted since Pakistan's major export destinations, China, UK, US, France, Italy, Spain and Germany, are among the countries most affected by COVID-19.
- Imports are expected to remain suppressed due to lower economic activity and reduced oil prices.
- Compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) conditionalities continues to be a critical factor and while the government is confident, all efforts should be made to achieve maximum possible compliance ahead of the assessment in September 20.

The following key steps have been proposed in order to give a boost to the economy:

- Social security nets for the vulnerable sections of society need to be established/strengthened incorporating initiatives/interventions to ultimately make

beneficiaries financially sustainable.

self-

- International development organizations including World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other multilateral and bilateral donor organizations should be pro-actively approached for soliciting financial support on Government's well-designed initiatives of minimizing adverse effect on most vulnerable segments of population.
- A strategic financial inclusion drive should be launched to enhance the financial inclusion of a large segment of the population which is currently unbanked.
- Institutional reforms need to be undertaken across the board with the aim of optimization of economic resources in order to yield better social and economic results.
- E-commerce should be brought at the forefront of all business initiatives thereby fueling the digital transformation and leveraging the significant pool of Information Technology (IT) workforce.

- Eco-system for startups should be improved by undertaking fiscal and regulatory reforms in order to attract talent and investment.
- Comprehensive reforms should be undertaken in the agriculture sector covering selection of cash crops, enhancing yield, developing commodity markets and development of food grain silos.
- An integrated Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Framework, which clearly lays down roles and responsibilities of institutions to support SME development in a holistic manner, needs to be developed and implemented.
- Manufacturing sector should be prioritized for providing a comprehensive package of incentives to achieve substantial growth which will help in substituting import and/or increasing exports and will also provide large scale employment opportunities.



focus on social infrastructure particularly in healthcare, education & technology.

- Special focus should be given to improve technical & vocational education and training facilities.
- Privatization of state-owned entities which are bleeding the state resources year on year should be prioritized.
- Public Private Partnerships should be pursued selectively & smartly with special

**Attr-u-Nissa**  
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## Education and Learning wing

### Heading for Thucydides' Trap

Two and a half millennia ago, the ancient Greek historian Thucydides identified the risk of a deadly trap into which a ruling and a rising power can fall into. While explaining how the two leading city-states of classical Greece ended up in a devastating war, he wrote, "It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable."

Thucydides' concerns were recently echoed by Graham Allison in his book, *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?* An outcome of a decade long research project, Allison's book drew similarities between the rise of China against the US and that of Athens against Sparta and

warned, "China and the US are currently on a collision course for war—unless both parties take difficult and painful actions to avert it."

Although, Allison believes that the war between the US and China is not inevitable and that Thucydides's claim about inevitability of war between a ruling and a rising power was an exaggeration for the purpose of emphasis, I disagree. I rather argue that the various developments in the US-China bilateral relationship, in the last six years, make the alarm bells sound: extreme danger ahead. Both the countries are heading to a point of no return and the bitterness between the two rivals has permeated into the realms of economics, politics, society and military.

The developments in the two powers' relationship in the past six years are dangerous and the future course appears to be more pernicious. I, therefore, contend

that war between the two is inevitable albeit not in the traditional sense and not on their own soils. Both will look for novel ways to undermine each other especially the US being the current ruling power. Trade war is one such example of how new methods can be adopted to undermine each other. However, US being the initiator of the trade war vividly shows how the rise of China has instilled fear in the US and unless both the parties take difficult actions other types of war including proxy wars at other soils such as in the Korean peninsula and Taiwanese strait are inevitable.

**Athar Mansoor**  
**Research Fellow**  
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Research & Consultancy Wing

### Pakistan Russia Relations

"I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest."

Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of Great Britain  
(Made in a radio broadcast in October 1939)

Soviet Union and Pakistan had formalization relations in 1948. Soon, the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan had rejected the "invitation" of Joseph Stalin to visit Moscow. Instead, he opted for a trip to Washington DC. That had set the tone for Pakistan Soviet Relations/Russia for half a century. India had shrewdly taken full advantage of mistrust between Moscow and Islamabad.

It seems natural disasters have acted as a catalyst for closer ties. This pandemic can prove as a determinant for a much stronger and deeper Pak-Russia relation. As back as 2005, Putin was one of first leaders to offer aid to Pakistan. The trend had continued, and Putin was again one of the first leaders to offer aid to Pakistan in the aftermath of 2010 floods. The lifting of a Russian

arms embargo on Pakistan in 2014, and their first joint military exercise in 2016 had further strengthened the relations.

Recently, the Pakistani ambassador to Russia, Shafqat Ali Khan, suggested that if Islamabad were to ask Moscow for help in tackling the outbreak, "Russia will be the first country to offer assistance."

### Policy Options

Pakistan should continue to actively engage Russia especially on following areas:

1. **Economic:** The Moscow can prove as a reliable source of natural resources especially gas to Asian energy importing countries including Pakistan. The North South Gas pipeline can be manifestation of such an economic cooperation.
2. **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):** Russia and Central Asian states can become part of some sort of CPEC "arrangement" and it shall provide Pakistani companies not only access to wider market but also door to Russian Multinational Companies and technological knowhow. Russia can also fulfill its dream of having a linkage to warm waters of Arabian sea.
3. **United National Security Council (UNSC):** Russia enjoys a veto vote in UNSC. Besides China, Pakistan can use Russian vote in long run in neutralize Indian designs in United Nations Security

Council However, it has long way to go before such a dream can be achieved.

4. **Military Alliance:** Pakistan can actively engage Russian military for most modern techno military products including S400 missile system.

At the same time, Pakistan must not disrupt its relations with its traditional old-time ally the United States. Pakistani leadership must not agitate any global power in an increasing complex and heavily interdependent world of the 21st century.

How Pakistan shall play its cards in the recent Armenia-Azerbaijan mini war, shall reveal the capacity and potential of our foreign office and its management of tough issues and accompanying balancing acts.



Russia has supplied Mi-35M assault helicopters to Pakistan as part of the lifting of its embargo on arms sales to the country in 2014.

**Ammar Hayat**  
**Research Associate**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Knowledge Management Wing

BIPP has established the Khalid Sherdil Research Chair in Urban Policy Development to honor Khalid Sherdil, the founding member of BIPP and recognize his outstanding contribution in promoting and implementing the institute's mandate i.e., rational and evidence-based policy making in Pakistan.

Khalid Sherdil Scholarship Award was announced for the students enrolled or to be enrolled in Fall Semester 2020 at HEC recognized Universities/Degree Awarding Institutes from all over Punjab under the Chair on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The advertisement for scholarship was published on official BIPP Website/Social Media Platform, universities websites and notice boards.

The interviews were conducted on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August'2020 by the Scholarship Administration Committee. The verification and background check of shortlisted candidates were carried out and still underway as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



During the period of two months (August- September), BIPP hosted several in-house meetings with joint ventures and consortium partners on number of ongoing project proposal for different international, public, and private organizations.



WEDIP was launched in different district of Punjab for the capacity building of the women of different disadvantaged economic background. This project wants to improve the skill set of these audience to empower them so they can develop their livelihood assets. Under this project different training programs were held for the instructress for their trained so they could impart those skills to the targeted beneficiaries of the programs. The training of the participants has now been initiated Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations, Education and Learning BIPP), Ms. Maryam (CEO, CDF), Dr. Sayed Iftikhar Hussain (AgriByt), Mr. Ahsan Server (Agripreneurs)

and other local partners conducted meetings in two districts of Punjab.

The first session was held in Sialkot with member of National Assembly Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan. In this meeting participants appraised about WEDIP and its potential to help in achieving the development goals related to economics and gender empowerment. DC Saikot was also appraised and brought on board on the initiative.



Additionally, Kisan Ki Beti, a sub-program of WEDIP has been launched for women's training and livelihood asset development. Kisan ki Beti is targeted at the women who are involved in the agriculture sector of rural Punjab for their skill training with the aim of feed the labour demand of rural as well as urban and peri-urban areas as well.



The first initiation of this program was held in Sahiwal district where Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations, Education and Learning BIPP), Ms. Maryam (CEO,CDF), Dr. Sayed Iftikhar Hussain (AgriByt), Mr. Ahsan Server (Agripreneurs) and partners participated for the training program's inauguration.



**Samra Naz**  
Assistant Manager IT/KM  
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## 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**  
Urban Policy Planning & Management Services Unit (PMD) Ltd  
A Public Sector Company

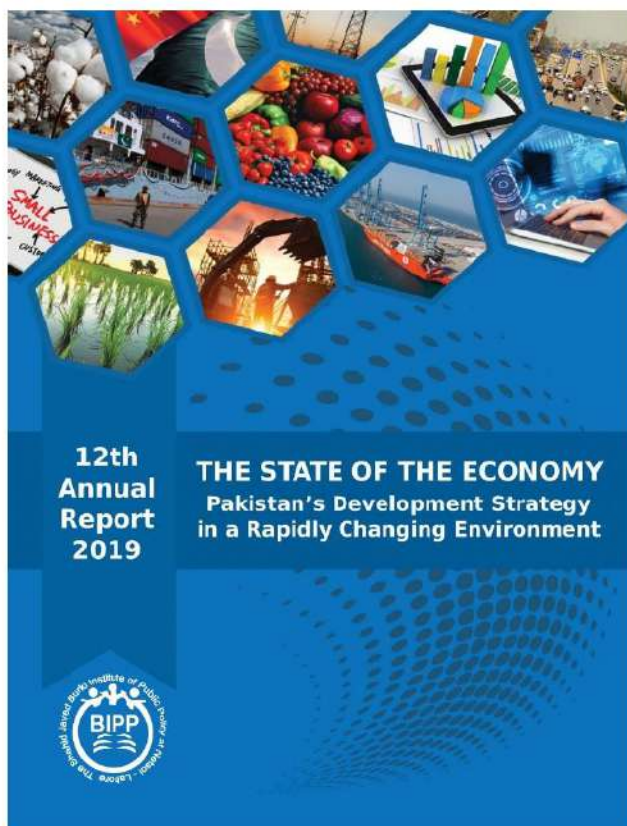


CENTRO STUDI  
INTERNAZIONALI





# The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

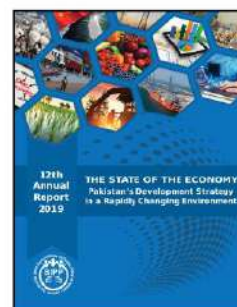


## Who we are?

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) is an independent, not for profit institution which aims at: promoting rights and evidence based inclusive policy making; filling institutional void and professionalizing the key public policy areas; serving as a knowledge hub for policy analysis, development and implementation. BIPP's aim is to minimize this rationality deficit and produce leaders to bring tangible welfare gains for the citizens. Integrity and Commitment, pursuit of excellence, expanding horizons of competence and knowledge, working as a highly motivated and dedicated team constitute our core values.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report:

#### **The State of the Economy: Pakistan's Development Strategy in a Rapidly Changing Environment**



#### **Introduction:**

The report provides an overview of the economic

situation during 2018-19 and, inter alia, highlights the need for a paradigm shift to resuscitate the economy and put it on a sustainable path. It also comprehensively looks at the implementation status of various projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework and recommends specific measures to fully harness CPEC potential within the overall Road and Belt Initiative as a game changer for the country. The report, in particular, dwells on the evolving demand of China for agricultural and food products and scope for Pakistan to tap and access the rapidly expanding Chinese markets especially in the Western region. There is indeed a huge opportunity for Pakistan through CPEC connectivity to become a part of the regional value chains and global production networks. The report also strongly advocates transparency in CPEC management and the need to address the information deficit issues regarding CPEC activities. Excessive confidentiality and secrecy with regards to the dealings, negotiations and contracting CPEC projects besides belittling accountability, leads to poor investor participation in the program.

## Contents:

This report comprises the following nine chapters

1. Pakistan's Favorable Fortune: Turning the Vision into Reality
2. The World in 2019: A Year of Despondency
3. Economic Developments in 2019 A Perilous Year
4. The Road and Belt Initiative Viewed from a Wider Context
5. CPEC: Progress Update
6. China's Changing Demand for Food and Agricultural Products
7. CPEC Agriculture and Trade: Looking Beyond Borders
8. Untold Stories and Unsaid Truths: Where can CPEC go wrong?
9. The World We Live In

## Authenticity:

The data/material is taken from the following authentic sources:

- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Finance Pakistan
- State Bank of Pakistan
- Pakistan's Economic Survey
- World Economic Outlook
- World Development Indicator; World Bank Databank
- Government of Pakistan CPEC Website
- FAOSTAT
- OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028
- Trade MAP-Trade competitiveness Map 2018
- ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE
- China Statistical Book 2009-18
- World Economic Forum
- World Integrated Trade Solutions database



## Editorial Board & Authors

### Mr. Shahid Javed Burki

Mr. Burki is a prominent Pakistani economist and the Chairman of the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP). He held prestigious positions during his professional career with Pakistan (1996-1997) including Chief Economist, Planning and Development Department Government of Punjab and the Finance Minister. With World Bank, he served as the first Director for the China Department (1987-1994) and the Regional Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean during 1994-1999. He has also been a member of the faculty at Harvard University, USA. He has authored many books besides regularly contributing articles to the renowned newspapers on issues of vital national and global interest.

### Mr. Shahid Najam

Mr. Najam is the Vice Chairman of BIPP. He has four Masters including LLM and MSc. Public Policy from London School of Economics, UK and MSc. Rural Development from Wye College London. He has more than 40 years of experience with Government of Pakistan and the UN System in policy and strategy formulation; and development planning and programming. He held important assignments as civil servant including Commissioner Lahore Division (1999- 2001) and the first Chief Operating Officer, of the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (2009). With UN system, Mr. Najam served as FAO Representative, Iran (2007-2009) and the UN Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative Turkey (2009-2013).

### Dr. Daud Ahmed

Dr. Daud Ahmad has to his credit PhD in Civil Engineering (Hydraulics) from Colorado State University, USA. He is a senior development professional and practitioner who worked for nearly 35 years with the World Bank on large scale infrastructure development projects in different countries, mostly in Asia.

### Dr. Farrukh Iqbal

Dr. Iqbal has more than thirty years of research and management experience in the World Bank across a diverse range of countries and sectors including Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, China, Iran, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) involving various aspects of economic development e.g., poverty, small and medium

enterprises, trade and foreign investment, local government development etc. He also served as the Executive Director of the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi (August 2016-2019). He holds a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University, USA.

### Dr. Mahmood Ahmed

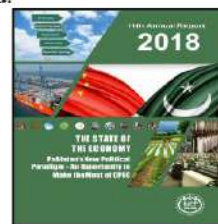
Dr. Ahmad is internationally renowned expert on agriculture, value-chain and water policy. He did his PhD from the University of Massachusetts in Resource Economics (1979). He carries an experience of around 40 years, including 24 years with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working in more than 15 countries. He, in particular spearheaded the World Bank assisted Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity of the FAO Regional Office in Cairo; and assisted in formulating the ECO national and regional food security policies and strategies.

### Mr. Asad Ejaz Butt

Asad Ejaz Butt holds a Masters degree with double majors in Economics and International Development Studies from University of Guelph, Canada prior to which he completed his undergraduate studies in Economics at York University, Canada. He has worked with ICF International especially on modelling the energy efficiency products and demand-side management. He has also done consultancy and advisory assignments with several multilateral and bilateral donors including the UN, USAID, GTZ and state-owned utilities in the US. In BIPP, he served as Director, Research and Coordination for around two years from 2016 to 2018. He currently works for the Federal Government in Islamabad.

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