

NEWS LETTER

Edition 52

5 February 2024



Biodiversity is one of the strongest defenses against Climate Change.

Editor in Chief: Dr. M. Ejaz Sandhu

Editor: Muhammad Firas Shams

Designer: Tabinda Naz

Highlights

- From the Desk of Chairman
- Message of Month

Focus Areas

- Think Tank Wing
- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Education and Learning Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing
- Finance and Administrative Wing



Shahid Javed Burki
Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan and Iran: What Next?

In an attempted answer to this important question, I will go back 76 years, to the founding of Pakistan as an independent state that accommodated the majority of the Muslim population in the British Indian colony. With the separation in 1971 of what was then called the country's "eastern wing", British India's Muslim population was divided into almost three equal parts: those that

became the citizens of Pakistan and Bangladesh and those that became independent India's largest minority. Of the four countries that are now Pakistan's immediate neighbors, only two welcomed the country's creation – China and Iran. The other two – India and Afghanistan – were hostile to the idea of partitioning British India on religious grounds. It was with great reluctance that the leadership what was then the Indian National Congress accepted the idea of Pakistan. Afghanistan was the only member of the United Nations that opposed accepting new Pakistan's application to become a member of the United Nations.

Afghanistan's opposition was based on the fact that the Pashtun ethnic group which was that country's largest ethnic group had been wrongly divided by the British when Mortimer Durand, a British civil servant, drew the border between British India and Afghanistan. The British forced the king of Afghanistan to accept what came to be called the "Durand line" as the border between its territory and British India. When the British decided to leave their Indian colony in the hands of two independent states, the rulers of Kabul hoped to move southeast the Durand line, up to the western banks of the Indus River. That would have placed all Pashtuns into Afghanistan. That of course was not acceptable to the rulers of Pakistan. Kabul called the area it wished to be included in its territory "Pakhtunistan". Its support for the establishment of the Pashtun state remained a thorn in the relationship between Pakistan and its neighbor until the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979.

Relations between Pakistan and Iran began with the expression of great warmth by the two sides. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan when the latter became independent on August 14, 1947. The Shah of Iran was the first head of state to visit the new country. Both became members of what came to be called

the Regional Cooperation for Development, or RCD, receiving economic and military assistance from the United States. Washington saw the two countries making up the line of defense against the Soviet Union's expansion to the south. While Pakistan drew close to China, its relations with Iran remained friendly although both had to deal with the groups that for different reasons were not loyal to the countries of which they were the citizens. However, that did not prevent friendly relations between the two countries.

That was the case until January of this year when Islamabad and Tehran entered into a tit-for-tat missile exchange. However, this exchange was contained and both sides pulled back, declaring the return to friendship again. Pakistan called into session its National Security Council which is chaired by the prime minister and has the heads of the armed forces as its members.

Following the meeting, Pakistan signaled that it was seeking de-escalation by calling the two countries "brotherly" and urging dialogue and cooperation, language that Iran echoed in a statement of its own on January 19, three days after the two countries fired missiles aimed at the sites on the other side of the border. Both countries had good domestic reasons for calling for peace. Iran was engaged on various fronts, supporting the militant groups it had created over the years to protect itself from what it regarded as its enemies. The term "enemies" was used to describe its poor relations with the United States and Israel. Pakistan had been dealing with both economic and political crises. There was hope that the early February elections would produce an administration that would be able to address its problems. It did not wish to be distracted by opening an external front.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Major Challenges: The Year 2024

The year ahead, brings in its wake with some trepidation, multiple challenges of ominous proportions. It is a year of important elections- in Pakistan, the USA, the UK, China, Russia and several other countries. Some of these elections will be '*engineered and arranged*' to the total disregard of the collective voice or preferences of the people. The governance dysfunction and development deficit as a result of exclusionary policies in these countries will aggravate further the predicament and the human security and well-being of the ordinary citizens, especially the poor. The perplexity in the political arena coupled with servitude to the external dictates will invariably cast a shadow on Pakistan's relations in the region and beyond.

The policy landscape of the country, it appears, will continue to be characterized by the "path dependence" without making a conscious effort to change the course to independent, inclusive, pro-poor-human-centered and rights-based approach. The geo-strategic, security, national interest, existential exigencies and doctrines of necessity and exceptionality are likely to be invoked to justify the perpetuation of the status quo and "elite capture" of the political and economic order.

The predicament is that the 2024 Pakistan is confronted with a number of daunting challenges which cannot be resolved by the

"elite-led" governments alone; they entail inclusive and all-out effort involving the citizens, the civil society organizations and the major stakeholders.

The civil unrest, act of terrorism and divisive social ethos have shackled the country. Around 500 civilians and a similar number of security forces lost their lives in the militant attacks during 2023 - the highest number of fatalities in the last six years. This menace is going to continue in 2024 unless there is a shift to a more inclusive, negotiations and dialogue based engagement with the dissidents.

Pakistan is the 5th worst climate change impacted country in the world. The imprudent water usage has led to Pakistan being the 14th among the 17 extremely high water risk countries. The per capita water availability is going to become 'absolutely scarce' with less than 500 cubic meters which in 1951 was 5,269 cubic meters. By 2040 Pakistan is projected to be the 3rd most populace country in the world after India and China which among others would enormously aggravate the challenges like food security, poverty, vulnerability of the poor, environmental degradation etc.

According to the Human Rights Watch world report of 2023, Pakistan appears as one of the major countries for several rights violations. The government was accused of misusing black laws, including counterterrorism and sedition laws for a hard crack down on the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and political opponents. It continues to do so with the acquiescence of judiciary. Meanwhile, religious minorities suffered blasphemy-related violence intensified by Islamist militants' attacks. Poverty, inflation, and soaring unemployment have plunged Pakistan into one of the worst economic

crises in its history, denying millions of people's rights to health, food, and an adequate standard of living.

Free and fair elections are singularly the only essential prerequisite to address these multiple challenges.



Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin
Chairman
KITAAS University Lahore

Upskilling Pakistan's Workforce

The need to upskill Pakistan's workforce has been recognized as a key driver of the country's economic growth. The country's skilled labour force is an essential component for the economic growth of Pakistan. However, according to a recent report by the International Labor Organization (ILO), only 5% of the country's workforce has received skills-based education or training. This lack of training has led to a significant skills gap in the country, which is hampering its ability to compete in the global market.

To address this skills gap, the government of Pakistan has taken several initiatives to develop the country's human capital. One such initiative is the Prime Minister's *Kamyab Jawan Program*, which aims to provide vocational training to young people across the country. Under this program, the government is offering interest-free loans to individuals who complete technical and vocational courses, allowing them to start their businesses and contribute to the country's economy.

With the world moving towards a digital economy, the need for digital skills has become even more critical. To address this need, the government of Pakistan has launched several initiatives to promote digital skills training. The National Incubation Center, for example, is providing training to young entrepreneurs in fields such as e-commerce, digital marketing, and software development.

Pakistan's workforce development is essential to the country's economic growth and competitiveness. By investing in education and training, promoting industry-academia collaboration, and developing emerging industries, Pakistan is laying the groundwork for a skilled and competitive workforce. With the right investments, Pakistan can future-proof its workforce and ensure that it is prepared for the challenges of the future.

Workforce Readiness for future of Pakistan

Finally, workforce readiness is essential to the success of Pakistan's efforts to upskill its workforce. To ensure that individuals are ready for the jobs of the future, the government is working to promote a culture of lifelong learning. This includes providing access to training and education throughout a person's career, as well as promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.

In conclusion, by upskilling its workforce and developing its human capital, Pakistan is laying the foundation for long-term economic growth. A skilled workforce will not only help the country to compete in the global market but will also attract foreign investment and create new job opportunities for its people. With the right investments in education and training, Pakistan can build a workforce that is prepared for the challenges of the future.



Tariq Hussain
Advisor to Chairman
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
 of Public Policy at NetSol

Key Climate Change Variables During 1981-2023

The year 2023 did not just experience routine change in key climate variables, it experienced dramatic change globally. **Science News** of December 30, 2023 has reported data for the period 1981-2023 for three climate variables. The variables are: Global average air temperatures; Average Sea temperatures (between 60 N-and 60 S); and Antarctic Sea ice extent. The data indicates that the deviation from the norms is dramatically large. As of late November 2023, global temperatures put 2023 as the hottest year since record keeping began about 150 years ago. From January through September, Earth's average global surface air temperature was about 1.1 degrees Celsius higher than the 20th century average of 14.1 Degrees C.

The Southern hemisphere had an unusually hot winter and early spring, with temperatures in August and September soaring above 40°C across parts of Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina. The second half of 2023 saw the onset of an EL Nino climate pattern, which generally means higher global temperatures. Ocean temperatures began reaching new highs before EL Nino arrived. From late March through October, the world's average sea temperatures broke daily records. By July the average temperatures were 1°C above average. Such warm waters are unprecedented in the modern record. Historical comparisons indicate that this level of temperature increase in sea waters has not

been observed in the last 125,000 years. This will have deleterious effects on sea life, coral reefs and also human health.

Dwindling sea ice in the Arctic has been happening during recent decades and what was white is now almost completely blue with dramatic decrease in the reflectivity of sunlight. That effect is impacting Ice in Greenland and the melting of land-based ice mass has contributed to faster sea level rise during these decades.

During the preceding few years' satellite data has shown an increase in the rate of sea ice cover loss in the Antarctica. Recently, measurement of sea ice cover in the Antarctica indicates a "plummeting" of the loss rate. The measurement suggests that they are significant departures from the trend.

The three sets of measurements summarize the observed changes in the three variables during 1981-2023. The comparisons are between the observations in 2023 for three months during the year against the "median" of the data for the 1981-2023 period

I. Global Average air temperature: -°C		
Months	2023	Median
January	13	12
July	17.5	16
November	14	13
II. Average Sea Temperatures °C		
January	20.5	20.2
September	21	20.4
December	20.8	20.3
III. Antarctic Sea ice extent (Million SQ.KM)		
January	4.50	7
October	15	17.50

**Atrun Nisa****Research Associate**The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Climate Change Impact on Agriculture and Livestock

Pakistan is alarmingly vulnerable to climate change and has been ranked among the top ten most affected countries by climate change over the past two decades. It is estimated that Pakistan's 40 percent land is vulnerable to earthquakes, 6 percent to cyclones, 60 percent to floods and 25 percent of the Barani land under cultivation is vulnerable to droughts. Pakistan has witnessed seven major floods, which affected almost 40 million people, since 1973. The flood of 2010, often referred to as a super flood, drowned 78 out of 141 districts. In Punjab 200 villages, 500,000 homes, and 1.7 million acres of farmland were severely damaged and billions of dollars' worth of crops and livestock were destroyed.

Similarly, the floods in 2014 destroyed 2.4 million acres of standing crop causing billions of rupees in losses, largely in agriculture and the floods in 2024 submerged one third of the country, affecting 33 million people, half of whom were children. These floods damaged most of the water systems in affected areas, forcing more than 5.4 million people to rely solely on contaminated water from ponds and wells.

The majority of the country's population directly depends upon agriculture which is highly sensitive to climate change. It is expected that the temperature will increase

by 3°C by 2040 and 5-6°C by the end of the century causing the loss of wheat productivity up to 50 percent in Asian countries.

This loss will be even greater for Pakistan, due to its diverse geographical and climatic features. The wheat and cotton production has been declined by 14.7 and 20.5 percent during past few years, causing the market prices to increase. Punjab is particularly susceptible to climate change and getting hotter. A study predicted that Punjab's average annual temperature will rise by 2-3°C, causing a decline in the yield of crops by 13 to 50 percent by 2050.

The same study pointed out that the major crops including cotton, maize, rice and wheat will experience the worst impacts of climate change. It is predicted that cotton yield will decrease by 47 percent in southern Punjab; maize yield will decrease by 29 percent in central Punjab; and rice yield will decrease by 17 percent in northern Punjab (Ahmad, 2021). The importance of livestock as a production sector for Pakistan cannot be over-emphasized which is also prone to climate change impacts.

Rising temperature is severely affecting livestock productivity by reducing the production of milk, meat and fodder crops and increasing the water requirements for livestock and fodder crops. Hence, Pakistan urgently needs to propose environmentally damaging subsidies, promote climate-smart and regenerative agriculture and livestock systems, and prioritize ecosystem restoration.



Rehan Sayeed
Senior Consultant

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan Perspective – and Challenges that it Faces

There was a time back in the 1960s when Pakistan was seen as a new and emerging nation with a progressive mindset. Many mega infra-structural projects had been launched / successfully accomplished. We seemed destined to become a regional power. Our bureaucracy included ICS and CSP cadre officers whose honesty and sincerity to the country was unquestionable. Our national institutions also earned international credibility. For instance, Pakistan International Airlines, the pride of our nation, was ranked amongst the top airlines of the world. Even the likes of John F. Kennedy, President of United States and Queen of England paid tributes to it and preferred travelling by it when visiting our region. Countries in the region took Pakistan as a role model. For instance, South Korea adopted Pakistan's 5-year Economic Development Program to propel themselves to be counted amongst the top industrialized nations of the world.

With such a head start, Pakistan ought to have joined the league of Developed Nations by now. However, somewhere along the line we lost our way. Though being a nuclear power, our arrows of prosperity and progress are still pointing downwards, hardly hinging on to the category of a third world nation. Though we have a comprehensive constitution, equally supported by an

elaborate set of policies, still, we have fared miserably when it comes to its implementation.

Nowadays, our country is known for all the wrong reasons. PIA's international reputation has hit rock bottom. Our Access to Education record is not good either. Up to 23 million of our children do not attend school, which is the highest anywhere in the world. Officially, we have a literacy rate of 60%. But this figure is not realistic as the criteria for declaring somebody literate is a dubious one. The fact is, that we have never accorded priority to the education sector, with only 1.7% of our GDP being spent on education. Our Gender Inequality record also fares very badly. In 2022, it was placed at 145 out of 146 countries on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. A country's passport is a reflection of the overall international credibility that it enjoys. Unfortunately, here also, Pakistan fares very poorly, being ranked 4th from the bottom. In terms of corruption, Pakistan has a dismal record, being listed alongside highly corrupt nations by the Transparency International in its Corruption Perception Index.

It's about time that we, as a nation, take cognizance of the predicament that we are in and take urgent steps to rectify the situation, before our options are overtaken by events.



Muhammad Firas Shams
Research Associate

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Will Amelia Earhart's Case Finally get Closure?

The contemporary history is punctuated by unsolvable events which not only pierces the deepest boulevards of our minds, but invite the possibility of chilling theories not least for those with morbid fascination and conviction in otherworldly forces or those convinced with the presence an all-influential cabal of powerful individuals clandestinely running the world. The urban legend of the Bermuda Triangle, a region in the North Atlantic Ocean situated between the islands of Great Antilles, the Southeastern coast of the US and Bermuda, is associated with disappearance of a number of ships and aircrafts under mysterious circumstances or the identity of one of the most notorious serial killers "Jack the Ripper" who is attributed to the grotesque murder of 5 women predominantly in the Whitechapel district of London. Even alternative and somewhat compelling explanations of the assassination of John F Kennedy resurface every now and then. The disappearance of Amelia Earhart's plane is another mystery that continues to grip the minds of many the world over, however a new development with the aid of technology could bring closure to the case.

Born in 1897, Atchison, Kansas, Amelia Earhart was no ordinary aviator and a darling of the American public; she shattered the proverbial glass ceiling by becoming the first female to fly solo from Trepassey, Newfoundland

Canada, across the Atlantic Ocean in 1928 landing in Wales. This was a huge accomplishment of the epoch, which came on the heels of Charles Lindbergh continuous solo flight from New York to Paris in 1927 – this was the first successful attempt by any aviator across the Atlantic. Additionally, Earhart also became the first individual who flew over the Pacific from California to Hawaii, a watershed event blazed in the newspaper headlines. However, in 1937, Earhart embarked from Miami, on her twin-engine Lockheed Electra accompanied by her navigator, Fred Noonan, with the mission to fly around the world by way of the equator. Earhart lost radio contact after the need fuel was the last message transmitted, with the plane estimated to be lost at sea, some 100 miles from Howland Island in the Pacific – the US Coast Guard couldn't navigate the exact location of the wreckage. Naturally, this disappearance gravitated theories and media coverage in tandem.

Solving this enigmatic case is deemed an explorer's dream, as Earhart is often described as "America's favorite missing person". There has been a significant development in this 9-decade old mystery, as a team of Deep Sea vision captured sonar image some 5,000 meters underwater in the Pacific Ocean. The CEO of the company, Tony Romeo conjectures that there is great likelihood that the aforementioned image is of Earhart's plane. The image has similar dimensions to Earhart's plane, twin vertical stabilizers in the back are also visible and the fact that the area under exploration is sandy, an object sticking out over the surface is unusual. Romeo plans to return to the site where the wreckage is thought to be sitting in the sea bed and finally bring closure to the saga of Amelia Earhart that still captures the imagination of many across the world even after almost 90 years.



Muhammad Waqas
Research Assistant
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

COP 28: A Historic Agreement on Fossil Fuels

The 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) concluded on 13 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with a landmark agreement that called for a global shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The COP 28 agreement, which was reached after a day of intense negotiations and compromises, commits all signatory countries to move away from carbon energy sources "in a just, orderly and equitable manner" to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, and reach net zero by 2050. This is the first time in the history of COP summits that the need to phase out or phase down every type of fossil fuels, including coal, oil and gas, has been explicitly mentioned in the final text. The agreement also recognizes the different circumstances and responsibilities of developed and developing countries and pledges to provide adequate financial and technological support to the most vulnerable nations. The COP 28 agreement is the result of the first 'Global Stocktake' (GST) of the world's efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement, which was adopted in 2015 and aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. The GST showed that the current level of ambition and action was insufficient to achieve the Paris goals and urged countries to enhance their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2025. The COP 28 agreement has been hailed as a

historic breakthrough and a signal of the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era by many leaders, experts, and activists.

However, it has also faced criticism for its lack of clarity, specificity and enforceability, as well as for the resistance and reluctance of some major emitters, such as China and India, to commit to more ambitious targets and timelines. Pakistan played a very active and influential role at the conference, especially in operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, which aims to provide financial support for developing countries that are facing the impacts of climate change. The COP 28 agreement is not the end of the road but a critical milestone in the global fight against climate change. It sets the direction and the pace for the next decade of climate action, and challenges all stakeholders, from governments to businesses to civil society, to work together to achieve a green and sustainable future for all.



Areeb Khan
IT Assistant
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Embracing AI: A National Vision

The government of Pakistan has taken steps to prepare for the Fourth & Fifth Industrial Revolution by promoting digitalization through initiatives like "Vision 2025." This outlines a roadmap for public-private partnerships in the IT sector, enabling educational institutions to adapt their curricula accordingly. E-governance strategies have been planned to upgrade IT infrastructure, promote e-government, e-health, e-education, and e-commerce, reflecting a vision for better government-citizen connectivity.

In the wake of Vision 2025, the Pakistani government has launched a number of projects over the last two decades to fulfill the country's rising need for technology. These initiatives include the setting up of special IT zones, the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), and the development of software technology parks. The government is also working to improve digital capabilities in various sectors, including healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Furthermore, Pakistan has developed AI institutes such as the Sino-Pak Center for Artificial Intelligence (SPCAI) and the Secretariat of the National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) to give solutions in fields such as smart cities, smart agriculture, deep learning, and natural disaster management. The Higher Education Commission has approved universities to offer AI in their curriculum, contributing to capacity building in the public and private sectors.

In 2023, Pakistan took a significant step forward by drafting its first National AI Policy. This ambitious document outlines a roadmap for creating an enabling environment for AI adoption. Its core goal is to foster a "Hybrid Intelligence ecosystem" that leverages both AI capabilities and human ingenuity, ensuring responsible and equitable use of this powerful technology.

The policy focuses on four key pillars:

1. *Enabling AI through Awareness and Readiness*: Building skills and awareness through educational programs and public engagement.
2. *AI Market Enablement*: Encouraging investment and supporting startups in the AI sector.
3. *Building a Progressive & Trusted Environment*: Establishing ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks for responsible AI

- development and deployment.
4. *Transformation & Evolution*: Continuously adapting and evolving the AI strategy to stay at the forefront of technological advancements, early Applications and Potential Benefits

Areas where AI can be explored further in Pakistan include:

1. *Healthcare*: AI-powered diagnostics and personalized medicine could significantly improve healthcare delivery, especially in remote areas.
2. *Education*: AI tutors and adaptive learning platforms can personalize education and tailor it to individual student needs.
3. *Agriculture*: AI-driven precision agriculture can optimize resource use, boost crop yields, and promote sustainable farming practices.
4. *Disaster Management*: AI-powered early warning systems can help predict and respond to natural disasters more effectively.
5. *Governance*: AI can streamline government processes, improve transparency, and reduce corruption.

Despite the optimism, significant challenges remain. Firstly infrastructure and data gaps; Pakistan needs better digital infrastructure and access to quality data to fully unlock the power of AI. Secondly, skill shortage; There is a lack of skilled professionals in AI development, implementation, and governance. Thirdly, ethical considerations; Issues like bias, privacy, and job displacement need careful consideration and appropriate regulations. Lastly, public trust; raising public awareness and addressing concerns about AI are crucial for building trust and fostering acceptance.

Overcoming these challenges requires a collaborative effort from the government,

academia, industry, and civil society. The success of Pakistan's AI journey hinges on developing robust, transparent, and inclusive governance frameworks that ensure ethical and responsible development and deployment of AI technologies.



Abdul Rafay
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Enhancing Public Policy through Big Data

The application of Big Data to public policy has the capacity to offer innovative approaches to addressing complex public and societal challenges. Governments can gain profound insights into societal demand, behavior, and trends by leveraging vast quantities of data from diverse sources, including administrative records, social media, and sensors. A profusion of information provides policymakers with the ability to formulate targeted solutions and make informed judgements regarding critical issues including poverty, crime, healthcare, and education.

There are numerous ways in which Big Data can influence public policy. To begin with, it facilitates the implementation of evidence-based decision-making, whereby policymakers can rely on empirical data rather than judgement or anecdotal proof. This approach maximizes the effectiveness and efficiency of policy interventions by guaranteeing that they are tailored to specific needs and supported by concrete evidence of their potential impact.

In addition, the utilization of Big Data improves the capacity for predictive analytics, enabling policymakers to anticipate impending challenges and foretell future trends. By identifying potential problems in advance, governments are able to devise proactive policies for risk management and crisis prevention prior to their escalation. For instance, the application of predictive modelling can aid in the anticipation of epidemics, enabling healthcare authorities to proactively allocate resources and implement focused public health initiatives.

Furthermore, the application of Big Data enables increased transparency and responsibility in the governance process. By making comprehensive data available to the public, governments have the ability to encourage greater citizen participation and active engagement in the process of policy-making. This promotes trust and reliability in governmental operations, as members of the public are empowered to scrutinize the evidence and rationale that underpin policy decisions.

However, it is critical to recognize and address the challenges associated with Big Data as they pertain to public policy. To uphold ethical principles and protect individual liberties, it is critical to adequately tackle issues pertaining to privacy, reduce the risk of data security breaches, and mitigate algorithmic biases linked to policies that rely on data. Furthermore, authorities must invest in the development of the technical expertise and infrastructure required to efficiently exploit the complete potential of Big Data.

In its entirety, Big Data possesses the capacity to revolutionize public policy by providing novel perspectives and capabilities to tackle intricate matters of society. By employing data-driven methodologies, governmental bodies have the potential to foster innovation,

enhance decision-making procedures, and ultimately improve the general well-being of their populace.



Muhammad Ahsan Rana
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Toward Dynamism in National Security Policy – A Bird's Eye View

Since World War 2, the change in international order and emergence of nation-states brought many repercussions on national security and political economy structures of countries associated with two rival camps during the Cold War and its post-era. Although there were ideological skirmishes between two opposite blocks, none could impose its absolute economic or political ideology on developing and emerging countries of the world. Instead, not only did we observe most of the emerging states, including China, which flourished on the global scene had depicted flexibility in adopting the original economic systems of the USA or USSR in their indigenous contexts, but the two major powers seem to adjust their ideological designs as well after trial and error to respond toward contingencies for their economic and social interests. It developed a trend among nation-states to bring dynamism to their national security policies rather than using the one-dimensional lens for defense purposes. On the other hand, many developing countries, including Pakistan, couldn't introduce necessary reforms toward national

national policies in the interests of its social fabric.

At the start of the twentieth century, the dichotomy of executive and legislative branches in the United States of America had brought many new reforms in state machinery, including departmentalization and decentralization. However, strengthening presidential office over legislature during the 1940s in the United States of America led to framing its coordinated National Security Act by Congress, encompassing even its investment flows and trade in 1947. Unlike these policy modifications by the USA, the majority of developing states that carried influence from the USA in foreign relations could not inculcate similar adjustments back and forth in their one-dimensional national security policies due to their unstable political and regional environments and lack of adaptation toward industrial revolutions by their respective national systems.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) introduced public-private partnerships, joint ventures, special economic zones, and trade and investment schemes with its opening-up policies in the 1980s. In 2006, China also introduced its National Security Policy encompassing investment inflows in multiple cross-sector industries coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFCOM), which has been replaced by the Ministry of Commerce, PRC. Developing states, especially in Asia and Africa, would like to map similar policies for joint ventures in special economic and technology zones through research and development efforts. Developing countries should strive for dynamism in national security policies like developed and emerging states to realize developments through cross-sector collaborations. In this

regard, different collaborative models of governance and inclusive approaches might serve as effective tools for much-needed policy discourse at the national level to increase capacity building in social and economic ventures, especially in the wake of contemporary industrial revolutions.



Tabinda Naz
Assistant Manager IT/Knowledge Management
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

BIPP's Round Up

On December 27, 2023, the launching ceremony of the BIPP's flagship 16th Annual Report, "The State of the Economy: Threads of Governance – Weaving the Past, Present and Future in Pakistan" was held at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on 27th of December 2023. Mr. Ahmad Hasnain, Managing Director & CEO Allied Marketing, presided over the event which was attended by government officials, senior ex-servicemen, think tank leadership, members of the academia, industry experts and eminent scholars. Prof. Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Vice Chancellor Beaconhouse National University (BNU) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. While, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizam ud Din, Pro Rector Superior University and Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Director General Civil Services Academy (CSA), shared their insights on the governance function in Pakistan and provided their invaluable feedback. The launch entailed a detailed presentation of the report, feedback by commentators as well as the attendees and a segment dedicated to the

the Q/As. The report provides a rational and evidence-based assessment of the precarious economic situation and Governance dysfunction of Pakistan. It explores themes like Climate change, Gender disparity, role of International laws and religion, 18th Amendment vis-à-vis Governance. It recommends for sustainable development and people-centric policymaking in Pakistan.



On January 12, 2024, the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) hosted the launch ceremony of the book, titled "Towards a knowledge economy: National Innovation and Technology system of Pakistan". The book is jointly written by BIPP Vice chairman, Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Athar Mansoor (CEO TRACS, Director Digital Govt) and Mr. Rehmat Ullah (ED, IRP Director ORIC, IISAT). Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairman PHEC presided over the launch ceremony while Dr. Javaid Akram, the Minister for Health, Government of Punjab graced the event as Chief Guest, his

participation is reflective of his passion and commitment to maximize the use of technology and innovation in public sector management. Dr. Muhammed Nizam ud Din, Pro Rector Superior University, Prof Dr. Anan Noor Mian VC, Information Technology University (ITU), Dr. Suleiman Aziz Lodhi, Dean, University of South Asia, Mr. Kashif Younus Meher, CEO, Model Steel, were amongst the commentators as they shared their insights on the Innovation and Technology in Pakistan and provided their invaluable feedback. The launch ceremony concluded with remarks of gratitude by Dr. Ejaz Sandhu, Acting Director BIPP.



The launching ceremony of book "Towards a Knowledge Economy – National Innovation and Technology System of Pakistan" was covered by both electronic (City42, Special TV, Lahore News) and print media (DAWN, the NEWS)

DAWN
TODAY'S PAPER | JANUARY 13, 2024

Book on innovation and tech system

LAHORE: The Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) hosted a book launch for "Towards a Knowledge Economy - National Innovation and Technology System of Pakistan". Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Javed Akram was the chief guest. The book, authored by Shahid Najam, the vice chairman of BIPP, in collaboration with Athar Mansoor and Rehmatullah, explores Pakistan's journey towards building a knowledge economy. The book is a collaborative effort of the PHEC, BIPP, and the Ministry of Education, Government of Punjab. It provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of innovation and technology in Pakistan, identifies key challenges, and offers strategic recommendations for fostering a knowledge economy. The book is a valuable resource for policymakers, educators, and researchers interested in the future of Pakistan's economy.

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

ETHENEWS.COM.PK

PHEC hosts book launching

LAHORE: Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Friday hosted...

On January 26, 2024, the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol organized a panel discussion on the book "Towards a Knowledge Economy – National Innovation and Technology System of Pakistan" at Government Graduate College (W) Marghazar. The event was graced by Mr. Zafar Mehmood, Senior Vice President of LCCI, as the chief guest, with Prof. Ahsan Mukhtar, Additional DPI College Punjab, and Prof. Zahid Mian, Director Colleges Lahore Division, as guests of honor. Distinguished panelists including Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP), Mr. Rehmatullah (ED, IRP Director ORIC, IISAT), and Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin (Pro-Rector Superior University) offered insightful perspectives on fostering innovation and technology in Pakistan's economic landscape. The event concluded with Prof. Rubina Kamal (Principal Govt College) extending vote of thanks. The institute appreciates the contributions of all attendees and looks forward to further panel discussions on the aforementioned book.



While on February 1, 2024, Society of Aggregates: Economics & Policy (SAEP), ITU hosted Mr. Shahid Najam, Vice Chairman of BIPP, as a guest speaker. The event centred on "Towards a Knowledge Economy – National Innovation and Technology System of Pakistan". Mr. Najam illuminated the path to a knowledge-driven economy. The lecture was well-received by students and faculty members.



On February 1, 2024, BIPP organized a briefing session, providing the institute's Chairman, Mr. Shahid Javed Burki with a comprehensive overview of activities throughout the past year. The briefing session highlighted the impactful initiatives and collaborations that have defined BIPP's commitment to advancing public policy rationality. Moreover, as part of its commitment to professional growth, BIPP is currently conducting training sessions for its staff, focused on Project Management and Bretton Wood Institutions.

These sessions aim to enhance the skills and knowledge of the employees.



A new episode of BIPP's Policy Hub was released this month featuring Dr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah, focusing on "Revolutionizing Agriculture in Pakistan: Agripreneurship". This particular episode delves into the exploration of opportunities, challenges, and the future of agripreneurship. The complete episode can be watched on BIPP's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/66ehV6kKV1g>





Zahra Khan
Assistant Finance Manager
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
 of Public Policy at NetSol

The Dark Side of Digital Prosperity: Exploitation in the Cobalt Mines of the DRC

In the heart of the African continent, where rich minerals adorn the landscape, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) harbors a troubling open secret beneath its lush terrains. The increasing demand for cobalt and lithium, vital components of our digital age, has given rise to a clandestine network where individuals engage in hazardous artisanal mining known as freelancing workers, working for just a few dollars a day.

Moreover, cobalt, a toxic substance, poses a severe threat to the health of those involved in its extraction. Hundreds of thousands of impoverished Congolese individuals, including young mothers with babies strapped to their backs, are exposed to toxic cobalt dust. The mining of cobalt is intrinsically linked to grave human rights abuses, ranging from unsafe worksites to the reliance on child and forced Congolese labor, along with environmental degradation.

Alarming statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that at least 25,000 children are working in cobalt mines in the DRC. The exposure to forced labor and other abuses in the supply chains, particularly those connected to China, raises concerns about the

entry of goods and products made with such labor into U.S. markets.

Climate justice advocates emphasize the need for a just transition in the global economy's decarbonization, ensuring it does not lead to further human rights violations. The people of the DRC, historically exploited during colonial and post-colonial eras, continue to see their rights trampled upon as demand for cobalt is projected to triple by 2025 (222,000 tonnes).

Shocking revelations indicate that cobalt extraction extends beyond regulated mines to the very homes and communities of the people. Freelancers, compelled by economic necessity, navigate hazardous conditions to extract valuable resources, only to witness export to foreign markets, contributing to the supply chain for countries producing rechargeable batteries.

The mining industry's impact on the DRC's landscape is devastating. Millions of trees have been felled, the air around mines is thick with dust, and water sources are contaminated with toxic effluents, resulting in the degradation of the environment and the livelihoods of local communities.

As the world shifts towards the electronic and digital era, driven using electric vehicles, a crucial question emerges: should this transition come at the expense of the people and the environment in one of the most downtrodden and impoverished corners of the world? The ethical implications of our digital progress underscore the urgency of addressing the exploitative practices in the cobalt mines of the DRC, urging stakeholders to reconsider the true cost of technological advancement.



Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

<http://www.sjbipp.org/>

admin@sjbipp.org

+92-42-35913304

138, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore