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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



It is my immense pleasure to announce that The Shahid Javed Bruki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP)

has initiated its bi-monthly newsletter as from June 2015. The objective is to, inter alia, inform our clients, partners, community of development practitioners and researchers and other stakeholders about BIPP's activities on a regular basis; sensitize the policy and decision makers about the issues of vital significance confronting Pakistan, the region and the globe; and share our major publications, policy briefs, insights, and working papers. These will be based on the analytical work generated during the course of two months.

BIPP was formally launched on 1 March 2015 as an independent, not for profit institution with focus on: promoting evidence based, citizens-centered

inclusive policy making; Filling the institutional void; professionalizing the key public policy areas; and, serving as a knowledge hub for policy analysis, development and implementation. The Institute is committed to becoming a Centre of Excellence for public policy by synergizing the four complementary functions of: research and consultancy; think tank; education and learning; and knowledge management in the areas of social, economic, environmental and political development, security, trade and foreign policy related issues.

I hope you will patronize this initiative and provide us with your feedback to improve both its format and contents for the future. Your response will be of enormous help to us to improve our communications with our readers.

Shahid Javed Burki

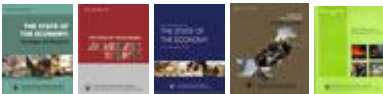
MESSAGE OF THE MONTH



Pakistan at present faces enormous challenges of reviving strong, equitable and more self-reliant growth. To meet these challenges successfully the nation needs a paradigm shift towards higher savings and investment, an export oriented strategy, greater and more effective but not least much improved governance. Political leadership as well as the elite need to understand and prepare the country for the hard choices and hard work that lie ahead. For a country of Pakistan's potential and importance, the scale and intellectual underpinnings of informed and independent analysis that can form the basis of more vigorous and focused political and public debates is deficient and needs much greater consideration.

Dr. Parvez Hassan

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FOSTERING DIALOGUE – FROM THE THINK-TANK WING

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) under the Think-Tank Wing launched two policy dialogues in the months of March and May. The first was on *Calibrating Tax Policy to Create Level Playing Field: Case of Tobacco*, and the second was *Effective Implementation of National Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism: Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity*. These dialogues brought together stakeholders from government, research institutes, academia, judiciary and business on one platform to discuss problems in policy and propose the relevant solutions.



The first policy dialogue was a one full day extensive discussion session. The discussion included relationship between government revenue generation and the policy implications for public health. Further, the issues of tax elasticity, weak intellectual rights, and tax violation were also raised. There was a consensus that the government needs to adopt appropriate mix of policy and institutional adjustments to discourage the proliferation of informal sector so that a conducive environment is created for the formal sector to grow and contribute to the national economy in a regulated manner.

The second policy dialogue consisted of two full day sessions. The forum discussed the current state of terrorism and the newly formed Nation Action Plan (NAP) in detail. Participants noted that all challenges must be studied carefully and thoroughly in order to address terrorism and associated problems in a concerted, comprehensive, and sustainable manner and to avoid the oft repeated folly of pursuit of reactive, ad hoc, sub-optimal and partial solutions. The participants were of the view that formulation of a coherent strategy for effective implementation of NAP through inclusive, holistic and system-wide approach- based on realistic and context specific considerations that was sine qua non for the eradication of terrorism. The dialogue was arranged in conjunction with the National School of Public Policy (NSPP).



Further details on the dialogues can be found on BIPP's website at:

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

DEEMARDAR – A PROJECT FROM THE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY WING



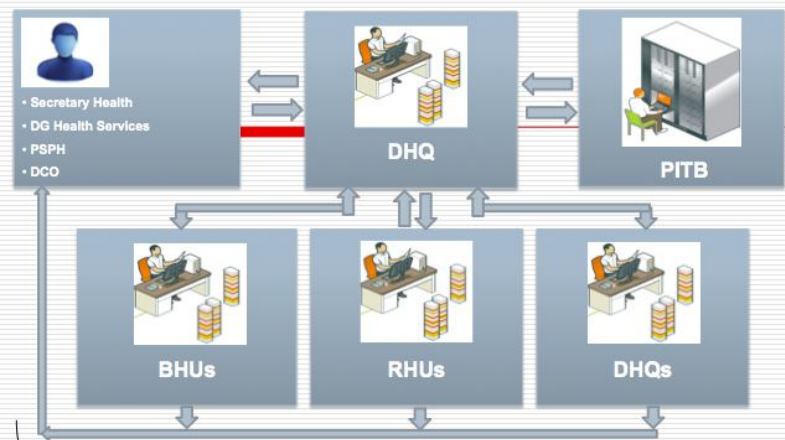
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) is currently engaged in a project funded by the UK Department for Foreign Development (DFID) through District Development Challenge Fund, which aims to insulate health services from false procurements, inventory mismanagement, and information gaps in every step of health service delivery system. The program strives for structural change by providing an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) mechanism to provide the highest possible quality of health services to marginalized sections of society.

The project envisions a transformation in public service delivery through the development of an ICT system in a pilot project in Sheikhpura District, Punjab. All medical equipment, medicines, tender documents, and work orders issued to vendors will be computerized, including the distribution of medicines and medical items from the District to the secondary and tertiary health facilities. The receipt and dispatch of medicine from the District Headquarter hospital will be recorded through barcode readers and entered into a central database. There will be identical recording systems at every public healthcare facility in the district through which

the medical items would be checked-in upon receipt through laser barcode scanning to eliminate pilferage. The project will in particular focus on the following service delivery issues:

- Inventory and Stockpile Management
- Patient Management Automation
- Disease Early Warning
- Patient Health Record Management
- Patients Identity Authentication

The Institute views the opportunities afforded by the ICT sector as particularly efficacious tools for improving public service delivery. Mobile phones, among technologies, are prevalent through all sections of the Pakistani citizenry; consequently, the potential for service delivery through these platforms is enormous. These technologies can bring about a transformative change in the quality of life of the people. These technologies also offer innumerable opportunities particularly to the SME sector to improve their business processes and achieve efficiency gains.



BUILDING CAPACITY – FROM THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING WING

The Education and Training wing is committed to ensuring that the staff develops and strengthens the education/skills they require for their professional growth and for contributing to the ever-evolving needs of the Institute. The wing strives to encourage staff to pursue their individual interests and excel in the field of their choice in line with BIPP's organizational structure. The education and training framework incorporates in-house and guest lectures, trainings and presentations.

In this regard, two in-house lectures have been conducted since the Institute's inauguration. The head of the Research and Consultancy wing, Mr Imtiaz Ahmad, presented to the staff his recent work on social network analysis. His presentation, with the aid of examples from empirical works, helped the staff to understand how economic, political, and social interactions are embedded in social settings and how the structure of those relationships is essential in determining how people behave and what the outcomes of that behaviour are.

In another presentation, Director of Research and Co-ordination, Dr Ummad Mazhar, comprehensively shared his then-recent lecture on good governance. The lecture traced the history of the concept of governance, especially its evolution after 1980s. It identified the various factors that shape the thinking of academics and policy makers on governance and how it leads to the emergence of present day conceptions of good governance. The lecture also questioned what the characteristics of good governance are and how they can be attained in the context of Pakistan's society.

Further lectures and presentations are in the pipeline that will hopefully impart knowledge in the staff, regarding various national policy level issues so as to inform their respective works with a wide variety of perspectives.

From the Knowledge Management Wing – Recent Publications

Between April and May 2015, The Institute produced the following publications, which can be viewed on our website: <http://sjbipp.org/policyBrief.html>

- Closing the Infrastructure Gap
- Pakistan's Political Leaders as Heroes
- The Promise and its Fulfillment
- Xi's Visit: Looking Back Many Years from Now
- Pakistan and CIA's Drone Program
- Light-Touch Tax Environment
- Need for Pak-Afghan Oversight Commission
- Pakistan's Relations with its Neighbors: Afghanistan
- On China-India Relations
- Repositioning Pakistan
- Illicit Financing
- Level Playing Field

UPCOMING EVENTS AND VISITS

- 10 June – Visit of Dr. Qaiser Bengali. Dr. Bengali is an advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan and one of the most respected economists in Pakistan.
- Lecture Series – BIPP has initiated a series of lectures on management, policy, and administration to be given by in-house as well as guest speakers. The lectures will be open to students and stakeholders in public administration.
 - 17 June – Change Management by Mr. Shahid Najam, Vice-chairman of BIPP
 - 1 July – Expert Knowledge and Economic Change by Dr. Ummad Mazhar, Director of BIPP
 - 15 July – Differences in Education by Gender by Muhammad Imran, Head of the Think-Tank wing at BIPP
 - 29 July – Critical Analysis of Federal Budget by Dr. Fahd Rehman, Assistant Professor at LUMS



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

