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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



The need to know the economy better

The country's policy makers have done reasonably well in guiding the economy out of the deep rut into which it had fallen during the five year period of the government that held the reins of power from 2008 to 2013. Since 2013 the rate of growth has picked up somewhat and there is reasonable expectation that it will increase further. However, Pakistan is nowhere close to the performance of other economies in South Asia. Even Bangladesh, once the poorer and poorly performing part of Pakistan, has outpaced Pakistan. There is no doubt in my mind that the country could do better but for that to happen the policymakers will need to have a better idea about the state of the economy they have been entrusted to manage.

Every year the Burki Institute publishes its The State of the Economy Report. The report comes in two parts. In the first we look at the macroeconomic situation; in the second we examine some aspect of the economic situation that merits the policymakers' attention. Last year, for instance, we looked at the contribution technological change is bringing to the growth and development of the world economy. We were of the view that Pakistan could catch up with some of the

economies in the neighborhood by making judicious use of technology. For that to happen there will need to be greater collaboration between the public and private sectors. Development economists call this the Public-Private-Partnership approach or simply PPP.

This year the focus of the report will be agriculture and water. We will suggest that agriculture as a sector should make a much larger contribution to the national product than it does at this time. This will, a priori, require significantly changing the cropping pattern from the one that is land and water-intensive to the one that is more sparing of the use of these two vital but increasingly scarce resources. Water, once abundant, is less so now and its supply will be reduced as the globe warms and the snow-cover of the Himalayas reduces significantly over time. How to conserve water will be an important question we hope to answer in the forthcoming annual report.

In other words, there is a great deal on the policymakers' plate that needs to be factored into the decisions Islamabad and provincial capitals make. However, they do not have the information and data bases on which they can rely. I have studied the Pakistani economy over a long period to conclude that we need to know much more about the state of the economy than we do. We have only a rough idea about the size of the economy and its structure; the size of the population and how it is spread across the country and its gender and age distribution; about the size of the labor force and its distribution across the productive

Publications



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and service sectors of the economy; about the state of education and health of the population and so forth. Improving the data base has become difficult for the reason that politics stand in the way for producing accurate information. We are familiar about the nature of the political forces that have prevented the government from holding a population census. Pakistan today is much more urbanized than reported in the demographic data. Unless policymakers have sound information about the size and location of urban population they cannot provide the services urban dwellers need and demand.

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH



Even though not entirely peaceful, 2015 seemed to be a rather stable year, considering the recent years of turmoil in the country. It seemed that we had finally

been able to take control of the situation and were on our way towards building a peaceful nation. The recent attack in Lahore, however, proves that there are still elements in the society, trying to cause mayhem and fear. This section wants Pakistan, to again fall into the labyrinth of terrorism and instability and is only looking to gain attention through such horrible actions. I am very confident that our agencies

FROM THE THINK TANK WING

BIPP embarked on a mass outreach program that aimed to advance the think tank function of the institute. In the first phase, we chalked out a plan that directed the BIPP's core research team to liaise with governmental and non-governmental institutions to encourage them to read and reflect on the policy and advocacy research produced by the BIPP research team itself. As part of this component, our research fellows have started covering major political, social and economic events by publishing opinion pieces and news articles in the popular and widely read English dailies of Pakistan.

I have suggested elsewhere that some 75 percent of the population of the megacities of Karachi and Lahore is below the age of 25 years. Their aspirations need to be satisfied. Not doing so will attract them towards extremist thinking and activities.

Before policymaking turns to long-term strategic planning, those who are in command of the economy need to know exactly what they are managing.

Shahid Javed Burki

will be able to eliminate these cancerous sections of the society and will bring about peace again. We must strive against this destructive ideology as well and should raise our voice to put an end to such barbaric acts. In my opinion, it is time that everyone joins hands and work together despite their political or personal affiliations. I have unwavering faith that Pakistan will soon be a secure country again. While the situation is bleak in the current times, I am optimistic that we shall overcome.

Salim Ghauri

One of our research fellows recently published a critique of the Fair-trading system in a bid to highlight the discourse surrounding the Fair-trade regime and how it relates to the overall balance and feasibility of the international trading system that also includes rival trading regimes like ones that model themselves on the free-trade setup. The article was published in the Business Recorder in the last week of March. Here's the link to the article: <http://www.brecorder.com/articles-a-letters/187:articles/27417:fairtrade---neither-fair-nor-trade?date=2016-03-20>

Joint Workshop on 'Expanding Regional Linkages in South Asia' 7-9 MARCH 2016

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University Singapore (ISAS) jointly convened a workshop on 'Expanding Regional Linkages in South Asia' at Lahore from 7 to 9 MARCH 2016. The workshop was inaugurated on 7 March 2016 at the Pearl Continental, hotel Lahore. Eminent policy scientists, economists, decision makers, development practitioners and lead thinkers from Pakistan and around the globe especially from Australia, Bangladesh, Singapore and the United States participated in the opening session. The ISAS delegate comprised Dr. Subrata K Mitra, Dr. Iftekhar Chowdhury, former Minister for Foreign Affairs Bangladesh, Professor Riaz Hassan, Mr. Johnson Paul and Ms. Chandrani Sarma. BIPP was represented by Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Parvez Hasan, Dr. Daud Ahmad, Dr. Mahmood Ahmad and Mr. Sherdil.

The primary objective of the joint workshop is to examine and discuss the economic, social and political impediments which

FROM THE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY WING: (i) MOU BETWEEN BIPP AND ISAS

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and the Institute of South Asian Studies of National University Singapore (ISAS) organized a joint workshop: *Expanding Regional Linkages in South Asia* at the National School for Public Policy Lahore on 7-9 March 2016. During the course of the workshop, Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, Chairman BIPP and Professor Subrata Kumar Mitra, Director (ISAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 8 March 2016 to formally establish academic and scholarly ties between the two organizations and cooperate: in the sphere of research on security issues as well as on national, international, technological and socio-economic problems; jointly organize seminars, workshops, conferences and symposia; and exchange knowledge

constrain South Asia in adequately responding to the global change and to define an approach that the governments and people could develop in carving out an effective role for the region.

The technical sessions of the workshop including session with the policy and decision makers were held at the National School of Public Policy Lahore. A number of specialized papers were presented in the workshop with major focus on four broad themes: "a rapidly changing world", "globalization and its impact on South Asia", "South Asia's frozen conflicts" and "institutions for resolving conflicts". A joint BIPP-ISAS publication embodying the recommendations on expanding regional linkages is expected in May June 2016.

The Lahore workshop is the first of a series to be held in the various capitals of South Asia. The second meeting is planned to be held in Dhaka followed by similar events in other capitals.



products and research publications. The MoU will be valid for an initial period of two years and can be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

(ii) MOU BETWEEN BIPP AND LEAD

The Vice Chairman Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol BIPP), Mr. Shahid Najam and the Chief Executive Officer, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 9 March 2016 on the eve of the joint workshop: *Expanding Regional Linkages in South Asia* at the National School for Public Policy Lahore. The MoU will provide the *framework of cooperation* between the two institutions in the areas of public policy and institutional development with specific focus on sustainable human development involving the troika of environmental, social and economic dimensions. The objectives of this MoU will be realized through collaborative research; knowledge management including development of knowledge products,



policy briefs; sharing data and information; organizing and facilitating conferences, thematic discussion, seminars, dialogues etc.; and jointly conducting training courses and learning modules.

(iii) PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SMART HEALTH PROJECT “TEEMARDAR”

Halfway through the project, TEEMARDAR is deployed and functioning on all project locations with all third quarter targets having been successfully achieved.

Post remodeling of the process in second quarter, changes were made in TEEMARDAR's working process to ensure that it functions exactly as envisaged when project was conceived. All Computer Operators are hired & trained in the use of TEEMARDAR system along with employees of government health facilities.

Third round of patient caregiver survey has also been completed and report developed and shared. Since the TEEMARDAR is in its initial phases, no significant change in health indicators have been noticed. However we are envisaging definite improvement in pro-poor service delivery of medicine distribution in coming months.

In the training of Government line staff, the major emphasis was on the basic functions of TEEMARDAR solution which

were installed at government health facilities along with the SOPs for using TEEMARDAR.

A new survey instrument has been design to assess the patient satisfaction regarding medicine distribution after installation of TEEMARDAR.

The communication and branding strategy has also been implemented vigorously as planned. Publicity and awareness campaign has been moved further down to patient level. Special prescription slips and cards have been designed with information of TEEMARDAR and health service messages which are being used at all project locations. In addition to that brochures are also developed for distribution at key seminars, conferences and workshops. SJBIPP in collaboration with National University of Singapore had organized a SAARC level event on Regional Cooperation where a special presentation was made about TEEMARDAR project.

It may be added that Teemardar has been funded by UK Aid under their Sub national Governance Programme (SNG).

FROM THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING WING

Student engagement has been our key focus to realize objectives outlined under BIPP's education and learning component. Our research team has been liaising with student bodies and groups within numerous private and public universities in Lahore in the first phase, which is to be extended to other cities of the country, to educate and create awareness amongst the youth about need for research and evidence based policy and knowledge products specifically through BIPP annual reports. The student groups not only provide us readership and comment, the focus has been to enable them to write comprehensive critiques on BIPP's research to add to the existing body of BIPP's literature. This will also provide us and the universities the window to collaborate and engage in research and academic activities of mutual interest and significance.

BIPP's researchers and industry experts who frequent public

policy meetings and conferences are also invited by leading More specifically, universities will be engaged to present their work as part of the university speaker series and extension/guest lectures. This aptly serves our education and learning function while also fulfilling the knowledge dissemination part of the overall knowledge management function. Our speakers have been raising their voice on social, political and economic events that have been plaguing the country while also paving the way for development of future conceptual and theoretical policy frameworks. Students in universities across Lahore are encouraged to research and explore paradigms that invite future research on the Pakistan economy and BIPP's work typically our annual reports have been used as reference texts or benchmarks for students to model their research work on.

FROM THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT WING: *RECENT PUBLICATIONS*

Policy Brief

- Promoting human resource development
- Regional focus for developing international trade
- Obama's perception of Pakistan
- Reaching equilibrium through negotiations
- Development of land-based economic systems
- Issues as possible source of global conflict

Research from Partner Institutes

- The Indo-Russian Defence Partnership: A Framework for the 21st Century
- Elite Politics and Dissent in Sri Lanka
- Andhra Pradesh: Political Dynamics of Regionalism, Formation of New States in India



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

