

NEWS LETTER

Edition 43

5 August 2022



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You are free, you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or cast or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the State.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

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Highlights

- From the Desk of Chairman
- Message of the Month

Focus Areas

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



Shahid Javed Burki

Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

As Pakistan Approaches its 75th Birthday

On August 14, 2022, Pakistan would have reached another milestone. It would then be celebrating its 75th birth anniversary. I marked the 70th anniversary by editing a book to which a number of experts from several different disciplines made contributions. I wrote some

essays for the volume myself. The theme of the collection was generally celebratory. In one of my essays, I recalled the enormous difficulties the country faced at the time of its birth. In 1947, what is Pakistan now had a population of 32million people of which almost one-in-four were non-Muslims. Since Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founding father, had created a country for the Muslims of British India, the non-Muslims concluded that there would be little political, social and economic space for them in Pakistan.

Jinnah had said on several occasions that he was not creating an Islamic state but a country in which Muslims would be comfortable following their own distinct culture. To underscore the enormous cultural differences between Muslims and Hindus, he famously observed that whereas Hindus worshipped the cow, treating the animal as holy, Muslims ate it. I remember when I traveled by train, hawkers on the platforms sold "Hindu pani and Muslim pani". That said, in his often-quoted August 11, 1947 speech at the opening session of the Constituent Assembly, Jinnah said that in the country he had created Muslims would cease to be Muslims and Hindus would cease to be Hindus—not in the religious sense but in the sense of being citizens of the same state.

However, although the Indian National Congress, the political organization headed by Mohandas Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted the idea of partitioning British India into a predominantly Hindu India and a predominantly Muslim Pakistan, it did not get reconciled to having a basically Muslim majority state on the northwestern and northeastern parts of independent India. The first generation of the Indian leadership did all it could do to kill Pakistan at its birth. The effort continues to this day as India under the Hindu-extremist Narendra Modi has adopted

Hindutva as the country's governing philosophy.

The first two blows inflicted on Pakistan were in the areas of demography and trade. Among the first action the Indian government took was to make it uncomfortable for the Muslim population to remain in India. The result was a massive transfer of population that involved 14 million people; eight million Muslims moved into Pakistan from India, and six million Hindus and Sikhs left in the opposite direction. When Pakistan took its first population census, 25 percent of its population was born outside the country. About 3 to 4 million refugees headed for Karachi that was chosen to be the country's first capital. From a port city of a quarter million people, Karachi turned into a megacity of several million people. Steven Inskeep, an American journalist wrote a book on Karachi and titled it, *Instant City*, it has a vivid description of Karachi's transformation into a mega-city.

The second blow came in 1949, two years after independence when India stopped all trade with its neighbor. At that time Pakistan did not have any domestic industry of any significance. I remember my mother putting salt on the toothbrush since toothpastes were imported from in India and were no longer available in the country.

As I write this, Pakistan is faced with a series of crises involving politics and economics. As has happened so many times in its often-troubled history, Pakistan would ride out of these as well. How that will happen will be the subject of the next Chairman's report.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Responsible Journalism

Millions of Pakistanis form and shape their opinions and behaviors based on the trust they repose in responsible journalism and the expert analysis of the renowned TV anchors to conduct their ordinary life and to “rationally” respond to the crisis, uncertainty and future variability in the country. In the process, they find themselves oscillating between optimism and hope on the one hand and discord and despair on the other.

This high-impact journalism is easily accessible to everyone – in the far-flung rural areas and the densely populated urban agglomerations- through print and electronic media and lately powerful social media on local, national and global events. This in itself underlines the importance of trustworthy and honest journalism in terms of the agenda they set and the issues they discuss- social, cultural, economic or political to influence public opinion and societal collective behavior and to counterweigh the spread of misinformation and malicious campaigns. As a potent catalyst, it promotes and preserves the democratic tradition of giving voice and space to the people to articulate their preferences and choices.

Through investigative and evidence-based research and reporting service, responsible media also act as a transparent accountability

tool to check the governance deviance and dysfunction and exercise effective check on the illicit designs and intent of the powerful, dishonest and unscrupulous ruling elite-political, bureaucratic, military and business. At the same time, it inspires and encourages the honest to pursue their noble objectives whole heartedly.

Even if this high-impact journalism is momentarily silenced by the state draconian legal frameworks or the brute power of the vested interests, it invariably reverberates and echoes the instances of injustice, abuse, malpractice and wrongdoings. It thus provides a vital public service especially for the marginalized and exploited teeming millions to rectify and redress the wrongs.

We in Pakistan badly need the tradition of responsible, honest, objective and impartial media and means, given the enormity of social, political and economic challenges we are confronted with. Ill luck would have it, political and powerful interest-based instrumentalized journalism seems to have dominated the information and communication landscape in the country.



Tariq Hussain
Member, Board of Directors
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Food Choices

According to two scientific studies published in 2021 food production, consumption and waste together account for one third of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Prior to 2021, Tubiello (2) and his colleagues at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were aware that land use and agriculture contributed about 20% of global GHGs. But modern modelling, and new databases like EDGAR (Emissions Data Base for Global Atmospheric Research---developed by the European Union) identified an additional major contributor to GHGs--the Food Supply Chain. This includes transportation, processing, cooking, and food waste and brought the share of this sector to 33 %. As a large driver to reduce GHGs it compares to fossil fuel consumption. And thus, it is a large lever for reducing GHGs at the global level.

Crippa (1) and team designed a four variable system to study relative impacts: Land Energy, Industry, and Waste. Land includes both agriculture and land use changes Energy includes usage for producing processing, packaging, and transporting. Industry includes production of chemicals and packaging material used in the food supply chain. Waste includes all food that is not used by humans. The Land sector is the biggest contributor accounting for about 70% of the total from this agglomerate sector.

This combined food sector contributes about 17 metric gigatons of GHGs in tons of CO₂ – equivalent. About 52% is from five countries China, Brazil, USA, India, Indonesia, and the European Union in decreasing relative contributions. China's food related emissions increased by 50% in the preceding 40 years according to the EDGAR-FOOD data base. The major contributor being increased meat production—from 30 grams per day to 150 grams during this period. Table 1 gives the relative contributions from seven diets in the US.

Table 1

Per capita food system GHGs of six diets in then US

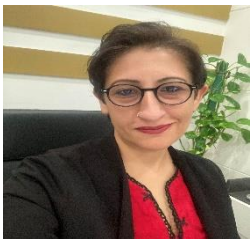
Diet definition	Kgs of CO ₂ equivalents
Average US diet	2000
One meatless day	1600
Low red meat	1400
Only fish	900
No red meat	900
Two third Vegan	750
Vegan	250

The biggest polluter is beef. It also contributes to higher health costs—obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular negative effects. In the US the diet transformation will be the hardest. In other parts of the world staying with and adopting plant-based diets would be easier. But global transformation of food habits will not be easy. Besides inertia within the consumers, there will be serious global blow back from the beef producing and the fossil fuel industries. Politicians have high discount rates and democracies have short planning horizons. So, prospects of change are low unless all nations combine to educate both

the consumers and producers that substantial changes are needed at an accelerated pace.

Recent IPCC studies suggest that failing significant change the average temperature at the end of the 21st century is highly likely to increase by 3.2 C. That is more than twice the level we are now trying to achieve.

1. Monica Crippa et al, "Food Systems are responsible for third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions" Nature Food. March 2021.
2. Francesco Tubiello et al." Greenhouse gas emissions from food systems: building the evidence base". Environmental Research letters, June 2021



Dr. Rabia Akhtar
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Harnessing Pakistan's Connectivity Potential

Located at the crossroads of Central and South Asia, Pakistan cannot ignore the changes taking place in regional and global politics. As a pivotal partner of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Pakistan's capacity to act as a veritable zipper of South Asia could increase precipitously. BRI's flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), offers Pakistan sets of opportunities to strengthen its economic profile and become a hub of economic connectivity. However, there are two things to consider here. First, the onus of carrying out structural reforms is only on

Pakistan. In other words, CPEC can, for instance, drive up our industrial production only if we commit to taking robust steps to ramp up industrialization, facilitate investments, and train our human resources on modern lines. Second, there is a lot more to regional connectivity than CPEC. Pakistan can and must establish better economic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs), simply because they offer mutual economic benefits. CARs can get access to West Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa through Pakistan's Gwadar port while the latter could, among other things, get access to the former's rich energy resources. Navigating Pakistan's energy crisis, it must be stressed, is critical to not only building an export-led economy but also reducing external account imbalances going forward. All this has to be done in keeping with Pakistan's strategic direction and vision. While it is commendable that the previous government gave its statement of strategic intent through the National Security Policy, a lot needs to be done to realize its overarching goals, particularly those that relate to bolstering economic security. However, it is important for the country's stakeholders to bring about much-needed political stability. Absent stability and visionary leadership, Pakistan may miss a chance to jump on the economic connectivity bandwagon, something which it can ill-afford.



Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Bhatti
Vice Chancellor
Lahore Leads University

Education and National Development: Priorities, Policies, and Planning

Pakistan produces about 445,000 university graduates and 25,000-30,000 computer science graduates per year. Despite these statistics, Pakistan still has a low literacy rate. And Pakistan also has the second largest out-of-school population (22.8 million children) after Nigeria.

With changes in socioeconomic factors, universities worldwide face challenges regarding responsiveness to the global market. Institutes of higher education should be ready to serve societies at the price of transformation. Pakistani institutions of higher education have multiple challenges. On one hand, they have to respond to global, regional, and local challenges and on the other hand, they have to maintain and strengthen national culture and identity. A particular emphasis is supposed to be placed on higher education and the shifting role of universities in economic growth and development, along with the importance of performing a transformative role in society.

A correlation is made between tertiary education and the economic development of a country. Hence, with the development of the "multiversity" paradigm, we are seeing a shift

in the university role. As the pressure from globalization continues to grow, we expect higher education institutions to safeguard national culture and express the unique Pakistani identity in front of the global community of universities. A new university identity has a role essential to the development of learning societies, especially at the microlevel, with several models of learning societies cited. A key purpose of education is recounted, namely "to provide mature autonomous life, help engage in lifelong learning of abilities, and develop community spirit." This ultimately contributes to the development of the national economy by giving rise to innovative ideas in the economic sector.

Developmental universities as 'hubs of economic activity' are devoted to assisting their countries to address developmental challenges. Accordingly, the university is a powerful institution that grooms the next generation of agricultural scientists, social scientists, policymakers, business leaders and entrepreneurs, public servants, and other professionals. There is a need for a conducive environment for staff through improved service conditions, essential infrastructural development, and the availability of other channels that will aid teaching in various parts of Pakistan.

Table below will provide a clear idea to understand the relationship between tertiary education and economic development of a country.

Tertiary Education and GDP of Selected Countries			
Country	GDP per Capita	2022 Population	Percentage off population holding Tertiary education
Luxembourg	\$118,001	642,371	51.30%
Switzerland	\$72,874	8,773,637	45.30%
Norway	\$65,800	5,511,370	45.30%
United States	\$63,416	334,805,269	50.10%
Netherlands	\$57,534	17,211,447	42.60%
Sweden	\$54,146	10,218,971	44.60%
Germany	\$54,076	83,883,596	31.30%
Australia	\$51,680	26,068,792	49.30%
Belgium	\$51,096	11,668,278	42.40%
Finland	\$49,853	5,554,960	47.90%
Canada	\$48,720	38,388,419	60.00%
Saudi Arabia	\$46,811	35,844,909	23.60%
France	\$46,062	65,584,518	39.70%
South Korea	\$44,621	51,329,899	50.70%
United Kingdom	\$44,117	68,497,907	49.40%
Japan	\$42,248	125,584,838	52.70%
New Zealand	\$42,018	4,898,203	40.10%
Israel	\$40,547	8,922,892	50.10%
Spain	\$39,121	46,719,142	39.70%
Turkey	\$30,253	85,561,976	22.00%
Russia	\$27,903	145,805,947	56.70%
Indonesia	\$12,222	279,134,505	11.90%
Pakistan	\$1,538	220,000,000	12.22%



Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu
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Agriculture Human Resource Development

The Agriculture Human Resource Development in Pakistan will introduce meaningful changes to develop and employee HR with the aim to make them and the sector more productive. For this purpose, institutional reforms are required to achieve the goals and objectives of productive growth in agriculture sector. All provinces should carry out educational program encompassing: A) curriculum and syllabus reforms; b) faculty quality improvement; c) revitalization of teaching methodologies; d) faculty exchanges with China, Brazil and other foreign universities; e) modernization of university administration and management system; f) upgrading of teaching laboratory equipment; g) establishments of Remote Sensing and GIS centers in all Universities and Institutes and; h) establishments of placement centers and student attachment to Agro-industries. To upgrade human resource management at the national level in-service HRD and management programs and manpower effective need assessment is required.

Human Resource Development (HRD) as a functional process that involves learning interventions which are both determined by and have implications for public policy, public and private sector institutions, and the HRD specialists operating within the institutions that seek to implement these interventions. HRD is considered a force for optimizing

human growth, organizational effectiveness, and national development through skills enhancement in the workforce. The agricultural workforce is broadly divided into four major segments, and these are related to three arenas of educational activity: in-service training and development, non-formal extension and extension-type educational programs, and school curricula. The basic needs of HRD in the agriculture sector is at the policy, institutional and operational levels. Finally, there is a brief review of the global forces, both exogenous and endogenous, affecting HRD. Therefore, it is required that carefully diagnosed, systematically implemented HRD policies to ensure for the development of profitable agriculture in a clean environment.

It is required to determine the Human Resource Development (HRD) imperatives or trends in provincial agricultural extension advisory services and education in order to identify the perceptions and paradigms. A skilled and trained worker is commonly acknowledged as one of the essential assets for any organizations. Generally, there is an information gap between public extension and academia which should be bridged by means of operative HRD efforts and holistic approaches it is therefore recommended that conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions should be carried out to promote the sharing of new technologies. A paid national internship program for the agriculture students of different universities by SMEDA should be launched where all students must do internship with small farm holders up to 12.5-acre land.



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Pakistan's Economic Update (July 2022)

"In the real sector, the agriculture credit disbursement increased by 2.3 percent to Rs 1,219.3 billion during Jul-May FY2022 as compared to Rs 1,191.6 billion last year. LSM kept momentum with 11.7 percent growth during Jul-May FY2022, against 10.2 percent growth in the corresponding period last year. The outstanding performance was observed in Food, Tobacco, Wearing apparel, Textile, Chemicals, Automobiles, Iron & Steel Products, Leather Products, and Paper & Paperboard. On YoY, LSM increased by 21.5 percent in May 2022 while on MoM basis, LSM declined by 1.3 percent.

CPI Inflation was recorded at 21.3 percent in June 2022 as against 9.7 percent in the same month last year. On MoM basis, it increased by 6.3 percent in June 2022 as compared to an increase of 0.4 percent in May 2022. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused major disruptions to the supply of commodities in the international market as both countries are major exporters of energy and agricultural products. The disruptions have exacerbated existing stresses in commodity markets following an already sluggish recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Jul-May FY2022, the fiscal deficit increased by 5.2 percent (Rs 3,468 billion) against 3.9 percent (Rs 2,197 billion) in the comparable period of last year. Similarly, the primary balance posted a deficit of Rs 945 billion (1.4 percent of GDP) in Jul-May FY2022

against the surplus of Rs 139 billion (0.2 percent of GDP) last year. Net federal revenues grew by 11.6 percent to Rs 3,350 billion in Jul-May FY2022 against Rs 3,003 billion last year. The growth in revenues has been realized on the back of the significant rise in tax collection. On the other hand, total expenditure witnessed a sharp increase owing to a 33.1 percent growth in current spending. Higher growth in subsidies and grants jacked up the current spending during the period under review. While PSDP spending increased by 7.5 percent to Rs 518 billion in Jul-May FY2022 against Rs 482 billion in the comparable period of last year.

The Current Account posted a deficit of \$ 17.4 billion for FY2022 as against a deficit of \$ 2.8 billion last year. Current account deficit widened due to constantly growing import volume of energy and non-energy commodities, along with a rising trend in the global prices of oil, COVID-19 vaccines, food and metals. Exports on fob grew by 26.6 percent during FY2022 and reached \$ 32.5 billion (\$ 25.6 billion last year). Imports on fob grew by 32.8 percent during FY2022 and reached \$ 72.0 billion (\$ 54.3 billion last year). Resultantly the trade deficit (FY2022) reached to \$ 39.6 billion as against \$ 28.6 billion last year. As per PBS, during FY2022, exports increased by 25.6 percent to \$ 31.8 billion (\$ 25.3 billion last year). The exports grew by 7.0 percent in June 2022 to \$ 2.9 billion against \$ 2.7 billion last year.

The long-term economic policies should see to secure a high sustainable growth trajectory capable of absorbing Pakistan's rapidly growing human capital while avoiding internal and external financing constraints. To avoid these constraints, effective supply-side dynamics must be combined with prudent demand management (Economic update, Ministry of Finance).



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Absence of Student Career Counselling in Public Sector

Amid many unanswered questions and harrowing anxieties about the future, one of the problems that exacerbate the challenges for Pakistan's youth is the lack of career counselling services given by the public sector educational institutions. It is a perennial problem that impacts the psychological, emotional, financial, and social wellbeing of the students as well as of the parents belonging mainly to the lower middle and middle class.

It has been seen that students usually depend on their parents, immediate family or extended social circle while choosing their course of study and career paths. The result is mostly depressing as those paths are either not suited for them or are practically of little financial value many a times e.g., MA in Islamic Studies, Arabic. It is hence fair to say that Pakistan has guided missiles but unguided youth which is the real asset of the nation. However, the need for career guidance is felt more than ever because of the rapidity in technological advancement requires a new skill set to be acquired, the increasing economic stress, the need to ration resources, the knowledge economy boom, increasing fragility in balancing resources & constraints and, stress on certification demands e.g., project management, social media marketing, policy formulation & analysis, rather than full-fledged degrees, fear of wrong academic &

career decisions and plethora of information that can lead the youth into confusion.

Although, aptitude tests are conducted in Pakistan e.g., National Aptitude Test, they do not always fulfill the purpose of filtering those who would genuinely enjoy their future careers in that given field. Those gaining above average marks may simply be intelligent youth but not made for that particular career area. Owing to this and the high cost of education, competition, family pressures and dystopian lifestyles, cases of frequent student suicide cases are coming to the fore.

An absence of professional guidance coupled with a sense of unabashed disorientation ultimately blocks the dim light of potential in students that could have intensified. Therefore, the education sector must focus on harnessing the potential and inherent strengths of the students, by setting an agenda and formulating a policy for every educational institute to have career guidance center/department with highly experienced and qualified personnel with a vision to guide the posterity. This being said, the outcomes of this policy must include the generation of gainful employment opportunities to utilize educational degrees being offered currently and prospectively on the lines of European, North American and Southeast Asian examples which also uses information technology, social media and industrial linkages for a practice-oriented approach to provide career counselling. This would ensure orderly, efficient, and sustained development of career guidance.



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The Endemic of Religious Bigotry in the Sub-Continent

The minorities make up approximately 15-20% in Pakistan and India is home to 10.9% of the world's Muslim population with around 209 million Muslims (2021 estimate)¹. However, minorities in both countries have a relatively tough time living in their home countries. Muslims in India are persecuted extensively with detention, cruel treatment, gender-based violence and discrimination, incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence, violations of religious freedom, violation of freedom of expression, any associations, assembly, violations of rights to fair trial, and violation of economic, social, and cultural rights². The case is no different in Pakistan, where minorities are not only discriminated but they also face a grave issue of blasphemy law abuse.

In August 2020 alone, at least 42 cases were registered of committing blasphemy across Pakistan in a single month, similarly, in 2021, 89 people were killed extra judicially and roughly 1,500 were accused³. In December 2021, Priyantha Kumara a Sri Lankan manager of a sports equipment factory in Sialkot was met with a violent mob that tortured and burnt him to death after being accused of blasphemy. While the minority groups in Pakistan show tolerance in dealing with the cases where their religion is defiled by the majority group, unfortunately offense by minority groups find no tolerance from the majority groups, and the

situation is no different in India against Muslim minority. Muslims are a minority in Kashmir that suffers endlessly since before 1947. The situation is the same in other parts of India. In India the Bhartiya Janata Party's (BJP) spokesperson made controversial remarks about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that hurt the sentiments of Muslims across the globe, especially of those living in India.

Amid all this, a breath of fresh air and hope for interfaith harmony was witnessed when Reena Chhibber Varma, 92, cherished the long-wished dream of visiting her ancestral home in Rawalpindi⁴. All communities across the border appreciated this effort and hoped for more such occurrences in the future. With reference to minorities' day in Pakistan, communities and institutes must educate people to exercise interfaith harmony to build an environment of tolerance. Surely "the highest result of education is tolerance"-Helen Keller.

¹ "Muslim Population in India," India Guide - Festivals, Culture, City Guide, Weddings, Population, Indiaonlinepages.com, accessed July 19, 2022, <https://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/muslim-population-in-india.html>.

² Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2022/07/16/muslims-have-become-a-persecuted-minority-in-india-experts-warn/?sh=b23b862595aa>.

³ "Blasphemy Cases in Pakistan: 1947 – 2021," CRSS, last modified April 12, 2022, <https://crss.pk/blasphemy-cases-in-pakistan-1947-2021/>.

⁴ Kamaldeep S. Brar, "Strong Childhood Memories Came Back: Reena Varma on Visiting Her Home in Pak," The Indian Express, last modified July 26, 2022, <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/amritsar/strong-childhood-memories-came-back-reena-varma-on-visiting-her-home-in-pak-8051396/>.



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Writing on the Wall

Sri Lanka defaulted on its loans, this May. Due to the economic crisis, and the subsequent political crisis, country's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country and made Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe the acting president. Different analysts provided multiple reasons for the country's economic turmoil. While it is true that such crises have multifaceted causes, yet the most pertinent argument would be that Sri Lanka's economy failed due to poor policy decisions. It is imperative to mention here that when Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President in 2019, Sri Lankan economy was already in a bad condition. However, his populist move to cut taxes, inter alia, exacerbated the already precarious situation. Furthermore, Sri Lanka's trade deficit in 2019 was \$5.14 billion and it grew to \$6.39 billion in 2021; and by the second quarter of 2022 Sri Lanka defaulted, due to depleted foreign reserves.

Pakistan is facing similar economic problems: trade deficit, high inflation, and depleting foreign reserves and decision to cut fuel prices and providing subsidies, in spite of being under the conditions given by International Monetary Fund (IMF). Such populist moves for the sake of going political have affected the economy adversely, in the past, and it will only worsen the situation in the future. Now that the incumbent government has finally reached an agreement with the IMF, for the release of the remaining tranches

of the program, under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), there is a need for robust policy decisions to sustain the market and overall economy. In the words of Shahrukh Wani, an economist based at the University of Oxford, "Bad policy decisions are leading the Pakistani economy on the downward spiral". Government should focus on (a) increasing the overall size of the economy; (b) increase the exports to decrease trade deficit, merely banning imports is not enough; (c) remove subsidies until the economy is back on track; (d) and try to control inflation.

The Sri Lankan economic crisis provides the lesson that poor policy decisions for the sake of political point-scoring and gaining political capital lead to economic disasters, eventually. Pakistan needs to read the writing on the wall and plan its policies accordingly.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-61028138>

<https://issi.org.pk/press-release-panel-discussion-sri-lankas-economic-crisis-and-what-pakistan-needs-to-learn/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/shocks-missteps-how-sri-lankas-economy-ended-crisis-2022-02-25>



Samra Naz
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The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu (Director BIPP) and Mr. Ahsan Sarwar Khan (Member BOD, BIPP) attended a national consultative conference “Turnaround Pakistan” in Islamabad in the month of June 2022. The conference was chaired by the Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif (Prime Minister of Pakistan) and attended by different Leaders from all walks of life.



Extensive consultations were made with a wide range of stakeholders i.e., Political Parties, Federal Ministries, Provincial Governments, National and International Private Sector Entrepreneurs, International Development and Financial Institutions, Academia, Think Tanks, Independent Experts, NGOs and other parts of Civil society of the country with the sole objective of mustering up support of all stakeholders for preparing a

national strategy to come out of the current crisis like situation.



On 4th July 2022, BIPP team had a brainstorming session to seek strategic guidance from board members in expanding BIPP's operations including initiation and engagement in the new initiatives. Meeting was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations Education and Learning) who welcomed Ms. Farzana Shahid on board & on her joining BIPP as member of Board of Directors (BOD). It was decided that BIPP will issue quarterly publication and organize quarterly policy dialogue specifically in the domains of climate change, agriculture, economics, education, and health.



In July, shortly after Eid-ul-Ahda holidays, BIPP upheld the tradition of celebrating Eid Millan Party in the office. With a cake cutting ceremony and lunch, the team members greeted one another and shared their festive experience.



BIPP is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Ms. Hania Makhdoom as Assistant Manager Operations and Finance. We welcome Ms. Hania, and we are optimistic that her presence will enhance our institutional capacity.



BIPP team visited Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), at PHEC office Lahore. Team discussed about the collaboration of BIPP and PHEC in the areas of mutual interest on a non-exclusive basis especially relating to education, economics, and social issues in the context of Pakistan and developing short-term courses in international business, globalization and professional training and to foster and

collaborate in policy dialogues, education and learning, and joint research and consultancy.



BIPP team expresses deep grief and sorrow over the loss of lives of more than 120 people due to flash flood and the tragic helicopter crash incident in Balochistan that turned out in the martyrdom of six Army officials who were responding to the call of duty and providing relief to the people facing hardship due to heavy floods and bad weather in Balochistan province. We pray for the elevation of their ranks in Jannah and express sympathy for their families for their irreparable loss.



Lt General Sarfraz Ali



Brig (Approved Maj Gen)
Amjad Hanif



Brig Muhammad Khalid



Maj Saeed Ahmed



Maj M. Talha Manan



Naik Mudassar Fayyaz



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.

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