



It's All About Economy!

Programme Booklet



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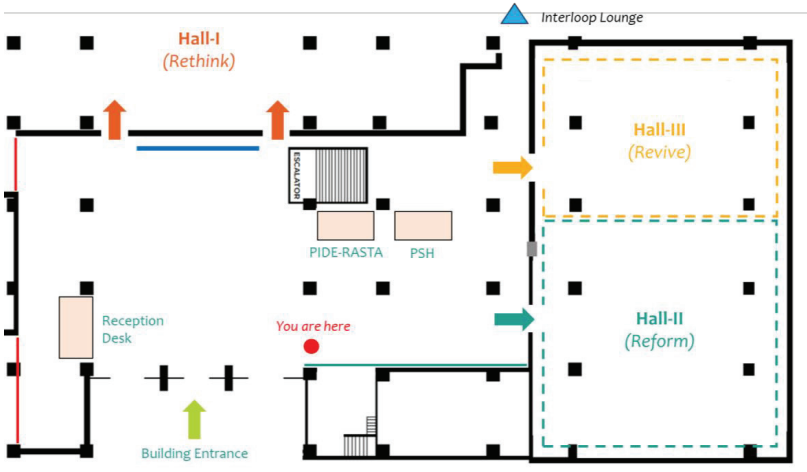
Day 2 SUN 29th OCT 2023

PRORAMME DAY 2

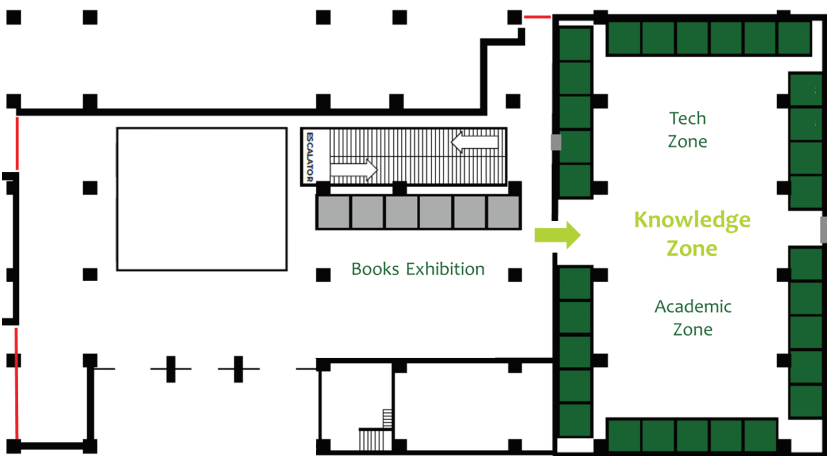
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VENUE MAP

Ground Floor



First Floor



The background is a solid teal color. On the left side, there are several abstract, organic shapes in a darker shade of teal. A dashed line in a dark brown color starts from the top left and curves downwards. Another dashed line is visible near the bottom left. On the right side, there are more abstract shapes and a dashed line. A solid white vertical line runs from the top to the bottom of the page, positioned to the right of the text.

DAY 1

SAT 28th

October 2023

ISLAAH – RETHINK, REFORM, & REVIVE

Hall-I (Rethink)

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
- DR DURRE NAYAB
Director (Research), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
- DR FAHEEM JEHANGIR
Chief (Policy), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

"Islaah" (اصلاح) is an intellectual drive by PIDE that encapsulates the ideals of Rethink, Reform, and Revive. It is a concerted effort to encourage Pakistanis to engage in critical reflection, share insights, and propose pragmatic recommendations for fixing that ills the country, taking it to the path of progress and prosperity.

In a time, where much clamour surrounds narrow debates tailored to vested interests, the concept of 'reform' has regrettably fallen silent in the Pakistani discourse. In stark contrast, PIDE firmly maintains that reform stands as the bedrock upon which we must construct the foundation of a progressive and prosperous Pakistan. It is in "Islaah" wherein lies our redemption!

HOW TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

Hall-I (Rethink)

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- SIR MASOOD AHMED
President, Centre for Global Development
- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Despite experiencing much economic and political adventurism, Pakistan has still been unable to break the ramshackles of the development enigma. The question that keeps surfacing is why has nothing worked so far. Today, the basic ingredients of development are known i.e., well-defined property rights,

effective judicial system, rule of law, efficient institutional frameworks, and market-based economy, to name a few. If all the ingredients are known, then what's missing?

- Why has Pakistan not been able to develop?
- Why is Pakistan still trapped in the vicious boom-bust cycles, with the boom becoming rarer with time?

Let us have an open conversation on what is stopping Pakistan from achieving economic growth and development.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

انصاف سب کیلئے

Hall-I (Rethink)

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- HONOURABLE JUSTICE BABAR SATTAR
Justice Islamabad High Court
- MS ASMA HAMID
Principal Counsel, Asma Hamid Associates
- MR ZAHID HUSSAIN
Journalist and Senior Analyst
- BARRISTER AHSAN JAMAL PIRZADA *
Partner, Jamal and Jamal Advocates & Legal Consultants

The judicial system of Pakistan is faced with significant constraints that impact its efficiency and ability to deliver timely justice. The backlog due to an unreasonably high number of cases, with many being political in nature, and the poor court procedures are the major causes of delays. Meanwhile, frivolous litigation as well as gaming the legal system is too easy and costless in the country. Filing a case is extremely easy in Pakistan allowing the use of the system not necessarily for ease and fairness of transactions and justice but for gaming the system. Yet, the real cost of litigation to ordinary people is extremely high due to the extended litigation period and delays arising from antiquated court procedures.

- Should the judiciary be taking up each and every issue that is brought in front of it?
- Why are adjournments and stay orders awarded so easily? Are these easy stays and extensions not used for ends other than justice?
- With the burden on the judicial system being already extremely high, why are the higher courts interested in taking Suo motos?
- Economic cases are numerous in the roster of the court. Simple legal changes like transparent and open property rights and a good real estate market would reduce the roster. Are the courts competently assisted on these economic matters?

- It is time that the judicial system is reformed to ensure Justice for All.

UNFINISHED AGENDA OF THE 18TH AMENDMENT

Hall-II (Reform)

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- MR DANIYAL AZIZ
Former Federal Minister, Government of Pakistan
- MS NAFISA SHAH
Former Member National Assembly
- MR AWAIS LEGHARI
Former Minister for Finance, Government of Punjab
- SYED MUSTAFA KAMAL
Former Mayor, Karachi
- MR AHMAD IQBAL CHAUDHARY *
Founder, Dehleez

The 18th Amendment promised decentralization and devolution of powers, but has that been implemented in its full essence as yet? The ministries that were to be devolved from the federal level to provinces still operate under the ambit of the federal government. There is great debate surrounding the National Finance Commission award every year, but the missing Provincial Finance Commission and resource division as per the PFC award are not even discussed.

- The 18th Amendment requires the federal government to shrink, and federal ministries to be reduced. The ability to create new ministries and agencies is seriously limited given that it represents expenditures.
- Without local government the constitution remains incomplete. The provincial government must devolve to local governments and stop MNAs and MPAs from providing local service and playing local politics.
- The spirit of local government is decentralization. This means an end to all centralizing forces. For example
 - Federal civil service needs to be restricted to the federation as

should the provincial civil service. Local government services need to be created as needed.

- Local government law must be written for a flat local govt without large privileges and layers to prevent participation. Moreover, it should contain some limiting factors on the wealthy and politically powerful capturing local government.
- The current practice of a few civil servants controlling all agencies using performance appraisal as a tool must end. Institutional autonomy is an important aspect of modern governance. Performance must be monitored by elected bodies at all levels but as an executive board.
- Democracy requires that the PSDP be depoliticized. For this reason, we need a law prohibiting the use of all PSDPs for political ends. Let the PSDP at federal and provincial levels be dedicated to development needs as determined by parliament strategies, not individual political strategies.

TECH FOR INEQUALITY REDUCTIONS

(Session by LUMS)

Hall-III (Revive)

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- MS MARYAM MUSTAFA
Assistant Professor, Computer Science / Director GenTech, LUMS
- MS ANNUM SADIQ
Co-Founder, Edkasa
- MS SHUMAILA RIFAQAT
Head of Innovation Challenge Fund (ICF) & Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Karandaaz
- DR HADIA MAJID *
Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, LUMS

The session will be primarily on the existing socio-economic gaps in Pakistan. The discussion will focus on the challenges girls and women face when trying to access education, health and labour markets in the country and how they

can leverage the use of digital technology to curb these challenges.

Panellists who are experts in each field will be asked to discuss the existing problems women face when trying to use digital technology for economic, financial and social empowerment. They will also present potential opportunities and policy implications for how these gaps can be filled as well as how access to digital technology for purposes of education, health and labour can be improved.

GOOD CHILDHOOD

میرے بچپن کے دن

Hall-I (Rethink)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- MASTER MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN
Education Activist & Philanthropist
- MS MANIZEH BANO
Executive Director, Sahil
- DR WAJEEHA ZAFAR
Child and Behavioral Psychologist, SOCH Clinics
- MS KULSOOM USMAN KHAN
Student, Quaid e Azam University
- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE *
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

A conducive environment is essential for the quality upbringing of children. A happy and healthy environment where children receive emotional and psychological love along with physical affection is essential for their wellbeing.

- A good childhood is important not just for the childhood, but for effectively preparing them to compete to win in the life ahead of them.
- Access to opportunities, particularly in the field of education, sports, and other competitions and collaborative work is essential for the healthy growth of children. Where are the facilities that can facilitate in development of our children into world champions?
- Children in Pakistan lack access to key learning platforms including libraries, parks, sports facilities and other childhood essentials. Can children grow up with a positive outlook in such an environment?
- Who is responsible for providing the opportunity for self-realization of goals and objectives, which is an integral part of a good childhood?

- Do we realize the importance of a conducive environment for a good childhood?
- What is the role of family and community in good childhood? Do communities require some space from the government to develop?
- Will communities only develop when we place raising children at the centre? Currently, the government spends money on brick-and-mortar but nothing on community infrastructure.
- Are children taught to dream big in Pakistan?
- Does our policy think of children, youth aspirations and ambitions? Should we?

PERKS, PLOTS, & PROTOCOL

سرکاری نوکری اور مہم؟

Hall-II (Reform)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- MR SHAHID KARDAR
Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan
- MR ASAD HAYAUDDIN
Former Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan
- MR TARIQ MAHMOOD AWAN
Former President, PMS Officers Association
- MR SHAHID MEHMOOD *
Research Fellow, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

The main incentive of being in the government seems to be distancing from ordinary people and gaining wealth from non-transparent legal but unproductive sources. It is well known that government servants (except judges now) are cash-poor with salaries well below market comparators. But they are perks, plots, and protocol (PPP) rich with now even junior officials getting access to cars, houses, and other perks.

- There is a competition among civil servants to receive the highest PPP. Is that competition commensurate with public welfare or performance?
- All PPP are not equivalent nor are they abundantly available. Does this set up perk competition which probably is not the same as

performance competition? Could perks be used as control devices by political and other masters?

- What is the economic and social cost of the perks and protocols to civil servants? How much fuel does the entourage consume while moving along with a minister? These and more are questions that need to be asked by the population and parliament. Yet the data on PPP provision is not made transparent.
- The cost of providing these perks and protocols to public sector employees is much higher than the return of employing them. There is no attempt to measure the costs of PPP, and any attempt is discouraged, and no data is made available.
- PPPs are a means to create an aristocracy that is separated by lifestyle and segmented from society. Officials become disconnected from the challenges faced by society. In essence, PPP successfully delinks the public servants from the public itself.
- Plots are a colonial mechanism to buy loyalty. Why do we do it? And how are these plots allocated?
- All land is public property. Why should the sale of plots not feed into the treasury? And if the treasury wants to give some official a bonus it should be done from the treasury. Not secretly and invisibly.

PERMISSION-ISTAN

Hall-III (Revive)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- MR MUKARRAM JAH ANSARI
Member Legal & Audit, Federal Board of Revenue
- MR MUHAMMAD SOHAIL RAJPUT
Secretary, Board of Investment
- MR TARIQ JADOON
President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries
- MS NAIMA ANSARI
Spokesperson & Former President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

■ DR AHMED WAQAR QASIM *

Senior Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Investment in Pakistan continues to remain low. The country has failed to attract any major FDI on a consistent basis for decades now, while domestic investment is also lacking. The existence of arbitrary Registrations, Licenses, Certifications and Other Permissions (RLCOs) is a major roadblock to attracting investments in the country.

- RLCOs serve no purpose in facilitating investment and business environment, instead, they just give additional unnecessary powers to bureaucracy to control and dictate transactions and other economic activity.
- RLCOs add to the cost of doing business in the shape of compliance costs, also incurring additional burdens on the investor through time delays and psychological stress. Time delays throw out the investment feasibility and scare investors from pursuing any opportunity.
- PIDE has measured the footprint of the economy because of excessive bureaucratic controls and found it to be more than 70% of the economy.
- The existence of unnecessary permissions has kept efficient markets forming in Pakistan. It is necessary to realize that bureaucracy means control, and economic activity cannot flourish under such massive control. PIDE has measured the cost of RLCOs to be more than 60% of the GDP.
- What should be more important for us, economic transactions or bureaucratic controls and delays?
- The colonial system of control and suspicion of domestic investors need to be tempered if we are to grow our economy.

IS DEMOCRACY JUST ELECTIONS?

ایکشن جمہوریت کی ضامن؟

Hall-I (Rethink)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

- MR SARWAR BARI
National Coordinator, Pattan Development Organisation
- MR NADEEM AFZAL CHAN
Former Member National Assembly
- DR DURRE NAYAB *
Director (Research), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
- MR UMER GILANI
Partner, Law & Policy Chambers

Enlightenment thinkers have endless volumes of debate on what elections mean and how representatives should be elected. It is a debate missing in Pakistan. Some questions that need to be faced are:

- Who is eligible for election? Does it make sense to have democratic leaders who wish to rule for life?
 - Why are term limits in office as well as limiting the number of entries to parliament not considered?
 - If every other public sector employee has a retirement age, why not politicians?
 - Should there be qualifications for our representatives if every job has eligibility criteria?
- Are there any criteria for parties to fulfill to be eligible?
 - Can political parties be called democratic without internal democracies?
 - In order to eliminate dynasties, it is essential that intra-party elections be made mandatory with uniform broader guidelines to ensure no party is able to game the intra-party elections to maintain dynasties and hold of limited families.

- Should candidates be selected by the party leadership or through an inner-party nomination/election mechanism?
 - Reserved seats nominations must be through intra-party elections as well, while all reserved seats must be contested in the general elections as well, instead of just nominations and allotment based on the total seats of the party.
- To ensure better elections management, can staggered elections be considered?
- Should we consider different forms of elections beyond FPTP; For example, ranked choice, second round and proportional or some hybrid? At the very minimum include NOTA?

THE INVISIBLE 50%

Hall-II (Reform)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

- MS QURATULAIN MARRI
Senator, Senate of Pakistan
- MS TAHIRA ABDULLAH
Development Worker, Researcher, Rights Defender
- DR SAAD ALI KHAN
Assistant Professor, Centre of Excellence in Gender Studies, QAU
- DR FAHD ZULFIQAR *
Assistant Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Females in Pakistan form more than half of the population yet remain invisible from most platforms in the country. Female labour force participation continues to remain low, despite increasing education attainment. This represents a cultural aspect where women are still not able to participate in professional settings, and are considered only as homemakers. No country is able to accelerate its economic growth by shutting out its half population from the workforce.

- Do we really think Pakistan can achieve any growth and development after shutting out half of the population?

- Countless female graduates, be they medical professionals, social scientists, engineers, or in any other field are sitting idle at home.
- There is a lack of opportunities for females in the country, and we have failed to create a safe and facilitative environment in our workplaces for females.
- Not only in workplaces but outside of the major cities, limited females are visible in markets and public places.
- The continued suppression of females by restricting them within the boundary walls of their homes is not only holding the growth of the female population of the country back but also posing serious psychological threats to them.
- If Pakistan wishes to realize its dream of becoming an Asian tiger, it is important that the 'invisible 50%' population is also brought under the limelight and allowed to flourish like their male counterparts.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

(Session by the University of the Punjab)

Hall-III (Revive)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

- DR MUKHTAR AHMED
Chairman, Higher Education Commission
- DR NADEEM JAVAID
Former Chief Economist, Planning Commission of Pakistan
- DR AISHA GHAAUS PASHA
Former Minister of State for Finance
- DR NASIR MAHMOOD
Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University
- DR MUMTAZ ANWAR *
Dean, FBEAS & Head School of Economics, University of the Punjab

Navigating the financial landscape of higher education during periods of socio-political instability presents a formidable challenge, primarily due to the prevailing financial constraints that exacerbate the situation. Within Pakistan, the issue becomes particularly acute when we consider the sheer number of educational institutions.

There are over 200 universities, spanning both the public and private sectors, and they find themselves in a precarious position, directly impacted by the dearth of financial resources. The consequences of this financial constraint extend beyond just the institutions themselves; they have a ripple effect on the larger society, as they undermine the country's progress, technological advancement, and economic development.

In circumstances like these, the role of the government and international donor agencies becomes indispensable. Government intervention is crucial as it bears the responsibility of ensuring equitable access to quality education for all citizens. Thus, collective efforts can ensure that higher education in Pakistan not only survives but also thrives, nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and contributors to society.

Open Mic:

THE TALE OF TWIN CITIES

میرا شہر، میرا گھر

Hall-I (Rethink)

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

The session delves into the intriguing narrative of the twin cities, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Islamabad, known for its meticulously planned and rigid design, has adhered to a unique urban development strategy, one that does not permit vertical growth, in contrast to the contemporary standards of a modern metropolis. This has also posed significant challenges; pushing the city to its physical limits and beyond. The consequence has been a surge in population density and urban sprawl around the twin cities, with Rawalpindi bearing the brunt of this spatial expansion.

The phenomenon of urban sprawl has manifested in extensive, haphazard development on the peripheries of Islamabad. Mushrooming housing societies and unregulated construction projects have become the norm, further complicating the already intricate urban landscape. This unplanned expansion has, unfortunately, placed a tremendous burden on the city administration, as they struggle to provide essential services and infrastructure to the burgeoning population.

City officials have been forced to shift their focus toward enhancing the road network. With more and more people commuting longer distances due to this unplanned growth, traffic congestion and increased travel times have become pressing issues.

This session aims to shed light on the multifaceted challenges and potential solutions for the twin cities, as they grapple with the consequences of their distinct urban development approaches.

INVEST IN WHAT?

کہاں لگائیں سرمایہ؟

Hall-II (Reform)

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

- MR MUHAMMAD IRFAN
Director Business Development, Emarat Developers
- MR AHSAN AZAM
Unit Head North, HBL Treasury & Global Markets
- MR ALI SAIGOL
Founding Partner, Baltoro Capital
- MR NADIR SALAR
Chief Investment Officer, Engro Corporation
- DR MAHMOOD KHALID *
Senior Research Economist, PIDE

What are the possible investment choices available to anyone in Pakistan, be it a local investor or any foreigner? The country lacks instruments for investment.

- While many blame real estate, there is really no real estate market in the country. Plots in outlying areas are considered real estate because inner-city development is disallowed.
- Housing societies are liberally allowed while other investments are discouraged. These societies take decades to develop, tying up capital that could be better utilized if allowed to circulate.
- Government bonds and bills though offering good returns often remain below inflation and subject to exchange rate risk.
- Banks offer few products as they are looking at riskless government paper.
- Other financial markets are either over-regulated or disallowed.
- The stock exchange has limited float as most businesses are family-owned and small. Government policy risks are high curbing company growth.
- Exploitation and harassment by various government agencies and

regulators make investment insecure in Pakistan, thus scaring away any potential for FDI while pushing the local investors to explore investment opportunities abroad.

- Commodity markets for agriculture products have not been organized.
- Bureaucratic holds have captured the downtown and inner-city development. Deregulation of these to modern standards could be a source of significant FDI in various high-rise real estate projects.

DIGITAL PAKISTAN – RHETORIC OR REALITY?

Hall-III (Revive)

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

- MR BILAL ABBASI
General Manager, Ignite
- MR ALI NASEER
Chief Business Officer, Jazz
- MR TAIMUR MALIK
Director, Digital Transformation, SAP
- MR TARIQ RASHID
Global Telco Growth Leader, Systems Ltd.
- MS FATIMA AKHTAR *
Head of Communications & Sustainability, Jazz

Pakistan is becoming one of the largest freelance services offering country as such platforms have provided the opportunity for the youth of the country to earn livelihood in times when employment opportunities are limited. The growth of IT sector though still remains limited due to the lack of adequate digital facilities.

- Universal internet access is the backbone of digital revolution in any country; however, internet services are below par even just outside the major cities. PIDE, therefore, advocates for internet for all. The internet must be treated as a basic right.
- Good quality devices at affordable price is a dream for Pakistan even

today. The world is turning towards ed-tech while Pakistan's educational system is technology-repellent.

- Digitalization is essential for the success of upcoming startups and attracts more venture capitalists.
- Digitalization is a must for quick and easy incorporation of the general public with various necessary services. Is there any realization among the decision-makers regarding the importance of digitalization?
- Will digitalization ever go beyond slogans and rhetoric? Do we have any plans for making internet and tech devices available and affordable for the general public?
- Is a digital revolution possible with high tariffs on device imports?
- Rapid company growth, whether digital or otherwise, will not happen without the huge deregulation that PIDE is proposing. Freelancing has its limits. We must go towards building some unicorns.



DAY 2
SUN 29th
October 2023

WHY BUSINESSES DON'T FLOURISH IN PAKISTAN

Hall-I (Rethink)

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- MR OSMAN SAIFULLAH
Chairman, Saif Holdings Ltd.
- MR SHAHZAD SALEEM
Chairman, Nishat Chunnian Ltd
- MR SHAHID SATTAR
Former Member (Energy), Planning Commission of Pakistan
- MR MAHBOOB MAHMOOD
Chief Executive & Founder, Knowledge Platform
- MS RAHAT KAUNAIN HASSAN*
Former Chairperson, Competition Commission of Pakistan

There is a well-established notion that businesses do not flourish in Pakistan due to a non-conducive environment which includes bureaucratic friction, uncertain policies and political instability, among other reasons. However, there may be another perspective to it. Do we really possess a mindset for doing business? Or are we just Seths? Why cannot companies run as conglomerates and be broken down into smaller individual companies when transferred on to the next generation?

- Why does Pakistan have no multi-billion companies?
- Why are there mostly family-run businesses in Pakistan?
- Why is there almost no company headed by professionals?
- Why is there no Mergers and Acquisitions (M & A) market?
- Why no new products?
- Why no R&D?
- Is our industry overprotected?
- Are government licenses/permissions restricting investment?

ARE WE A TALENT-REPELLENT COUNTRY?

Hall-II (Reform)

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- MS TOIMA ASGHAR
Group Chief HR Officer, Systems Ltd.
- MR AAMIR IBRAHIM
Chief Executive Officer, Jazz
- DR MUKHTAR AHMED
Chairman, Higher Education Commission
- DR DURRE NAYAB *
Director (Research), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Brain drain is a critical concern in Pakistan, characterized by a substantial outflow of highly skilled professionals seeking brighter prospects abroad. Factors such as economic hardships, political instability, social suffocation and security concerns act as compelling push factors, while the allure of better opportunities and pay-offs abroad serves as a strong pull factor.

- While the talent movement is essential to the continual renewal of knowledge in any country, it is worrisome when a country lacks the essential skills that are required to keep abreast with the global knowledge pool and the needs of a modern economy. Does Pakistan have adequate human capital for its own needs?
- Do we have adequate opportunities for talent? With lateral entry sporadic and not all government jobs openly competitive, is there adequate room for good people in the government?
- Are key jobs open to talented Pakistanis from anywhere?
- With Seth firms, is there any room for talent in the corporate sector?
- With the current highly regulated economy, how easy is entrepreneurship?
- Is the incentive structure a barrier to attract talent into government, with such incentives available to the incumbents alone?
- Is investment growth and productivity slowed down by a lack of talent?

- What can be done to retain talent? What kind of government policies can help reverse the talent exodus?

ARE WE TAX CHEATS?

کیا ہم ٹیکس چور ہیں؟


Hall-III (Revive)

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- MR MUSHARRAF CYAN
Senior Research Associate, International Centre for Public Policy, Georgia State University
- DR ATHER MAQSOOD
Professor, School of Social Sciences & Humanities NUST
- MR MEHTAB HAIDER
Journalist/Senior Staff Reporter, Jang Group of Newspapers
- DR MAHMOOD KHALID *
Senior Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Through countless studies and reports, a notion precipitated that Pakistanis are tax cheats. This primarily comes from the fact that the country faces a revenue problem every year. Could the real issue be elsewhere? Maybe, the system is so complex that most of people feel comfortable operating extra-legally.

- Is it fair to label all Pakistanis as tax cheats?
- Does not each Pakistani pay indirect taxes on a daily basis?
- Is tax compliance the only elephant in the room?
- Pakistanis lead in philanthropy but lag in tax contributions. Why?
- What role does public perception play in terms of paying taxes?
- Informal sector participants repeatedly talk of a trust deficit. What can be done about it?
- Can the variable tax policy be itself responsible to erode confidence?
- Could tax simplification and gradual cultivation of good governance increase revenues?

- 
- Is the larger issue of curbing expenditures than a continual struggle to grab revenues?
 - Excessive documentation and high rates erode confidence and lead to avoidance.
 - Would reform of the FBR be an important first step, along with expenditure control?

Reforms For A Brighter Future

(Session by The World Bank Group)

Hall-I (Rethink)

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- DR HADIA MAJID
Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Economics, LUMS
- DR SABA SHUJA
Manager ECD, UNICEF
- DR SOBIA KHURRAM
Professor, University of the Punjab
- MS FATIMA ATIF
Student, University of the Punjab
- MS CHRISTINA WIESER *
Senior Economist, World Bank-Pakistan

“Reforms for a Brighter Future: Time to Decide” is a World Bank program aimed at fostering a productive debate on the critical development policy issues being faced by Pakistan. Thus, the session is intended to engage the audience on what ‘fundamental policy shifts’ are most needed to durably steer the economy towards stronger, more climate-resilient and sustainable growth and development. The World Bank in this regard ponders over the following key areas:

- Rationalizing Expenditure
- Strengthening Revenues
- Transforming the Private Sector
- Unleashing the Agri-Food Sector
- Achieving Sustainable Energy
- Addressing Learning Poverty
- Eliminating Child Stunting

CONTESTING POVERTY

Hall-II (Reform)

2:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- DR SURJIT BHALLA
Former Executive Director for India, International Monetary Fund
- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE *
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Poverty has become one of the most lucrative activities for development practitioners. It is an emotional subject that needs to be unpacked.

- We will try to understand poverty, research on poverty and policy for poverty reduction.
- Why cannot we agree on a single definition of poverty? Why does the poverty definition change to show increasing poverty?
- Has poverty increased or declined in Pakistan?
- Do different players present different definitions and tailor them as they want?
- PIDE suggests poverty has declined in Pakistan mainly because of the distributive effects of remittances. What does that mean for Pakistan?
- We have built many poverty reduction institutions. Despite large funding for these institutions research shows their impact to be shallow
- Do poor require more opportunity than handouts?

POLICY, THE PUBLIC, AND ECONOMIC DISORDER

(Session by LUMS)

Hall-III (Revive)

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

- DR FAREEHA ARMUGHAN
Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute

- MS NAZISH AFRAZ
Teaching Fellow, Department of Economics, LUMS
- MR FAHD ALI
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Information Technology University
- DR DANIYAL KHAN *
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics LUMS

The session presents an opportunity to consider and discuss the relationship between policy and the public in Pakistan. The country's political economy is an inflationary environment where the effectiveness of interest rate-based inflation targeting at the central bank is now questionable and the government is increasingly and heavily reliant on borrowing from private banks to finance spending. In this environment characterized by both monetary disorder and fiscal imbalance:

- Can public policy in Pakistan still be said to possess a public character?
- If so, what exactly is the relationship between the public and policy enacted in its name?
- If not, what is a better characterization of policy in Pakistan if not public policy?

“Elite Capture?”

اشرافية کا قبضہ؟

Hall-I (Rethink)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- MR HABIB AKRAM
Senior Journalist & Political Analyst, SUNO News
- MR SAAD RASOOL
Partner, SR-Law
- MS NASIM ZEHRA
Senior Journalist & Writer
- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE *
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Elite has been defined in different ways, especially in the developing and under-developed world. Rich is often confused with “elite”. Furthermore, income inequality brews constant hate against the elite, even if it is white money. The gap between the common populace and elites (whichever way they are conceived) is widening. What can be done in this regard? How can this gap be bridged?

- How do we define elites?
- What do we mean by the term ‘elite capture’?
- Review and identify the process and tools of elite capture.
- Are elites really that bad? Are most of the positive changes not led by elites?
- Is elite capture not inevitable? In fact, is the state not defined and regulated by the elite in all countries and through history.
- Is this just to voice the “absence of merit?” Why is merit missing in Pakistan?

MAKING PARLIAMENT RELEVANT

Hall-II (Reform)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- MR FARHATULLAH BABAR
Former Senator, Senate of Pakistan
- MR MUSTAFA NAWAZ KHOKHAR
Former Senator, Senate of Pakistan
- MR AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB
President, PILDAT
- MS ARIFA NOOR *
Journalist, DAWN

The effectiveness of Pakistan's parliament has been a matter of concern for many years. Issues such as frequent disruptions, low attendance, the passage of many laws simultaneously without due process, and political gridlock have often hindered the legislative process and the enactment of vital reforms. This has led to a perception of an ineffective parliament that struggles to fulfil its role in representing the interests of the people and promoting good governance in the country.

- MNAs appear to use parliament as a backdoor to ministership. Their second preference is getting control of PSDP funds. Legislation is not their first preference. What can be done to make them legislators?
- Without local government and administrative reforms to enforce rights, legislators are beholden to the executive for influence in their constituencies.
- Most MNAs are not prepared or trained to be legislators. Should they be? How can this be changed?
- What reforms do you want to make parliament lively and relevant?
- MNA performance in the assembly is not measured or considered relevant to re-election. What can fix this?

This session contemplates the role of the parliament and how to make it effective.

INFLATION AND LIVELIHOOD

مہنگائی اور ذریعہ معاش

Hall-III (Revive)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

- DR NAEEM UZ ZAFAR
Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
- DR WASIM SHAHID MALIK
Consultant, Federal Ministry of Finance
- DR ABDUL JALIL
Professor of Economics, National Defence University
- DR NASIR IQBAL *
Associate Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

We have experienced consistently high inflation rates in the country. Concerns for high inflation are strident in our political debate. Government suggestions are to strong-arm the market – a method that has universally failed. IMF asks for a reduction of the budget deficit, yet the government remains reluctant. Twenty-four programs later, the control of the budget remains elusive. Expenditures continue to grow. Haphazard attempts to increase taxes slow down investment and growth while the informal economy grows.

- What are the primary drivers of inflation in Pakistan?
- What is the impact of inflation on livelihoods?
- What about inflation hedges? Who has access to them?
- What has been the government's role in either the rise or the control of inflation?
- SBP independence was granted to prevent inflation from accelerating. Is there any accountability?
- What is the evaluation of where monetary policy was relaxed?

Open Mic:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH

ستاروں پہ جو ڈالتے ہیں کمند

Hall-I (Rethink)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

The youth of Pakistan, like young people around the world, have a set of aspirations and expectations from their country. However, the gap between the two seems to be widening over time. PIDE is of the view that the availability of opportunities implies that people have a range of life options, specifically economic, to pick from, and have a realistic chance to adopt what they want to do and succeed in it.

For Pakistan, where nearly sixty percent of the population is aged under 30 years, opportunities become even more significant. The fact that we live in a world where technology is changing the way things are done at an unprecedented pace makes it very easy for those not keeping up to be left far behind, without opportunities.

Is Pakistan offering such opportunities to its people, especially the youth to take up and excel? Is the country doing what needs to be done for its population to excel in future?

Let us hear from the youth directly. Join and register your voice.

ENERGY MIS-GOVERNANCE

Hall-II (Reform)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

- MR TAUSEEF FAROOQI
Former Chairman, NEPRA
- DR KHALID WALEED
Head Energy & Sustainable Future Resources, SDPI

■ MS AFIA MALIK *

Senior Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

The country has been contending with a long-standing energy crisis marked by chronic power shortages and frequent load shedding. This predicament is rooted in a combination of factors, including outdated infrastructure, insufficient investment, and a lack of energy diversification. The crisis carries significant economic and societal repercussions, affecting industries, employment opportunities, and the overall well-being of Pakistan's populace. Effectively addressing this energy crisis remains a critical challenge for the country's sustainable development.

- Do we need a power division?
- Why cannot we decentralize power for better management and decision-making?
- Is commercialization a better option and not privatization?
- Make companies accountable for their operational and financial decisions.
- Professionals to run the power sector and not generalists.
- 20+ entities are only an administrative burden. Why do we need them?
- Effective regulation is needed instead of a regulatory burden
- The way forward is the use of technology. How to increase its use?

CHARTER OF SOCIETY

(Session By Bank of Punjab)

Hall-III (Revive)

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

■ MR ZAFAR MASUD

President & CEO, Bank of Punjab

■ MR SAKIB SHERANI

Founder & Chief Executive, Macro Economic Insights (Pvt) Ltd.

- DR ANEEL SALMAN
Chair, Economic Security, Islamabad Policy Research Institute
- DR ALI HASANAIN
Associate Professor, Department of Economics, LUMS

Lately, there has been extensive talk about various charters of sorts - the Charter of Democracy, the Charter of Economy and even there has been a discussion on the Charter of Business. However, none of them has worked or materialized in their true sense hitherto, and the most plausible reason arguably may be that there has been no buy-in on such initiatives from the public and society at large.

The real pressure for executing or making any such agreement or charter work is driven from the bottom up. Therefore, if any consensus is to be achieved on any facet of the politico-economic landscape, then the starting shall have to be the 'Charter of Society'. With the Charter of Society in place, taking difficult decisions, all becomes easier and palatable. The risk of backlash essentially eliminates.

Let us explore how the to achieve a convergence point for such a Charter.

Who Makes Policies in Pakistan?

Hall-I (Rethink)

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

- MR SHAHID KARDAR
Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan
- MR KHURRAM DASTGIR
Former Federal Minister of Energy, Government of Pakistan
- DR NADEEM UL HAQUE *
Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

The policy baton in Pakistan is often passed between different power centres within the country. However, donors play an influential role in dictating policies as they actively spend money and influence in having a say.

- Who is the policy maestro in Pakistan? Ministries or donors?
- Do universities have a say in shaping evidence-based policies? What is evidence? Who examines it and how is it used?
- How does foreign money influence policy? Their evidence and their conferences, and large advocacy funds, do they matter? Is donor evidence and research subject to local peer review?
- Many top-level government functionaries are beholden to donors. Does this cause conflict of interest? Does this influence decision and policymaking?
- Who evaluates and holds policies accountable in Pakistan?
- Does the policy-making process take into account stakeholder engagement at any stage?
- Where is the policy debate taking place in the public realm?
- How are cabinet and other policymaking forums agendas determined? Is the process open and transparent? Is public debate allowed on it? Is enough time given to debate it?

- Are there any white papers on policy initiatives? Who prepares them?
- Are minutes of cabinet and other policy making forums released?
- Who evaluates and holds policies accountable in Pakistan?

PARTNERS

