



“Development Challenges Confronting Pakistan”

Sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies

May 6-7, 2011

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Crystal Ballroom, Marriott Hotel
Islamabad**

The global scholarly community concerned with development and social transformation has identified explicit ‘structural impediments’ that constrain countries’ efforts to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable social development. The UNDP, in launching its Millennium Development Goals, contends that there are “practical, proven solutions” to breaking out of the poverty traps that entangle poor countries.

In Pakistan, there has been limited substantive research conducted to identify the unique blend of structural impediments to development that prevail in the country today. Indeed, Pakistan’s prospects to promote viable, sustainable social development appear bleaker today than a decade ago. This conference seeks to rectify this void by bringing together scholars and practitioners and develop a scholarly understanding of the structural impediments, or barriers, that have a negative effect on Pakistan’s ability to eliminate poverty, promote social justice and implement policies to promote equity. It seeks to promote a substantive understanding of the synergy between local institutions, development and social transformation.

Conference Steering Committee:

Dr. Anita M. Weiss, University of Oregon

Dr. Rifaat Hussain, Quaid-e-Azam University

Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Pakistan Planning Commission

Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Karachi & Columbia University

FRIDAY MAY 6, 2011

Introduction & Greetings

9:00 am – 9:30 am

ANITA M. WEISS, Conference Convener, Professor and Head, Department of International Studies,
University of Oregon

AMBASSADOR ROBIN RAPHEL, U.S. Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance in
Pakistan

SABA GUL KHATTAK, Member, Social Sector, Planning Commission of Pakistan

Session 1: Economic Challenges

9:30 - 11:00 am

Chair: **S. RIFAAT HUSSAIN**, Quaid-e-Azam University

Shahrukh Rafi Khan “Explaining the puzzle of Pakistan’s Lagging Economic Growth”

S. Akbar Zaidi “Subsidising the Elite: Moral Hazard, Taxation, Corruption and Development
in Pakistan”

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar “Dependency is Dead: Long Live Dependency”

Tea Break: 11:00 - 11:15am

Session 2: Challenges of Infrastructural Transformation

11:15 am – 1 pm

Chair: **ANITA M. WEISS**, University of Oregon

Aitzaz Ahsan “What Must be Changed in Pakistan’s Legal System, but How to Succeed?”

Zeba Sathar “Has Population Policy failed in Pakistan, and Why it Matters”

Saeed Shafqat “Reforming Pakistan’s Bureaucracy: will the 18th Amendment Help?”

Lunch Break: 1:00 –2:30 pm

Session 3: Challenges of Unity and Community

2:30 - 5:00pm

Chair: **S. AKBAR ZAIDI**, Karachi & Columbia University

Saba Gul Khattak “The Challenges to Social Protection: Extending Exclusion or Ending
Exclusion”

Tariq Rehman “The Potential for Violence or Peace in Pakistan: Linguistic and
Educational Policies”

Afiya Shehrbano Zia “Faith-based vs Rights-based Development for Pakistani
Women”

EVENING: on your own

SATURDAY MAY 7, 2011

Session 4: Challenges of Human Security

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Chair: **SABA GUL KHATTAK**, Planning Commission of Pakistan

Sohail Jehangir Malik “Transforming Pakistan’s Agriculture”

John Mock “No American, No Gun, No BS”: Tourism, Terrorism and the Limits of Acceptable Change”

Cabeiri deBergh Robinson “Earthquakes, Floods, and other Human Disasters: Human Security, Disaster
Capitalism, and the Internal Borders of Pakistan’s Security State”

Tea Break: 10:30 - 11:00 am

Session 5: Challenges of Militancy and Insecurity

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Chair: **S. RIFAAT HUSSAIN**, Quaid-e-Azam University

Nazish Brohi “Breaking Boundaries of Center-Periphery Relations”

C. Chris Fair et. al. “Poverty and Support for Militant Politics: Evidence from Pakistan”

Abid Suleri “Insecurity breeds Insecurity”

Lunch Break: 1:00 –2:00 pm

Session 6: Ongoing Political Challenges

2:00 - 4:00pm

Chair: **S. AKBAR ZAIDI**, Karachi & Columbia University

S. Rifaat Hussain “Pakistan’s Security Discourse after 9/11: An Appraisal”

Ashley J. Tellis “Pakistan’s Political Development: Looking Backward, Looking Forward”

Moeed Yusuf & Safiya Aftab “The Intersection between Development, Politics and Security:
the Case of Pakistan”

Closing Comments

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Anita M. Weiss, University of Oregon

S. Rifaat Hussain, Quaid-e-Azam University

Saba Gul Khattak, Planning Commission of Pakistan

S. Akbar Zaidi, Karachi & Columbia University

The American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), established in 1973, is a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-partisan educational organization and a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Its mission is to encourage and support research on issues relevant to Pakistan and the promotion of scholarly exchange between the United States and Pakistan. To fulfill this mission, AIPS provides research fellowships to American researchers, administers lectureships, and sponsors academic conferences.

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