



SDPI'S SECOND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

**Media coverage on SDPI-PRISE during SDPI's Seventeenth Sustainable Development Conference:
Pathways to Sustainable Development
9-11 December 2014, Best Western Islamabad**

Tackling global warming: Climate driving migration to urban areas

Express Tribune

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<http://tribune.com.pk/story/806512/tackling-global-warming-climate-change-driving-migration-to-urban-areas-says-speakers/>

ISLAMABAD

By Express Tribune Correspondent

The Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies (PRISE) countries have poor healthcare and educational conditions and high population growth, poverty and urbanisation rates. Rural-urban migration is becoming one of the most obvious factors induced by climate change, which is profoundly changing the society as whole in Pakistan.

These views were expressed by speakers at a session on “Impact of climate change on human capital and security”, organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Dr Fahad Saeed, from SDPI said that productivity was declining in South and Central Asia. He said that the poor in these regions were more dependent on natural capital with fewer resources, adding that they had limited ability to cope with and adapt to climate change.

Dr Saeed said that under normal circumstances migration from rural to urban areas would take place because a village was unable to provide livelihood to the people and the living conditions might be intolerable.

He said that 10 million people, or eight per cent of the country's population consisted of internal or international migrants.

In 1947, around 17 per cent of the population lived in urban areas, which had risen to 32.5 per cent by 1998.

Dr Saeed maintained that heat stress increased long-term human migration in rural Pakistan.

He said that greenhouse gases (GHG) were substantially increasing which was leading to global warming.

Dr Saeed said that the warming that had been observed over the last 50 years was primarily attributable to human activities.

Himalayan Adaptation and Water Resilience Network (ICIMOD) Nepal Consortium Coordinator Anjal Prakash speaking via video link said that the decisions to migrate had many causes. He said that environmental drivers were just one of five categories of drivers alongside economic, political, demographic and social.

Prakash said that whether migration happened because of failure to adapt or was it an adaptation strategy to environmental stresses and shocks was an ongoing debate.

He said the debate was not settled but the fact was people were

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migrating both short and long distances.

Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)'s Benjamin Mohr spoke on human capital, security and climate change in Tajikistan.

Ayesha Qaisrani from SDPI said that human development was a process of increasing people's choices.

She said that human security concentrated on empowering people with at least minimum set of capabilities to enable them to live a decent life.

She said that temperature was rising, oceans were heating, sea level was rising, snow cover was declining and glaciers were melting.

PRISE is a research consortium funded by Canada's International

Development Research Centre and the UK's Department for International Development.

PRISE conducts research on inclusive, climate resilient development in African and Asian semi-arid lands in six core countries: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Pakistan, Senegal, Tajikistan and Tanzania).

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ISLAMABAD

By Express Tribune Correspondent

Social injustices, inequality, illiteracy and climate change were the major issues that echoed at a conference here on Tuesday with speakers calling on South Asian countries to make collective efforts to address these challenges.

“Regional governments should not only focus on economic growth but

“We need regional response mechanisms to deal with the climate change issue that is becoming a major threat to economies and societies as is evident from the recent floods”



President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain

also address the core issues of inequality, poverty, social justice and promote peace,” President Mamnoon Hussain said.

He was addressing the opening session of the three-day conference on “Pathways to Sustainable Development,” organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

“South Asia has achieved impressive macro-economic growth but at the same time income inequality has also risen,” the president remarked.

“We need regional response mechanisms to deal with the climate change issue that is becoming a major threat to economies and societies as is evident from the recent floods,” said the president.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said South Asia is home to the most poor and malnourished children in the world. “In fact we have the most ‘uns’ in every field. We know the answers to these problems but cannot translate them into practice,” he said, calling for a K2D approach (from knowing to doing).

United we prosper: ‘Regional cooperation critical for development’

Express Tribune

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<http://tribune.com.pk/story/804402/united-we-prosper-regional-cooperation-critical-for-development/>

“With unprecedented challenges, we need unprecedented collaboration on the issues confronting the region. We believe that Pakistan needs out-of-box solutions to kickstart sustainable development process.”

Iqbal said the old model of democracy was no longer applicable to new aspirations and pointed out to decreasing voter turnout in some developed societies due to voter disillusionment.

United Nations Under Secretary-General and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN-ESCAP) Executive Secretary Shamshad Akhtar said South Asia had grown below its potential.

“With 40 per cent population below the poverty line, South Asia has the highest concentration of poor people in the world. It also accounts for half of the world’s fatalities due to natural disasters,” said Akhtar, who is also the former governor of the State Bank of Pakistan.

She said South Asia has the potential to bridge the skilled workforce gap in the world but that depends on effective skill development programmes. Akhtar said Pakistan could learn from India’s skill development programme.

SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri earlier noted that the South Asian countries have changed over the last few years with democratic transitions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. “Things have changed in less than a decade for the good. Conflicts within and without have eroded the capacity of every South Asian country. We can work in isolation and fail in isolation or we can work collectively and ensure a better future for our people.”

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S.D.C. IN PICTURES

Day 2: December 10th, 2014

Benjamin Mohr, CAREC, presenting to PRISE stakeholders on 'human capital, security & climate change in Tajikistan'



Day 3: December 11th, 2014





About SDPI and PRISE: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is a premier research and policy think-tank based in Pakistan that specialises in policy research, analysis and policy outreach. As part of Pathways to Resilience in Semi-arid Economies (PRISE), SDPI is the project's lead partner in South and Central Asia.

Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies (PRISE) aims to support climate resilient economic development in semi-arid areas by deepening the understanding and commitment of policy-makers and decision-makers in six core countries: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Pakistan, Senegal, Tajikistan and Tanzania. PRISE consortium comprises of the Overseas Development Institute and the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK, the Centre for Climate Change Studies at the University of Dar es Salam in Tanzania, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan, and Innovation, Environnement, Développement en Afrique in Senegal.

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