



Research & News

Fourteenth SDC Special Bulletin

Vol. 18, No. 4, October — December 2011

SDPI's Fourteenth Sustainable Development Conference 13—15 December 2011, Islamabad, Pakistan Redefining Paradigms of Sustainable Development in South Asia

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) held its Fourteenth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) titled "Redefining Paradigms of Sustainable Development in South Asia" from 13—15 December 2011 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Each SDC has been designed as a forum for sharing and exchanging dialogue on sustainable development with academia, practitioners, civil society, legislators and policy-makers. The SDC series has been established as a prime Conference in South Asia on development issues attracting leading intellectuals, development practitioners, communities and policy-makers working in or on South Asian issues.

Fourteenth SDC 2011 showcased 28 panels and two plenary sessions: opening and closing. In these sessions, 162 panelists participated from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Belgium, USA, Canada, Palestine, Switzerland, Germany and the UK.

Of the 162 participants, 103 were speakers, 31 discussants and 28 chairs. Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Water and Power, was the chief guest at the opening plenary; and, Dr. Nadeem-ul-

Haq, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan, at the closing session.

SDC anthology titled 'Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: The Way Forward' based on papers presented at the Thirteenth SDC was also launched at the occasion along with SDPI's Sustainable Development Television (SDTV). For the first time, the Conference was streamed live and video packages of the sessions were produced and uploaded.

The Fourteenth SDC featured a broad spectrum of themes: livelihood; governance; literature; sufism; poverty; geo-politics; forest management;

REDD+; social accountability; 18th Amendment; land rights; food security; education financing; feminism; economic non-cooperation; energy; water governance; and, energy and sustainability.

The aim of the Conference was to critically challenge the paradigm of sustaina-

ble development; and, to analyse how the celebrated concept of sustainable development could not be implemented in letter and spirit in the areas of environment, human development, economy, eradication of poverty, gender rights, governance, food security, peace and conflict, and energy.

Based on SDPI's vast empirical insights into de-

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Panel Title: Livelihood Options in Conflict Affected Situations –Session I	
Panel Title: Livelihood Options in Conflict Affected Situations- Session II	
Title: 18th Amendment and Devolution	
Panel Title: Literature in South Asia: Building Bridges through Fact and Fiction	
Panel Title: Interrogating Citizenship and the Question of Marginality	
Panel Title: Governance Challenge: Is there any way out?—Session I	
Panel Title: Governance Challenge: Is There a Way Out? – Session II	
Panel Title: Analysis of the Land Rights Situation in Pakistan	
Panel Title: Factors Affecting the Food Security Situation in a Resource Constrained Pakistan	
Panel Title: Education Financing in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward	
Panel Title: Revisiting Poverty Debate: Alternative Ways for Conceptualization, Measurement and Targeting	
Panel Title: Shrines, Shanti and Sustainable Development	
Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change—Session I	
Panel Title: Development beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	
Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change-Session III	
Panel Title: Climate Change Concerns and their Possible Impact on South Asian Countries	
Panel Title: Transnational Feminisms, Depoliticization, International Development: What does it mean to listen to third world women?	
Panel Title: Climate Change: Readapting Forest Management in South Asia	
Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change – Session II	
Panel Title: Security and Development: The Geo-politics of China-Pakistan-India Relationship	
Panel Title: Re-imagining Security in South Asia	
Panel Title: Redefining Governance through Social Accountability in South Asia	
Panel Title: 'Energy and Sustainability: Exploring Efficient Alternatives in South Asia.'	
Panel Title: Rethinking Education for Pluralism: Representation of Religious Minorities in Public and Madrassah Education	
Panel Title: Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia	
Panel Title: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+): A Spotlight on South Asia	
Panel Title: Celebrating Literature by Rabindranath Tagore, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ustad Daman	
Panel Title: Regional Cooperation for Water Governance	
Closing Plenary: H.U. Beg Memorial Lecture	

velopment realities – ranging from the livelihood struggles of people in Pakistan, the practices, consequences and contingencies of development interventions, politics, to counter-narratives, contestations and resistance – the discourse of sustainable development and its evolution in the last two decades was analyzed at the Fourteenth SDC. The need to challenge, redefine and reclaim the paradigms of sustainable development to bridge the chasm between the concept and its implementation was an aspect of discussion of every major theme.

The Fourteenth SDC gave a voice to Southern perspectives on development interventions and assessed best practices and the failed models in developing countries. The Conference analyzed roadblocks such as flawed policy frameworks and implementation processes; funding constraints; and, how governance challenges have hampered the achievement of just, sustainable and equitable development. This special post SDC bulletin gives details of the Conference proceedings.

Opening Plenary

Introduction: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Welcome Address: Dr. Saeed Shafqat, Chairperson, Board of Governors, SDPI

Chief Guest: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Water and Power, Government of Pakistan

Keynote Address: Dr. Sabina Aikire, Director Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative Oxford University, UK

Dr. Saeed Shafqat, in his welcome address, greeted participants at the Fourteenth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC). He said that this year's theme 'Re-defining Paradigms of Sustainable Development in South Asia' had special significance not only for the region as states prioritize policy agendas for the second decade of the 21st century but also for SDPI as it struggles to reset its goals and reinterpret its institutional mandate. He maintained that goals such as enhancement of

peace, social justice and well being of generations continued to haunt South Asia by pricking our conscience in its limited success to establish peace and to institute policies that promote social justice and well being of ordinary South Asians.

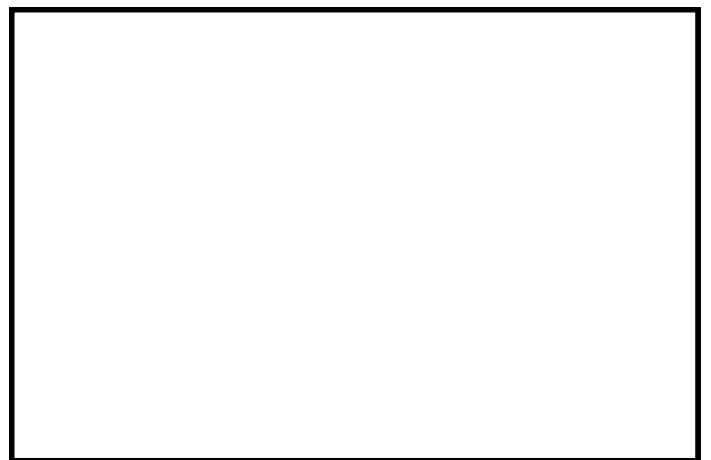
Dr. Abid Suleri, in his remarks, summarized the need to redefine paradigms of sustainable developments in view of recent events and changes taking place in priorities, policies and practices at global, regional and national levels. He started by evaluating the global economic front and maintained that financial crisis in Eurozone and a virtual end of financial sovereignty of EU member states by regulators had threatened the entire EU philosophy. In the USA, the Obama administration had received warnings from the federal treasury on over spending and over borrowing. He commented that

increased unemployment and predictions for reduced growth in the global west were alarm bells that threatened the future. While referring to events like the recent global recession, London riots, attacks on immigrants in Greece and Italy and movements like “Occupy Wall Street”, he said, “These are yet other signs that ‘development’ in the global North, followed by many in the global South as role models, is not sustainable enough to take care of current generations, let alone future generations.”

Dr. Suleri also spoke on geo-politics in the region, energy, environment and social developments at the national as well as global level. He was of the view that the changed attitude of the US and NATO towards post Osama Pakistan and Pakistan’s recent attempt to assert its existence as a sovereign nation may reshape the West’s priorities, policies, and practices towards this region. He asserted that a record rise in fuel prices and the Fukushima nuclear plant tragedy reminds us of the importance of energy efficiency and finding new solutions to current energy crisis. Talking of developments in the social sector, he stated that missed commitments for development assistance by developed countries and missed MDGs by most of developing countries were a serious point of concern. He said that another inconclusive round of talks on climate change in Durban merits a thorough analysis of existing priorities, policies, and practices of major stakeholders. In a nutshell all of above mentioned changes necessitate redefining our development paradigms and that is precisely why it was selected as this year’s theme for SDPI’s annual conference, he added.

He pointed out that the Fourteenth SDC would try to analyze whether the solutions prescribed to us were relevant, financially viable, and whether South Asian countries had the political will to demand change coupled with the tools of implementation to bring about change. He hoped that this conference may come up with new normatives for our existing problems and these revised normatives may lead to revised solutions. At the end, Dr. Suleri, paid his gratitude to Chief Guest, Syed Naveed Qamar, and said the government had focused on SDPI’s independent policy recommendations on various issues such as its recommendations on granting MFN status to India and SDPI’s research on food security culminated in the creation of a separate ministry on food security at the federal level. He also briefed the audience on a recent SDPI research based academic assessment of KESC and the way forward for the electricity crisis in Karachi at the request of Ministry of Water and Power.

Chief Guest, Federal Minister for Water and Power, Syed Naveed Qamar said that the South Asian region had always followed the policy of ‘looking at the West’ for development and that is why it lost its way but the time had come to adopt a policy of ‘looking at the East’ keeping in view the regional economic cooperation and neighborhood. He said that the region had a common history and shared future and instead of engaging in various conflicts tormenting the lives of billions of people, we should cooperate and promote feelings of unity in the region that would benefit all countries in terms of reducing poverty and fostering social development, justice and natural resource management. Talking of MFN status to India and Pak-China joint initiatives he said cooperation and partnership be-



tween the countries in the region is of utmost importance which would enable us to resolve our issues and challenges. He appreciated SDPI for its independent expert contributions for national policy-making in the past and hoped that it would continue its people-centered work in the future.

Speaking at the session as keynote speaker, Dr Sabina Alkire briefed participants on findings of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2011, with particular reference to South Asia, which was earlier launched by the UNDP Human Development Report Office. She quoted MPI 2011 results that as many as half of Pakistan’s population is poor, asserting that, the country needs to adopt a national multidimensional poverty line so as to take into account the deprivations of 82.7million MPI poor Pakistanis.

She informed that MPI is an internationally comparable index adapted to measure national poverty. She defined its basic term which is that the people are “multidimensionally” which means that people are poor if they are deprived in 33% of the

MPI dimensions and where health, education and living standards are the three main dimensions. Dr. Alkire highlighted the gravity of the situation in Pakistan by comparing Pakistan's 82.7 million MPI poor people with Nigeria's 13.4 million poor and argued that Nigeria is the poorest country in Africa where almost 93% of the population is poor but even then it has far less poor people as compared to Pakistan. She cited index statistics and said half of the world's MPI poor people live in South Asia and by further breaking down these statistics we learn that 39% of the world's poor live in India, 5% in Pakistan, 5% in Bangladesh and around 1% poor live in Nepal. Therefore the region, she advised, needs to redefine its approach towards poverty reduction and its development further inclined towards greater regional integration and cooperation.

The Chief Guest of the plenary session, Syed Naveed Qamar, also launched three SDPI publications on the occasion including, SDC 2010 Anthology 'Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: The Way Forward', SDPI's Annual Report for 2011 and SDPI's Urdu language research newsletter 'Dharti', which was revived after a lapse of many years. Other salient features of the session included live-streaming of conference proceedings through SDTV, a first of its kind web-based TV initiated by SDPI to further the cause of sustainable development.

Report by: Muhammad Shoab and Benazir Chaudhry

Panel Title: Livelihood Options in Conflict Affected Situations –Session I

Chair: Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Safal Ghimire, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South, Nepal

Ms Gayathri Lokuge, Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka

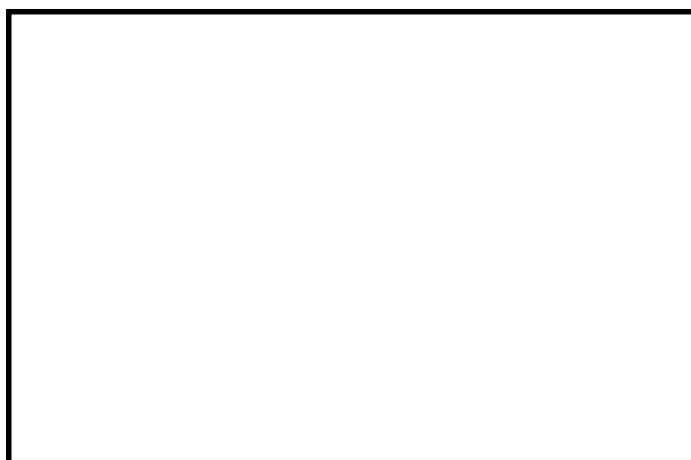
Special Comments: Mr. Richard Mallet, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK

Panel Organizers: Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan; Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research-North-South, Nepal; and, Dr. Abid Q. Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Suleri said that Pakistan is now seen as one of the most conflict affected countries in the world, amongst countries like Afghanistan, Iraq and Leba-

non. Sri Lanka was now at the stage of recovery after a long conflict; similar was the case with Nepal. He added international and national organizations had poured in funds for the recovery of conflict affected areas.

The chair's comment at the beginning was that the topic dealt with poverty as well as social justice. Dr. Shahbaz began by saying that social exclusion and inclusion in the context of food security was the study which was the basis for his presentation. The research being presented was undertaken in the Agriculture University in Faisalabad. The definition of safety nets was that it was a support for the poorest of the poor and not a means to reduce poverty. The World Bank, he explained, said that Social Safety Nets were basically income maintenance



programs that prevented the effects of adverse outcomes. This definition was also accepted by ESCAP. The support program was designed to prevent people from falling below the poverty line, it was a short term arrangement but had a valuable role in long term development goals.

He explained that in fragile and conflict affected situations the vulnerability of people increased as the social welfare system broke down. Battagram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was chosen because it faced the earthquake of 2005, spillover effects of the Malakand insurgency, and the 2010 floods. He said that the research tried to identify the types of SSN and explore the perceptions of the local people. It also tried to map the impact of these SSN. He said that qualitative interviews formed the basis of this research.

He expressed his view that farming was the most popular occupation in the selected population but foreign remittances took a major share in the income levels of the population. Second in line was labor but remittances had a small role in reducing

food insecurity. He felt the government had failed to reach out to the population in the area. During the study he said they found that access to safety nets was determined by the political contacts, informal contacts, tribal orientation, poverty and lastly, bribe. (In the same order). They also found that NGO programs were most accessible by the people as compared to government programs. In conclusion of the research included farming is the major occupation, low crop productivity, fewer supports for farming, and lack of awareness. In absence of a distribution criterion, social exclusion is on the high in both govt. and NGO SSNs.

Mr. Safal Ghimire began by saying that the Nepalese conflict had affected health, education, and transportation.

Talking specifically about the education sector and tele-teaching he explained that tele-teaching was still at the inception phase and that one of the most problematic areas was the lack of quality teachers. He said tele-media brought together buyers and sellers; it was like an online market. Around ten villages were connected through this system; it was also a viable tool for networking. The impact of these interventions on livelihood options in the area included promotion of social values through meetings at Wi-Fi centers. People felt as if they owned the process and that made it much easier to achieve targeted results. Collective action had also increased in the village.

He said the internet was serving as a medium of transaction but the market was limited. He added financial activities were less entrepreneurial but more substance oriented. In his view, the project was sustainable because it had brought forward multiple livelihood choices; community owned projects, community self-reliance, women were employed, and teachers were internally paid.

He said that the internet had a place in various sectors including agriculture, health, education, microfinance, and disaster preparedness. Mr. Ghimire suggested we diversify technology to avail the benefits associated with ICT. The absence of state agencies during the conflict gave an opportunity to the people to come together and work. Many services became achievable targets because of ICT.

Ms. Gayathri Lokuge talked about her research as indicative and exploratory which was undertaken because there was a dearth of data available with regard to post conflict restructuring. The objectives of the presented research were what the localized migration patterns were in pre and post conflict situations and what the conflict triggering aspects be-

tween local and migratory fishermen in the post conflict situation were.

She said there was a strong presence of ethnic rivalry in Sri Lanka. Conflict affected areas comprised 60% of coastal areas in Sri Lanka. Talking about fishermen she explained migrations were commonplace amongst them. She said fishermen on the eastern side migrated out because of the conflict. As conflict increased, restrictions were imposed for local, mainly Tamil speaking fishermen and during the height of violence, fishing was too risky to undertake. Sinhalese people highlighted their ethnic roots during the conflict as an adaptation to the violence. She added migrated fishermen were never really accepted into the settler community until the violence forced them into social cohesion. Tamils were very skeptical of the influence of the Sinhalese fishermen and bemoaned the favored Sinhalese. The perception that Sinhalese were favored by the state and military affected the trust of Tamils in the state machinery. Migratory fishermen employed illegal methods, disrespected traditional beliefs and this was adding to the tensions between settlers and migrators. Migratory fishermen had access to the markets outside of the district and could sell off their catch easily.

She felt institutional support was questionable and government officials held a view different than that of the people. There was no formal complaint redress facility, there was a dearth of reliable statistics and language barriers also limited efficiency. She explained that the income of fisher households were diversifying, fishing was not seen as a livelihood option by the new generation. Ship building, and repairing and marketing of fish were seen as alternative means of livelihood. She felt a fishery related support system could play an important role in bridging the gaps in society.

Mr. Richard Mallet based his presentation on a study on social, protection, basic services, and livelihoods options. He said that currently the consortium was developing the research agenda to finalize the next five year plan. State building, state legitimacy and state participation were all very low in areas where there was little livelihood security. He added that government provision of basic services formed the crux of state building. He said that that should be the main focus. He went on to say that livelihood trajectories and profiles were an important tool in analyzing what affects livelihoods, when and how.

Three important observations by Mr. Mallet on the presentations made were:

1. The importance of social relations and identity in forming livelihoods opportunities. The impact of conflict on social relations. Sri Lanka, social relations had deteriorated amongst fishermen.
2. Structures of Identity; people's perceptions were important.
3. The role of state- institutional support. Clearly there should be a role of state support in all livelihood interventions.

Report by: Akbar Malik

**Panel Title: Livelihood Options in Conflict
Affected Situations- Session II**

Chair: Mr. Surein Peiris, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Pakistan

Special Comments: Dr. Anita Ghimire, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (North-South), Nepal

Speakers:

Dr. Emma Varley, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Bishnu Raj, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South, Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr. Purna Nepali, Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue, Kathmandu, Nepal

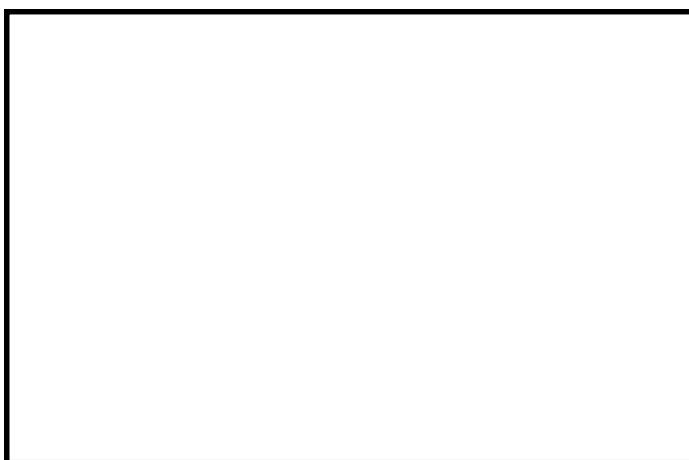
Panel Organizers: Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan; Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research-North-South, Nepal; & Dr. Abid Q. Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

The chair began by introducing the conflict situation in Sri Lanka. He emphasized that the ripple effects of conflict as the entire Sri Lankan nation was affected by conflict in the north. He called the post conflict era an awakening as far as new initiatives were concerned. There was a dire need to address the root causes of conflict. He said that social programming should focus on the drivers of conflict and how to reduce them. When people were worried about their own life, they were least bothered by livelihood opportunities. The voice and choice belonged to the people, as they were the ones to decide what kind of support system they required to regenerate their livelihood options. Community resilience could be strengthened by innovation and adaptation of livelihood options.

Dr. Varley's research focused on Gilgit, Baltistan as an area ridden with conflict in Pakistan. Specifically, she concentrated on the provision of health services and how these were affected during

the conflict. She talked about the fact that since 2005, Shiite and Sunni conflicts had escalated. Shiite medical personnel were denied the support from District Headquarters and this affected health services within all sects. She added that the degree of exclusion increased sharply after the violence increased in Gilgit, Baltistan and many Sunni doctors migrated to other urban centers in order to escape the persecution of the Shiite population. She said the health sector had come to be dominated by the Shiite and Ismaili sects in recent years and that militarisation of health services also increased. The situation was so extreme that Gilgit, Baltistan's health's services had come to represent local sectarian politics.

She explained that the Agha Khan Foundation



had decided to move their health services center to a politically neutral place.

She ended with the point that politics of identity were the driver of conflict in Gilgit, Baltistan. Dr. Bishnu Upreti began by saying Nepal was in a fully-fledged civil war for the last decade. Dr. Upreti's research was focused on political issues in Nepal. He said Nepal's post conflict transition was challenged by various factors which also include livelihood security. There was immense political will for securing livelihoods but the implementation of the desired interventions was very poor.

Dr. Upreti said that his research was mainly about basic services and social protection. He added that the major problem that existed was governance of livelihood mechanisms. He said there was also a lack of political understanding of post conflict livelihoods in peace and stability. Post conflict livelihood programs were victims of politicization. Legal arrangements are very rigid and their non-flexible nature prevents them to reach to the needs of the people. 3 As; access, availability and affordability is

a major challenge. There is also the issue of acute shortage of resources.

Best livelihood initiative practices become in effective in absence of conducive policy context, and institutional/regulatory framework. Politicization of detrimental factors increases livelihood insecurity. Post conflict transition is an easy excuse for political decision makers and bureaucracy in order to manipulate the livelihood initiatives.

Dr. Purna Nepali presented the research findings of his PhD dissertation: How does land in rural/ agrarian society serve as a field for social inclusion.

Access to land determines the political status in Nepal. Agriculture is the basis of socioeconomic development. Prior to 1951, no land was in the control of the general people. Even after democracy was introduced, most of the land stayed on with the royal family and their relatives/ friends.

Political economy of distribution of land can be defined according to natural monopoly and social monopoly. Marxist school of thought provides sound basis for landless class but is not suitable for near landless class. There is a need to build on previous theories in order to answer these challenges today.

Both qualitative and quantitative research initiatives were used in Dr Nepali's research. He also commented that access to land resources is also determined by ecological belts, caste and gender. Food sufficiency and better living standards are outcomes of livelihood security. Food production only covers food needs for three months in a year at the research area. Different coping strategies have emerged as a response to the prevalent food insecurity.

Escape from current source of livelihoods is difficult for the landless class as they have no other option available to them.

Dr. Anita Ghimire said that livelihoods and basic services have a strong correlation. Socio-psychological perspectives also play an important part in determining what livelihood options are available to the people. The sense of belonging is essential to ensure that community takes ownership of the livelihood resources. She stressed that it is vital for the research to understand and then portray the perspective of the people. This way research can be effective in helping formulate correct policies.

Report by: Akbar Malik

Panel Title: 18th Amendment and Devolution

Chair: Mr. Fazal Ullah Qureshi, Former Secretary Planning Division, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Saeed Shafqat, Forman Christian College Lahore; Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Faisal Bari, Open Society Institute, USA

Dr. Vaqar Ahmad, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Ms Erum Haider, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special comments by: Mr. Naseem Bajwa, UK

Panel Organizer: Ms Erum Haider, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Saeed Shafqat while presenting his paper



“Pakistani Bureaucracy, 18th Amendment and Challenges of Governance” said that the “18th Amendment is a paradigm shift”. He talked about previous constitutional legislations, the importance of the current legislation and positive steps taken in the 18th Amendment.

Dr. Shafqat not only praised the passing of the 18th Amendment but also talked about the factors which were hindering the process of its successfulness. He highlighted the development of three new ministries, the Ministry of Human Rights, HR Development Division and the Foreign Employment Ministry. These ministries were developed at the federal level right after the devolving of many of the ministries to the provinces. He was of the view that these new ministries were meant to actually retain power at the federal level. Dr. Shafqat said that “once the initiate of empowering of provinces has been taken in wake of 18th amendment, it should not be dazzled so that it may bear its full fruit”. Apart from talking about the new legislation, Dr. Shafqat also talked about previous legislations. He said that

almost all of previous legislations had failed due to over commitment or the wrong commitments.

He said that three things should be kept in mind to check the effectiveness of any constitutional change (i) *regime type* (ii) *the rulers' imperatives* and (iii) *the socio economic condition of the country*. Dr. Shafqat also highlighted the features of the 18th Amendment that "the powers have been devolved from center to provinces, the provinces are now empowered enough to grant foreign loans. The local government will be considered as a third tier". In the current scenario "if local governments are revived then there will be lots of potential of their success", he stated.

Dr. Faisal Bari discussed the impact of the 18th constitutional amendment on the education sector of Pakistan. Dr. Bari said that the 18th amendment caused two major changes in the education sector:

i) *Inclusion of article 25A. That states 'free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be amended by law'*

ii) *Devolving of education ministry to the provinces*

While talking about the implication of article 25A, Dr. Bari said that "the commitments in article 25A are very broad commitments". He talked about the ambiguities being used in article 25A for instance the usage of the word "shall" in the sentence "the state shall provide free education". Also, he felt the usage of "free education" was not clear. What would be "free"? Would tuition fee be provided, for example or would transportation costs be financed?

Dr. Bari also said that the use of the word "compulsory" was ambiguous. What would the government do if parents did not send their children to school? Would there be a charge for that? How would the government implement all these changes and why were they not clearly defined. These were some key questions he brought up.

Apart from talking about the implications of the article 25A, Dr. Bari also talked about its implementation; "For the implementation of the article 25A, a law is needed by the provinces and that has not been developed yet", moreover, "finances are also needed".

Dr. Bari discussed the concerns associated with the devolution of the education ministry. He raised certain questions such as "will the federal government have its role in the education sector now? Are the provinces really ready to handle this ministry? Do provinces have enough capacity to run it properly?"

Ms. Erum Haider while presenting her paper on the

topic focused mainly on the health ministry and criminal justice. She was of the view that with the 18th amendment the capacity of the provinces and institutions was of major concern. As the Ministry of Health had been devolved to the provinces, in case of any major disaster there would be the question of who was responsible to tackle it. "The issue of capacity of the provinces can be overcome with incentives," she suggested.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmad while giving his views on the topic expressed his concern that because projects were previously appraised by the planning and development department there was a danger that there would be duplication of projects. Dr. Ahmad said that monitoring of development programs was another concern. "Although Punjab has initiated it, that too is not result based". With the devolution of ministries, the issue of owning of throw forward was also of major concern in his opinion.

Mr. Fazal Ullah while chairing the session said that "no doubt the Concurrent Legislative List has been devolved but transferred to the Federal Legislative List (FLL2). Now the FLL2 will be governed by Council of Common Interest (CCI) but the effectiveness of CCI is also a big question"

Mr. Naseem Bajwa, while giving his views on the topic said that the action of 18th amendment is "too little, too late, given gingerly".

Report by: Afsheen Naz

Panel Title: Literature in South Asia: Building Bridges through Fact and Fiction

Chair: Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Member Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Ms. Aameena Hussein, Writer and Publisher, Sri Lanka,

Ms. Sushma Joshi, Writer and Film-maker, Kathmandu, Nepal,

Ms. Ayesha Salman, Writer and Editor Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad

Special Comments: Mr. Harris Khaliq, Author/Human rights activist/Development practitioner, Islamabad

Panel organizer: Ms Ayesha Salman, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad

Literature works as a means of expanding our minds and providing deep insights on social and political issues that must be expressed to attain the greater goal of human development. This was stat-

ed by Ms. Ayesha Salman at the session on 'Literature in South Asia: Building Bridges through Fact and Fiction' at SDPI's Fourteenth Sustainable Development Conference on 13 December 2011. The panel was attended by individuals from different walks of life but most notably literary writers, employees of social sector organizations, development practitioners and literature enthusiasts.

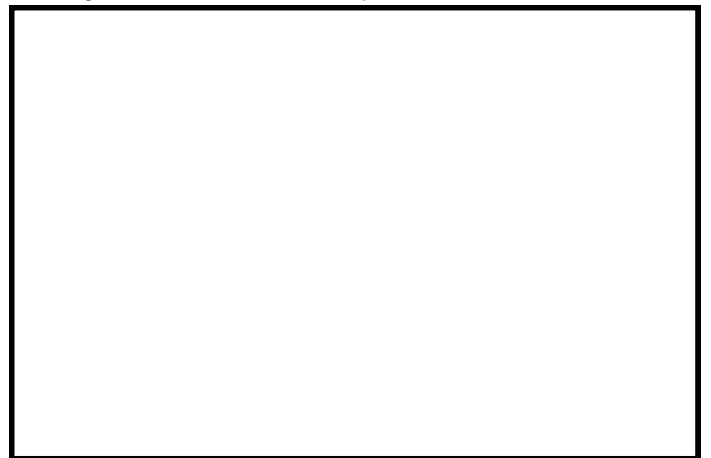
Ms. Ayesha Salman further said that literary works set in one part of the world are usually not just relevant to that particular region but rather most socio-cultural and socio-political issues touched upon authors of great merit are applicable almost globally since most issues like social injustice, racial and religious prejudice, gender disparity and other similar subjects are common or have evolved through similar patterns the world over. In this regard she read out excerpts from works by the Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning American author Toni Morrison, who wrote extensively about the issues of African Americans, and of the legendary Jewish German-language author Franz Kafka whose writings bore strong reflections on themes of alienation and persecution, among others. Ms Salman described the obligation of development practitioners in the projection of the works of social-issue writers such as these to bring positive awareness and change in our societies. As an author and an editor in the development sector she also read out excerpts from her novel *Blue Dust* that also deeply touched upon social injustices and ended by saying we have an obligation to use every means at our disposal to alleviate the issues that pervade our lives.

The other speakers present at the session spoke of how literature has helped bridge the gap between different societies of not only South Asia, but also throughout the World. Ms. Ameena Hussein, a writer and publisher from Sri Lanka who belongs to the minority Muslim community in Sri Lanka, commented on the role of the novels that she has authored in projecting the issues faced by the Muslims in Sri Lanka, and how some of the themes she addressed helped clear the negative stereotypes and misconceptions that are commonly associated with Sri Lankan Muslims.

Ms. Ameena Hussein, in her panel titled 'A minority within a minority', spoke about a phenomenon known as *literary narcissism*, which she described as the situation in which a writer only writes about topics and themes that he or she knows best or has greatest familiarity with. She said authors should try to grow out of this literary narcissism and expand on the subjects and themes that they address in their

writings. She said that writing fiction was her way of conveying messages to not only the other communities of the world but also to the Muslim community that she herself belonged to. She expressed a desire to write more about the sufferings of Sri Lanka during the North/South militant uprisings and the 2004 tsunami that devastated large parts of the country, especially the untold sufferings of the Sri Lankan Muslims who bore the most hardships through challenging times.

Ms. Sushma Joshi, a writer and filmmaker from Nepal, explained how her works of fiction which were based on real events had helped project the actual conflicts and inner socio-political turmoil in Nepal which previously had hardly been expressed through the ambit of literary fiction. Ms. Joshi in this



regard read out excerpts from her books including "End of the World" and "Loving the Enemy" and a short-film titled "The Escape". She said her writings were influenced greatly by the Maoist insurgency in Nepal and the conflict between them and the Nepali Congress and the Police, a conflict that claimed over 16,000 lives, with most of the dead being people caught in the middle of the fighting and who had nothing to do with any of it.

Ms. Joshi's writings have also been inspired by her conversation with local farmers who spoke about influential politicians usurping their lands for their own use. Ironically, in one such case, a politician grabbed the land of a poor farmer so that he could build a high-end organic farm for rich tourists so he could be hailed as an ecological warrior while trampling over the rights of the poor and the needy. Mr. Harris Khalique, an author, development practitioner and human rights activist, spoke about the strong potential of the subversion of art against social prejudices, human rights abuses and societal ills in general. He supported the notion that literature as a powerful manifestation of Art had the ca-

pability to take on negative political systems and forces and work as an agent of bringing about positive sociopolitical reform. He agreed with Ms Salman that “writers are never apolitical”. He said that authors had the potential to make a profound impact on the political scenario and should use their abilities to bring about positive change in society. With regard to the unifying ability and universal appeal of literature, Mr. Harris mentioned how a noted Baloch writer and Baloch rights activist was once questioned as to why he chose to compose most of his writings in Urdu, while he himself did not possess a favorable opinion of Urdu considering it a ‘language of oppression’. The Baloch author replied by saying that he might have reservations against the political usage of Urdu, but other than that he was totally in love with ‘the language of Ghalib’ when used as a tool of art and spreading love and peace.

Dr. Saba Gul Khattak stated in the end that art and literature, ultimately, were all about the liberation of expression and thought which results in the discovery of common ground between communities from all around the world.

Report by: Safyan Kakakhel

Panel Title: Interrogating Citizenship and the Question of Marginality

Chair: Dr. Yunas Samad, University of Bradford, UK

Speakers: Mr. Ali Usman Qasmi, University of London, England

Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Mr. Ali Salman, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special Comments: Mr. Tahir Kamran, Managing Partner of Development Pool, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Peter Taylor, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada.

Panel Organizer: Mr. Tahir Kamran, Cambridge University, UK

Mr. Usman Qasimi maintained that religious identity is central to citizenship in Pakistan consolidated over time through various legal and constitutional measures such as objective resolutions and constitutional amendments in the seventies and eighties.

While further elaborating his arguments Mr. Qasimi said that this religious identity that was central to the formation of citizenship in Pakistan, was consolidated in the aftermath of religiously motivated riots in Lahore in 1952. He said that Justice Munir’s enquiry commission, to determine the causes of riots, took up the question of the concept of Islamic state and

the definition of Muslim. However, there was no consensus among the Ulemas to come up with the precise definition of a Muslim. As per the traditional definition, the pre-requisite for being a Muslim was the recitation of *Kalima Tuyba* and under this definition disputes had been resolved as per Muslim laws in British India. The Ulema objected that Islamic laws were not applicable to the Ahmadis anymore because they did not believe in the finality of prophethood. However, he added that in 1974, the national parliament declared Ahmadis as non-Muslims through constitutional amendment due to political pressure by the religious and right wing political forces. This constitutional law required, along with the *Tauheed*, the absolute belief in the finality of prophethood. He said that General Zia added



some more legal measures to the definition by preventing Ahmadis to pose themselves as Muslim and adopt the ritual of Islam. Zia, even went further, by creating separate columns in national identity cards and passports for Ahmadis to categories them as non-Muslim citizens.

The second speaker, Mr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, began by saying that the former princely states of India had different political and economic systems as well as ethnic backgrounds. The citizens of these states had very little interaction with central authorities of British India Government as well as with other states. After the partition, Pakistani authorities failed to bridge these gaps, which weakened national integration.

Mr. Bangash explained that princely states in British India had enjoyed internal autonomy and its citizens were loyal to the state authorities not to the central Government. The population of princely states were not part of the pre and post partition national discourse. Moreover, the princely states had no representation in the constituent assembly. Internally, said Mr. Bangash, the states had an al-

most authoritarian and dynastical political system and the citizens had no democratic or even certain fundamental rights. Education and the provision of basic amenities were not the priority of the states rulers. Mr. Bangash said that the State of Dir was a classic example where the Nawab did not allow any school to function. Slavery was a legal practice in the State of Qalat until 1930.

The states had their own economic systems and were functioning more or less as independent economic units. Mr. Bangash maintained that every state had different socio-ethnic and linguistic backgrounds and the lack of pre partition's interdependence, inter states interaction and equity in resources distribution was a challenge for national integration. The situation required special attention and coherent policy after the partition but the central authorities failed to address the situation.

Mr. Ali Salman, the third speaker, maintained that representative democracy is the desirable medium for collective decision making, those who participate in this system as voters felt increasingly disenchanted by the political leaders as well as by the bureaucracy. Low turnout rates on election day weakened the confidence of voters in the system's ability to select the right candidates. Voters, however, made the rational choice by abstaining because the decreasing probability of the effect of their single vote could affect the election outcome.

Mr. Salman based his arguments on Public choice theory and Austrian School perspectives, which posits that as the number of votes becomes large, the probability of the influence of a single vote on the out come becomes smaller. The voter rationally calculates that the benefits to be accrued as a result of voting would be less than its cost. He explained that the Austrian School assumes that only individuals choose and collective entities do not choose. It posits that the study of the market order is fundamentally about exchange behaviour and the institutions within which exchange take place.

Dr. Peter Taylor, sharing special comments, said that the presentations pointed out that identity is a highly complex phenomenon as it includes some while excluding others on certain grounds. Dr. Tahir Kamran maintained that Fatwa (decree) mills become fully legally operational after declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslims through constitutional amendment. Dr. Kamran further elaborated that some bureaucrats were backing Khatm-I-Nabowat Movement. He lamented that liberals were shouting from the background but did not have the courage to fight for what was right.

The presentations and discussions were followed by questions-answer session.

Some of the overall views that were expressed by the speakers were that the theological debate made its way into laws and constitutionalized religious decrees that lead to marginalization of certain religious minorities by categorization of citizenship in Pakistan. The lack of participation by the princely states in the national discourse before the partition have weakened national integration and the failure of a democratic system to deliver has eroded the confidence of voters in the system that is reflected by low turnout in the elections.

Report by: Talimand Khan

Panel Title: Governance Challenge: Is there any way out?—Session I

Chair: Dr. Ehtisham Anwar, Additional Commissioner, Islamabad

Speakers:

Dr. Ishrat Husain, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan

Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Social Scientist, Karachi, Pakistan

Ms Foqia S. Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Ms Shazra Azhar, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special Comments: Dr. Peter Taylor, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada

Panel Organizer: Ms Foqia S. Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Governance, while focusing on political economy and its interaction with citizens cannot set aside institutional roles and rules, that themselves are institutions in an institutional framework. Over time, governance has been interpreted in terms of decentralization, civil service reforms, participation and transparency only, but the crucial aspect of lack of state effectiveness and its inability to deliver have not been taken into account. These key concerns were discussed in the panel titled "Governance Challenge: Is there any way out?"

Dr. Ishrat Hussain focused on the quality of institutions, as being responsible for good governance. He said that these institutions had become dysfunctional due to the over-centralization of power by both elected and military governments, who introduced reforms only in a state of emergency. He

was of the opinion that the question of the failure of democratic governments in introducing and sustaining reforms was due to a couple of factors. These factors included time inconsistency; as costs were to be paid on the spot while the benefits were usually delayed, threatening the popularity of the ruling party. Moreover, the benefactors, whose dealings were negatively affected by the reforms, were quite visible; eventually turning to the pressure group over government policies, while the beneficiaries were diffused in society, remaining invisible. Dr. Hussain recommended that a selective rather than an across-the-board approach should be followed and that institutions having high spillovers should be considered first for the introduction of reforms. He focused on the maintenance of checks and balances of the democratic government and emphasized that a capacitated leadership should come forward to bring about the desired change.

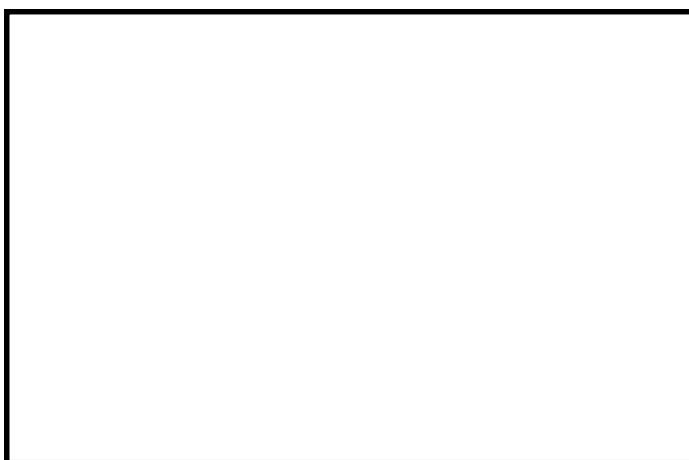
Dr. Akbar Zaidi while talking about aid, taxation and development, focused on the unfair and inequitable circulation of foreign aid. According to him, the major chunk of aid received is distributed amongst those elites who avoid taxation themselves. He placed accountability of absence of equitable taxation in Pakistan on the elites because of their alliance with western countries. While providing statistics, he shared that from 1960 to 2002, \$73 billion dollars of aid had entered Pakistan and almost 30% of all the aid during this timeframe came from America, 42% of which was spent on military expenses. Dr. Zaidi recommended that equitable circulation was possible only when foreign aid would stop and the country would manage to rely on its own resources being held by the elite, who were reluctant to hand their resources over to any government.

Ms. Foqia Khan while speaking about politics of non-implementation mentioned that violation of laws were identified only when they were perpetrated by the weaker sections of society, most precisely the poor or the less resourceful community; while violation of reforms or laws remained unnoticed by the elite class. The management of institutional responsibilities and reforms depended upon power structures and they often subverted their power.

Ms. Shazra Azhar presented a chapter 'Governance for Sustainable development' from the sustainable development report. She spoke about the detailed concept of sustainable development, and while expressing her views about governance she explained that governance was the process of decision making and the process by which it was implemented. She further added that the need of the

hour is to focus on the revision of those existing reforms that could target those institutions, for which they were actually introduced. Governance is itself a meta-institution that impacts other institutions and is impacted by them as well and it should be considered that "Institutions and policies are not simply instruments ready to be deployed; rather they are the products of evolution as well as design." Concluding the presentation Ms. Azhar defined governance as "a process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented".

Discussion: The chairperson, Dr. Ehtisham Anwar opened the discussion, in which participants put forward various questions. One of the participants asked that if the elites are not ready to pay taxes then why was there a constant rate of increase in



tax ratios. Dr. Akbar Zaidi responded to the question that the only way to ensure that the elite were being taxed was to follow Imran Khan's model in the context of 'declaration of taxes paid'. Another participant agreed with the implementation of agricultural taxation which would help the country to exist without any foreign aid.

Dr. Peter Taylor commented that such complex issues could not have a simple solution and ironically quoted, "Every complex problem has a simple solution, that doesn't work". He emphasized that it was important to understand the collaboration of group work to implement policy, keeping in view, the visible, invisible and hidden powers. He further added that this whole process involved remarkable capacities of the leaders including the right mindset, skills and knowledge.

Dr. Ehtisham Anwar concluded the session by affirming that the speakers tax should be implemented for all members of the state and that there was no sense in increasing taxes, if there was discrimination amongst the elites and the general pub-

lic. He said the reforms should be approached systematically by approaching a few departments first, if there was a real desire to systemize the whole governance system.

Report by: Sehrish Jahangir

Panel Title: Governance Challenge: Is There a Way Out? – Session II

Chair: Mr. Daniyal Aziz, Governance Institutes Network International, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. G. Shabbir Cheema, East-West Center, Honolulu, USA

Dr. Urs Geiser, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Mr. Tulasi Sharan Sigdel, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Jawalakhel, Nepal

Mr. Janaka Hemathilaka, Practical Action, Sri Lanka

Special Comments: Mr. Kaiser Bengali, Member National Finance Commission, Karachi, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Ms Foqia S. Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

The concept of “Governance” is broader than the outdated idea of merely a “Government”, and is essentially achieved through fostering interaction between the three pillars of the State, Civil Society, and the Private Sector. This was stated by Dr. Shabbir Cheema at the second session of the panel on “Governance Challenges: Is there a way out?” at the 14th Sustainable Development Conference organized by the SDPI in Islamabad.

Dr. Shabbir Cheema said that there have been a number of perspectives and shifts in the theory and practice of Governance over the course of history, which were linked with a greater understanding of the concept of ‘development’ to include environmental sustainability and population welfare angles rather than just economic profitability. The earliest definition of ‘governance’ was related to Traditional Public Administration, which evolved into Development Administration and further into the modern idea of a Democratic Governance in which equitable and just representation to the public at the community level is provided and the rights of the common citizen are upheld while ensuring complete accountability of all Government departments.

Dr. Urs Geiser from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, said that the shift from ‘government’ to ‘governance’ was in essence a shift from the top-down bureaucratic system, which was characterized by high formalization and very rigid decision making

structures, to a more inclusive system of government which was more consultative and participatory in nature. He explained that in the traditional style of government, employees at decision making positions had very well defined and specific job descriptions that they dared not deviate from or try to improve upon in any way, in order to secure their livelihoods, since the system did not have provisions for flexible or consultative decision-making.

Dr. Urs Geiser made it clear, however, that it would be unrealistic to expect to place the western model of ‘good governance’ on the Pakistani government system and expect it to work smoothly. Instead, he placed emphasis on the need to translate the essential ideas of modern governance systems into the traditions and norms of Pakistani culture for



it to produce best results and for it to actually penetrate into the state system. He also stressed the need for a greater engagement of the worldwide and national academia and intelligentsia to call for greater implementation and more workable models of good governance.

Another speaker, Mr. Tulasi Sharan Sigdel from the Nepal Administrative Staff College in Jawalakhel, Nepal, said that Nepal had gone through a massive transformation in the political spheres over the course of the last two decades. He stressed upon the immense importance of civil society’s pressure on governments to stimulate them to work for the people. Mr. Tulasi Sigdel mentioned a variety of mini-governance models that had been implemented in Nepal in order to ensure participation of the common man in developmental and decision-making processes at the grass-roots and community levels. For example, he mentioned the role of various integrated selection committees which worked as advisory bodies for governments and included community representatives to help governments in

choosing the most useful and important developmental projects, rather than governments choosing them entirely on their own which could be steered towards personal gains or political motives.

Mr. Tulasi Sigdel said that network organizations of State-Civil Society and 'local public user groups' were effective platforms to ensure public participation in good governance.

Mr. Janaka Hemathilaka, from Practical Action, Sri Lanka, described the importance of Local Governance in the overall frame of Good Governance. He said that Local Governance or Community Governance was an advanced form of 'good governance' which was characterized by a decentralized approach towards decision making and contained the wider involvement of communities.

Mr. Hemathilaka described the local governance systems in Sri Lanka as complex, with multiple institutions working in parallel at the local level. These included the Local Government: municipalities which worked at the peri-urban level and the urban council which worked in urban areas; and the Divisional Secretariat, which worked through provincial councils. He said that the situation was made more complicated by the unclear devolution of power to these Provincial Councils, while the Local Governments operated as autonomous bodies in parallel, and multiple-coordination was required with a large number of institutions to make decisions.

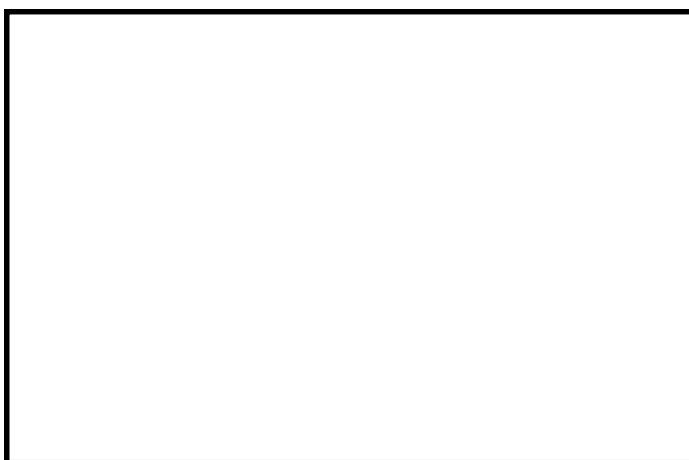
Mr. Hemathilaka explained the use of participatory planning and action as a tool of integration in the government systems, which helped the development process to be carried out according to local needs and socio-cultural experience. He described how the use of comment boxes/suggestion boxes and discussion boards where people could post their personal suggestions, needs and ideas at the household level and community meetings helped foster community participation at the grassroots level. He said the benefit of such community participation starting from the lowest levels was manifold, including poverty reduction, conflict reduction, resource use effectiveness, and wider community acceptance and support for the agreed-upon use of resources.

Mr. Hemathilaka further said that Pakistan was in a good position to learn from the Sri Lankan model, and in fact had a more favorable situation, since the concept of Local Governance had constitutional mention in Pakistan's case whereas there was no such provision mentioned in the constitution of Sri Lanka. However, Pakistan had to make sure that there was substantial legal backing and a concrete

structure for any devised system of community participation-based Local Governance system.

Mr. Kaiser Bengali, Member National Finance Commission, Karachi, in his special comments expressed the need for overcoming and bridging the massive disconnect between the government and civil society organizations. He mentioned how a lot of the civil society meetings and conferences and research reports had very little penetration into the state apparatus and that this issue must be resolved to truly derive the benefit from civil society consultations and policy recommendations.

Mr. Kaiser Bengali stated that Pakistan should learn from the German model of provision of constitutional protection to the Local Government system, and that the Pakistani constitution mentions the Lo-



cal Government but did not genuinely provide for its protection.

The Chair of the panel, Mr. Daniyal Aziz from the Governance Institutes Network International, Islamabad, said that historically Pakistan had focused on the improvement of its services sector, and there had been gradual and non-stop deterioration in the quality of the local public institutions like Police Stations, Rule of Law, Health Units and Schools. He said there was a need to establish a balance between all the sectors and institutions of the State for it to operate in the best manner, rather than focusing on one component and letting the others go to waste.

The session ended with questions and answers and a reiteration of the role of the civil society in the observation of Government actions and in the effective advocacy of positive developmental processes including the elements of democratic governance, which was described as a critical aspect of the overall development process in any country of the world, including in Pakistan.

Report by: Safyan Kakakhel

Panel Title: Analysis of the Land Rights Situation in Pakistan

Chair: Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, Member National Assembly of Pakistan

Speakers:

Mr. Nasar Hayat, Independent Consultant, Islamabad

Mr. Zulfiqar Shah, Institute of Social movement, Islamabad

Mr. Fateh Marri, Hyderabad

Special Comments: Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, State University of New York at Binghamton, USA

Panel organizer: Ms. Mehnaz Paracha, Oxfam GB, Islamabad

Land rights issues in Pakistan are directly linked with poverty, food insecurity, un-sustainability and social unrest. The size of land and productivity coupled with judicious access and supply of water resources are equally important with regard to land rights. The experts agreed that the last three land reforms in Pakistan did not comprehensively address all the paradigms of land ownership and there was a dire need to formulate a National Land Policy and define land reforms contextually. Effective land reforms with a judicial land distribution system were considered to be the answer to the prevailing challenges highlighted above.

Mr. Nasar Hayat drew attention to the fact that poverty ascribed to land ownership issues contributed to extremism and suggested that the agriculture sector if managed properly could be a prime engine for sustainable development in Pakistan. He also discussed the fact that the land ownership issue prevailed both in rural and urban areas and was directly linked to food insecurity issues. In the present scenario, food security was a question of access to food rather than productivity and land yield was inversely proportional to farm size. It was perceived that small farms were managed more efficiently, thus increasing productivity in land. Productivity was also seen as linked to effective use of labor force as 45% of the labor force and 82% of the women contributing in agricultural sector made only 21% of GDP, indicating that labor productivity was not working to its maximum limit. The need of new effective land reforms was also emphasized as the previous three land reforms did not play their role in addressing these issues.

Mr. Zulfiqar Shah on the other hand gave an overview of housing rights, rights violations and im-

portance of activist movements for involving indigenous people, thus bringing positive change on practical grounds. He further explained that seven different land tenureships varying exist in the provinces and house entitlements were practiced in rural areas only in case of individual land lords whereas, the situation was better in urban areas. Similarly violation of land rights were more common in rural areas including land grabbing, land grabbing by agricultural corporate, residential landlessness in rural areas and state land grabbing. He explained that the occurrence of natural disasters aggravated this issue of land rights and justified the grant of land compensation rarely. He recommended that there was an urgent need to highlight this issue of land ownership and to address the complicated problems of poverty



and food insecurity leading to civil distress.

Mr. Fateh Marri, an independent researcher, Islamabad also pointed out the discrepancies and ineffectiveness of subsequent land reforms being passed in Pakistan. He added that "Pakistan has 79 million hectares of farmland and a survey of 57 million hectares disclosed that only 23 million hectares are being cultivated while, 8 million hectares is left uncultivated because of the non-availability of water and inadequate resources". He explained that approximately 95% of Pakistani farmers lacked sufficient resources to properly cultivate their lands. Of the remaining 5%, only a few had access to the latest farming technology. Moreover, most of the farmland in Pakistan was of a larger size with 19% of the farmers owning 61% of land and 81% of farmers with 39% of land. Though the total quantum of profit was high in large farms but per unit profit was high in small farms, contributing more efficiently in economic growth. The land in Pakistan was usually perceived as a determinant of political power and loss of land was considered to be the end of one's politi-

cal regime. He said that justified access and supply of water needed to be tailored with equal land ownership rights for eradicating food insecurity and increasing productivity. He also proposed to initiate the process of redistribution of land especially among the flood affected communities with the introduction of market led reforms in consultation with the stakeholders and strongly condemned the idea of corporate farming exacerbating the issue of livelihood for local people and a reduction in the crop productivity.

Discussion: Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, an ethnographer giving her special comments agreed that though the size of land and productivity were interrelated and per unit productivity was greater in smaller farms as compared to large farms, the size of land had nothing to do with land ownership rights as the rule of feudal lords persisted with the same intensity independent of the size of the farm. She said the subject of gender inequality with respect to land ownership had been totally overlooked in the entire discussion. Since women in Pakistan own less than 3% of the land and the rare minority that did have it had little or no actual control over it. She added this situation was further worsened by customary practices overriding laws pertaining to women's rights and the lack of supportive state structures and mechanisms for women's protection when they claimed their rights. There was a dire need to redefine land reforms contextually and comprehensively with judicious land distribution leading to social justice, sustainable growth and food security. She appreciated the effort of Mr. Zulfiqar Shah from the Institute of Social Movement, Islamabad for drawing attention towards housing rights, rights violations and the role of activist movements in sensitizing this issue. She said that Oxfam GB was also playing a vital role in promoting land redistribution among the women of Sindh after the flood of 2010. It was agreed that re-designing the land reform system with transparency in land distribution system and involvement of local people particularly women and their empowerment was the way forward.

Report by: Fareeha Mehmood and Farzana Yasmin

Panel Title: Factors Affecting the Food Security Situation in a Resource Constrained Pakistan

Chair: Mr. Shafqat Munir, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers: Mr. Umer Malik, Mehbub-ul-Haq Centre, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Wajid Hussain Pirzada, Roots Pakistan, Rawal-

pindi, Pakistan

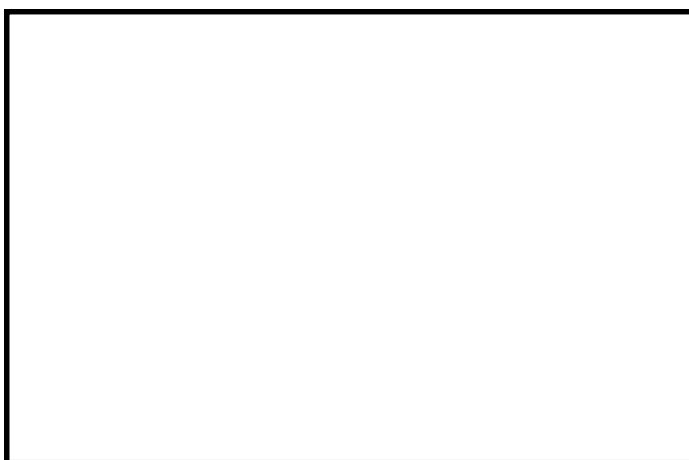
Mr. Zubair Faisal Abbasi, Impact Consulting, Islamabad

Launch of CUTS publication: 'Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia'

Special Comments: Mr. Banaras Khan, National Agronomist, FAO, Islamabad; Dr. Jehangir Khan, Food Security Advisor, Plan Canada; and, Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS, India

Panel Organizer: Ms Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha, Oxfam International, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Umer Malik began by explaining that there are inconsistent growth trends in Pakistan while there is a constant increase in food demand for consumption. He said, access to food was the main issue not the production of food; due to a decrease in



purchasing power people could not afford to buy food. In fact the unprecedented inflation rates were higher for food goods as compared to non-food goods. He added that the water issue in Pakistan also was not because of lack of water availability but poor utilization of water resources.

There was an evident underinvestment in research and extension of agriculture resource and technology which led to lower productivity and yield. Another important point that he brought up was about agriculture credit; he said there was no incentive for small farmers as distribution of credit was skewed. He emphasized, "it is the job of the government and academicians to raise the issue of food security". He recommended that the food security policy should include solutions to adequate supply, adequate storage along with a pro-poor strategy so that access to food could be resolved. During the discussion that followed key measures of policy options were discussed while rural well-being was particularly stressed upon by all participants.

Mr. Shafqat Munir, Senior Advisor at SDPI,

chairing the session summed up the discussion by saying that more than governance, food security was a political issue in Pakistan. He explained that with corporate agriculture comes corporate responsibility as well.

The next speaker Dr. Wajid Hussain Pirzada, spelled out some policy prescriptions for support prices. He explained how the prices of food had increased since the 2007 financial crisis. There was a paradigm shift in food security; trade liberation led to import of cheaper foods hence shifting the country from food self-sufficiency to import based food security. Dr. Pirzada emphasized that food sovereignty (internal production of food) was more important than sourcing food through imports as that was not a sustainable solution. 38% of the population of the country was food insecure with hunger increased by 28%. He added the conflict in FATA and the floods of 2010 and 2011 had worsened the situation of food security in the country.

Support prices aimed to provide a safeguard to people but it was only provided for wheat. He stressed that international tools for policy making such as the UN declaration and WTO should be used to build an efficient food security policy. Implementation of the policy should be handled by PASCO and the Food departments in provinces. Dr. Pirzada added that the prevailing food insecurity and poverty situation in Pakistan demands informed participation in multilateral trade negotiations. He said that the aim should be to strike a balance between trade and national non-trade objectives (NTCs), coupled with efforts to make national policies and programs responsive to the national challenges and international commitments e.g. Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Zubair Faisal Abbasi provided the findings of his study: Corporate agriculture farming vs small scale farmers. The cultivated land in Pakistan held many small farms and a small number of very large estates; 65% farmers hold 15% of farm land less than 2 hectares and this segment was increasing owing to the law of inheritance. Major players were multinational corporations for large scale production; the whole product life cycle had become competitive 'internationally'. A Policy Package was made and deployed under the Musharraf regime in 2001-2002, but local competition was managed and it favored the rich giving rise to monopsony and monopoly. Price pressures shifted to small producers, quality controls shifted upgradation pressures to get small farmers out of businesses. Moreover, intensive and invasive techniques were associated with soil degra-

ation erosion of the topsoil. Mr. Abbasi concluded that it was not land but water which was needed. He recommended public action to support the growth of small farmers.

Mr. Banaras Khan, FAO, reported that among the factors affecting food security the energy crisis was the most major challenge. Another concern was the long line of intermediaries from producers to consumers. However, it must be noted that the government had increased wheat support price and had also given support price for sunflower production.

The definition of food security was also a crucial and technical concern added by a representative of CUTs India, Mr. Bipul Chatterjee; he said that food security was as much about food production and availability as about governance and distribution of food. In India food production was not an issue but much of our population was still food insecure and hungry even though the National Food Security Bill was becoming a National Food Security Act in India. Farm size and productivity is an ongoing debate; much of it depended on the tenancy rights of land. Tenancy reforms were unsuccessful leading to lower production. The way forward, he suggested should be to find regional solutions; the importance of knowledge sharing between scientists could not be overestimated. Mr. Chatterjee urged SDPI to further work on matters of food security.

During the discussion Mr. Umar Farooq, representative of Pakistan agriculture council asserted that there was a clear link between farmers and the market but that the link was not studied in detail. He felt farmers should become diversified and standardization on a large level was required. Low purchasing power had led people to switch to substitutes or lessen quantity. Ms Mehnaz Paracha urged that clearly market did work for the poor.

Dr. Pirzada added at this point that the capacity building of small farmers was also important. Targeted support from the Government was required for these small farmers. Food aid led to the shrinkage of the farming sector. It must be noted that until and unless you had targeted subsidy benefits it will not reach the farmers. Also, we need to shift towards green economy the earlier the better.

Mr. Faisal Abbasi clarified to the participants that the market can have different levels of equilibriums, just because there is food in the market doesn't mean that people are not hungry and completely food secure. The country must be able to produce customized products with modernization. Local purchasing power should be the first priority; if

you are domestically competitive you will be internationally competitive.

Concluding the session, the Chair stressed that 77 million out of 180 million are hungry. He said floods had eroded the capacity to buy food. He added the constitution provides the right to food, clothing and shelter but there was no legal framework to help these people ask for their rights. He proposed that different levels of intervention should take place such as the fact that research should be properly taken to the relevant people/quarter, media and advocacy tools should be developed to raise the voice in the people and lobbying in the provincial assemblies to ensure food security and direct action for instance to facilitate the drafting of the bill should take place.

Report by: Anam A. Khan

Panel Title: Education Financing in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

Chair: Mr. Jemal Ahmad, ActionAid, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers: Dr. Salman Humayun, Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS), Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chief of Party, Citizen's Voice Project, TDEA, Pakistan

Ms. Uzma Tahir, Manager, Policy, Advocacy and Research Outreach, ActionAid Pakistan

Special Comments: Mr. Sardar Husain Babak, Minister for Education, KPK

Mr. Tariq Qamar Baloch, Additional Secretary (Education), Balochistan

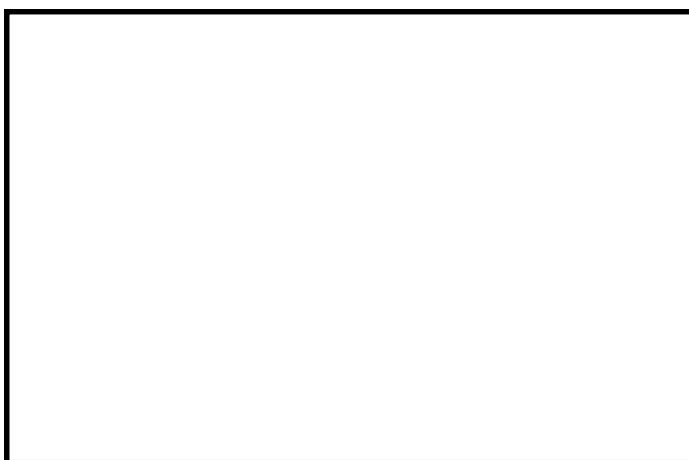
Panel Organizer: Ms. Nazima Shaheen, ActionAid, Islamabad, Pakistan

The speakers highlighted the importance of the education sector as part of the progress of any nation. The speakers talked about the budgetary financing issues to the education sector of Pakistan. Also, major challenges, other than financing, faced by the education sector were presented by the speakers. The passing of the 18th constitutional amendment and the inclusion of Article 25 A "free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be amended by law" was particularly focused on by the speakers. Apart from highlighting the issues and challenges being faced by this sector, the speaker gave a number of suggestions as well.

Mr. Ahmad was of the view that education contributed towards human development. He added that education was also vital for girls as it was part

of their empowerment Dr. Salman Humayun while presenting his paper on the topic "Education Budget and Data of District Rahim Yar Khan" said that the education sector was neglected in Pakistan. The education attainment rate was high in boys as compared to girls, whereas, the drop out rate of children was also another alarming phenomenon. He said that despite the low enrollment rate, the education institutions lacked proper schooling facilities. Dr. Humayun, highlighted several issues in the Pakistani education system including "accessibility and infrastructure". Moreover, he added, "quality of education is very poor.

Dr. Humayun also highlighted the trends in education financing in the country. He pointed out issues in the Danish School System in Punjab province.



"Although a bunch of money has been financed on this education system, unfortunately this system does not benefit the poor," he stated. Dr. Humayun, while talking more about education in the Punjab, said, "Money on special education has been dropped by the province while there is more emphasis on financing higher education."

He felt that the inclusion of Article 25A in the 18th amendment was a good step but it was an ambiguous and over ambitious step. Apart from talking about low education financing, Dr. Humayun also talked about the gaps in utilization of funds, "allocation is always different from utilization". While concluding his presentation, he said that "previous data on education indicators and budget both are necessary for good policy making", "budgetary allocation and spending need to comply with data and source" and "to attain any target, political commitments make all the difference".

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad while presenting his paper on the topic "An Investigation into the Prospects and Problems of School-based Budgeting in Paki-

stan's Public Schools" highlighted the challenges in the budgetary financing of the education sector. He pointed out five major challenges;

- 1) Low Allocation
- 2) Questionable Priorities
- 3) Under Utilized-Limited Capacity
- 4) In-efficiencies
- 5) Accountability/Transparency

While talking about the first challenge he said that out of a mere budgetary allocation of 2 percent to the education sector, 95 percent went on salaries. This was seen as a big question mark on the "no/less learning outcomes as there is no child centric allocation in the budget". The issue of high funds allocation for cadet colleges came under questionable priorities, he stated. Mr. Ahmad while talking on other challenges said that the "education sector is of low priority in Annual Development Budget (ADB)" and "Despite of small allocation to this sector, there is problem of fund's laps".

Mr. Ahmad while highlighting the gender education issue said that there was "little focus on addressing gender disparities. Out of 42 colleges/ institutions in 2008-09, only 8 were for girls/ women". The speaker also talked about article 25A in 18th amendment and said that federal and provincial governments had been unable to act upon this article. Mr. Ahmad while giving his concluding remarks said that "tax to GDP ratio is very low in Pakistan; if it is enhanced then more funds will be available for this sector as well" and "school based budgeting is the answer if we want to have actual or effective budgeting. This will also help to increase the transparency and efficiency".

Ms. Uzma Tahir, while presenting her paper on the topic "Unfolding Education Financing; a perspective of ActionAid" said that the "tax system in Pakistan is regressive in nature that pushes people from being poor to poorer..... debt servicing eats up the major chunk of the budget". She added that with all these issues, the education sector received very low financial attention. "Political will, user fees, accessibility and quality" were other concerns in the education sector, she stated.

"Education financing should be taken as economic investment, so that quality public education may be achieved" and "progressive taxation policies are needed for large term investment on education" she recommended.

Mr. Sardar Husain Babak, Minister for Education, KPK, said that "development of the education sector is not the sole responsibility of state but other responsible persons and institutions of the society

as well". He was of the opinion that the case of KPK was very different from the other three provinces so a comparison of allocated and utilized funds should have been done while keeping in view the conditions/environment of that province.

Mr. Tariq Qamar Baloch, Additional Secretary (Education), Balochistan while sharing his views on the topic said that "apart from financial challenges, there are other externalities that hinder the education attainment. The security challenge is the major externality". At the end he highlighted the importance of the education sector and concluded with saying, "A single penny in the education sector is investment for the future."

Report by: Afsheen Naz



Panel Title: Revisiting Poverty Debate: Alternative Ways for Conceptualization, Measurement and Targeting

Chair: Dr. Sabina Alkire, Oxford University, UK

Speakers: Mr. Ali Khizar, Business Recorder, Karachi

Mr. Arif Naveed, SDPI, Islamabad; and, Mr. Nazim Ali, US Embassy, Islamabad

Mr. Tanveer-Ul-Islam, NUST Business School, Islamabad

Special Comments: Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, SDPI, Islamabad

Dr. Sajjad Akhter, Director CIPRIIPD, Islamabad

Panel Organizer: Mr. Arif Naveed, SDPI, Islamabad

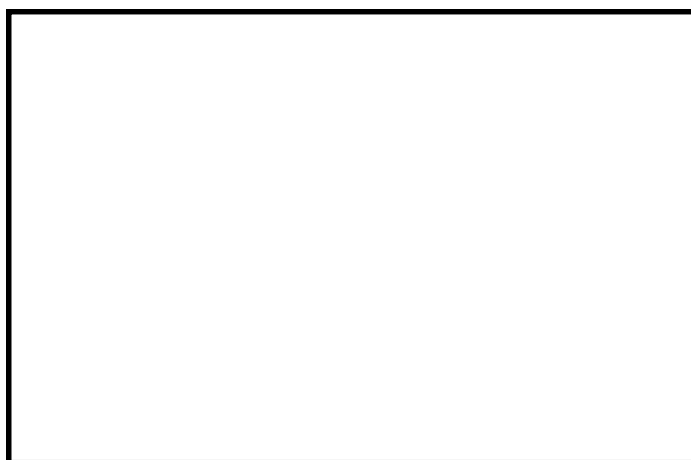
Some of the points Mr. Ali Khizar brought up were that poverty is a priority area for the government, yet it keeps increasing over the years and that was because policies adopted to address the root causes of poverty were misleading and had

failed to address this issue. Talking on the controversy in poverty measurement and its impact on poverty reduction efforts and strategies, Mr. Ali Khizar said that poverty has garnered much debate in Pakistan for economic, political and social reasons. Unfortunately, many times in the recent past, the discourse over poverty reduction has, somehow, gravitated towards casting aspersions and creating doubts over the credibility of official poverty numbers. Over the last few years, the debate on poverty estimates has flapped into a burning controversy as leading economists haggled over validity of methodologies and reliability of numbers.

He said that as a result of this controversy, Pakistan was without up-to-date official poverty estimates for over four years now. The research, resources and efforts, needed for both devising ancillary policies and strengthening the institutions tasked with poverty reduction, were unreliable. Given the 'triple whammy of low growth, high inflation' and monsoon floods in the recent past, he said it was safe to state that the vulnerable segments of the population may now have joined the very poor, who themselves had slipped further down the poverty line. Further the factor which contributed to poverty was the flawed governance system embodied with corruption and gaps in services delivery due to misleading polices, low growth rate, high inflation, the *biradari* systems and influences of *Aarthis* (middle-men).

In the development context, he felt, it was necessary that the national income increase. The poverty estimates based on uni-dimensional income-expenditure approach did not take into account factors which pertained to human development. This made a strong case for measurement of multidimensional poverty and deprivation. Talking on the recent advancement in literature on poverty and application of multidirectional poverty methodology in the case of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Naveed said that this study was an attempt to measure multidimensional poverty and deprivation in Pakistan at the district level. He said, the district classification based on multidimensional poverty index would help to identify the most deprived and vulnerable district and parallel to that would also give insight into regional characteristics. Employing the technique developed by Alkire and Santose (2010), he used the PSLM 2008-09 data, and showed that over 15 indicators pertained to four dimensions; 1) education, 2) health, 3) living conditions, and 4) wealth to estimate the three measures of multidimensional poverty index; a) headcount ratio; b) adjusted headcount ratio; and c) average pov-

erty. He said that findings revealed that about one-third Pakistanis were below the poverty line. Inter-provincial disparities could be seen from the fact that 18 of 20 most poor districts were in Balochistan and 2 in KPK and the 20 least poor districts were in the upper part of Punjab. Within the 'most poor' province, Balochistan, there were districts which experienced relatively lower poverty (Pungor, Quetta, Gawader). Within the 'least poor' province, Punjab, there were many districts which experienced severe poverty (Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, D.G. Khan). Poverty was concentrated in certain parts of each province; upper part of KPK, the southern part of Sindh, Southern/lower part of Punjab and most of Balochistan). He said there was the ethnic face of poverty – all Seraiki speaking districts in Punjab



(also in KPK) face extreme poverty within the province, majority of Punjabi speaking districts are least poor, Hazara division fares better in KPK, predominantly Urdu speaking Karachi has low poverty.

Global financial crisis, a hike in food prices, floods and other climate changes in developing countries had pushed a major chunk of people to an extreme poverty level. It was discussed that recently, in the developing world there was a lot of focus on targeted social protection program rather than universal programs aiming to provide social security to more destitute, poor and vulnerable sections of the community. Talking on such programs and methods adopted to identify the most vulnerable and poor people, Mr. Islam said that there exists a range of social safety nets such as cash transfer, targeted subsidies, micro insurance, etc. However, the success of such programs greatly depended upon the identification of who benefits from these programs and the practicality of the methods and instruments used. The methods and instruments being used to identify the poor were critically im-

portant for such programs.

Like other developing countries Pakistan was also using targeted social protection programs to support the most vulnerable class. Pakistan had recently developed a methodology to identify the poor for cash support programs, i.e. the poverty scorecard. The poverty scorecard was based on the statistical method of Proxy Means Testing (PMT) which had recently gained significant popularity in some other parts of the developing world.

Further highlighting the pros and cons of techniques used he said that selection of indicators for defining the poverty line was crucial and depended on human wisdom and statistical methods. The widely used statistical methods for this purpose were Principal Component Analysis, Factor Analysis and Regression Analysis. All of these techniques were applicable under certain assumptions which were violated quite often. He concluded the session with these remarks, "Despite all theoretical and statistical drawbacks, PMT could be used whenever it was required to target the poorest of poor people."

Report by: Muhammad Tahir Ali

Panel Title: Shrines, Shanti and Sustainable Development

Chair: Mr. Karamat Ali, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research, Karachi, Pakistan
Speakers: Ms Maliha Ahmed, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Ahmad Salim, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Ms Humaira Ishfaq, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special comments by: Dr. Britta Peterson, Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Lahore, Pakistan; and, Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, Sustainable Development Policy Institute; & State University of New York, Binghamton, USA

Panel Organizer: Mr. Ahmad Salim, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan
 In this panel, three documentaries on Sufism were presented as part of the discussion on the lives of the great Sufis.

Mr. Ahmed Salim started the discussion by relating the history of Sufis in the sub-continent. He said Islam entered the subcontinent in 712 AD with a liberal stance and it was introduced in Karamati form and opposed all sorts of orthodox rituals and taught people about equality and harmony. He added Karamati spoke of a peaceful society and social justice among different communities. Militancy was present during the era of Baba Bulleh Shah and Shah Shams Sabhazwari. He explained that they

did not believe in materialism but in eternal life, which comes from spirituality.

Ms. Ishfaq spoke about the lives of two famous poets of their time, Baba Bulleh Shah and Shah Shams Sabhazwari. She related the story of how when Shah Shams came from Sabhazwar, on his arrival to Multan, Bhah-uddin-Zakriya sent him a bowl full of milk. This gesture was to show that Multan was already full of saints. Hence there was no more room for a new saint. As a reply Shah Shams placed a flower in the bowl, to show that there is always room for more people and that he too could make his place in Multan. Shah Shams inculcated the message of peace, harmony and love among all communities.

She said that militant groups attacked liberal



humanist societies and Shah Shams was not allowed to enter Multan, so he lived in the suburbs of Multan. About his poetry she said love was the main theme of his poetry. Talking briefly about his history, she said Bulleh Shah (1680-1753) was a poet of the eighteenth century and he was born in Pandoki near Kasoor. Shah Inayat Qadri was his teacher. People kept on telling him that he did not match up to the standard of a Syed family. He in return told people that there should not be any discrimination on the basis of caste; he dedicated his entire life to the pursuit of talking about the importance of equality in his poetry. He preached peace and religious harmony to the world and was very popular among all religious communities. Today his work has been immortalized.

She said that Sufism was not an alternate religion but that it is about humanism and has no boundaries or borders. She added that Sufism is international, but does not believe in globalization because that leads to the exploitation of the poor. She ended by saying Sufism has always promoted

diversity.

Ms. Maliha Hassan shared an overview of a book called the “Seven Stages of Sufism in Pakistan” written by Dr. Tahir Kamran, which were:

Ishq : matters of the heart. Sufism is about cleansing of the heart and using the power of emotion and devotion with the Sacred and with the Divine.

Rawabit: if one were to identify an attribute that serves as a center around which the lives of people in this land revolve, it has to be that of human relationships.

Tawakkul: Man’s deep faith in God leads to a high-level resilience, the ability to deal with traumatic events, natural calamities and deaths.

Aks-e-Muqqadas: one of the basic notions of divine Islam is its presence everywhere and in every thing. This means that no place or object is more sacred than any other.

Rawwadari: pluralism and tolerance are possible. The spirit, the heart, the niyyat, becomes more important than the form or the words used to connect with God.

Wahadtulwajud: the spirituality in our relationships.

Jamaliyat: the beauty of this world is a reflection of the divine.

Meezan: it is of vital importance to maintain a balance between all the elements in our everyday spirituality. Emphasis on the outward forms without a pluralistic heritage can lead to extreme violence in our communities, which we are facing today. We should be balanced in our lives.

Dr. Britta Peterson suggested that Sufism should not be used as a political tool as it can potentially lead to extremism and can become dangerous for society as despite its principles of tolerance it can lead to a hierarchal way of life so she felt Sufism should be kept separate from politics.

Mr. Ahmed Salim felt that the message of Sufism could be a solution to the problems in Pakistan.

Report by: Mehwish Akhter and Kashmala Chaudhry

Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change—Session I

Chair: Mr. Shams-ul-Mulk, Former Chief Minister of KPK, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan, Senior Visiting Fellow, SDPI
Dr. Umer Farooq, PARC, Islamabad, Pakistan
Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Senior Research Associate, SDPI

Panel Organizer: Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan, Senior Visiting Fellow, SDPI

Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan commented that urban growth in the Indus Basin is largely a result of rural-urban migration of people for improving their livelihood. This mass movement of people has a profound effect on the characteristics of the epidemiological disease profile. Besides the impacts of congestion and overcrowding, noise, and environmental pollution, and rapid urbanization causes emotional stress which has far-reaching socioeconomic implications. Dr. Nuzrat said that in some districts of



Southern Punjab and Sindh the illiteracy rate was as much as 80%. Moreover one-third of the population lacked access to clean water resulting in water borne diseases which killed about 2 million Pakistanis each year, which included 360 children every day. As such, among the many manifestations of urban decay in these cities was the high prevalence of mental disorders among citizens. He further added in his comments that research has shown that many symptoms of morbidity such as headaches and lethargy are in fact caused by psychological stress, which has far-reaching socioeconomic implications at both individual and community levels.

He said that his presentation reviewed this aspect of the Indus Basin in light of the results of our own study in the city of Lahore which showed that the citizens of all socioeconomic groups in Lahore were disturbed by numerous urban annoyances associated with congestion and environmental degradation, and those disturbed were also depressed, had low self-esteem and low levels of resilience. Depression was strongly affected by education,

population density, and household congestion. Consistent with similar studies in other parts of the world, results showed that the degraded urban environment caused psychological morbidity as reflected in the prevalence of depression, loss of self-esteem, and low resilience. He further pointed out that the Indus Basin was not only situated in Pakistan but also China and India so international cooperation is a vital aspect of the Indus Basin and the treaty should be re-negotiated to include the fact that we should not just focus on India and China but also Pakistan.

Dr. Umer Malik began by thanking SDPI on giving him the opportunity to present his view on food security and water. Highlighting World Bank reports he said that agriculture had an important role as a source of major economic activity and source of livelihoods. He felt that to meet the objective of increasing food production and alleviating poverty and hunger in an environmentally sustainable manner it would require a renewed focus on agricultural water management and institutional innovations for managing water. He quoted that about 1.6 billion people live in areas of economic water scarcity, where human, institutional and financial capital limit access to water even though water in nature is available locally to meet human demands, i.e. financial resources are likely to be insufficient to develop adequate water resources and about 1.2 billion people lived under conditions of physical water scarcity in river basins where water resource development had exceeded sustainable limits.

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay commented on Dr. Umer Farooq's presentation saying that we need to re-define food security by looking at a number of factors such as our distribution system, market instruments, mechanisms, our input-output market, livelihoods and their economic and wealth status. He also pointed out that by creating a food security and research ministry the government has taken a good step but we still need to change the mindset of our bureaucracy as we know they are the real players and implementers of policy. Giving comments on Dr. Nuzrat Yar's presentation, he said that the Indus Water Treaty should not be re-negotiated, it just needed good implementation.

Report by: Humayun Farooq

Panel Title: Development beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Chair: Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission of Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Peter Taylor, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South, Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma, Kathmandu University; Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South, Nepal

Ms Afshan Ahmad, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan

Special Comments: Dr. Urs Geiser, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Panel Organizer: Ms Afshan Ahmad, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan



Dr. Peter Taylor expressed the fact that great strides have been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the last ten years and much of this progress had been made possible in South Asia through national commitments to developing and implementing policies that led to a measurable improvement in peoples' lives. He further said a key element of policy development is the policy maker's access to quality information generated through independent research. He stated that private policy research institutes were key evidence sources in all countries in the region but Government stakeholders tended to get information mainly from government sources which often had low quality research data. However, in many countries, much research-based evidence was still produced by researchers situated outside the national policy context. He said there was a need for locally-generated information and analysis to support effective regional and national policy processes. Although researchers in South Asia were increasingly engaged in research on the develop-

ment challenges experienced within their own national contexts, they often struggled to navigate the “demand-side” for policy-relevant information, he added.

Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti while addressing the panel threw light on “conflict and peace perspectives in South Asia” and said that the existing development approach needed some fundamental change to address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace and justice in the region. He was of the view that development was expected to address the root causes of conflicts and issues such as inequality, poverty, injustice, and to promote basic foundations of peace such as good governance, inclusive economic growth, gender mainstreaming, and ultimately happiness in society. However, growing conflict and insecurity in the region was evidence that development in South Asia had largely failed to address these challenges.

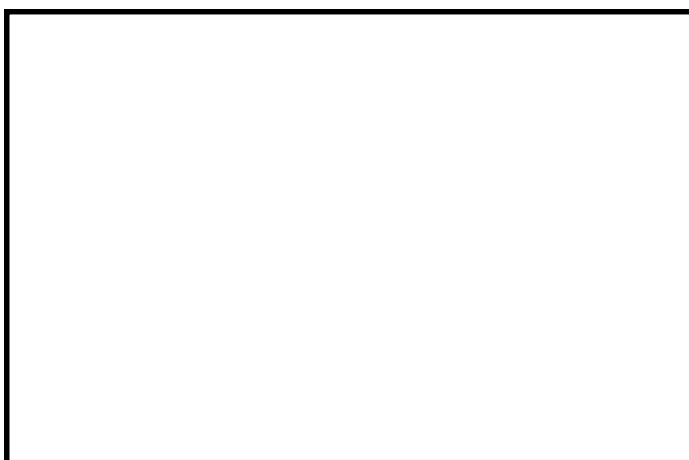
He also identified some major reasons behind the failure of the development approach that included, conflict blind development policy and planning, policy makers and implementers lack of understanding on relationship between development and conflict-peace, donor driven approach of development, occupation of resources by elites and bad governance. Hence, the existing approach of development needed fundamental changes to address the root causes of conflict and promote peace and justice in the region.

Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma said that progress on MDGs and changing global context indicated disparity between the goals and various regions of the world. This, he said, brought an opportunity to rethink the validity of the goals and indicators. Although issues such as poverty, nutrition, health, and education were likely to remain valid even after 2015, there were bound to be new issues that might carry more relevance, he added. He said that identification of these issues as well as the institutions that needed to play greater roles was essential if we wanted to look beyond 2015.

He deliberated that Nepal’s progress on MDGs remained painstakingly slow given its vulnerable geopolitical situation and fragile economic environment. He said Nepal’s overall economic growth during the last six decades had also not been impressive in comparison to its South Asian neighbors. The per capita growth had been even less favorable being the lowest in the region since 1990. He also shared the government’s claim of poverty reduction by 25 percent and said it’s a welcome development but the level and the perception of poverty particu-

larly in the rural areas remains high. Equally concerning is the fact that while poverty incidence might have reduced at national level, inequality has risen over the same period. However, despite these adverse initial conditions and poor macroeconomic settings, understanding how poverty and other related indicators have moved positively needs more careful scrutiny, he added.

Ms Afshan Ahmad presented her paper written on perspective of MDG’s in Pakistan and maintained that home grown and external contexts and factors impeded the efforts of the government to cope with crises and caused major problems in meeting the MDG targets. She said that Pakistan is a country in transition’ or a state in the making’- in terms of development per se thus literally it missed



the MDGs targets and even the current state of affairs neutralized whatever had been achieved in the past decade. So, the MDGs in Pakistan are received as a corner stone in the overall development framework at a time when Pakistan is only four years away from the 2015 deadline of MDGs achievement.

She said Pakistan submitted the ‘Millennium Development Goals Report 2010’ as the fourth in the series of reports to the UN. She also said that the reporting period 2006-10 had been the most turbulent in the recent history of Pakistan as it faced the brunt of the 2008 global economy meltdown, fuel and food prices hike, the war on terror, IDPs influx, suicide bombings, businesses shutting down, the floods in 2010 that crippled the economy, brewing political hotspots and soaring of relations with the United States.

Ms. Afshan Ahmad maintained that MDGs are nothing but a global partnership for development. She said member countries were given the task of localization of MDGs fitting to their development

needs but global commitment to MDG's can be gauged by what they have been doing through submission of progress reports to the UN.

Report by: Muhammad Shoaib and Benazir Chaudhry

Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change-Session III

Chairs: Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan; Ms Feryal Ali Gauhar, Member Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

This panel was a discussion panel where formal presentations were not delivered but in depth discussion was encouraged across the board amongst the Co-Chairs and audience members. Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan began by saying that the Indus basin ecosystem which was represented by the Indus River and its tributaries was at risk causing urbanization and massive migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. Infrastructure supporting these activities was collapsing or had already collapsed, similarly supply of water, population growth and availability of water was limited. He said that all activities could be divided into three areas: social, economic and ecological or biophysical, and all these activities within these three domains overlapped so there was always a conflict between them, but he felt that when there is a conflict, there has to be a compromise.

He opened the floor for discussion:

Someone from the audience asked Dr. Iqrar in terms of food security problems and agriculture crops patterns, if he could shed some light on socio ecological challenges that were being faced by people.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan answered by saying that Pakistan was facing lots of challenges, including migration, resettlement, floods, disasters, with climate change, the shifting rain patterns, and deforestation that was taking place in water shed zones as well as climate change causing melting glaciers. Dr. Khan explained that in his experience when he was in China, people took great care in building new dams, so that water is available for irrigation and he added the availability of water has enabled China to become a food surplus nation. Further he said, it was now time to come up with sustainable solutions, "I

am very pleased that SDPI has created a forum for these issues to be talked about and it is doing a wonderful job. In Pakistan telling the truth is a very difficult thing and then accepting the truth is even more difficult but SDPI is trying to tell the truth."

Further he said, ecological disasters were not only taking place in the Indus watershed and along rivers because of floods and because of earthquakes, ecological disasters were taking place in big cities as well. He added that given the fact that we are cutting trees and expanding housing without making sure that water is available and that we are unable to maintain a proper disposal and drainage system, striking an ecological balance is very important. He said that we have to make people conscious about the ecological balance.



Answering a question about her research at the Dia Bhasha Dam, Ms. Feryal Gauhar said that through participatory analysis she and her team were able to come to a very important understanding of what has happened in the Indus Basin particularly in the delta region over the last decade. She added that people were very aware of the consequences of the absence of relevant and appropriate measures to manage water, and that those consequences had led to an absolute destruction of their livelihood, and also to the displacement they had to endure from their traditional places of residence. She said that the area in which she worked had been largely affected by the construction of the LBOD which actually brought water from the river to the soil.

Answering a question on what should be done in this context, she said there was no national policy on displacement or rather resettlement, the only policy that existed were policies from the colonial era dating back to 1894 which related entirely to land acquisition. She added that in Pakistan there

were so many regional differences and so many different cultural issues that had to be kept in mind, therefore she suggested it was time that policy be formulated on a case to case basis to start with and then general policy guidelines should be formulated in order for even the case based studies to work within a certain framework. She said the goal is to empower the indigenous people so that they have access to education and political processes.

Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan said in conclusion that if you want to create a society based on equality, then you must educate your children because education is inextricably linked to livelihood and health.

Report by: Umer Adnan

Panel Title: Climate Change Concerns and their Possible Impact on South Asian Countries

Chair: Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay Senior Research Associate in Sustainable Development Policy Institute

Special Comments: Mr. Muhammad Islam, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad

Speakers: Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Consumer Unity & Trust Society International, Jaipur, India

Mr. Naseer Memon, Strengthening Participatory Organization, Islamabad

Ms Maryum Najeeb, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

Panel Organizer: Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS International

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay started the session by giving a brief introduction of the panel and the fact that the issues surrounding climate change have extended beyond a mere environmental concern now but have emerged as a grave developmental challenge for the world at large. He said climate change impacts cannot be ignored anymore if we are to try and alleviate some of those impacts before it is too late.

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee was the first speaker of the session. He presented his study on "Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia a Perception Study". His research mainly focused on farmers' perception of climate change impacts on their livelihoods in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The results of the study indicated that climate change had adversely affected farmers across the Indian sub-continent with shortened rainy seasons and increased temperatures over the years. Moreover severe impacts had been observed on agriculture and resulted in a substantial decline in subsist-

ence farming across all selected South Asian countries.

He further highlighted possible adaptation strategies for farmers such as water and soil conservation measures to protect the environment from further degradation. This would provide them with plenty of water even during dry seasons.

Mr. Naseer Memon talked about climatic impacts in terms of recent disasters in south Asian countries. He elaborated that over 50 percent of South Asians and more than 750 million people had been affected by a natural disaster in the last two decades. The Himalayan ecosystem supports about 1.5 billion people living directly in the floodplains of its many rivers (e.g. Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna). He explained that about 10% of the volume of Himalayan Rivers came from melting glaciers. Changes were expected due to precipitation changes and the glacial melt coupled with population growth putting enormous pressure on dwindling water resources.

He further elaborated that the sea level rise would pose a future threat for coastal cities such as Karachi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Cochin. He presented the rate of occurrence of natural disasters and mortalities due to them which were increasing with every passing year. He emphasized the need for political commitment to address climate change issues through better adaptation strategies, civil society involvement, regional cooperation through the SAARC forum, and lastly the implementation of effective disaster risk reduction strategies to protect vulnerable communities.

Ms Maryam Najeeb presented a comparative analysis of discourses on Climate Change found in two policy documents and the draft of Climate Change Policy 2011 produced by the Ministry of Environment. She mentioned the efforts made by the Government of Pakistan and their impact to determine if they have the potential to actually seep down from merely being a government-level agenda to grass root-level contextualization. Drawing upon the Initial National Communication on Climate Change (2003) as the first government document on Climate Change, the study sought to establish the progression route taken from this till the Climate Change report of the Task Force on CC (2010) and the 2011 policy.

According to her comparative analytical framework study four gaps in policy analysis were highlighted: its implementation, finances, administrative/capacity and policy gaps. She mentioned that implementation and policy gaps were a subset of the

financial, administrative/capacity gaps, and that there was a critical need to investigate these gaps further at the local level and finding innovative ways of bridging them by understanding the nature of constraints in a more comprehensive manner.

She said Pakistan had a long way to go in even understanding its climate change problems and its impacts on the lives of local communities and citizens. She further stressed that climate change impacts needed to be understood by engaging in real time baseline field research and analysis, rather than just number crunching and rehashing statistics based on NGO and donor project reports and dated government documents.

Discussion: Mr. Muhammad Islam, Associate professor in QAU as a discussant thanked and appreciated all the speakers for the efforts and disseminating their researches. He mentioned that very little research under theoretical specification was done in terms of climate change. There was confusion about climate change and its consequences and he elaborated that droughts, floods and natural disasters should be considered as indicators of the impacts of climate change. He stressed the need to engage in positive analytical research for a better understanding of the impacts of climate change. Coordinating adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer; and having plans ready to face the consequences of climate change beforehand (being "prepared"); bringing all the involved stakeholders on board; creating but also operating and maintaining physical structures and institutions for climate change preparedness were all imperative.

During the question-answer session which was followed by remarks by the discussant one participant raised a question about how awareness can help in minimizing the impacts of climate change and the rate of occurrence of natural disasters respectively. Mr. Naseer Memon replied that we could not minimize the rate of occurrence of disasters such as floods but we could make our selves resilient in terms of climate change impacts. He further elaborated that mitigation could be done in terms of awareness.

In the end, the chair thanked the speakers for sharing their knowledge and participants for adding their valuable comments during the session.

Report by: Sadaf Liaquat

Panel Title: Transnational Feminisms, Depoliticization, International Development: What does it mean to listen to third world women?

Chair: Mr. Haroon Sharif, Department for International Development (DFID), Islamabad

Speakers: Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan and State University of New York, Binghamton, USA

Dr. Farzana Bari, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Fidaa Shehada, State University of New York, Binghamton, USA

Special Comments: Ms. Nazish Brohi, Consultant, Karachi

Panel Organizer: Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan and State University of New York, Binghamton, USA

The Chair, Mr. Haroon Sharif introduced the first presentation which was by Dr. Fidaa Shehada. She gave a detailed account of the history of women's movements in Palestine and weaved it in with the chequered history of Palestine in terms of conflict and war. She made the connection between social action and political movements and outlined various women's movements in the history of Palestine beginning with the numerous charitable organizations to help refugees that were run by women in 1948.

She said that exile is always a part of Palestinian identity and that the relationship between men and women was affected by Palestinian people leaving to go into exile. She added that 80% Palestinians are Muslim and that women were and are involved in every aspect of life including militancy. She said that the Palestinian woman was supposed to be the "superwoman", she had to be a good mother, wife and she had to be fertile, however she had no political rights. She quoted Yasir Arafat as saying, Palestinian women should have eleven children at least. The political view was that the more children they had the more armour the Palestinians would have against the Israelis in terms of numbers. She went on to describe the commendable efforts of women when Israel curtailed food supplies. They reared chickens and grew vegetables in their gardens to resist the Israelis and become self-sufficient.

Throughout her presentation Dr. Fidaa Shehada made the connect between women's movements and the general condition of the Palestinian states, but gave us a sense of how courageous and strong the women were in their endeavours to carry on in a conflict ridden environments. She ended by saying "the liberation of women goes hand in hand with the liberation of Palestine".

Dr. Farzana Bari spoke next about the increased political representation of women in Parliament.

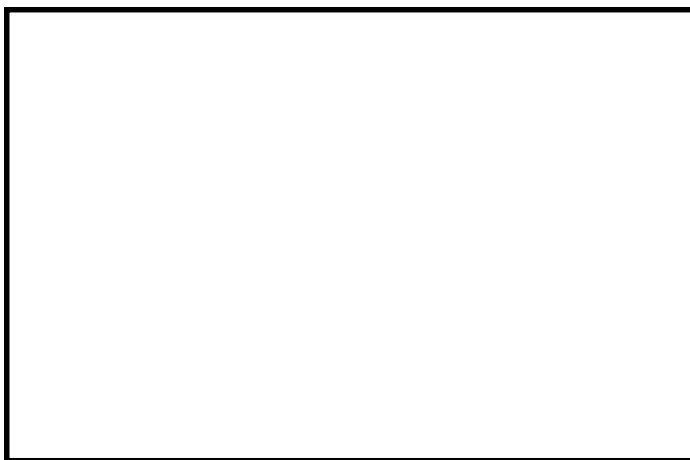
She said that the incredible increase in number of women in parliament was indeed a huge achievement. She said that women had done very well in the 12th and 13th National Assemblies and had even established their own women's caucas, but because of their competitiveness with each other and their inability to reach a consensus on issues relating to women they were unable to push forward anything substantial with regard to the empowerment of women. She mentioned that those women who came from a political background were able to do more work for women's rights than those who were raw to the system. She also felt that the entire fabric of our democratic system was based on a post colonial feudal system that has sacrificed the rights of its women for political power. The empowerment of women was a difficult task to achieve when the entire social structure was not conducive to this change, in fact she mentioned that even though women's representation was much higher now Pakistan had slipped down in the gender index and there was a rise in gender based violence. She emphasized the point that if women are to continue to exist in a society which is shaped in a patriarchal structure and exist in a country which is dominated by men in every aspect of leadership, it will be difficult to move forward for women. Saying that she added that there are numerous women rights movements across the country that remain unnoticed in the media.

In conclusion, women parliamentarians needed to develop more of a gender consciousness in a united manner. Secondly there are active women's voices in Pakistan that are not being heard especially in the western media and they needed to be projected as positive role models. She ended by saying that when looking at the condition of women empowerment and women's rights we should also look at the details of agency and the structure within which they exist.

The final speaker, Dr. Lubna Chaudhry, spoke about her experiences with women in post-conflict Swat during a study she conducted there. Her presentation was on the background of agency and voice and their implications on feminism. She said that it was quite common for international agencies to come into the country and interview a few outspoken women from a certain area and generalize the attitudes of women in that area and portray a picture which is often untrue or at best incomplete.

The eye of the interpreter is therefore important as is the judgment of the reader who must be aware of who the interpreter is.

Talking about her study she made a few observations. First that women empowerment meant something completely different to most of them than it did to us. The younger women, in their twenties and thirties, tended to be pro-Taliban whereas the older women were more against them. The younger women would be cooking in their kitchens listening to a well known programme on the radio with Maulvi Fazlullah, who would preach about the positive aspects of the Taliban and how women can be at the forefront of being part of the process of talibanization and therefore be the ones to push their men towards it, i.e. their husbands, their sons and future



generations. The result was that for the first time the women felt empowered, they had a say, a part to play in something huge. They felt political, strong and responsible for being part of an important process. So for them it was immensely empowering.

She told a few more stories of her interesting encounters with the women of Swat and how again and again her perceptions of women empowerment and theirs differed so drastically. Dr. Chaudhry wanted to make the point that when it comes to civil society interventions on these issues, it was important to look at whose voices we are listening to and whether it is actually possible to have one representative voice at all.

The panel ended with points of discussion from Ms. Nazish Brohi, followed by a general discussion and closing remarks by Mr. Haroon Sharif. Ms. Nazish Brohi wanted to reiterate both Dr. Farzana Bari's and Dr. Lubna Chaudhry's views in as far as looking closely at agency was concerned. She said that this panel had shown that all agency was not the same. Who is to judge which action is empower-

ing? Who decides what the benchmarks are? She mentioned that she too went to study the women of Swat and she agreed with Dr. Chauhdry that they felt liberated by supporting the Taliban and actually did not see it as part of being religious but as a process of empowerment. She ended by saying the eye of the reader colours the text. The agents become incidental and that the interpreter really matters.

Report by: Ayesha Salman

Panel Title: Climate Change: Readapting Forest Management in South Asia

Chair: Mr. Bashir Wani, former Inspector General of Forest, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers: Dr. Prakash Tiwari, Kumaon University, Nainital, India

Dr. Sultan-i-Rome, Government Jahanzeb Post-graduate College, Swat

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, SDPI, Islamabad

Mr. Talimand Khan, SDPI, Islamabad

Special Comments: Ms Seema Karki, Nepal

Panel organizer: Mr. Talimand Khan, SDPI, Islamabad

The question of land ownership in forest covered areas was considered to be the key reason for forest degradation leading to unemployment and livelihood problems for local communities, food insecurity and poverty elevation globally. It was agreed that proficient forest management was the way forward for climate change mitigation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in the world. But efficient forest management was not just a matter of reserving more than 70% of the forest cover in Himalayas and declaring it as protected areas, rather there was a dire need for the revision of sectoral policies with the introduction of participatory and integrated forest management. The Chair argued that the transfer of ownership to the local communities was still awaited.

The Panchayat and Joint forest management program being practiced in the State of Utharkhand, India discussed by Dr. Prakash Taiwari professor of Geography at Kumaon University, Nainital, Uttarkhand, India, served as an example of a participatory approach towards forest management. He explained that community involvement in forest management as evident from the history of Uttarkhand state had replenished water resources with sustainable use of land by sensitizing ownership among local communities. Forest cover in the state of Uttarkhand was about 64% out of which 70% was

state owned forest; not available for commercial use. The degraded condition of state owned forests was attributed to unsustainable exploitation of forest resources by the local people, whose source of earning was directly or indirectly related to these resources. This non-availability of agricultural land also hampered expected productivity from a particular area coupled with disastrous impacts on the forest's ecology and ecosystem, increasing the probability of floods and minimizing the water flow in streams and springs. He suggested "linking forest management with climate change, livelihood and poverty eradication and promoting participatory forest management. This will significantly contribute not only towards the conservation of forests, but also towards linking forest governance with rural



livelihood improvement and betterment of quality of life in rural areas, empowerment of rural women in natural resources and capacity building of grass-root institutions". However, he added, empowerment of local communities, particularly women; recognizing ecological, social, cultural and institutional specificities of society; and, bringing local people to the centre stage of decision-making could make these participatory resource governance mechanisms more applied and sustainable.

Dr. Sultan-e-Rome, Assistant Professor of History at the Government Jahanzeb Postgraduate College, Saidu Sharif, Swat, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Pakistan, threw light on contested forest ownership in the Swat region. He explained forest ownership in Swat District—both the area that was part of the former Swat state, and Kalam which was not a part of the Swat State but was part of the district—contested by the provincial government and the people concerned and he suggested that forest ownership rights should be clearly marked and a clear distinction should be made among the rights

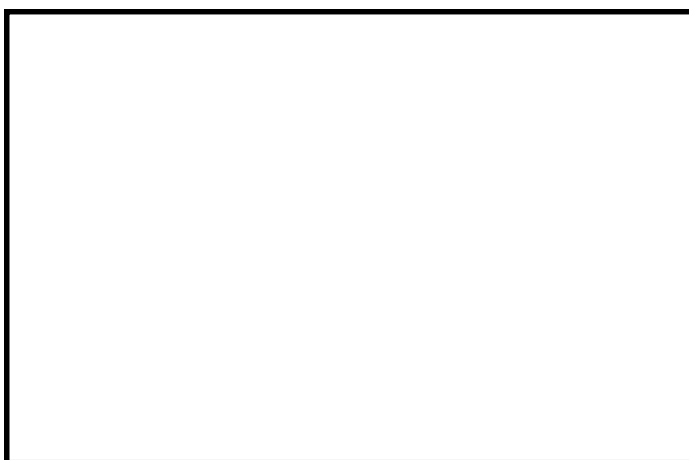
associated with yields and forest's harvest, to avoid forest degradation and distress among the communities.

Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Senior Research Associate at SDPI, Islamabad, was the next speaker and he provided the audience with some current facts and figures about climate change and its impacts on Pakistan. He argued that the environment was the integral part of every economic debate and its degradation was directly associated with poverty, livelihood and economic growth. Moreover the cost of environment degradation had risen several fold in the past few years, such as the fact that soil erosion and urban air pollution led to the loss of 70 billion and 65 billion last year. He emphasized the formulation of a proper policy framework by redefining paradigms of sustainable development; by focusing on increasing the GDP through sustainable means. The Hydro power potential, he stressed, should be exploited in a meaningful manner benefiting the nation on the whole in terms of employment generation, addressing the issue of food insecurity and water availability for land cultivation and lastly but not the least, it would help in the curtailment of load shedding trends and minimizing the persistent demand and supply gap in the power sector.

Mr. Talimand Khan, SDPI, Islamabad, gave a presentation on a project entitled "Partnership action mitigation Syndrome" regarding forest management in coordination with NCCR. The main objective of this research was "to foster research informed constructive dialogues among policy makers and important stakeholders and dissemination of findings for improving existing practices of forest management in Pakistan". This research work was tailored with various activities organized to enhance partnerships from the local people and involve them in efficiently managing forest resources. These activities included people's forest assemblies at the district level, provincial people forest assembly, four people round table conferences and workshops for community awareness. The findings of these revealed that confusion about forest ownership was a prevalent issue among the local communities accompanied with unequal trends of the forest royalty rate among the varying forest communities and lack of alternate energy resources for livelihood. He suggested the enhancement of stake holder participation and that participation should take place through a proper institutional frame work. Moreover, there should be consistency within the forest policy and forest reforms should be implemented accordingly.

Discussion: Ms Seema Karki from Nepal giv-

ing her special comments appreciated the effort of all speakers for putting forward the facts and figures regarding forest management and livelihood issues directly related to the forest management. He especially congratulated Mr. Parkash Taiwari from India for sharing an example of participatory forest management being practiced in Utharkhand state. She further added that states should think of increasing forest cover though waste land rehabilitation programs and should not overlook the problems faced by local communities by restricting forest use for domestic and commercial purposes. She said the local community should be given a chance to come forward by sensitizing a sense of ownership among them coupled with the sustainable use of their ancestral resources. She was of the view that the local



people would be better able to conserve these resources and harvest the forest products more efficiently and sustainability because they belonged to this place and had been practicing this since their child hood. Thus, the session concluded with the remark that forest ownership by the local people was a key player while addressing issues regarding climate change and its mitigation.

Report by: Fareeha Mehmood and Farzana Yasmin

Panel Title: Indus River Watershed: Adapting, Mitigating, and Sustaining the Social-Ecological Change – Session II

Chair: Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Ghulam Akbar, World Wildlife Fund, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Abdul N. Laghari, University of Engineering, Science & Technology, Nawabshah, Pakistan

Ms Naghmana Ghafoor, Planning & Development Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Abdullah Yasar, Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan

Special Comments by: Mr. Mehmood Cheema, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Nuzrat Yar Khan while deliberating on the topic “Indus Basin: Status & Sustainability” said that “demand for water in the Indus Basin is higher than availability”. Dr. Khan highlighted the importance of the Indus River to the economy of Pakistan. He was of the view that “the Basin provides water for 90% food production in Pakistan, contributing 25% of GDP” and “Indus Basin is the sole source of freshwater in Pakistan”. Apart from highlighting the importance of the Indus Basin, Dr. Khan also expressed his concerns regarding continuous degradation of the Basin. “Water scarcity, water quality and sanitation, burgeoning population, poverty and illiteracy, rapid urbanization and rural-urban migration, global warming, and poor governance are the issues that are affecting the ecosystem health of the Basin” he stated.

Dr. Khan also talked about possible future negative results of such degradation on the economy of Pakistan; “The shortfall in water will result in enhancing food insecurity in Pakistan that will ultimately lead to socio-economic complications”. Moreover “Global warming is projected to exacerbate the problems being faced by the Indus Basin today,” he stated.

While giving suggestions, he pointed out the importance of governance reforms and said that governance reforms would focus on undertaking an integrated and holistic approach to deal with the drivers of the degrading and depleting ecosystem of the Indus Basin.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar while presenting his paper on the “Status of the Lower Indus River Ecosystem” highlighted the importance of the Indus River, the scarcity problem and impact on the economy of Pakistan. Dr. Akbar was of the view that fresh Indus Basin water provides sustenance not only for agriculture but also for sustaining the riverine and deltaic ecology. While adding to his comments on the importance of consumption associated with the Basin, Dr. Akbar said that the “Indus River provides 80% of all the water consumed in Pakistan”.

Dr. Akbar showed his concerns on the falling water table and degradation of ground water quality. He also highlighted the issues that were causing

and multiplying water scarcity in Pakistan. “Pakistan’s water resources are being rapidly exhausted owing to exponential population growth, intensification of irrigated agriculture, urban expansion and unsustainable consumption practices”, he stated. Due to many such reasons, “The Indus River is ranked among the world’s top 10 rivers at risk,” he added. While highlighting the issue of water scarcity in the lower Indus River, Dr. Akbar said “For most of the year, there is no water in the lower reaches of the Indus River, causing a long-standing dispute between provinces.” He also highlighted the issue of endangered lower Indus wetlands. He said that “the construction of large irrigation infrastructure” is reducing the capacity to mitigate the impact of floods besides their other vital hydrological and ecological functions.

Dr. Akbar while concluding his presentation said that “due consideration is required for self-sustaining natural regenerative processes through effective floodplain management and developing resilience of the communities to adapt to other natural disasters, such as climate change”.

Dr. Abdul N. Laghari while presenting his paper on the topic “A Framework for the Management of Current and Future Water Resources of the Indus Basin” highlighted various issues associated with scarcity. He said that the basin produced surplus food, but in due process, most of the available water resources was consumed within the basin. This left few prospects for water sector development. Dr. Laghari also said that increasing demand for irrigation, domestic and industrial purposes was further deteriorating the situation.

Dr. Laghari also highlighted the issue of water levels of the existing three dams. He talked about the issues of “siltation, unregulated utilization of resources, shift from surface water to groundwater and resulting depletion of groundwater resources, land degradation” that associated with the dwindling water levels of the dams. While concluding his presentation Dr. Laghari talked about water management. “Some steps towards sustainable WRM including both water supply management and water demand management are recommended,” he concluded.

Ms Naghmana Ghafoor while presenting the paper on “Urban Stress and Mental Health in Indus Basin Pakistan” talked about increasing urbanization trends within the Indus Basin region and accompanied undesirable impacts on both ecological and socioeconomic systems. She was of the view that major cities of Pakistan like Lahore, Karachi

and Faisalabad were located within the Indus Basin and their population was increasing. She also highlighted the reason behind such an increase in urbanization; "Urban growth in the Indus Basin is largely a result of rural-urban migration of people for improving their livelihood," she stated. Ms Naghmana characterized such high migration with the stress and troubled mental health of the masses. She also talked about the impact of high urbanization on emotional stress. Due to increased urbanization the cities were overcrowded, congested, rife with noise and environmental pollution. Her presentation was mainly based on a study she had done in the Indus Basin region of Lahore. "The people who are disturbed by numerous urban annoyances were also depressed, had low self-esteem, low resilience, and



an external locus of control," she said. "Depression was strongly affected by education, population density, and household congestion," she added. While concluding the presentation she said that "there is an urgent need for strategic planning in urban centers of the Indus Basin aimed at checking unbridled urban growth, improving civic services, and ensuring better mental health of citizens in urban areas".

Dr. Abdullah Yasar while presenting his paper on the topic "Conservation of Water Resources in the Indus Basin through Increase in Agricultural Productivity" said that "90% of agriculture, food and fiber are dependent on Indus water". He was of the view that despite the importance of water to the agriculture sector, the phenomena of water scarcity is increasing. "Instead of water conservation measures, water losses in the irrigation system continue to reach 75% of the total available water," he stated.

While concluding the presentation, Dr. Yasar said that strategy and programming needed to develop new agro-climatic zones instead of provisional

boundaries. "Technological improvement in agricultural, "more crop per drop" practices, irrigation, infrastructure rehabilitation and pollution control measures could be the basic steps to go with the challenges," he concluded.

Report by: Fayyaz Yaseen

Panel Title: Security and Development: The Geo-politics of China-Pakistan-India Relationship

Chair: Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo

Speakers:

Dr. Dibyesh Anand, Westminster University, UK

Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto, Thardeep Rural Development Programme, Sindh, Pakistan

Ms. Amna Yousaf Khokar, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special Comments by: Mr. Manzoor Chaudhry, Islamabad Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Mr. Arif Naveed, Senior Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Senator Hasil Bizenjo started the proceedings and lamented the persistence of conflicts and their negative implications on people in the region. He said that conflicts among security states in South Asia had gridlocked development in whole of Asia for decades.

Speaking at the occasion Dr. Dibyesh Anand questioned the weak grounding of the 'security state' while focusing on examples to illustrate how a people-centered triangle looked different from a strategic triangle. He said that a people-centered security mechanism would provide new opportunities for sustainable development and would lay the grounds for better inter-state relations. He was of the view that a secure state does not necessarily mean a secure citizenry especially if the state is controlled by unrepresentative few adding that if the ruling elite worked for greed then this secure state implied an insecure citizenry. So, human security approach offers a way out, incorporating the concerns of people as well as the state, he added. Dr. Anand maintained that much of the writing on the so-called China-India-Pakistan triangle remained dominated by a narrow security lens which focused mostly on conflicts and tensions over Kashmir, Tibet, borders and terrorism. A people-centered triangle, he said, provided security that was more durable. Not only does it offer new opportunities for sustainable development, it breaks the ground for better inter-state relations too, he added.

Ms. Amna Yousaf Khokar talked on security assurance and economic development in China, India and Pakistan. She explained the 'economic security dilemma' as, any state's quest to achieve maximum security by utilizing national wealth accumulated through trade and cooperation. She cited India and China who diverted a major chunk of their economic wealth accumulated through economic cooperation to military modernization. However they had also entered into an economic partnership which is expected to touch a volume of \$100 billion in the next year 4 to 5 years even though their territorial disputes remained disputed they were maintaining peace through economic cooperation, she added. She said that Pakistan is still facing the old security dilemma of threats to its territorial integrity whereas it needed to reprioritize its national policy in view of changing security priorities towards economic wealth. She added Pakistan failed to avail the benefits of trade and economic cooperation even though it had close strategic relations with China and is neighbor to India which was an emerging economic giant. She said that globalization brought economic prosperity in the region but it had equally widened social inequality.

Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto deliberated on the water conflict between Pakistan and India and said that often research on water in South Asia missed the political dimensions. He urged governments to include the water agenda as part of bilateral negotiations and emphasized permanent transboundary policies for better water governance. He said that approximately 2.4 billion people lived in the arid and semi arid drainage basin of the Himalayan Rivers. He informed the audience that snow and glacial melt contributed to nearly half of the average flow of the Indus River and its tributaries which were a source of irrigation for over 18 million hectares (ha) of agricultural land and major source of hydropower. These river-tributaries (spanning 1,800 miles) made one of the largest irrigation networks in the World. Mr. Halepoto also deliberated on various aspects of the Indus Water Treaty that established a legal framework for use of river water and said that it had been to the advantage of India which was also violating international laws, bindings and treaties of lower riparian rights.

Discussion: The session was followed by a question-answer session and a lively debate on the subject. The house was unanimous in the opinion that the bilateral relationships among India, China and Pakistan primarily revolved around "national security interests" and the states were ignoring hu-

man development in the region. They stressed on putting people at the heart of national policies and called for increased economic cooperation that can lead to normalization of relations and resolving disputes in the region.

Report by: Muhammad Shoaib

Panel Title: Re-imaging Security in South Asia

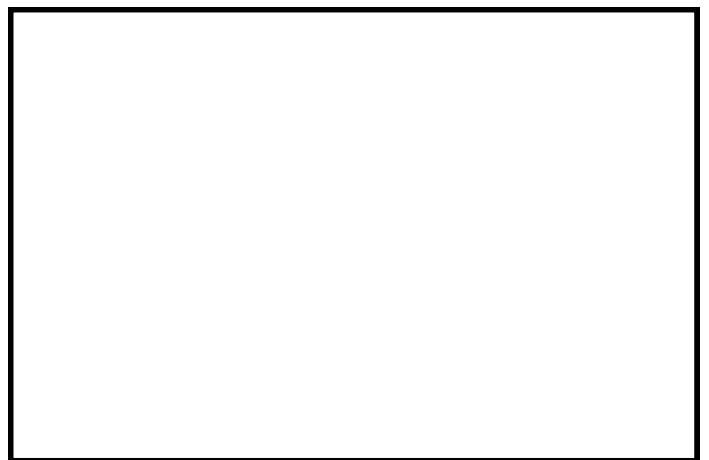
Chair: Mr. Zia Ahmed, Editor, Daily Express, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Abid Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Dibyesh Anand, Westminster University, UK

Dr. Sabina Alkire, Oxford Poverty and Human De-



velopment Initiative, Oxford University, UK

Dr. Bishnu Upreti, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research-North-South, Nepal

Panel Organizer: Dr. Abid Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Some of the general views expressed by the speakers were that the traditional security paradigm in South Asia is driven by state security and cannot respond to human and individual security. Many of them felt that South Asia is facing a challenge as the current policy environment revolves around state centric security perceptions at the cost of people centric development. The notion of state security has degenerated into enterprises which serve the interests of powerful elements in the state. Some were of the opinion that history does shape perceptions but should not be the only determinant of security policy in changing political realities. It was also a concern that more people died of hunger, malnutrition, and lack of health care facilities than in violent conflicts and wars, so what was needed was to look at their security in terms of basic ameni-

ties as well.

Dr. Abid Suleri said that states in South Asia were predominantly concerned with national, regional and global security but were neglecting human and individual security. He further explained that in South Asia we were facing policy challenges inherent with many flaws. He said that most policies of South Asian states revolved around state security. The states usually viewed the perceptions and threats to national security through the prism of the global and regional security environment and therefore mainly focussed on the external elements of threats while ignoring internal threats. He said that the creation of CENTO, SEATO, NAM, SAARC, the first Afghan War, three wars between India and Pakistan and the current war on terror is the outcome of such perceptions of state security. Dr. Suleri maintained that such perceptions have led to the imposition of martial law and state emergencies, which resulted in malfunctioning and dysfunctional democracies. He added that governments usually cut the budget of social development in times of financial crisis. In fact, the major chunk of financial resources in Pakistan went to the defence sector followed by debt servicing and day-to-day administrative expenditures. Dr. Suleri revealed that food insecurity in Pakistan increased from 37 percent to 48.6 percent in the last six years. He said that in such a grim situation individuals often adopt extraordinary behavioural trends such as resorting to desperate and extreme or even violent measures such as selling their own organs. He felt that the current security threats were mostly internal which could be tamed by increasing investment in a people centric development.

Dr. Dibyesh Anand maintained that first we need to understand what South Asia meant. He added that it was geo-politics, particularly of security that determined geography. He further explained that we cannot understand South Asia without understanding the role of the great powers in the region. Dr. Anand said that security should be viewed from the perspective of weak segments in the state. He expressed the view that the traditional state security notion is interest driven and is a tool in the hands of the powerful to perpetuate their hold on power and protect their interests. Owing to their vested interests, the powerful elements in the state made state security paramount. Dr. Anand maintained that those who were selling arms mostly advocated vehemently the notion of state security. He added that security establishments and secret agencies behave differently in different parts of the same country. Dr.

Anand maintained that the real security threat came from the state's own behaviour and system. He said that a fundamentalist state or its majoritarian system could pose serious security threats to certain segments of its population. In fact the state could inflict greater violence than non-state actors.

Dr. Anand went on to say that the current international security discourse did not include the market, which was a powerful actor and had the ability to spread development or cause poverty in certain regions. He further explained that the existing development mechanism and priorities resulted in further impoverishment of the poor.

Dr. Sabina Alkire talked about the Westphalian definition of security which is to defend boundaries of the state from external threats while the tradition-



al definition of human security was too narrow. She said that the human cost due to poverty was higher than in actual war echoing Dr. Abid Suleri's view. She also maintained that poverty and lack of hope compel people to take desperate actions.

Dr. Bishnu R. Upreti while offering his special comments on the presentations said that the current state security paradigm was not capable of addressing human security and addressed broader issues faced by the people of South Asia. The traditional international security discourse was self-contradictory as on the one hand weapons and arms manufacturing and the demand for their supply was thriving, while on the other security was being talked about. Dr. Bishnu suggested that the people of South Asia should come up with and support alternative regional approaches for the solution of their problems.

Report by: Talimand Khan

Panel Title: Redefining Governance through Social Accountability in South Asia

Chair and Special Comments: Dr. Dr. Talat Mehmood, Social Science Research Center, Berlin, Germany

Speakers:

Tanka Raj Aryal, Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI), Nepal

Mr. Gulbaz Ali Khan & Fayyaz Yasin, SDPI, Islamabad

Mr. A. Z. M. Saleh, Centre for Research and Action on Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Zahid Abdullah, CPDI – RTI Implementation in Pakistan, Islamabad.

Panel Organizer: Gulbaz Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad

The session on Redefining Governance through Social Accountability in South Asia was formally initiated by Dr. Dr. Talat Mehmood, the chair of the session from Germany. He said that transparency and accountability were the existing buzzwords of governance being used unsparingly all over the world and particularly in South Asia. He was of the view that social accountability tools around the world were successfully being implemented to not only attain the essence of good governance, but also to empower voiceless and marginalized people and to enhance development effectiveness. After introducing the session, Mr. Mehmood requested the first speaker of the session to deliberate with his presentation.

Beginning with his presentation, the first speaker, Mr. Tanka Raj Aryal presented his paper on Right to Information (RTI): Tool for Promoting Transparency and Service Delivery of Local Governance in Nepal. Referring to the example of his own country, he said that Nepal had a two-tier system of local governance, with Village Development Committees (VDCs) and municipalities at the local level as the lower tier and district bodies, District Development Committees (DDCs), at the district level as the higher one. The current functions, duties, and powers of local governance had been in effect since the promulgation of the Local Self Governance Act 1999. These local bodies were government agencies with whom the public had direct interaction for their day-to-day activities. Access to information (held by these bodies) was guaranteed by the Right to Information Act 2007. Access to information and public participation in the decision making processes of development activities were crucial for promoting transparency and accountability of these agencies and effective service delivery to people.

He said, "The government has launched a one-door policy for providing a 'development budget' to

these local bodies. This budget was allocated on the basis of performance indicators like transparency and accountability. On the one hand, RTI Act had obliged these bodies for proactive disclosure of their functions, duties, activities, services to be provided, decision-making process, budget and expenditure details and on the other, the public had the right to seek and obtain information held by these bodies. Highlighting the implementation of RTI in Nepal, Mr. Aryal said that 30 cases had been reported out of which 22 were called for further consultation, 4 of them got results while 13 got assurance of results within 15 days, 7 got information that resolution of cases were not part of the budget.

The second speaker of the session, Mr. Fayyaz Yaseen, presented the paper on "Implementing Citizen Report Card in Slums: A case study from Pakistan". His results based presentation highlighted the state of education in public schools in two slum areas – Alipur Farash Colony and Hansa Colony in Islamabad. The presentation highlighted various anomalies, including gender gaps in education, poor infrastructure, religious discrimination, and rampant corruption in public schools. Mr. Yaseen, also talked of interventions SDPI had made in collaboration with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) to raise awareness among the masses to play an active role in holding service (education) providers accountable. He said they had established community education forums in both the target areas and now, with the help of the communities, they were going to hold open hearings for instant redressal of the complaints of the communities regarding education in public schools in their localities.

The next speaker of the session, Mr. A.Z.M Saleh presented his paper on Gender Budgeting in Bangladesh: The importance of Quantifying Mechanisms. Presenting his paper, Mr. Saleh said that no one can deny the valuable contribution of women in all tiers of the economy. Gender budgeting was one of the initiatives to highlight the contributions of women in society and to increase equity across gender. He explained that gender budgeting not only focused on women but also aimed to reduce prevailing gender disparity in society. Talking on gender budgeting in Bangladesh, Mr. Saleh said that gender budgeting was becoming a salient feature of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). GoB had involved 20 ministries and divisions in FY 2011-12 with an allocation of US\$ 5800.188 million. In the last five years, it revealed an increasing trend with an annual average increase of 23.95 percent. He

said that the allocation of gender budget in Bangladesh was 26.4% which was much higher than neighboring countries in the region. Further, he highlighted the importance of gender budgeting for accountability, reliability, decreasing corruption, poverty alleviation, health and education and an end to violence against women. GoB has initiated a gender budget in light of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) so that gender dimension of poverty can be addressed through implementing their priorities and programs.

The last speaker of the session, Mr. Zahid Abdullah, shared his work on the state of implementation of RTI in Pakistan. Deliberating on the topic, he said that RTI law in Pakistan was made for the sake of having a law only as it was a prerequisite of the World Bank to fulfill a demand of the World Bank. He lamented that despite having RTI law at the federal level; it was neither implemented in its full spirit nor was it replicated in provinces in its essence.

Report by: Fayyaz Yasin and Muhammad Tahir Ali

Panel Title: 'Energy and Sustainability: Exploring Efficient Alternatives in South Asia.'

Chair & Special Comments: Mr. Arshad Abbasi, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad

Speakers:

Mr Bilal Hamid, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Topi

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Bilal Khan, Centre for Energy Systems, Islamabad

Ms Nafeesa Irshad, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi

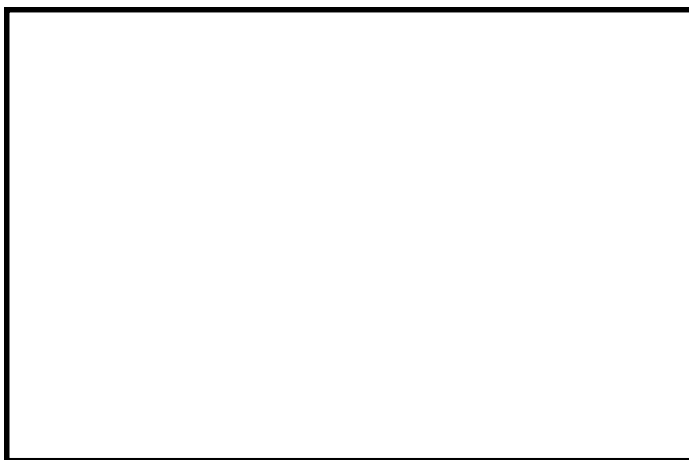
Ms Farzana Yasmin, SDPI, Islamabad

Panel Organizer: Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal, SDPI

Mr. Bilal Hamid discussed the current energy situation in developing countries and focused on the reasons for energy deficiency. He introduced the types of renewable energy resources of developing nations. He then gave some very practical solutions of alternate energy sources based on research, like Hydrogen fuel. Hydrogen fuel is an environmental friendly solution as there is no emission of GHG like CO₂. Hydrogen as a substitute renewable energy source can be used in Pakistan.

He quoted the example of usage of Hydrogen fuel in 2005 to cut its dependence on fossil fuels by 20%. He added China launched hydrogen fuel cell buses to kick off mass production of these buses

from 2010 onwards during the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He said hydrogen-powered buses were already operating in Toronto and Chicago, and soon would be in London, Madrid, and Hamburg. According to him 100 BMW hydrogen 7's had been built, 25 were being used in test programs in USA and already covered 2 million Km around the globe. He added outdoor-product maker Coleman released the first commercial fuel cell product, an emergency power generator for home use, and large fuel cells had been installed as backups in office buildings throughout USA. He said Iceland began an ambitious effort to convert its public transit and fishing fleets to hydrogen. The most encouraging sign was the investment by oil and car companies, not to mention venture capitalists.



Keeping in view the present severe energy crisis in Pakistan, he stressed upon investment on this new project so that the viability of this clean and environmental friendly source of energy in Pakistan can be evaluated.

He emphasized that Government money could bridge the gap between today's experiments and a viable energy alternative solution. He felt that Government institutions like AEDB should strive to create better linkages between its seemingly disconnected programs, as well as strengthen linkages with universities where energy programs were now being run. A nationwide, high-quality, safe, and efficient alternative energy infrastructure would be required in order for these resources to be used widely in the consumer sector.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Bilal Khan discussed the Pakistan Energy Incentives. He drew attention towards the fact that we must create an ecosystem for addressing energy requirements by influencing policy makers, by developing technologies and gathering human resources and mobilizing

communities for energy conservation. He gave suggestions to meet the energy crisis in Pakistan through Wind Power and Micro Hydel Power.

He also talked about Pakistan's present position regarding Micro scale hydropower production. He explained that Micro scale hydropower production had the potential to be a significant and decentralized component of Pakistan's growing power needs. He said that our coal is not polluted although Indian coal was polluted. He advocated for the optimum use of available resources and liaison between the major stakeholders of energy production, industry and academia.

At the end of his presentation he said that Improvement in Energy Efficiency and Conservation in conjunction with Clean Coal Technologies, Biofuels, Wind, Micro hydel and Run of the River hydel had been identified as potent green energy contributors, which should change the situation in a positive way for Pakistan.

Ms Nafeesa Irshad also gave some information on "Carbon Footprints in Pakistan and Policy Initiatives for Integrated Solutions". She said the government provided incentives to the major energy intensive industries and should have developed strategies using pricing and taxation to discourage the use of energy intensive products, encourage the reuse and recycling of products and use of green labeled or energy conserving products. She pointed out that according to the ABD (Country Environment Analysis report, 2008) Pakistan had not made enough progress for achieving energy conservation and energy efficiency (measured by the number of GDP units produced using energy) even when compared with other South Asian countries.

She quoted Wiedmann and Minx's (2008) definition of Carbon footprint "a measure of the total amount of CO₂ emissions that is directly and indirectly caused by an activity or is accumulated over the life stages of a product".

She highlighted associated factors of carbon footprints that carbon footprints were affected by three factors: population, energy efficiency, and energy structure. She compared Pakistan with other Asian Countries and gave suggestions for sustainable economic growth; she said that India and China had made several domestic policies regarding power, and energy efficiency and conservation. Although Pakistan's global share in Greenhouse gas emissions was very low as compared to China, India and Iran, Pakistan needed to integrate the environmental perspective in its economic policies for sustainable economic growth.

At the end of her presentation she gave major policy recommendations for integrated solutions: an integration of energy efficiency and conservation in economic policies to meet energy shortages and reduce carbon footprints, provide incentives to the major energy intensive industries for carrying LCA in their supply chains, encourage investments in renewable energy and provide technical assistance to the industries for producing energy from renewable resources (wind, solar, biogas) (This would reduce the use of imported fuel like petroleum), optimize the unsustainable growth of vehicles and focus on providing mass transit systems (rails, buses) to people to reduce emissions. She said the legislation on energy, including pollutant emission tax, carbon tax, and energy efficiency standards should be drafted to minimize carbon footprints of energy intensive industries. Finally, she said the government should develop strategies using pricing and taxation to discourage the use of energy intensive products, encourage the reuse and recycling of products and use of green labeled or energy conserving products. Ms. Farzana Yasmin presented an overview of the rapid urbanization trend in the world and especially in Pakistan. She said that due to urbanization our cities were becoming hotter. She added there was pressure on the renewable resources as the consumption of fossil fuels had increased manifold and Pakistan was facing climate change impacts in the form of changing weather patterns and inundating devastating floods in the recent past consecutive years (2010-2011) as well as the worst energy crisis of its history.

She introduced the Solar Radiation Management (SRM) method of scattering solar radiation so that there is less heat gain and ultimately less consumption of fossil fuel to mitigate heat stress. She explained that roofs and pavements cover large parts of cities and were often dark in color. As dark colors absorb a great deal of solar radiation, they convert cities into islands of heat. She suggested using cool roofs as a very inexpensive method. In the Cool Roofs method of SRM, the roofs and pavements were painted white or in light colors that in turn reflected back incoming solar radiations to minimize heat gain. She stressed upon the viability of Cool Roofs to combat climate change and the energy crisis in Pakistan.

In the brainstorming question-answer session, one of the students shared the idea of utilizing nuclear energy as a source of generation of

electricity. The point created a difference of opinion as some experts refuted it because of the higher risk of damage in using nuclear plants.

Answering one of the questions of one of the students, Dr. Bilal stressed upon the small hydro power plant keeping in view the immediate need for electricity on which all sectors are dependent as the construction of big dams was more controversial and also time consuming.

Report by: Benazir Chaudhry

Panel Title: Rethinking Education for Pluralism: Representation of Religious Minorities in Public and Madrassah Education

Chair: Dr. Tahir Kamran, Cambridge University, UK

Speakers:

Mr. Abdul Wali Jamali, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Mr. Aamir Riaz, General Manager, LLQA Publications, Lahore

Mr. Sanallah Rustamani, Hyderabad, Sindh

Ms Afsheen Naz, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Special Comments: Dr. Peter Taylor, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada

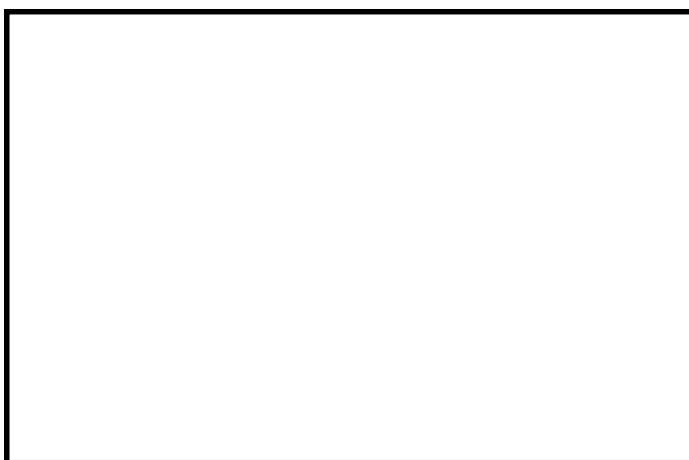
Panel Organizer: Ms Afsheen Naz, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Mr. Aamir Riaz presented his paper on “Compromising Pedagogy & Critical Thinking in Nation Building: A Case of Misuse of Nationalism, Religion and Ideology in School Textbooks of Pakistan” and said that Textbooks have an enduring impact on the attitudes and values of children. He said that usually textbooks promote a specific world view without compromising on pedagogy, but in many countries policy makers often misuse this practice under the guise of nation building. He said that by and large, South Asian countries fell in the category where nationalism, religion and ideology had overshadowed textbook processes. He added that in most of these countries, textbooks were the only reading materials available to the students and teachers and South Asian students were a replica of the text they were taught in their schools from class 1 to 10. He further said one could easily identify conflicting interpretations of similar historical events in Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian textbooks, e.g. the partition and creation of Pakistan; creation of Bangladesh; and, stories of the freedom struggle.

Mr. Abdul Wali Jamali in his paper on “Madrassah Reforms: A Key Step to Tackling the

Rising Militancy in South Asia”, offered some insight into retrogressive mindsets of religious factions that had flourished in an atmosphere of violence and disrespect through conventional as well as religious education. Talking of reforms initiated by the Government he said that these reforms focused on establishing model madrassahs, registration of madrassahs with religious establishments, stopping the use of madrassahs as the center of political activism and religious hatred. He also highlighted apprehension of madrassah management that reforms would curtail their control over the affairs and reform of the syllabus and inclusion of new subjects would harm the influence of religious teachers.

He was of the view that despite all rabble-rousing speeches and poisonous texts taught in



schools and madrassahs, our society has by large refuted the seamless divisions propagated by seminaries. “Interestingly, our societal norms do have great respect for the diversity and difference of opinion. They still uphold the idea of live and let live as a cardinal principal of symbiotic existence. Here, we must not forget that South Asia needs peace and madrassahs are important institutions in this context,” he added.

Mr. Jamali suggested that policy makers proactively interact with heads of madrassah umbrella organizations for reforms and demanded allocation of special funds for financing the process of change. He also urged the government to provide a teaching faculty to religious institutions. He said that a common dilemma with madrassah graduates is that of employment. Since they are not educated in mundane sciences, they end up sitting in the podium of mosques with no other means of livelihood.

Mr. Sanallah Rustamani, Hyderabad, Sindh presented his view on “Religious Diversity: Evaluating the Syllabus and Teaching Practices in Public

Sector School and Madrassahs of Sindh, Pakistan". He stressed the fact that madrassahs have adequate teaching resources and appropriate syllabus comprising comparative religion and that the books taught are authorised and designed by the government authorities. He said that in order to create religious harmony, madrassah teachers should be trained to avoid giving conflicting messages in classes which may spark religious or ethnic unrest in society.

Mr. Rustamani said in our country one and half million students were enrolled in madrassahs. Most of the madrassahs were offering free of cost education and also provided accommodation, food and shelter to the students and a few madrassahs even gave pocket money and clothing to the students on special events. These madrassahs were, therefore, believed to be a boon for the underprivileged class of society. Mr. Rustamani maintained that *Dars-i-Nizami*, syllabus taught in madrassahs, which was in Arabic and Persian or their translation, is still used because they are considered symbols of continuity and preservation of Islamic identity. The basic curriculum, he said, dated back to the 11th century with slight subsequent revisions. He also felt that textbooks of public sector schools often glorified war and anti Hindu remarks and being exposed to such textbooks, the students tended to be intolerant of non-Muslim minorities, Hindus and Christians. Mr. Rustamani concluded that in order to create religious harmony, madrassah teachers should be trained to avoid giving conflicting messages in classes which may spark religious or ethnic unrest in society.

Ms Afsheen Naz presented her research study on "Attitude of Female Teachers towards Religious Minorities: A Case Study of KPK Female Madrasahs". She shared the findings of her study and said that female madrassah teachers' attitudes were found to be biased towards minorities in the study. She said that during the analysis, certain behaviors were observed which could prove to be harmful for the next generation. At the time of differentiating between social and economic interaction with minorities, most of the teachers were found to be very conservative in social interaction, she added.

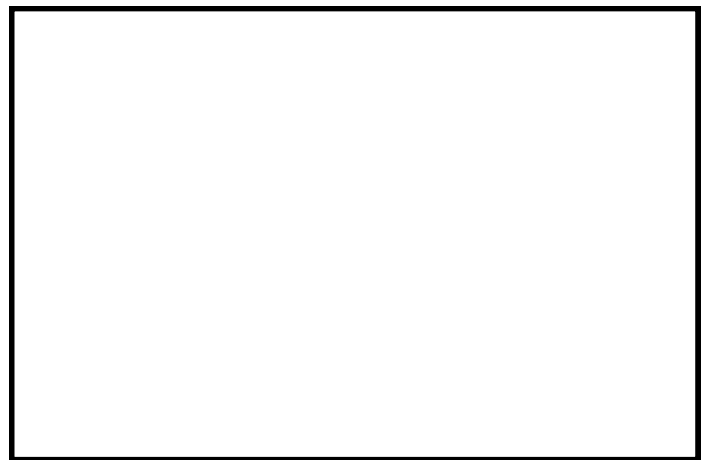
Ms Naz said that female teachers had a responsibility to build the characters of the children of our future generation thus contributing to society so their correct training was imperative. She observed in her study that female madrassah teachers came to know about the rituals of non-Muslims through the teachings of the Quran and electronic media and not

through contents of the courses being taught at madrassahs. She recommended that, therefore, there was need to revise the madrassah curricula by inclusion of books on comparative religions and on secular education.

In her concluding remarks she said that madrassahs are comparatively less inclined to opt for anything which comes from outside the madrasahs. She said confidence building with madrassah administrative bodies is essential as without their consent, bringing reforms and altering anything in religious seminaries would be almost impossible.

Report by: Sadia Sharif

Panel Title: Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia



Chair: Mr. Gareth Aicken, The Asia Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan

Speakers:

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS International, India

Mr. A.Z.M Saleh, Centre for Research and Action on Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mian Waqas Masud, Businessman, Pakistan

Special Comments:

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Shafqat Munir, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer:

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS International, India

Intra-regional trade in South Asia was very minimal compared to other economic areas of the world. Between 1990 and 2005, intra-regional trade in South Asia increased only marginally from 2.68% to 4.85% of total trade in the South. Talking on South Asian regional economic cooperation and its subsequent impact on consumer welfare, Mr. Chatterjee said that South Asian Association for Region-

al Cooperation (SAARC) and South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) had so far underperformed in making significant advancement in intra-regional trade. SAARC member states were also yet to initiate an institutional framework to take further steps towards full economic integration – for instance, there was no mechanism in place to discuss the next step (after an FTA) to form a customs union, then a common market, and finally to form a monetary union with a common central bank and a regional currency. The net result of economic non-cooperation among South Asian countries had caused high costs to consumers. He further added that after taking into account the infrastructural arrangements, South Asian Countries were capable of enhancing intra-regional trade. A recent study using “a gravity model showed that the potential of formal trade between India and Pakistan was roughly 20 times greater than recorded trade” if there were effective cooperation this would bring down prices of many key commodities significantly by avoiding additional costs of imports from outside the region.

The impact of trade liberalization on producer welfare was given a thrust, while positive effects on consumer welfare were ignored. So, deeper economic cooperation among the South Asian countries could avoid high costs to consumers and could result in more consumer surplus and welfare gain. There was empirical evidence that showed minimal impact of trade diversion. His country wise assessment of potential consumer welfare gains due to subjecting items in the sensitive lists to trade liberalisation programme of SAFTA showed that Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would have consumer welfare gain in imports of 14.33%, 54%, 42%, 59% and 31% respectively.

Picking up from Mr. Chatterjee's point about consumer welfare loss Mr. A.Z.M. Saleh said that the persistent deadlock in the negotiations for enhancing regional trade integration in South Asia was hurting the interests of consumers not only in Bangladesh but also in the entire region. The indifferent attitude of policy makers of the South Asian countries was one of the main barricades toward regional cooperation on economic affairs. The outcome was that cross-border trade and investment relations in South Asia were progressing at a snail's pace, while regional trade agreements had quickly delivered results in other regions of the world. Both the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) helped to increase intra-regional trade by about 20% within the last two decades whereas regional trade in

South Asia registered only a marginal increase from 2.5% to 5% during this period.

At the time of commencement of preferential tariff reductions under SAFTA in 2006, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal kept 15 to 25% of total product lines out of bounds under their respective sensitive lists. Since then only marginal reduction in the lists had been achieved. While India brought down its lists for LDCs from 744 to 484 product lines, the list for non-LDCs had remained the same at around 860 product lines. Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka still retained more than 1,000 product categories in their lists, with an unaccomplished commitment to reduce 20% reduction.

He said: It implies that the consumers of South Asian countries especially Bangladesh remain outside the competitive market considering quality products with the least price. He felt the consumers of Bangladesh were victims of economic non-cooperation in the South Asian region vis-à-vis the consumers of the other countries of the region. Bangladesh enjoyed freedom in exporting its own products free and fairly in many countries around the world within or without quota only except for India. The outcome is that the consumers of India are losing the choice of freedom in purchasing products from competitive market with quality.

Presenting the view point of the business community of Pakistan, Mr. Mian Waqas said that the business community wants economic integration of this region but not at the cost of any member country. He highlighted the various areas in which SAFTA members could increase trade volume and the overall welfare level of the region. He added to the discussion that stable political relations of India and Pakistan were key to promote economic integration for which the two neighbouring countries had to settle issues like the Iran-India-Pakistan pipeline and the Indus Water Treaty on priority bases. He further highlighted that problems in getting business visas and double measurement standards were the main hurdles in the trade development of neighbouring countries. All measurement standards should be followed uniformly in accordance with the international measurement standards. He said the governments of two neighbouring countries should also take steps to make business visa process easy to strengthen business relations. He also discussed the energy crisis and the suffering of the business community in Pakistan; he felt that steps should be taken by the government to provide equal opportunities to its business men to compete with the rest

of the world. He further added that the business community should be taken into confidence while making negotiations.

Concluding the session, delivering their special comments Dr. Vaqar Ahmed and Mr. Shafqat Munir said that consumers were missing in the triangular relationship of the government and production side. There was a need to develop a consumer protection framework. Further, the quantity and quality standard should be upgraded and standardised in accordance with international standards.

Report by: Muhammad Tahir Ali

Panel Title: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+): A Spotlight on South Asia

Chair: Malik Amin Aslam, Former Federal Minister of Environment, Pakistan

Speakers:

Dr. Ahmad Hussain, Planning and Development Division, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Punjab Forestry Research Institute, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Ms Mehwish Ali, NUST Islamabad; and, WWF, Karachi, Pakistan

Mr. Eak B. Rana, Project Coordinator, ICIMOD, Nepal

Special Comments:

Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, India

Dr. Jefferson Fox, East West Centre, USA

Mr. Kanwar Javed, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Panel Organizer: Mr. Kanwar Javed Iqbal, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Ahmad Hussain emphasized supporting policies for REDD+ in Pakistan. According to Dr. Hussain, "Pakistan, though low in forest cover, still has the potential to store 389 m t C and has in fact an equally important role and potential to contribute to REDD." He said that a number of strategies, policies, multilateral agreements and plans were there to support the REDD+ concept in Pakistan and its implementation would offset a huge cost to environmental degradation that could account for 6% of GDP and would enable the country to set pace for the REDD+ project. He added the first partnership agreement between Pakistan and the National Forest Programme facility 2012, may be seen as a val-

ue added experience to complement the current efforts in REDD+ initiatives in Pakistan. Most importantly it provided a practical mechanism to involve multi-stakeholders in the REDD+ project and consequent processes in Pakistan. He mentioned that the National Sustainable Development Strategy and One UN Program for Pakistan supported undertaking major REDD+ activities in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Afzal highlighted the need for a national level carbon databank of all forests, which would help foresters and policy makers enhance carbon stocking, through sustainable management of forest in the context of climate change. It was elaborated that sequestration potential of any forest could not be concluded without a previous databank of carbon stock for the same area. Dr. Afzal elabo-



rated the need for carbon management as a global mitigation measure, utilized to combat green house gases to study temporal changes in carbon stock, its sequestration potential and to enhance biodiversity. He added national level carbon databank was needed for all forests as the sequestration potential of any forest could not be concluded without a previous databank of carbon stock for the same area.

Ms. Mehwish Ali emphasized the importance of carbon sequestration as an effective means for alleviating the effects of greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere and recommended the remote sensing method as an effective and reliable approach for carbon stock estimation in forests. According to Ms. Ali "Reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries is of central importance regarding climate change combating efforts and the foremost key challenge in this perspective is quantifying the nation's net carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation."

Mr. Eak. B. Rana, mentioned that the debate

was not over and that much depended on the methods used to address these change. The REDD+ concept was a win-win solution addressing the calamities of greenhouse gases emissions, guided by a proper market mechanism involving a buyer, a seller and a mediator, as in any marketing mechanism, he said. According to Mr. Rana, "Currently the South Asian countries like Nepal, India, Bhutan, Pakistan and Bangladesh were engaged in individual efforts but the idea was that the selling and buying of carbon credits should be initiated across countries of the South Asian region to attain maximum benefits." Mr. Rana recommended that public and private investments should be leveraged, forest carbon should be linked to other ecosystems, synergized knowledge forum for collective policy and advocacy practice should be initiated and there should be regional REDD framework based on the community regime.

Discussion: Dr. Jefferson Fox discussed the crux of the presentations by the speakers and said that REDD initially was mandated to pay people to stop deforestation and degradation but REDD+ seeks additional environmental services and development mechanisms like water, biodiversity, reforestation and a-forestation.

Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich said that apart from technical terms, the REDD+ programmes stood for policies and that was a challenge for everyone; but the common person would be interested in the facts, that who is making the policies, who are being benefited by it and does it stand equitable for everyone. Along with that there should be clear identification, about who were the institutions that were drawing out policies for REDD, who were carrying out consultations for the process, and who had the responsibility of implementation. She further added that social dimensions like equity, the marginalized people, and especially gender were being ignored in the South Asian context, and should not be incorporated in the REDD process, as explained by Dr. Rana.

Mr. Kanwar Javed, said that the geopolitical situation in India, Bhutan, Nepal, India and rest of the South Asian countries was almost the same and the rules and procedures, if set for REDD applicability in this region would therefore, also be quite similar. Mr. Javed suspected the calculations done regarding forest cover by different organizations in Pakistan, as they did not verify each other.

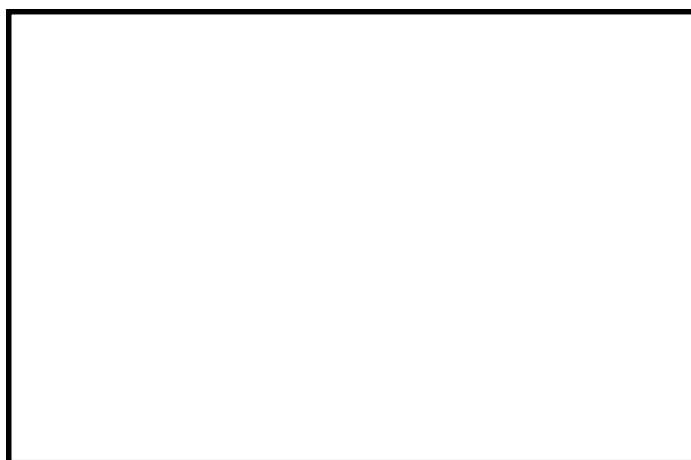
Malik Amin Aslam, Former Federal Minister of Environment, Pakistan, who was chairing the session, finally concluded the session on the following

note, "REDD concept is growing progressively and the research on carbon estimation from forest stocks in South Asian Countries has started rolling but it is required to be done by the forest department and the universities to promote research in this field and fill up the data bank that is being lacked at the moment."

Report by: Sehrish Jahangir

Panel Title: Celebrating Literature by Rabindranath Tagore, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ustad Daman

Chair: Mr. Mehfuz-ur Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Islamabad, Pakistan



Speakers: Mr. Ahmad Salim, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan
Dr. Niaz Zaman, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Ms. Humaira Ishfaq, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Special Comments: Ms Qurutul Ain, FES, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Ahmad Salim talked about the personality and poetry of activist Chiragh Din and went through different phases of his life: as a poet, as a supporter of the working class and as a political activist. He said the legendary Punjabi poet and mystic Chiragh Din known as Ustad Daman (Feb 09, 1911 – Dec 3, 1984) born in Meeran Baksh was a unique Punjabi poet. He explained that Daman was introduced into politics by Mian Iftikharuddin, originally as part of the struggle for independence. He invited him to recite his poem at a public meeting organized by the Indian National Congress, where he became an instant success; Pandit Nehru, who was present, dubbed him the 'Poet of Freedom'. He first wrote under the pen name Humdam, which was later

changed to Daman. The title 'Ustad' was bestowed on him by the people. After that he became a regular participant in these meetings. He believed that the unity of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs was essential, if the struggle for freedom was to be carried on successfully.

Mr. Salim was of the opinion that Ustad Daman was a contemporary of the famous Urdu poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, born on 13 February 1911. Both were non-conformist. Like Faiz, Ustaad Daman also supported the cause of Pakistan on the basis of the 'right of self determination'. He raised his voice against the rulers and dictators like Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and Zia-ul-Haq. Though he suffered, he never bowed down to them. Mr. Salim, while concluding his presentation, said if one were to sum up his life and poetry in a single expression, that would be "his sense of commitment".

Ms Humaira Ishfaq talked about the Pakistani intellectual, poet, and one of the most famous poets of the Urdu languages Faiz Ahmad Faiz (Feb 13, 1911- Nov 20, 1984). He was a member of the Anjuman Tarrāqi Pasand Mussanāfin-e-Hind (All India Progressive Writers' Movement) and an avowed Marxist. In 1962, he was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize by the Soviet Union. Despite being repeatedly accused of atheism by the political and military establishment of Pakistan. Faiz's poetry suggested his complicated relationship with religion in general and Islam in particular. He was, nevertheless, inspired by South Asia's Sufi traditions.

Ms Ishfaq was of the view that globalisation has become a menace which is an anti-people and anti-humanist doctrine of capitalism in the present unipolar world. The term globalisation became popular in the late 1980s and 1990s. However, his poetry has always countered old and new forms of globalisation.

Apart from his famous poetry Faiz also spoke for international solidarity and world culture in his editorials. She explained that Faiz also wrote comprehensive essays about a 'planetary culture', 'decolonisation' of literature and the role of the artist in strengthening bonds between international communities. In his creative expression, Faiz always took the position of an international humanist. She ended her presentation by raising the point that interestingly the term 'globalisation' was introduced immediately after his death. She elaborated this point by saying that Faiz was a poet of lands across borders, the voice of peasants, workers, clerks, tonga riders, railway and postal workers, fishermen, students and

political sufferers of Pakistan. He was the poet of Vietnam, Palestine, Iran, Africa, China, Beirut, USA, former Soviet Union, Bangladesh and Turkey and also a supporter of social change and a torchbearer of world revolution. Faiz was a true internationalist in letter and spirit and a poet of the universe.

Dr. Niaz Zaman while addressing the panel threw some light on the life of Rabindranath Tagore (May 7, 1861 – August 7, 1941). He said he was a Bengali polymath who reshaped his region's literature and music. Author of *Gitanjali* and its "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse", he became the first non-European Nobel laureate in 1913. In translation his poetry was viewed as spiritual and mercurial; his seemingly mesmeric persona, floccose locks, and empyreal garb garnered him a prophet-like aura in the West. However his "elegant prose and magical poetry" remained largely unknown outside Bengal.

She said that Tagore modernised Bengali art by spurning rigid classical forms and resisting linguistic strictures. His novels, stories, songs, dance-dramas, and essays spoke on topics both political and personal. *Gitanjali* (Song Offerings), *Gora* (Fair-Faced), and *Ghare-Baire* (The Home and the World) are his best-known works, and his verse, short stories, and novels were acclaimed—or panned—for their lyricism, colloquialism, naturalism, and unnatural contemplation. He composed two national anthems: the Republic of India's *Jana Gana Mana* and Bangladesh's *Amar Shonar Bangla*.

Dr. Niaz said Rabindranath Tagore was critical of Western nationalism and nation states with their rigid borders. He was also unhappy with the extreme violence that accompanied the anti-British movement – reflected in his poems as well as in the 1916 novel *Ghare Baire*. For the major part of his life, Tagore stayed outside politics. However, during 1905-1911, he was drawn into the political vortex. She explained that in 1919, after the Jalianwala Bagh massacre, he renounced his knighthood. He withdrew from politics and busied himself with his other interests, which, apart from writing and traveling, also involved raising money for his school at Santiniketan. Bangladesh, like India earlier, chose one of Tagore's songs for its national anthem.

Mr. Mehrez-ur-Rahman while chairing the session said that he found some commonalities between all three legendary poets; all three was anti establishment, multidimensional and men of the world. Mr. Rahman said "when we talk about globalization; we should include all the countries". He said

although Tagore was banned in Pakistan we were still celebrating him with a 100 years of literature which means there was nothing wrong with poets but that the problem was with the question of identity. He said identities did not always remain fixed and would change with the passage of time due to awareness. He said that after the death of all these three great poets each of their countries faced difficult times.

Mr. Rahman was of the view that although, Rabindranath had many facets to him, the west mainly identified him as a "mystic poet". While talking about the poems of Rabindranath he said his poetry was not the problem, the problem was with the translation of his poems. He said there were several poets in South Asia who wrote many poems that were rebellious. He added that he wrote about and for the African people just like Faiz had done. He added that he was a critic of the west and worked tirelessly for social reform. Mr. Rahman quoted one of his favorite quotations from him which was "Service to man is service to God".

Reported by: Asif Mehmood and Benazir Chaudhry

Panel Title: Regional Cooperation for Water Governance

Chair: Syed Imtiaz Gillani, VC, University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar, Pakistan

Speakers:

Mr. M. Maniruzzaman Miah, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ms Shahnaz Huq, Hussain, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Arshad Abbasi, Advisor water and renewable energy, SDPI, Islamabad

Special Comments by

Dr. Anjal Prakash, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, India

Dr. Jasveen Jairath, Independent Consultant, India

Panel Organizers:

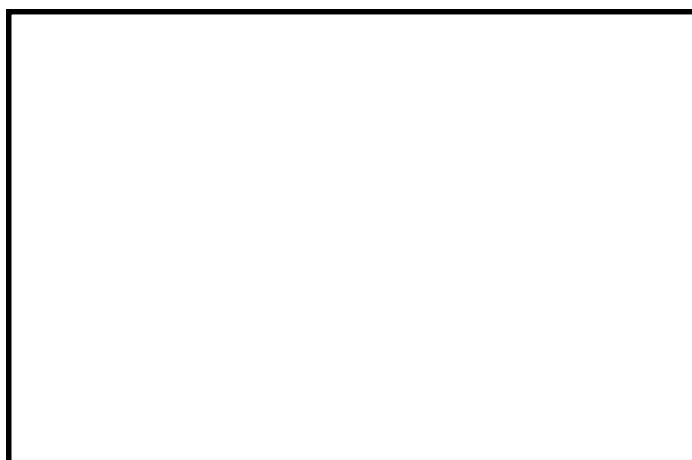
Mr. Shakeel A. Ramay, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Arshad H. Abbasi, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Ms Farzana Yasmin, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Arshad Abbasi began the session by commenting on water governance. He said that about 1.5 billion people lived in South Asia out of which half of them were dependent on the river system. Unfortunately during the last 20 years the patterns

of rainfall and monsoon had changed. Global warming was prevalent due to which Siachin, world's second largest glacier, was melting at an unprecedented rate. He further discussed the Indus Water Treaty which was signed between Pakistan and India in 1960. On which he said that in future both Pakistan and India had should talk on climatic and environmental issues and measures should be taken so that both governments (India and Pakistan) could have a detailed talk on forest and climate issues. As far as Tipaimukh dam's issue was concerned both governments (Bangladesh and India) should go for an alternate solution, rather than getting into a conflict. Moreover to redefine paradigms of sustainable development in South Asia he suggested some measures which included real time



data, preservation of glaciers; not only for India and Pakistan but also for low lying countries such as Bangladesh, Maldives etc., EIA report for all trans-boundary, independent and neutral experts and joint watershed in South Asia.

Mr. Maniruzzaman commented that joint management of the river basin by co-riparian countries was key to sustainable development. He gave an insight of sources of river water from melting snow which is 9.1% of Ganges flow and 12.3% of Brahmaputra flow. He further discussed the Farraka issue in which India dogged by diplomatic juggling, was not admitting that a barrage was formed at Farraka. Elaborating his point he mentioned one research done in US (WASSA Project). According to this research a prediction is being made that in 2025 Bangladesh would be short of water whereas India would be having more water than their requirements. Therefore, research should be carried out jointly by basin countries for less water consumption, salinity resistance and rice varieties. He said flood forecasting should be made and neigh-

bour countries should be warned prior to it. He further presented some principles related to the trans-boundary river basin management. These included riparian ownership of, and a political commitment to, the process, sharing the benefits from water use and not only the water itself, focusing on moving from challenges to opportunities, building broad partnerships between riparian countries and international donors to ensure programme implementation and building on the comparative advantage of different donor institutions, developing trust and personal relations among riparian delegations, 'leveling the playing field' in terms of information and skills among riparian partners, developing a shared vision amongst the riparians that defines common goals for co-operation and objectives, and committed donor involvement in building dialogue and trust.

Ms Shahnaz Huq emphasized that according to International Law it was illegal to construct the dam without consultation but India had started constructing a dam on Barrak river as it had done before in the case of Farraka. She quoted that on September 7, 2011, PM Manmohan Singh said that India would not work on the implementation of the Tipai dam project but on October 22, 2011 India started building of the dam. She explained that Tipaimukh dam would be a huge earth dam having an altitude of 180 m above sea level. The area was a highly seismically active zone of the world. She then talked about the impacts of the Tipaimukh Dam on the Indian and Bangladesh sides. She said on the construction of Tipai 8400 ha of reserved forest in Manipur state, India, would be affected. Not only this but some villages of India would also be completely under water. Similarly Bangladesh would be affected in a number of ways such as change in river flow; siltation, irrigational interruption, health hazards, ecological degradation and salinity intrusion. Moreover one of the major impacts of Tiapi would be on the sediment volume of Barrak flow.

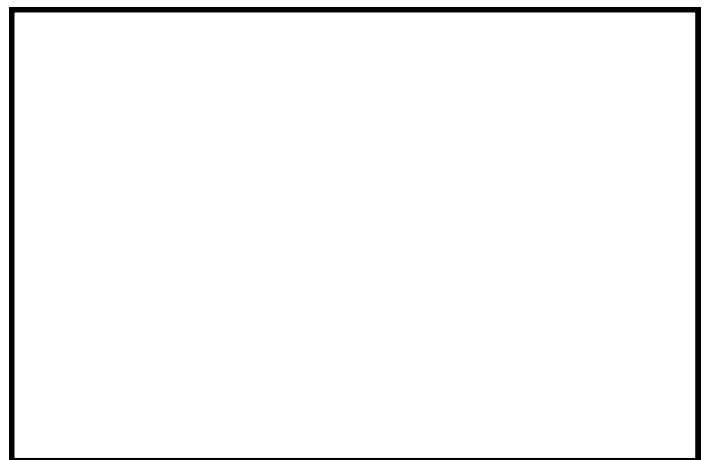
Tipaimukh may increase the cultivation of Boroe. The misbalance would bring about a demographic imbalance such as an increase in urban-rural migration. Apart from this upper Sumar-Kushiana project, the Sumar right bank project and others would also be affected. It was suggested that a basin-wise programme should be planned allowing all riparian states to lower the environmental effects. Furthermore joint environmental impact assessments of the region by experts should be done.

Dr. Anjal Prakash and Dr. Jasveen Jairath discussed the major issue of who gets how much water. They were of the view that people should be put

into process such as students visiting a particular place. The entire matter revolved around scarcity. There was a class interest which was being represented by nations. They felt the country's water scarcity could not be determined through per capita. The speakers agreed that the only solution to such an intricate problem is a social movement and people to people contact across borders.

Syed Imtiaz Gillani, the chair, concluded the session by saying that the Siachen glacier was cracking not because of global warming but due to the presence of army troops in the area. He further said that in order to solve the conflict of Tipaimukh dam there should be a dialogue.

Report by: Anam A Khan and Mehwish Akhtar



Closing Plenary: H.U. Beg Memorial Lecture

Chief Guest: Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Shahid Hafiz Kardar, Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Plenary Title: Stability of Macroeconomic Fundamentals and Structural Reforms in Pakistan

Mr. Shahid Kardar, in his keynote address, discussed the stability of macroeconomic fundamentals in Pakistan. He argued that macroeconomic sustainability has now become difficult to maintain and the only way forward is to make structural reforms as the economic imbalance in the country has acquired structural characteristics due to problems in both revenue and expenditure. He highlighted some key challenges and said monetary policy

would continue to be hostage to fiscal deficit which in the foreseeable future would remain more than 6% of GDP and would result into inflation and continued pressure on the rupee.

Talking of structural issues in revenue, he pointed out that some of the sectors which were under taxed or not taxed at all were entirely under the provincial domain. He added that after the recent NFC awards, the incentive structure was such that provinces were not under any pressure to mobilize resources. So, the sectors such as agriculture, services and property which prospered and saw exceptional growth in last decade, will still remain to be under taxed or not taxed at all for the foreseeable future. He lamented that these structural issues, along with tax evasion and exemption, were the reason that Pakistan had a tax to GDP ratio which was even lower than that of Afghanistan.

He informed the audience that the public sector enterprises were incurring losses worth 15 million a minute adding that railway losses amounted to Rs 4.5 billion a month. He said that the under estimation of subsidies was another major structural issue. He gave the example that the government had provided a 52 billion fertilizer subsidy, which was not allocated in the budget, raising the question as to why the federation was paying a subsidy for the fertilizer when provinces were refusing to tax agri income. He also talked of leakages in the power sector measured at 28% as compared to 18% in India, 15% in Bangladesh and only 8% in Malaysia. He criticized the huge size and structure of the government in Pakistan along with the inefficiency seen in government expenditures, calling for a small and efficient bureaucratic structure to provide a good governance structure in the country.

Discussing structural ambiguities in financial management, Mr. Kardar said, Pakistan's domestics and foreign loans stood at 6 trillion rupees each and upon looking into the interest on these loans a stark contradiction could be seen between interest on domestic loans which was 715 billion as compared to 76 billion Rupee on foreign loans with the same debt amount. That meant that foreign loans were much cheaper. He said, the governments financial management could be gauged by the fact that the government had Rs. 850 billion worth of deposits in banks, and these banks then used the money to invest in Government Treasury Bills and earn higher profits. He said it was simply ridiculous that these banks were making money from the government by using the government's money.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Guest, Dr.

Nadeem-ul-Haque said, there was a dire need to collaborate among academicians and researchers in order to determine an actionable and creative research agenda to save the country and ensure its sustainable development. He resented the lack of collaboration and discussions between and among the academic fraternity in Pakistan and said, the country could only be saved if we truly begin to lead through research which unfortunately at the present moment was not happening. He called upon academics to carve out the domestic research agenda while emphasizing the need to include growth in the policy agenda's and added that, 'economic growth is the only way to alleviate poverty'. He was of the view that the public sector lacks a research environment and thus the country has to look towards do-



nors and consultants for research on important issues. He said that it was unfortunate that development summits were funded by donors and not by the government of Pakistan when the government clearly had enough money to spend on them.

Dr. Haque applauded recent reports of SDPI on the energy and electricity crisis in Karachi and hoped that SDPI would continue to produce much needed quality action research. He also congratulated Dr. Suleri and SDPI for being innovative and coming up with creative interventions such as web based SDTV that would further the cause of sustainable development and fill the gaps where mainstream media failed. He also called upon mainstream media to give adequate attention to create a conducive environment for researchers to reach relevant stake holders.

Earlier, the Chief Guest launched SDPI's web television, Sustainable Development Television (SDTV) which is the first of its kind initiative in Pakistan and is meant to focus on issues and aspects of sustainable development in Pakistan with a people-

Earlier, the Chief Guest launched SDPI's web television, Sustainable Development Television (SDTV) which is the first of its kind initiative in Pakistan and is meant to focus on issues and aspects of sustainable development in Pakistan with a people-centered approach. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tahir Dhindsa of SDTV briefed participants on its programming, structure, and future expansion adding that it may be launched as a full fledged cable television at a later stage after initial successful implementation. He explained that SDTV has a three-fold programming content which mainly includes news and current affairs, program production and documentaries on the format of the National Geographic Channel.



The Chief Guest of the plenary also launched SDPI's Urdu publication Dharti and conferred lifetime achievement awards to SDPI's long-serving members Mr. Ahmad Saleem, Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja and Brig (retd.) Mohammad Yasin.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. Abid Suleri, thanked the participants and speakers for their valued participation and applauded the efforts of SDPI staff for successfully organizing the event which had over 30 panels, 158 resource persons, 94 speakers, 33 discussants, 31 chairs, delegates from 13 countries and hundreds of participants. Dr. Suleri hoped that the discussions at the SDC would help stakeholders in finding the solutions of the compounding crisis of governance, human security, peace and social justice and help in redefining the paradigms of sustainable development in South Asia.

Report by: Muhammad Shoib

Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: The Way Forward Book Blurb

Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: The Way Forward, jointly published by SDPI and Sang-e-Meel, was launched at the inaugural of the Fourteenth Sustainable Development Conference in December 2011. The anthology consists of 12 peer-reviewed and edited papers that were presented at SDPI's Thirteenth Sustainable Development Conference in December 2010.

The world has seen deep-rooted and relentless socio-economic or ecological changes over the last five decades. However, the global North and South are still a long way from achieving the objectives of just and equitable sustainable development. This anthology presents thematic research cases from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan which propose that since local communities often bear the greatest brunt of adverse financial and environmental changes, it is through them and their local institutions that mechanisms to deal with and integrate their concerns into policy making should come about.

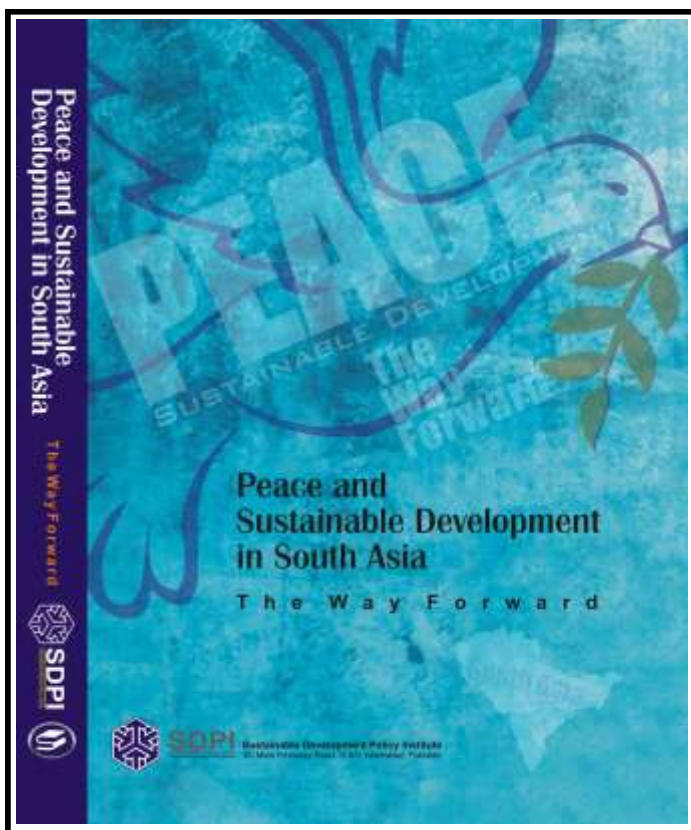
Human beings have fundamentally altered the world's ecosystems and the continuous escalation of greenhouse gas emissions is ever more likely to cause irrevocable and cataclysmic effects.

Shafqat Kakakhel reviews the financing of climate change-related actions at COP16 and points out that developing countries acquiesced in the flawed framework contained in the Cancun Agreements, while Javeriya Hasan explores energy conservation by encouraging energy efficient 'green' buildings in Pakistan's domestic sector.

Aneel Salman advocates for a shift in state-centric approaches towards mainstreaming, strengthening and empowering local institutions and communities to build resilience in combating Pakistan's environmental and climate change challenges, while Prakash Tiwari proposes that in order to help backward communities in attaining economic growth and food security in the Himalayas, critical natural resources should be institutionalised at the grass-root level. Looking at agricultural land acquisition by foreign investors in Pakistan, Antonia Settle concludes that in order for meaningful development to be achieved, significant political participation must be fostered, which can only arise through substantial equality between citizens (to which land reform is mandatory) and access for all to quality education.

equality between citizens (to which land reform is mandatory) and access for all to quality education. Faisal H. Shaheen suggests that more resources should be allocated in urban Pakistan to mobilise individuals and communities for initiatives such as rain water harvesting and storm water management. Badiul Alam Majumdar and John Coonrod share details of a unique social mobilisation programme about hygiene, sanitation and water supply in Bangladesh when traditional top-down, service delivery approaches fail.

The state of the environment and markets also depends on the peace and security situation within (and outside) a country's borders. Bishnu Raj Upreti concludes that ethnic federalism is not suitable for Nepal's multiethnic society where none of the groups are in the majority, while Anita Ghimre believes that it is important to acknowledge the agency, heterogeneity and orientation of IDPs in South Asia so that they can be used as agents of sustainable development in the rural villages. Ayesha Salman shares the story of a Pakistani woman to highlight the devastation that can be caused by religious discrimination and emphasises that religious moderation can only come through early childhood education and awareness.



The SDPI Research & News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute.
P.O.Box 2342, 38, Embassy Road, G-6/3, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: 92-51-2278134 Fax: 92.-51-2278135
www.sdpi.org Email: main@sdpi.org

Editor: Ayesha Salman
Formatted by: Nasir Khan