Experts regard National Zero Hunger Action Plan as timely initiative
Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri

Appreciating Pakistan’s ‘National Zero Hunger Action Plan,’ experts believed that, the plan is a timely initiative towards addressing hunger and malnutrition in the country. They also lauded the government’s recognition of the food insecurity problem and said the next step is the efficient implementation of the plan in consultation and coordination with the provinces.

The speakers were discussing the issue at a panel discussion on Pakistan’s “National Zero Hunger Action Plan” organized by the Sustainable Development Policy recently. Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Senior Research Associate, SDPI moderated the proceedings.

Participants were informed that the Zero Hunger plan is a five year program that aims to reach a total of 61 million food insecure people across the country with a total cost of 16 billion US dollars. The program includes provision of nutritious and fortified food commodities to the most food insecure and vulnerable sections of society particularly malnourished children, pregnant women and primary school children. The program also features school feed programme and the establishment of ‘zero hunger shops’ in 45 extremely food insecure districts in Pakistan.

Kevin Gallagher, Country Representative, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Islamabad said that Zero Hunger Plan is in compliance of governments obligations under the right to food which entails the provision of nutritious food for everyone. He appreciated the Zero Hunger Plan and said, it would provide opportunities to vulnerable people which also placed a conditional obligation on them to secure food on their own.

Jean-Luc Siblot, Country Representative, World Food Programme (WFP), and Islamabad appreciated the efforts of the government of Pakistan in combating food insecurity and the launch of the Zero Hunger Plan. This, he said, reflected a very high level of commitment towards addressing hunger and WFP will continue its support towards the successful accomplishment of the Zero Hunger Plan.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI deliberated that food security is not ensured through surplus production rather it demands adequate physical availability, socio-economic access and absorption of nutritious food to meet dietary requirements of everyone. He said, it’s good that after consistent denials, the government has acknowledged food insecurity as a problem. “We
cannot progress in a situation where more than half of our population is food insecure, anemic and malnourished," he went on to add. He also cited a study by DFID which reveals that the economic cost of Iodine and vitamin deficiency in Pakistan equals to 2.5percentGDP.

Talking of the Zero Hunger Plan, he said, it faces many real challenges but we can learn from Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico where these programmes were running successfully. He said, the most immediate challenges were related to governance, institutional arrangements, division of responsibilities between federation and provinces and pilferages and mobilization of resources.

Dr. Ch. Inayat of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research informed participants that the Zero Hunger Action Plan was drafted after a very rigorous process of consultations with various stakeholders. He said, the plan envisions a prosperous and hunger free Pakistan with Food Security achieved in every household. He also shared components of the Zero Hunger Plan such as policy reforms, establishment of a National Food Security Council, targeted social safety nets, capacity building of the ministry, and partnership with international agencies.

Role of Political Leadership in Economic Development Process

Dr. Syed Nazre Hyder

Economic development signifies the processes and policies by which a country improves the economic and social well-being of its people. It refers to material progress, implying a sustainable economic development directed towards improving the quality of human life through increasing per capita income and poverty alleviation, developing innovative ideas and technologies, making more productive and efficient use of financial and physical resources and side by side raising human capital along with creation of decent employment opportunities.

In a democratic dispensation, the obligation of deliberating the required momentum to development for economic salvation of the people and for establishing an egalitarian society lies squarely on the shoulders of the political leadership. Its success or failure is, in fact, judged by its ability to develop the economy on a sustainable fast forward mode for reaping maximum benefits for the people. As such, public representatives in the legislature of any country, in fact, carry immense responsibilities towards its social and economic transformation.

mainly through rapid economic development whose benefits should equitably reach all.

Once the politicians at the highest level of governance have chalked out their vision of economic development and translated this into a practical agenda, they have to pass it on to the technocrats and the bureaucracy to implement under their watchful supervision. They are also responsible for mobilizing their followers, the members of civil society and the masses to accomplish the social and economic goals set forth in the agenda.

In short, the political leadership is supposed to ensure an acceleration of economic and social transition directed towards the improvement of the economy and thereby the socio-political stability of the country. Furthermore, in their policy formulation and development planning, they should reflect the hopes and aspirations of the common man and ensure his participation in articulation of his needs and priorities.

How do the public representatives in the two houses of parliament contribute to the economic development process in our context? One of the most important instruments for unfolding economic goals is the national budget. It enshrines not only development and current expenditures but also the diverse revenue streams that make up the total income as well as determines the monetary and fiscal policies for the country. It also envisages targeting inflation, deficit financing and raising the growth rate for accelerating the rate of economic development with equitable distribution of its gains among the masses.

The success in putting together a vibrant budget could be achieved depending on the level of commitment and professional competence especially of the treasury benches who have the mandate for the preparation and finalization of the budgetary proposals in which even those on opposition benches have their say in its passage by the parliament. Its effectiveness, however, depends on the knowledge base of the individuals engaged in budget-making and their understanding of the complex budgetary issues along with their impact on national economic fundamentals.

A norm which the parliamentary leadership must adhere to in the development process is to identify the development projects on genuine professional advice to get these approved purely on a merit basis. Narrow political considerations must be kept aside while suggesting such projects to achieve results which will best serve the national interest. Political and personal prejudices and preferences have seriously jeopardized our development efforts in the past.
To make the leadership play an effective role, it is imperative that the parliamentary gurus maintain a close liaison with the planning agencies at the federal as well as the provincial level. It would be highly desirable for the political leadership to acquire and enhance their knowledge and technical capabilities through their exposure to the concepts and practices of project formulation and monitoring as well as the relevant social, legal and economic issues. To this effect, the ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with specialised training and research institutions may arrange orientation sessions.

No single factor can be as effective in achieving economic development goals as good governance based on strong institutions coupled with intellectual and financial integrity of the political leadership are all imperative. Realizing the importance of good governance, the World Bank sponsored a study to find out the linkages between governance and growth in some developing countries and found a strong relationship between quality of governance and level of growth in most of the countries studied. An important prerequisite for a more rewarding economic development is for the public representatives to opt for rational policies and strategies, untainted by regional and parochial considerations, as is often noticeable in our economic decision making. Such a prudent, merit-based approach will be in the best national interest as it will ensure balanced growth without any regional schisms or distortions.

The Standing Committees of the Parliament are important forums for parliamentary oversight and for initiating policy moves which may directly or indirectly influence the shape of our development paradigm. Another important forum to facilitate the decision making and their implementation has been till recently the Council of Common Interests in a Division, now raised into a full-fledged ministry to deal with inter-provincial matters, especially the contentious economic issues for unanimous decisions by the provinces and the federation for facilitating their speedy implementation. The forum has a wide range of political representation which possesses a sound knowledge with an impartial approach and therefore may contribute significantly to the development process of the country.

We have several examples in the past as well as in the contemporary world of highly gifted and selfless Parliamentarians who in time rose to be the heads of government and thus became the masters of the economic destiny of their countries. With their foresight and unrelenting dedication they brought about revolutionary changes in their economic and social milieux to keep these in sync with the changing ground realities such as globalization of the economies and technological advancements which have emerged as determinants of growth and progress.

Newly emerging industrialized countries of South Asia i.e., Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Indonesia are the best examples to follow where social and economic indicators have risen substantially. For example the pioneering efforts of Lee Kwan Yew, a former Prime Minister of Singapore and his colleagues brought about a rapid phenomenal turn around in the socio-economic status of the country through their sound policies and programmes. As a result, this small city state without natural resources stands integrated with the world economy.

Similarly, Mahathir Mohammad former Prime Minister of Malaysia was able to build the economic infrastructure of his country to a level where it became the envy of the developing states. Of course, the example of dynamic Chinese leadership is another one worthy to be emulated. It hardly needs to be mentioned that the role of political leadership in the development process is not confined only to the members of the government alone. Even those in opposition can play a positive role by constructive criticism of the government policies and programs and by keeping a vigilant eye on the policies and practices of the government and its functionaries.

To conclude, although social and economic development is the function of multifarious interacting forces, its essence lies in sound, pragmatic policy formulation followed by meticulous and timely implementation. Of course, it is the collective responsibility of all the players in the development game but the lead role has to be assumed by the public representatives who have the force of their mandate to run the affairs of the state and to act as harbingers of change for realization of national economic goals.

Challenges to Policy Issues for Sustainable Industrial Development in Pakistan

By Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja (khwaja@sdpi.org)

Like most other South Asian countries, traditionally, Pakistan’s economy has been centered on agriculture.
However, in the recent past, manufacturing and services have also emerged as major contributing sectors. The share of the manufacturing sector, from 18.3% in 2007 to 30% by 2030, has been envisioned in Vision 2030 (1). With increasing industrial & agricultural activities, energy demands, urbanization, traffic density and population growth, the degradation of all segments (air, water & land) of environment is alarmingly increasing and remains a grave concern. The unsound management of chemicals, especially in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, have further compounded environmental issues.

20% of the registered industries in Pakistan are considered highly polluting (2). Under the Self-monitoring and reporting/SMART program for industry in Pakistan, in category A (most hazardous) there are 23 & 11 industrial sectors for industrial effluents and gaseous emission, respectively (3). Major industries/clusters are in textiles, leather, steel, oil refineries & mills, chemicals, ceramics, pharmaceuticals and food. Most of these are located in Sialkot, Faisalabad, Multan, Hyderabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi cities. More than 10 industrial states are functional and a few new ones are in the process of development (2).

Industrial waste water discharge from industries in the country has been estimated at 6.25 (in 2010) to a projected value of 12.25 million cubic meters/annum (in 2010). A combined pollution load (BOD,COD & TDS) in waste water discharged to inland water bodies has been estimated at 28.6 (in 2010) to a projected value of 58.6 million tons/annum (4). Degradation of water quality, both for human consumption and irrigation, due to industrial waste water discharge with high pollution load and its resulting impacts on public health and environment are most obvious. In a recent SDPI survey of 38 polluted sites in the country, it was shocking to observe, waste water from the industrial estates and industrial units being discharged into mostly agriculture fields mostly for cash crops but also in a few for food crops and vegetables, both on large and small scales (5). Water and soil are known and well established pathways for toxic chemicals (metals, non-metals & organics) getting into the food chain and ultimately into the human body, besides, to a lesser extent through air.

37 industries were identified and assessed by the SDPI team in Punjab (25 in/around 7 cities), Khyber Pukhtun Khawa (5 in/around 3 cities) and Sindh (7 in/around 2 cities). Two polluted sites were identified and assessed in/around Islamabad (5). Nine priority polluted sites for which immediate remediation actions are required are also given below in the boxes.

Industrial chemicals manufacturing and use, obsolete pesticides stocks and hospital wastes are the main potential sources of hazardous waste in the country. Substantial quantum of hazardous industrial wastes is also released by old/expired ship-breaking yards and the non-formal industrial sector/SMEs, including very small scale recycling units run by un-skilled and illiterate labor, which are scattered across the country. To the best of accessible information, a district based inventory of these by district/provincial EPAs are yet to be developed.

Air pollutants can be transported across states and national boundaries, therefore pollutants produced by one country, as well have adverse impacts on the environment of neighboring countries. Trans-boundary air pollution, which is also impacting some areas of Pakistan, as evident by increased fog in winter months, is an emerging environmental issue that demands critical attention. Down-wind areas of the countries are likely to be affected more than the up-wind areas (6).

The impacts of climate change on chemicals characteristics, hazardous wastes and sites and the resulting impacts on environment and public health have been given little attention in Pakistan and other developing countries. High temperature and low precipitation enhances volatile chemicals levels in the air and increased evaporation enhances non-volatile chemical levels in water bodies and the soil. Low temperature and high precipitation/snow fall transports back air pollutants to water bodies and land. Enhanced air, water and land pollution due to climate change and in the event of high flood the spread of hazardous wastes dumps into cities/towns at the polluted sites could play havoc with the environment and health of the population of the climate change affected areas of the country. Over the years, environmental protection agencies (EPAs) and the Ministry of Environment have done well in establishing institutions, developing and to the extent possible, implementing with the involvement and support of stakeholders, environment policies, action plans, strategies and legislation to regulate industrial pollution, for the protection of the environment and safeguarding public health. Phasing out lead from gasoline, reduction in sulfur content of diesel & furnace oil, conversion of vehicles to CNG on a massive scale for transport, substantial technical & financial
support towards ISO certification by industries, setting up of cleaner production centers and combined treatment plants for specific industrial sectors, setting up of revised national environmental quality standards (NEQS) and launching of self-monitoring and reporting/SMART program for the industrial sector across the country, requirement of initial environmental examination (IEE)/environment impact assessment (EIA) for new public & private sectors projects, issuing of environment protection orders (EPOs) to non-compliance industries and establishment of environmental tribunals, have been great initiatives and arrangements. The progresses on these initiatives and arrangements have been slow but steady. There have been increases in ISO certified industrial units (from 59 (2005) to 200 (2008), IEE/EIA reports submitted to EPAs (from 37 (2000) to 437 (2008) and environmental investment by the industrial sector of Rs. 7,570 millions (1996) to estimated 25, 520 millions (2011 – 2025). The self-monitoring and reporting/SMART program developed and promoted a culture of monitoring & reporting by industry to provincial EPAs which was never in existence in the country. Several EPOs have been issued to non-compliance industrial units and cases referred to environmental tribunals (4)

The responsibility of the slow progress referred to the above needs to be looked at the performance of the three main stakeholders to the environment issue, the government (MoE/EPAs), the industrial sector (FPCCI, provincial & district CCI & industrial associations and representatives of civil society (NGOs & CBOs) and their constraints/limitations in meeting the challenge of a clean environment in the country. There seems to be a general impression of lack of political will. The environment has not been among priorities of the past or present government. Hardly any political party manifesto prominently speaks of environmental issues in the country. The government’s preference has been a voluntary or carrot approach and not a strict or stick approach in regulating industrial pollution. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Council (PEPC), just meets once a year and sometimes even after a longer period, to monitor and expedite the development/implementation of environmental policies and programs in the country. The implementation of approved environmental policies, action plans, program and projects at times take so long that the situation over time changes drastically and these may not remain feasible or they need to go through another time investing process of updates and revisions, as evident by revised NEQSs, self-monitoring and reporting/SMART 2 program and the same need may arise for the national implementation plan (NIP) for phasing out persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Lack of capacity and capacity building, expertise, technical know-how, technical facilities and human resource are other major constraints, not only for the government to enforce compliance but also for the industry to comply with.

In the early years of the environment policy and legislation development, industry through FPCCI, not only supported government initiatives but also played an important role as an active member of National Standards Committee and NEQSs implementation committee. FPCCI not only agreed to the payment of the pollution charge but also proposed the amount of the base rate/pollution unit for non-compliance with NEQSs. However, the government’s response to the FPCCI proposed financial incentives (7) and lack of credit availability/ facility for environmental technology or investment has not been up to FPCCI expectations. Whereas, industry seems willing to invest in pollution control measures, the information regarding key-turn appropriate, well tested and established technology, its cost, effectiveness and durability have not been readily accessible. The establishment of “Provincial Sustainable Development Fund" to support the industry with soft loans for the purchase of pollution control equipment and installation of industry specific “Joint Treatment Plants” was agreed upon (7) both by the government and the industry but it could not be well institutionalized due to a diversity of opinions regarding its operating mechanism and delayed power delegation of the same to the provincial governments.

Civil society can also play a vital role towards industrial pollution control by building awareness, understanding and concern within all stakeholders and sections of society, providing relevant information and helping marginalized and vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly & sick) and by carrying out national and local campaigns and projects that contribute to protecting the environment and minimizing public exposure to toxic industrial releases/hazardous waste sites. Civil society needs to be involved to the extent possible, both at the policy development and implementation phases, as is now made obligatory to the national governments party to Stockholm Convention on POPs, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the under-
Box 2

References:


Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs); Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM), UNEP Chemicals, Geneva, (2001)

Trade between India and Pakistan: A Game of Politics

By: Afsheen Naz (afsheen@sdpi.org)

SDPI conducted a perception survey for CUTS-India, of fifty stakeholders on “Cost of Economic
Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia" in Pakistan. The main objective of the survey was to cover the consumer perspective and trade amongst South Asian countries. However, despite the importance of trade and consumer relationship a general perception regarding prioritization of political matters between India and Pakistan was discussed. Thus, keeping in view the importance of Indo-Pak political relationship the current article is based on a summing up of various perceptions which highlights this relationship and its effects on trade.

Background:
The South Asian region is reportedly said to be the least economically integrated region in the world. Hence, despite signing regional, multilateral and bilateral trade accords, regional trade could not reach the desired level (Khan et al 2007). These trade agreements include SAARC Preferential Trade Agreement (1994), South Asian Free Trade Agreement (1996) and various bilateral trade agreements like Pakistan-Sri Lanka trade agreement etc. All of these agreements almost failed to bring the economies of south Asian countries closer, which would have otherwise led to the prosperity of the region as a whole. Many of the reports identified political unrest as a major reason that hindered the region from economically integrating. However, the political conflict between two major and influential countries of the region, India and Pakistan, is specifically blamed for economic noncooperation in the entire region. (Tabish et al 2011).

Analysis:
The survey was conducted in four cities of Pakistan; Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore & Karachi and comprised stakeholders from the media, academia, government officials, civil society and the business community. A total of fifty professionals, eleven women and thirty nine men, from all these groups were interviewed. The analysis of the current article is based on two questions of the survey;

1. Are regional/bilateral trade negotiations among and between South Asian countries influenced by political priorities rather than economic logic?

(i) Yes (ii) No

2. What kind of steps must be taken by the political leadership of South Asian countries to enhance regional trade and economic cooperation?

a. Stop distrusting each other,
b. Highlight peace dividends from enhanced regional economic cooperation in their actions, c. Take part in civil society initiatives towards enhancing regional economic cooperation. Rank them in order of your choice – 1 = Lowest priority; 3 = Highest priority

Q 1
A total of forty eight respondents gave their answers on the first question. Thirty seven said that they felt political priorities were more influential rather than economic logic. A graphical representation of people’s perceptions are given in the chart below;

Most of the respondents were of the view that India and Pakistan are the most influential countries in the region and almost always give priority to their political conflicts over economic gain. The respondents who chose this option were of the view that there are many other trade barriers along with political conflicts which are adding to the myth of slow economic integration between these two countries i.e. visa restriction, non tariff barriers, religious barriers etc. But all of these respondents felt political conflict was the most influential amongst all trade barriers. One government representative, felt that Indo-Pak politics was being used as a tool in limiting economic ties between the two countries. She said, “the trade between India and Pakistan is a political game as a whole. Non tariff barriers (NTBs) are very high between these two countries and leads to political negativism. NTBs will be increased on goods that India and Pakistan, do not want to trade. The NTBs are so strong that even if there is a signed contract between importers and exporters, political conflicts means that NTBs will be used to stop trade” (Raheela, Government Official, Rawalpindi)

Another government official voiced his opinion, “SAARC cannot prosper unless Pakistan and India agree to give priority to trade and commerce over politics. Since these two are the biggest counties in the region, their differences have held back the
whole region” (Hameed, Government Official, Karachi)

Q2

The respondents were asked about their perceptions about the most useful steps needed for political leaderships to enhance economic integration. Most respondents (a total of forty three stakeholders) ranked “stop distrusting each other” as the biggest reason for lack of cooperation (34.9%).

One representative of the business community shared his perception. “To stop mistrusting, it’s essential to solve core political issues” (Kamran-Importer-Lahore)

A media representative from Lahore was of the view that, “distrust is really a poisonous thing when it comes to mutual relations; the states should work upon diluting mistrust and eventually we would learn to develop amicable relations between the nations. The people of India and Pakistan generally consider any favour to the other country as being disloyal to their own country.” (Tahir-Media Person-Lahore)

While the second highest priority was perceived as a step taken by the political leadership “to highlight peace dividends from enhanced regional economic cooperation in their actions”, one respondent, for example, from civil society was of the view that “highlighting peace dividends in the form of economic and trade benefits will help regional economic integration” (Umar-Civil Society-Islamabad)

However, initiatives taken by civil society in enhancing trade cooperation received the lowest ranking of the respondents.

Measures to reduce and eliminate the use of mercury; A mandatory National Implementation Plan (NIP)

Mahmood Khwaja, khwaja@sdpi.org

The draft resolution CALLS on all state representatives of International Negotiating Committee (INC) to support a legally-binding global instrument with an objective to protect wildlife, ecosystems and human health from mercury exposure, recognizing particularly the vulnerable populations; Effective measures to reduce and eliminate the use of mercury; A mandatory National Implementation Plan (NIP) to ensure effective realization of the treaty and the active role of civil society and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of treaty; Mandatory obligations to identify and characterize contaminated sites; and earliest possible development of the treaty with effective and enforceable treaty compliance provisions. The draft resolution also REQUESTS the Director General to work with the IUCN Commissions and membership networks for the promotion of enhanced awareness regarding
adverse health effects of mercury exposure and protection.

SDPI to move a Resolution to IUCNs World Conservation Congress 2012 for Supporting “Legally Binding Global Mercury Treaty to Protect Wildlife, Ecosystems and Health”

By Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja (khwaja@sdpi.org)

Mercury is a toxic substance of concern and causes significant harm to wildlife, ecosystems and human health at a global scale. It is also a major threat to fish which constitute an all-important nutritious component of human diet. Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) supports global efforts to phase out toxic chemicals leading to their elimination with special attention given to mercury, a hazardous pollutant.

Keeping in view the concern that weak measures by Governments/States on various important treaty elements to control mercury may not affect the rising trend in mercury level and thus fail to protect wildlife, ecosystem and human health, SDPI has proposed a resolution for IUCNs upcoming World Conservation Congress to be held in Jejo, Republic of Korea from 6 – 15 September 2012. The motion is a unique initiative, among over 90 motions submitted from South Asia and is co-sponsored by the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, China, and other Pakistan organizations namely Baamhu Beli, Shirkat Gah, Strengthening Participatory Organizations (SPO), TCCR and Shehri. Support and sponsorship has also been offered by IDEA (Paraguay), Development Alternatives (India) and CELS/Pace Law School (USA).

The draft resolution CALLS on all States Representatives of International Negotiating Committee (INC) for negotiating a treaty text to support a legally binding global instrument with an objective to protect wildlife, ecosystems and human health from mercury exposure, recognizing, particularly the vulnerable populations; effective measures to reduce and eliminate the use of mercury; a mandatory National Implementation Plan (NIP) to ensure effective realization of the treaty and the active role of civil society and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of NIP; mandatory obligations to identify and characterize contaminated sites; earliest possible development of the treaty, with effective and enforceable treaty compliance provisions. The draft resolution also REQUESTS the Director General, IUCN to work with the IUCN Commissions and memberships networks for the promotion of enhanced awareness regarding adverse health effects of mercury exposure and protection from such exposure.

Dr Mahmood A. Khwaja, Senior Advisor, Chemicals and Industrial Development, SDPI initiated, developed and has already submitted the proposed draft text of this motion.

Community of Practices on Social Accountability tools: Inception and Design Workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka

By: Fayyaz Yasin

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) along with a number of local organizations are partners for promoting Social Accountability (SAc) in Pakistan. This partnership, in the last one year or so, has led to the implementation of SAc tools in the country in a wide range of services including education, land, water and sanitation.

Social Accountability is a relatively newer concept in South Asia. Originated and implemented first in India, the idea exhibits the essence of democracy and lays out a road map to good governance. It stands for citizen’s participation in the decision making process, calls for empowerment of marginalized groups and through promoting transparency and answerability among public officials and it ensures poverty reduction and increased development effectiveness. In the last one year, amid the funding received from ANSA, organizations like SDPI, Hisaar Foundation and Shehri organization have become capable of sensitizing the masses in Pakistan to exercise their right to demand for quality service delivery.
Moreover, besides approaching the ordinary citizens, the SDPI has also set a nationwide Pakistan Social Accountability Network (PSAN) to which over 100 organizations are active members, while many more of them are in the process of becoming part of this network.

About four months ago, ANSA, that is simultaneously funding similar activities in other South Asian countries, and that is thoroughly in touch and involved with facilitating the respective partners, realized that while the response from civil society and development organizations for the promotion of SAC was good, their capacity needed to be built on and expertise be enhanced for a greater understanding of the cause they were working for. Based on this realization it was envisaged that since SAC practice will be an ongoing process, the learning and capacity building process should also be sustainable. This led to the idea of creating a Community of Practices (CoP) on Social Accountability tools in South Asia.

For formal creation of this CoP, it was essential to create its mandate and responsibilities while being considerate to the status of SAC practices and implementation of its tools in every member country in South Asia. In this regard ANSA decided to hold in-country consultation workshops in the respective countries. These workshops were to provide their input in the Inception and Design workshop on Community of Practices on Social Accountability (CoPSA) tools that took place from February 29 to March 1 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Anchored by CUTS International at the South Asia level and by SDPI in Pakistan, this CoPSA workshop was convened to deliberate on the formation of the means that may take forward ANSA’s work on Social Accountability. This required creating and maintaining good relations with potential donors and building on the social accountability agenda in the respective countries. Attended by participants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal, the CoPSA intended to create a community of professionals and organizations that may invest, build, convene, provide, share and advocate for strengthening, spreading and institutionalizing social accountability. Moreover, it was also realized that this community will need to build a sense of belonging among the members as well as utilizing its internal energy, character and direction for refinement in its approach.

The essential objectives of this CoPSA workshop included a) creation of a platform for sharing knowledge, experience, tools and lessons b) strengthening networking among the members and stakeholders c) sensitizing governments and donors d) building the capacity of the members and promotion of the innovation process. With regard to the expected outcomes, the perceived points included a) enhanced visibility and support for SAC practices b) sensitized donors c) a functioning network with d) enhanced capacity of the members.
During the workshop, all the participants were invited to share the findings of the in-country consultation workshops respectively held in their countries. These presentations broadly took stock of the ongoing SAC work in each country, the challenges they faced, how they were to overcome them and the opportunities on which further work could be based. The workshop ended with CUTS international briefly sharing its findings of the event through a presentation. On the final day of the event, all the countries were tasked to briefly take stock of the SAC work in their respective countries, find out and contact potential members/partners of CoPSA and share all these findings with the CUTS in coming days. All the information shared with the CUTS will be pasted on the community of practices of social accountability’s website that is presently in the making.

CCB Activities January to March 2012

The Center for Capacity Building (CCB) is working with the aim of providing high quality trainings to the public, private and NGO sector organizations and individuals to strengthen institutions and build capacities for sustainable development. During the period January to March 2012, CCB conducted the following trainings:


This two day workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO). Fifteen members of their field and office management staff belonging to grade 17 and 18 attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the enhancement of skills related to areas like communication, presentation and advocacy.

The objectives of the workshop were to enable the participants to:

- Learn about the conceptual and operational framework of advocacy in Pakistan
- Enhance understanding of various forms, techniques and strategies of advocacy
- Learn how to effectively design & plan, manage, monitor, and evaluate different communication, advocacy, and outreach campaigns
- Develop a better understanding of co-relation between communication and advocacy
- Understand the process and essentials of effective communication

This workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for HelpAge International - Pakistan. Forty three members of their field and office management staff attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the enhancement of skills related to the areas like communication, presentation and report writing, editing etc. It was a two day extensive workshop that focused on the following objectives:

- Understand the aims and elements of effective writing.
- Understand the essentials and components of various types of reports.
- Improve their knowledge of drafting, editing, documentation and presentation of reports.
- Understand the process and essentials of effective communication
- Become familiar with the guidelines for understanding the audience and building rapport
- Understand the techniques and methods of preparing and delivering effective

Workshop on Results Based Management [RBM] – 17 – 20 January 2012

This workshop was part of CCBs annual training calendar and was conducted at SDPI. Eleven par-
Participants from different organizations attended the workshop. The objectives of the training were to:

- Build an understanding about the basic terminologies used for project planning and management
- Help participants internalize the basics of results based management/project life cycle and link it with their routine tasks in a real case scenario
- Equip participants with the knowledge and skills of developing LFA and enable them to use it as a planning, monitoring and reporting tool
- Enhance an understanding of participants about developing and measuring qualitative, quantitative and gender sensitive indicators
- Help participants in developing work breakdown structures of projects, project implementation plans and quarterly plans based on LFA

**Workshop on MS Office 2007. 23 – 27 January 2012**

This workshop was also part of CCBs annual training calendar. Conducted in SDPI’s conference room, the workshop was attended by five participants.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

Use ribbon option in

- Use ribbon options in Office applications, more effectively
- Edit documents in Word, using track changes
- Use graphics in various office documents & spreadsheets
- Learn how to use references in complex documents
- Work with document templates
- Create effective PowerPoint presentations
- Develop and work on a spreadsheet using various formulae and functions
- Develop an understanding of User Defined Functions
- Learn how to use Outlook for emailing, scheduling tasks, maintaining contacts
- Learn how to apply mail filters; define rules and organize messages in Outlook.

**Workshop on Finance for Non-financial Professionals – 01 – 03 February 2012**

This workshop was also part of CCBs annual training calendar. Conducted in SDPI’s conference room, the workshop was attended by nine participants. Who belonged to various organizations in the private, public and development sectors.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Making better & informed financial decisions
- Building the confidence to use, discuss & present financial information
- Building support from your finance department for proposals & projects by communicating effectively financial issues & terms
- Maximizing the ability to use financial techniques & evaluating financial options
- Building credibility as Managers
- Increase your confidence as you contribute your ideas in financial planning meetings with upper management.
- Assess the liabilities and payoffs of new ventures, proposals, and plans.

**Leadership & Managerial Problems ESCO - 07-09 February 2012**

This three days workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO). Thirteen members of their field and office management staff belonging to grade 17 and 18 attended the workshop. The workshop focused
on the enhancement of skills related to areas like leadership and how to handle managerial problems efficiently and effectively.

The objectives of the workshop were to enable the participants to:

- Understand the process and essentials of effective communication
- Learn how to be assertive
- Enhance skills in decision making by coping with uncertainty and risk
- Understand the factors that cause impaired decisions

- Explain why conflict arises and identify the types and sources of conflict in organizations.
- Use negotiation strategies to resolve conflict through integrative bargaining


This workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for one member of Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), Conducted in SDPI’s computer lab.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To use the ribbon options in Office applications, more effectively
- Edit documents in Word, using track changes
- Use graphics in various office documents & spreadsheets
- Learn how to use references in complex documents
- Work with document templates
- Create effective PowerPoint presentations
- Develop and work on a spreadsheet using various formulae and functions
- Use Database functions of MS-Excel for data analysis
- Learn how to use Outlook for emailing and scheduling tasks.

Workshop on Communication & Presentation Skills [BHC] 29 Feb – 01 March 2012

This two day training workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for the British High Commission (BHC). Twelve trainees from different departments of BHC attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the problems they faced during communication and presentation and enhancement of skills related to problematic areas.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Understand the process and essentials of effective communication
- Become familiar with guidelines for understanding the audience and building rapport
- Understand the techniques and methods of preparing and delivering effective presentations
- Formulate and practice anticipated questions and their responses
- Design and deliver a live presentation


This three-day workshop was a part of CCBs annual training calendar. Conducted in SDPI’s conference room, the workshop was attended by fifteen participants who belonged to various organizations in the private, public and development sectors. The aim of the workshop was to help participants achieve a higher level of understanding and compe-
ence in communications and advocacy skills. The main objectives were:

- Learn about the conceptual and operational framework of advocacy in Pakistan
- Enhance understanding of various forms, techniques and strategies of advocacy
- Learn how to effectively design & plan, manage, monitor, and evaluate different communication, advocacy, and outreach campaigns
- Develop a better understanding of the correlation between communication and advocacy
- Understand the process and essentials of effective communication
- Learn modern and improved communication skills and techniques

Workshop on The Art of Report Writing - 06-08 March 2012

This three-day workshop was a part of CCBs annual training calendar. Conducted in SDPI’s conference room, the workshop was attended by nineteen participants who belonged to various organizations in the private, public and development sectors. The aim of the workshop was to help participants achieve a higher level of understanding and competence in report writing skills. The main objectives were to:

- Understand the aims and elements of effective writing
- Understand the essentials and components of various types of reports
- Explore practical ways to plan and get started
- Improve their knowledge of drafting, editing, documentation and presentation of reports
- Learn techniques to fine tune their professional tone


This workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO). Fifteen trainees of their field and office management staff belonging to grade 17 and 18 attended the workshop. The workshop focused on enhancement of skills related to areas like communication and presentation skills, time management, motivation, team work and stress management. The workshop learning objectives of the workshop were to:

- Develop an understanding of the nature and structure of organizations
- Segregate important tasks and prioritize them
- Learn how to identify the stress factors and techniques to minimize stress
- Know how to manage workplace conflict and to work in a team environment
- Learn techniques of effective oral and written communication

Workshop on Handling Difficult Conversations Over the Telephone – BHC [20 and 22 March 2012]

This one day workshop was exclusively designed and conducted on demand for two different groups of trainees from the British High Commission [BHC]. The total number of participants of both
groups was twenty four. The groups of Trainees consisted of middle management, officers and assistants. The workshop focused on the enhancement of skills related to areas like communication skills and how to handle the difficult conversations over the telephone. 
The workshop learning objectives were:

- Understanding difficult customers
- Handling abuse
- Responding effectively to specific customer complaints
- Closing out on repeat calls by effectively satisfying customers
- Filtering calls by asking effective questions
- Increasing voice effectiveness
- Turning difficult customers into loyal ones


This three-day workshop was announced on the demand of the different organization. Conducted in SDPI’s conference room, the workshop was attended by thirteen participants who belonged to various organizations in the private, public, academia and development sectors.

The aim of the workshop was to help participants achieve a higher level of understanding and competence in report writing skills. The main objectives were to:

- Understand the aims and elements of effective writing
- Understand the essentials and components of various types of reports
- Explore practical ways to plan and get started
- Improve their knowledge of drafting, editing, documentation and presentation of reports
- Learn techniques to fine tune their professional tone

Workshop on The Gender and Pro-Poor Analysis of Provincial Budget Quetta, Balochistan, 29 – 30 March, 2012

This two day workshop was exclusively designed and conducted for Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy & Monitoring [SPRSM] and Project Management Unit PMU, Quetta, Balochistan. Thirty one members of different government departments such as Section Officers, Directors, Assistant Director, Officers, Assistants etc, who directly or indirectly involved in budget making, budget implementing and budget monitoring and evaluation process attended the workshop.

The workshop focused on the enhancement of skills related to areas like gender based budgeting, gender responsive budgeting, pre-budget tools, green book etc.

The aim of the workshop was to help participants achieve a higher level of understanding and competence in gender based budgeting and gender budget and pro-poor analysis of provincial budget.

The main objectives were to:

- Understand gender concepts & social construction of gender
- Understand triple gender roles
- Understand variables to gender analysis
• Propose framework for gender analysis
• Understand Gender responsive budgeting
• Pre-Budget Tools
• Post-Budget Tools
• Engendering Budget Call Circulars of MTBF
• Highlights of Green Book

Advocacy At SDPI

Seminars

Deepening Crisis of Energy, Economy and Stability: Where do the Poor Stand? (Research-based seminar), 02nd January, 2012
The experts said inequality, energy crisis and poor governance threaten stability and security of the country while social justice and pro-poor governance are necessary for a peaceful and prosperous future. They said Pakistan is currently on the verge of a fiscal crisis and recommended reduction on CNG reliance, enhancement in the usage of alternate energy sources such solar power, import of LPG and a revision of the oil exploration policy. They said the energy crisis is broad-based issue and all the stakeholders are responsible for it including the public due to energy-inefficient habits. They stressed on transparency and merit, shifting the focus from the power sector to renewable sources, the completion of hydel projects and promotion of biogas sources as some of the solutions to the country’s current problems.

Experts underscored the importance of conflict sensitivity. They said, humanitarian assistance without conflict sensitivity can cause or aggravate tensions and conflicts and may end up causing more harm than good. The study identifies good practices, gaps and ways to integrate CSA across the emergency programming cycle. The study concludes that there are clear opportunities for synergy between conflict sensitivity integration and emergency capacity-building initiatives currently ongoing within many agencies. Experts said that we must be ready to deal with more conflicts and old ways of responding to emergencies would not deliver any more. They recommended minimum standards to ensure conflict sensitive emergency responses such as inclusion of CSA in preparedness plans and training for senior and operational staff, inclusion of ‘Good Enough’ conflict analysis in the emergency assessment phase, analysis of partnership strategy, orientation of new staff, use of participatory methods in managing distributions and inclusion of conflict benchmarks in monitoring and evaluations.

Impact of Current Political Deadlock on Pakistan’s Economy (Research-based seminar) 23rd January, 2012
Speakers were of the view that politics deter economic reforms and political instability perpetuates economic uncertainty. They said due to the current political scenario, state machinery is not functioning and is looking towards how the political situation will unfold. They called for strengthening of democracy and normalization into the civil-military equation. They also stressed on political parties to declare their manifestos as soon as possible. Experts said that political instability results in economic instability and also breeds corruption, mismanagement and bad governance which ultimately affect the poor people.

Education and Human Development (Research Based Seminar) 06th February 2012
Speaking about the relationship between education and human development, experts said sustainable human and economic development can only be achieved by investing in the education sector. They said poverty and ignorance are our biggest evils that lead to the lack of national identity. They suggested compulsory and free education for all. They
said Pakistan must immediately increase its education budget from 1.5 to 5 percent of the GDP. They added progress and development in the west occurred due to social and industrial development while knowledge played a central role in this process. These countries, they added, made compulsory education for all about a hundred years ago which led to human and economical development in these countries.

Celebration of 20th Anniversary of SDPI (1992-2012) 11th February 2012
Speakers lauded SDPI for its remarkable work over the years and said, SDPI and other think tanks have been playing a crucial role in the process of development across the globe through policy advice and bringing together stakeholders. They said, in the 1970s emergence of think tanks took place across the world as social sciences became more and more collaborative work, an increase in demand side research and enhanced human ability to process information analytically. ‘Essentially, discontinuity in traditional thought and the realization that problems are no longer national anymore and their implications are no longer short accelerated the momentum of emergence of the think tanks phenomenon.’

Day-1
Bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and India can turn the climate change threat into an opportunity for ensuring peace and prosperity in both countries as well as in South Asian regions, said delegates from India and Pakistan. They stressed for further and continuous dialogue in order to devise a regional strategy to deal with the existential threat of climate change and to provide a participatory and policy-oriented assessment of environment, natural resources and their implications for South Asia.

Day- 2
Delegates on the second day of the conference on climate change deliberated on the fact that South Asian countries can benefit each other through collaboration on acquiring green renewable energy as it is more feasible at the regional level rather than at the country level given the cost barriers. They also asked South Asian countries to have shared positions at the international negotiations beside joint research and regional planning to address the climate change challenge.

Day- 3
Deliberating on water, energy, adaptation, gender equity and livelihoods, the climate stakeholders adopted a resolution on the concluding day of ‘Track-II Dialogue on (Climate) Change for peace’. They stressed on India and Pakistan to work together to address common challenges posed by climate change in order to achieve food and energy security, sustainable livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, enhanced water use efficiency, promotion of low carbon sustainable development and building resilient communities and networks. They said both countries needed to work together to ensure universal access to sustainable and affordable energy, including through the optimization of renewable energy potential in the region, measures to promote green energy, and establishment of the South Asian Energy Grid. Stressing upon the need of best available scientific and local knowledge, they said governments, academic institutions, and civil society organizations need to work together to prepare a compendium of best policy frameworks/practices.

Social Accountability Stock-taking in Pakistan (Round Table Discussion) 16th February, 2012
Speakers at a roundtable demanded constructive civic engagement between the government and citizens towards strengthening the principles of democratic governance in Pakistan. They also underscored youth involvement to ensure effective social accountability as 68 percent of Pakistan’s population is below the age of 30. Experts said that social accountability needs to be seen in the overall framework of participatory development. They said, a softer image of accountability is desired so that all stakeholders including the government, civil society, and business community can recognize their roles and responsibilities. They added that the concept of mutual accountability was also important so that the people also felt a sense of community and responsibility. Finally, they felt the youth needed to be taken onboard in leveraging accountability at the grass root level.

How Could Good Governance be Introduced at Micro Level (Research-based Seminar), 18th February, 2012
The discussion centred on the fact that comprehensive reforms can bring an improvement in governance at the micro-level. The views expressed were that efforts at introducing reforms in the Excise and
Taxation department Islamabad offered lessons and there was potential for these reforms to be replicated elsewhere to improve the governance crisis in the country. Speakers of the seminar, while analyzing the recent huge reforms in the E&T department, said that it was necessary to collect the feedback of the public through client and user surveys about the usefulness of these reforms besides sustainability of such reforms. They said it was also necessary to learn how time consumption of citizens in vehicle registration reduced or increased as well as the impact on government revenue that took place before and after the reforms experiment. They said that there were certain pre-requisites to improving governance at the micro-level. These pre-requisites included making an express resolve, following it with concrete actions, openness to suggestions and consultation, willingness to admit and correct mistakes and leading by example.

ICTs for All: Pakistan Vision 2012, (Research-based seminar)

Proposing Pakistan Vision 2015, the experts underscored that adoption of ICT technologies into the development process and governance can dramatically bridge the widening development gap on a fast track pace. The country has failed to turn the opportunity of exceptional technological advancement into socio-economic development in society especially for millions of poor people living in rural areas. Experts said, Pakistan has made rapid progress in the ICT sector in the recent past as Information Technology has been deeply penetrated people’s lives. One speakers said added some limitations, “however, at the moment, teledensity in Pakistan is largely restricted to urban areas, showing a significant digital divide, and the country has to go a long way ahead covering far flung areas such as Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and other remote areas of the country”.

Right to Education and Social Accountability, 12th March (Research-based seminar)

Speakers at a seminar urged people to make respective provincial governments accountable for legislation on ensuring quality education for all as promised in the constitution through article 25-A of 18th amendment. They also stressed on firm implementation of legislation, increased educational budget and also its efficient spending. They said that the right to education promised in constitution must be translated into actions such as increased education allocations, ensuring quality and equal access to education for all.

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health, 19th March 2012, (Special Lecture)

Speakers said that a warmer climate due to drastic changes in climate is now evident from observations of increases in the global average atmospheric and oceanic temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and the rising sea level rise. While elaborating on some of the negative impacts of climate change on human health, they said rising temperatures and more frequent droughts and floods can compromise food security. They commented that an increase in severe malnutrition was expected especially in those countries where large populations depend on rain-fed subsistence farming. They added that more frequent extreme weather events means more potential deaths and injuries caused by storms and floods. In addition, flooding can be followed by outbreaks of diseases, such as cholera, especially when water and sanitation services are damaged or destroyed.

Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia, 26th March, 2012 (Media Briefing)

It was expressed at the outset that trade liberalisation among South Asian countries could yield a minimum consumer welfare gain of approximately US$2 billion a year. While sharing the findings of research study ‘Cost of economic non-cooperation to consumers in South Asia (COENCOSA)” the speakers lamented South Asia, despite being home to most of the world’s poor and conflict-ridden, is the least economically integrated region in the world which results in higher costs to consumers on account of costlier imports from outside the region. The study reveals that, though Pakistan receives only 10.5 per cent of total gains, the lowest in the region, it stands to save 59.04 percent on its current import expenditure on selected products. Among other factors, Pakistan’s communication gap with other South Asian countries and also the worsening energy situation hinders its progress on this front. The study also disclosed that trade policies and agreements have not highlighted consumers’ gains from trade liberalization and lack of awareness about consumer welfare gains lowers stakeholders’ expectations from intra-regional trade. The study stresses the need for better economic cooperation and suggests increased media and policy spaces on consumer welfare gains which would change
stakeholders’ perceptions on the virtues of enhanced and improved intra-regional trade.

**Governance for Human Development: Issues and Good practices, 30th March, 2012 (Special Lecture)**

Experts said that weak governance is responsible for persistent poverty and lagging human development in Pakistan. They added that Pakistan needs continuity of a democratic process, a strong civil society and an increase in internal revenue generation. This would lead to the country having democratic and effective governance at various levels. Experts said that no country can progress without focusing on human development. They went on to say the government’s efforts at improving human development had miserably failed in Pakistan, and the reasons are lack of vision at the policy level, absence of competence and commitment by political and bureaucratic management, and a strong feudal culture that influences governance in the country.

The archivist
The News
Sunday, 22nd Jul 2012
Islamabad

Altat Hussain Asad

He seems as agile as he used to be. As usual, one can see him carrying with him a bag full of books in different functions in the capital city of Islamabad. There is hardly any trace of nervousness and worry on his face. When you are suffering from cancer, you are bound to get bogged down. Not if you are Ahmed Salim who shows extraordinary resilience in the face of lots of odds. Writer, editor, Punjabi poet and novelist, and archivist, Ahmad Salim wears many hats. For the past many years, his rich archives have helped many a local as well as foreign scholars working on myriad subjects. It took him nearly forty years to collect this huge archive which is a real treasure which can guide upcoming research scholars. First, he ar-

ranged the archives at Samanabad Lahore in a rented house. Since he was based in Islamabad, it was difficult for him to look after the precious record properly. So, he shifted it in a rented house in Islamabad but it was difficult to bear the exorbitant rent for so long.

"It was getting very difficult for me to bear the rent of a separate house where my archives was arranged. I am diagnosed with cancer and the treatment is quite costly. I am not least worried about my health as my only concern is about the archives and rare books that I have collected over the years. So I have decided to dump all the record, books and other material on the upper portion of my house," says Salim.

The record, archives and rare books have occupied four rooms and he has tried his best to arrange them properly. However, he says, all the material can be properly arranged only in eight rooms. Recently, a delegation of Library of Congress visited him to see the whole material. The delegation was amazed to see such precious record and rare books and confessed that some of the rare books are can’t be found in any library of Europe. The American Institute of Pakistan Studies have also surveyed the library and archives as they want to help by arranging a librarian. He has been offered hefty amount by few foreign institutions who want to buy all the archives and rare books but Ahmad Salim has de-
clined all such offers. “This archive and other rare material belong to this country and I won’t like shifting it to any other country. Yes, I have had a few offers but I politely declined. It is my wish that it remains in my country.”

Talking about the rare record and books, Ahmad Salim says, “We have all the proceedings of Punjab Assembly from 1921 to date; all the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and then all the record of provincial assemblies of Pakistan from 1947 to date; all Five Years Plans, Budget Records and files of important papers like Pakistan Times, Dawn, Viewpoint, Illustrated Weekly of Pakistan are also there in the archives. Files of Imroz and Lail-o-Nihar from 1961 onwards are also there. There are special sections on Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan, Kashmir and Bangladesh. There are government reports of various commissions as well as all the reports of HRCP and other such material.”

Apart from this, one can see many periodicals of 18th and 19th century such as India Review and other very rare material of the colonial era. The files of Paisa Akhbar, Rahbar-e-Hind and much such rare treasure can be noticed in the four rooms in which he has crammed all his archives. “There are almost ten thousand rare books which can not be found anywhere in the world,” claims Ahmad Salim. He lashes out hard at the Federal Government and the other provincial governments which have shown least interest in saving this historical rare treasure. “The apathy of government knows no bounds as they haven’t shown even an iota of interest in saving the treasure. Many a time, the government functionaries have promised to do something for the archives but to no avail. Even the information minister Qamar Zaman Kaira, through a mutual friend, promised to help but nothing came out of it. All I demand from the government is that it should offer me a one kanal land on subsidised rate. I am not seeking alms from the government. I want that my precious record should be properly displayed and saved after I close my eyes.”

However, he adds, there are few individuals and NGOs which greatly helped him in these trying times. He is particularly thankful to Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) which is still paying him his salary, although he is unable to go to office due to his ailment. He says he is indebted to Abid Sulehri for his all out support. Afzaal Ahmad of Sang-e-Meel Publications and human rights activist Fauzia Saeed are also helping him a lot.

His archives and library is registered trust and there are nine trustees. At an individual level, a few people are trying a work out a strategy to save the archives. “I am grateful to Dr Nadeem Omar who is very active in saving the archives. Dr Anwar Nasir of Readings also intends to help me,” he concludes.

Fifth South Asian Economic Summit (SAES-V) is “Making Growth Inclusive and Sustainable in South Asia”.

The overarching theme of the Fifth South Asian Economic Summit (SAES-V) is “Making Growth Inclusive and Sustainable in South Asia”. SAES-V is focused on framing observations and recommendations for the 18th SAARC Meeting of Prime Ministers to be held in Nepal. SAES was launched in 2008 with the objective of bringing together leading academics, practitioners of public policy, members of the business community and related stakeholders to discuss a regional approach to issues of mutual concern and also to learn from home grown solutions to common predicaments that can be replicated elsewhere in South Asia. This year’s SAES seeks to involve politicians and civil servants from member countries alongside professional experts already involved in Track-I / Track-II level of South Asian development agenda. This year the secretariat for organizing SAES-V is SDPI, which is the oldest civil society think tank in Pakistan. For organizing this Summit in Islamabad-Pakistan, SDPI has partnered with co-organizers across South Asia which include Institute of Policy Studies (Sri Lanka), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (India), South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (Nepal), and Center for Policy Dialogue (Dhaka).

**Date of summit: 11 - 13 September 2012**