Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has constituted a National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Agriculture and we are pleased to share that Executive Director SDPI Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri has been appointed as a member of the National Coordination Committee on Transformation of Agriculture.

**OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Since the emergence of COVID-19, SDPI knowing its role as a think tank is helping government with evidence-based research, capacity building and policy advice. In case you missed what SDPI is doing on this front, visit us at [here](#).

**OUR PUBLICATIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN**

SDPI was the first institute in Pakistan to opt for virtual conference titled “Sustainable Development in Times of COVID-19”. It was first ever paperless conference of SDPI having 45 sessions, of which there were 9 plenary sessions and 36 concurrent panels. During the four-day Conference, 193 speakers joined from Pakistan while another 63 came from 26 countries. Enjoy reading our bulletin [here](#).

**POTENTIAL ROLE OF CHINESE AND PAKISTAN LEADERS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION OF PAKISTAN**

As climate is changing there are more risks and Pakistan also needs to contribute to global agenda by moving away from fossil fuels. Pakistan has also recently launched its ARE Policy 2019 that identifies a 30% share of renewables by 2030 (AEDB, 2019). Hence it is apparent to analyze that the response to climate change is mutual aspiration for both China and Pakistan. This report discusses in depth the risks associated with future coal investments and how China can play an important role for Pakistan to achieve its goal in energy sector in line with agenda 2030. It is therefore imperative to focus and divert further investment from fossil fuels to renewable energy by taking a more diverse leadership role in line with the concept and vision of global energy governance, commitment to Paris agreement, and NDCs. Read in detail [here](#).

**POLICY REVIEW ENERGY REQUIREMENT FOR COVID-19 VACCINE-COLD CHAIN AND LOGISTICS**

Preventive measures taken by economies have limited the impact of the pandemic but still, the use of vaccines has been identified as the most critical aspect to get countries back on track, especially the low and middle-income countries. An efficient distribution and supply chain in middle-income and high-income countries may save up to 61% and 33% of subsequent deaths respectively (Peters and Hartley 2020). Hence, developing and supplying vaccines is amongst the topmost global priority. As of today, many vaccines are commercially available and have achieved...
regulatory approvals. Hence, the pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers, and distributors have to face significant logistic challenges to ensure their effective transfer and storage. Enjoy reading this publication here.

**CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: UPDATING SDG-17 (PARTNERSHIP FOR GOALS)**

This study focuses on concept and challenges of cultural diplomacy as a mean of sustainable development. It further discusses cultural diplomacy in connection with the SDG-17 (‘partnerships for the goals’). The study also suggests how to actualize its targets. SDG-17 has 19 targets (Appendix 1). This study suggests addition of 20th target with title: “encourage effective cultural diplomacy”, keeping in view the current situation of the pandemic. Read this publication here.

**TOWARDS RESULTS-ORIENTED NATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (ST&I) POLICY: BRIDGING STAKEHOLDERS’ EQUITABLE INVOLVEMENT**

Transforming of S&T knowledge to a product may be a one-step laboratory bench scale process but taking it to a competitive market, adds on a pilot scale production phase, the success of which define as an acceptable quality, low-cost and market demand (existing or to be developed), finally lead it to the commercial scale production for an open market. Enjoy reading this publication here.

**FIRST RESPONSE TO THE SBP AMENDMENT ACT 2021**

This first response to the SBP Act 2021 covers three key areas. First, it highlights some fundamental inconsistencies in the present debate around the act. Second, it maintains that the evidence contradicts the argument that in the last 10 years the SBP has already asserted itself well enough, therefore, the SBP Act 2021 is not needed. Third, the paper highlights areas of improvement in the SBP Act 2021 and suggests possible amendments, including but not limited to: (i) adopting Integrated Inflation Targeting (IIT) instead of standard model of Inflation Targeting (IT), (ii) keeping all appointments to only one term to avoid any moral hazard and (iii) ensuring well-defined formal mechanisms of coordination between monetary and fiscal policies. Overall, SBP must be made independent of any political influences with strong transparency, accountability, and foresight mechanisms in place. Read more here.
OUR OPINION PIECES

THE ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF PAKISTAN-UAE RELATIONS
DR VAQAR AHMED
The inflows from abroad remained above $2 billion since June 2020 – a trend which could be threatened if employers including those in the UAE do not start inviting workers once again from Pakistan. Read more here.

IMF PROGRAM BACK ON TRACK MEANS POLITICAL PROMISES WILL BE BROKEN
DR VAQAR AHMED
The government realized that the popular announcements they planned for budget 2021-22 will remain a distant dream. On the contrary, the finance team ended up agreeing to generate an additional PKR 700 billion in taxes; collect PKR 900 billion by increasing electricity charges by 34 percent; adding PKR 140 billion to corporate taxes by removing the exemptions allowed earlier. Read more here.

PANDEMICS AND INEQUALITY
SANA MALIK
The brunt of the crisis both in its scope and severity is borne by already marginalised and vulnerable people. Therefore, post-Covid, the situation can be predicted to worsen. The recovery process should thus be equitable and the line between have and have-nots should not be widened whilst ensuring fairness and sustainability in the post-pandemic world. Read more here.

ON FREE AND FAIR ELECTION
AMJAD HUSSAIN DAWAR
Supra-constitutional meddling or choreographing the elections is a ubiquitous bar on the transparency of elections. However, in the presence of the aforementioned structural inequalities no elections can be free and fair. The present system of reserved seats and quotas for women in political parties is inadequate to enhance the free political will and agency of women. What is required is a comprehensive reforms package, ranging from dismantling of feudalism and patriarchy to behavioural change, to establish the true value and sanctity of vote. Until social, economic and gender equality is ensured in the country, free and fair elections will remain a far cry. Read more here.

THE NEW NORMAL IS WAITING
ZAHRA KHALID
Time is ripe for Pakistan’s digital revolution in the fight against Covid-19. It has accelerated e-commerce in Pakistan – an indication of what is happening worldwide. Pakistanis are switching to online options for banking, groceries, etc. Read more.
IDENTIFYING INNOVATION IN POLICY 
DR MAHMOOD A. KHWAJA

The latest national ST&I policy needs an evaluation to ensure the need for a new policy or revision/updating of the same and identifying areas/recommendations of the last policy that need to carried forward or deleted in the new proposed policy. Read complete opinion piece here.

OUR WEBINARS

Since the emergence of pandemic COVID-19, SDP I started webinar series for awareness, capacity building and policy advice. Since March 2020, SDPI has organized more than 100 webinars. Below are some of the webinars conducted during the month of April 2021.

Complete discussion of the webinar is available at our Facebook page. Key deliberations by the esteemed panelists can be viewed at the discussion tab the Facebook event.
Civil society, media, writers and friends of Honorable IA Rehman (late) paid tribute to him for his efforts for peace and human rights. Watch complete video at our Facebook page.

Complete video discussion is available at our Facebook page. Key takeaways by the eminent experts can be found at our Instagram page.
Complete discussion of the webinar is available at our Facebook page. Key messages and deliberations of the panelists are available at our Instagram page.

SDPI held a special conversation with IMF country representative in Pakistan Ms Teresa Daban Sanchez. Watch complete video here.

Webinar's complete video can be watched at our Facebook page.
Key takeaways of the webinar can be read at our Twitter and complete video discussion is available at our Facebook page.
Watch complete discussion of the webinar at our Facebook page. Key takeaways by the esteemed panelists are available at our Instagram.

**OUR CAMPAIGN ON #NoMoreSmoking**

"Smoking is prohibited in all places of public work or use, and on all public transport"

WHO Framework convention on tobacco control

"Tobacco kills up to half of its users"

World Health Organization

"Higher Tobacco Tax, Lower Cigarette Consumption Raise taxes, Curb smoking"

**OUR CAMPAIGN ON “NO ONE IS SAFE UNLESS EVERYONE IS SAFE”**

SDPI has launched a campaign for the awareness around COVID-19. It covers, but not limited to, myths and misconceptions around COVID-19 vaccine, challenges of vaccination, life after COVID-19 etc. To know more about campaign in upcoming days watch this space.

**SDPI IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

Executive Director SDPI Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri appeared on Dawn television about State Bank of Pakistan and at Dunya News about Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of the Government of Pakistan. He also appeared at Pakistan Television News about economic issues.

Ms Maryam Shabbir appeared at Pakistan Television World about US Climate Change Summit.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TELEVISION (SDTV) SHOWS**

SDPI’s SDTV produces Vlogs, documentaries and talk shows. Please click on the images given below to watch video of your interest. Also susbcribe us at our YouTube channel.
Pakistan’s Rs 1.1 trillion fiscal package for social protection, revival of businesses, etc. is only 0.03% of its GDP, which needs to be increased in current circumstances.
Govt eyes to increase share of green energy to 30 per cent: NEPRA chairman

Experts stress need for green energy

Experts termed innovative method vital to meet emerging challenges in education sector

ExpertsTermed Innovative Method Vital To Meet Emerging Challenges In Education Sector

Structural changes in tariff expected to make energy expensive

Experts call for innovation to meet emerging challenges in post-Covid-19

Academic policies be centred around post-COVID world

Pandemic has threatened education system

EXPERTS CALL FOR ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Tackling energy, environmental crises important to ensure national security: Speakers

Experts stress need for ease of doing business

Govt urged to improve ease of doing business

EXPERTS CALL FOR ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

EXPERTS CALL FOR ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Experts Call For Ensuring Ease Of Doing Business To Improve Revenues Collection In Sindh

Experts advocate sales tax collection by provinces

Experts call for ensuring ease of doing business

صوبوں کو احتیارات سے محصولات میں اضافہ گا، ماہرین

بیمین ثیلسکوس کی وصولی کلبینی نی نی سوچ اینٹی کی ضرورت سے لاؤ گا وفاق اکرم

Reforms to help improve tax receipts

Experts advocate sales tax collection by provinces
Webinar emphasizes strengthening export competitiveness amid COVID-19

Evidence-based policies a key to ensure export competitiveness amid covid-19: Speaker

Industrial workers get monetary support of Rs75 billion amid Covid-19: Official

Sales tax should be collected by provinces

Industrial Worker Gets Monetary Support Of Rs. 75 Billion Amid Covid-19: Aliya Hamza

برآمدات برہانی کلیے صنعت کی مدد کی چاہے، عائیہ حمزہ ملک

Industrial workers get monetary support of Rs. 75b amid Covid-19: Aliya

International bodies criticize restrictions on NGOs

IMF AGAIN ASKS GOVT TO INCREASE POWER TARIFF

Reforms programme under EFF to Pakistan is on right track: IMF’s Country Representative

IMF can’t dictate country’s legislation, institutions, says Daban Sanchez

EFF programme open to adjustment

Pakistan urged to adjust policies

Power tariffs need to go up, says IMF

Pakistan set to achieve fiscal sustainability: IMF

Pakistan urged to adjust policies

Power tariffs need to go up, says IMF

بجلی مہنگی چھوٹ محدود کرنے کا وعدہ اہم ہے، آئی ایم ایف

Pakistan set to achieve fiscal sustainability: IMF

Pakistan on track to achieve fiscal sustainability: IMF

بنگلہ بحریہ کی خدمات کی مدد کی چاہے، ایم ایم ایف

Pakistan explores debt-for-nature scheme to accelerate its 10 billion tree tsunami

Poverty driven by climate change linked to suicide spike in Pakistani desert region

Experts Suggest Measures To Avert Health Hazards Created By Growing Use Of E-Cigarette
Over 30 countries have banned E-Cigarette

TAPPING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES TO LEAD PAKISTAN TO LOW CARBON RECOVERY: EXPERTS

EXPERTS URGE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT CLEAN AND GREEN RECOVERY FOR BETTER FUTURE

TAPPING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES TO LEAD PAKISTAN TO LOW CARBON RECOVERY: EXPERTS

Tapping Renewable Energy Resources To Lead Pakistan To Low Carbon Recovery: Experts

Renewable Energy Resources, Crucial To Achieve Environmental Targets: Experts

TAPPING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES TO LEAD PAKISTAN TO LOW CARBON RECOVERY: EXPERTS

Experts support clean, green recovery for better future

World Earth Day, Global, regional cooperation needed to meet climate change challenges

Ways discussed to achieve water, energy and food security

Experts on IWMI-led dialogue discuss how Pakistan can achieve water and food security

Panelists on IWMI dialogue discuss how Pakistan can achieve food, water and food security

Follow our social media for more updates