

Conference Report

Two-Day International Conference on ‘Threats to Security in the 21st Century: Finding a Global Way Forward’ May 5-6, 2018

Lahore-May 5, 2018: A two-day international conference titled “Threats to Security in the 21st Century: Finding A Global Way Forward” was organized by the School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore on May 5-6, 2018. The conference brought together practitioners, academics and budding scholars to discuss the multifarious threats to security in contemporary times and finding solutions that are common to all transcending territorial boundaries.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan remarked that good governance and institution-building are two of the most important ways to deal with newly-emerging threats to security. He emphasized that Pakistan in particular must utilize its youth bulge and harness its human resources to deal with the variety of threats to its security. Addressing the audience at the conference, Sardar Masood Khan said that the world is in a state of flux dominated by emerging issues, strife and non-traditional threats. In order to address these issues, the President asserted, that the world order must be based on upholding human rights and not dictated by realpolitik, xenophobia and war-mongering. Speaking of Azad Kashmir, the President apprised the audience of the four mega projects under CPEC, including two hydropower projects, a Special Economic Zone in Mirpur and the Mansehra-Mirpur Expressway currently underway.

The conference featured a conversation between Ejaz Haider and Hina Rabbani Khar, former foreign minister on challenges to Pakistan's security and foreign policy and regional security imperatives. Ms. Khar stressed on the need for Pakistan to develop policies that are not ad hoc or short term but rather long term with a focus on fostering strong ties with neighbours in the region. With reference to Indo-Pak relations, Khar asserted that the revenge of geography ordains us to be mindful of our neighbours and that any India-Pak future should not be the representative of their past relations.

In the first plenary on national and international security perspectives, former foreign secretary, Amb. Najmuddin Shaikh while speaking on the challenges to Pakistan's foreign policy in the 21st century, stressed upon the need to focus on domestic reforms so as to gain a good standing in the comity of nations. While he regarded CPEC to be a game changer, the former foreign secretary urged Pakistan to do its own homework so to prove to be a useful partner. Amb. Shaikh was not hopeful about the prospects of dialogue resumption between India and Pakistan due to Modi's inflexibility on the Kashmir policy. Other distinguished panellists in the plenary focused on issues ranging from South Asian security to the evolving dynamics in the Korean Peninsula and arms control challenges. Dr. Tariq Rauf, Consultant CTBTO, Vienna apprised the audience of the current status of the multilateral nuclear disarmament and arms control regimes. He urged Pakistan and India to consider developing nuclear risk reduction centres to avoid eruption of crises. He also stressed that existing stockpiles of fissile materials must be taken into consideration in order to address nuclear dangers. Former DG Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, SPD, Khalid Banuri talked about the rise of ultra-nationalism and how saffron was becoming the new black accentuating the already fragile religious fault lines in the region and across the globe. Prof. Dr. Saeed

Shafqat, Foreman Christian University shared some highlights from his forthcoming research on the trends in Pak-China relations in the light of CPEC. Shafqat shared his concerns about Pakistan's preparation to meet the challenges CPEC brings forth asserting in that context that Balochistan will be the next battleground and that Pakistan's future lies in Balochistan. Dr. Farrukh Saleem, Economist, presented his research on economy as the neglected dimension of national security. He stated that every state in the world is a national security state and went on to explain the constituents of Pakistan's threat matrix. He told the audience that tank is no longer a weapon of war – debt is the new weapon of war and wondered if Pakistan was prepared to fight the new war.

Mani Shankar Aiyer, former Indian Consul-General to Karachi and former Cabinet Minister in his keynote address on the Indo-Pak relations stated that defences of peace are built in the minds of men – if war begins in the minds of men, peace may also be found in the minds of men. He called for dialogue, openness and reconciliation between Delhi and Islamabad, while reminding the audience that about the less-talked about milestones of friendships between the two countries.

The second plenary was marked by presentations from international delegates on security challenges in the 21st century from regional and global perspectives. Dr. Tong Zhao, Carnegie Tsinghua Centre, Beijing shared his concerns about striking grand bargain over North Korean nuclear program which has the potential to undermine the efficacy of international cooperation in general. The veteran Afghan affairs journalist, Rahimullah Yusufzai spoke on the security dynamics in Afghanistan. He said that the Taliban military commanders oppose peace talks hence there is no chance of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government. He further stated that Pakistan has clearly told all stakeholders that it will not target the Afghan Taliban for it would amount to bringing the Afghan war into Pakistan. On the European security perspective, Shashank Joshi, Royal United Services Institute, UK, spoke about the rise of right wing populist movement which is changing the very nature of the united European outlook. He apprised the audience about the identity crisis Europe is currently facing which is leaving more Europeans distracted. Dr. Rohaida Nordin, University of Malaysia, spoke about the refugee crisis and threats to security within the South East Asian region. She revisited ASEAN members non-interference policy in each other's internal affairs stating that it is hurting the present refugees crisis and the ensuing human rights violations and deteriorating human security conditions.

The conference dinner on the first day was held at The Poet restaurant in greater Iqbal Park, Lahore and featured dinner keynote address by Washington based conference delegate, Kimberly Dozier, CNN Global Affairs analyst. Dozier spoke about disinformation and manufacture of fake news which she believed was detrimental for Washington DC but also for the world at large. She told the audience that Pakistan's perception in DC was frozen in time but Pakistan from where she saw it has come a long way towards stability and is now a peaceful country. She was a war correspondent and has covered both Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003) wars. In 2006, Dozier while covering the Iraq war since 2003, was wounded in car bombing. Dozier lost her cameraman, soundman, the officer she was interviewing and his translator. She recounted that attack and her journey through recovery. Talking about her life in DC as a journalist, She apprised the audience about the combative relationship between the current U.S. president and the press and his ability to dismiss media calling him out on

getting the facts wrong. She stressed that for a thriving democracy and world stability, dissemination of accurate information is a must.

Day 2- May 6, 2018: The second-day plenary session on May 6, 2018 began with the talk of Dr. Muhammad Ali, Kaduna State Vigilance Service, Nigeria who delivered his address on the contemporary security challenges in Africa. Dr. Ali examined the root causes of the perennial break-down of law and order in Africa within the context of the security challenges in Nigeria. He enlightened the audience about the rise of Boko Haram insurgency and its impact on education, people and communities in North Eastern Nigeria. He asserted that Islam was being used by Boko Haram for political objectives fostering political violence. Dr. Nazir Hussain, SPIR QAU apprised the audience about the implications of the US violation of the Iran nuclear deal by breaking the agreement. He commented on various implications for regional stability and for the credibility of the non-proliferation regime. He also wondered if North Korea would walk into a similar JCPOA type agreement with the US with its eyes closed. Dr. Adil Sultan, King's College, London gave a talk on nuclear weapons and security. He apprised the audience about the role nuclear weapons play in deterring external threats however, Dr. Sultan stated that all elements of national power have to be in sync for enduring peace – nuclear weapons alone cannot guarantee it. Amb (Retd) Gamini Keerawella, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo in his address deconstructed South Asian security issues from a Sri Lankan perspective. Amb. Gamini told the audience that the chronic India-Pakistan rivalry is just one aspect of distrust in the South Asian region. He elaborated that the relationship between India and its neighbours constantly fluctuates in an environment of mutual fear and suspicion. Salma Malik, DSS Quaid-i-Azam University, in her talk highlighted the impact of illicit weapons networking on Pakistan's security alongside the critical aspect of border management issues. She highlighted how a country like Pakistan with limited security means, address multiple challenges comprising illicit networks, cross border terrorism and porous borders along with heavy presence of international actors pursuing their own agenda. The last plenary speaker on day-two, Brig. Zahir Kazmi, Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, SPD delivered his address on the prospects of arms control between India and Pakistan, which in his opinion, are quite bleak in the foreseeable future. He alluded that there are several reasons for this dismal scenario, one being militaristic pivot strategy which is the result of extra-regional alliances pushing to install a regional hegemon in the region instead of choosing peaceful regional initiatives like CPEC and BRI.

The second-day plenary session featured Ejaz Haider's conversation with Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Associate Vice President at the Asia Center, United States Institute of Peace. The conversation centred around Dr. Yusuf's recently published book titled 'Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments' published by Stanford University Press, 2018. Moeed Yusuf talked about the role of third party in India-Pakistan crisis and stated that the greatest challenge for a stronger third party is alliance credibility. Yusuf's research shows that India and Pakistan have been talking to each other in times of crises through backchannels. But post 1998, India has shown more keenness to invoke third party intervention as opposed to Pakistan. Yusuf in his book provides a unique perspective of brokered bargaining to better understand regional crisis and approaches to deterrence through the lens of third party intervention.

After the plenary sessions on day-two, thirteen panels were conducted in concurrent sessions in which 70 national and international delegates presented their research on the following themes: Human Security, Security & Policy, Threats to Security, Environmental Security,

Regional Security (two panels), Middle East Security Perspectives, Cyber Security, Maritime Security (two panels) and Nuclear Weapons & Security (three panels). The countries represented were China, UK, US, Australia, Italy, Germany, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nigeria and India. Chairs and delegates (MPhil and PhD research scholars, lecturers and Assistant Professors) from think tanks and national universities represented were the University of Punjab, Quaid-i-Azam University, National Defence University, the University of Islamabad, Iqra University, Foreman Christian College University, Kinnaird College, the University of Lahore, NUML Islamabad, NUST Islamabad, University of Karachi, IBA Karachi, Virtual University, Islamabad, Superior University Lahore, UMT Lahore, Minhaj University Lahore, International Islamic University, University of Sindh, Beaconhouse School System Lahore, GC University Lahore, Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad, Naval War College Lahore, Center for International Strategic Studies, Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Institute of Policy Studies, University of Peshawar and the Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad.

Pakistan Politico

Launch of Pakistan Politico – Pakistan’s First Strategic and Foreign Affairs Magazine

At the opening ceremony on May 5, the University of Lahore launched the country's first strategic and foreign affairs magazine "Pakistan Politico". Speaking on the occasion, Chairman BoG, University of Lahore, Mr. Awais Raouf, Executive Editor Pakistan Politico, announced the launch of the magazine and said that it would go a long way in channelising strategic thought and building better narrative of Pakistan. Pakistan Politico is a monthly magazine by Jehan publications.

MoU Between the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research, University of Lahore and the Regional Center for Security Studies, Colombo

At the closing ceremony of the two-day international conference, the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR), think tank housed in the School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore signed a MoU with the Regional Center for Security Studies, Colombo Sri Lanka for joint research, collaboration and publication on issues related to South Asian strategic stability and regional strategic issues.