



## Newsletter

### Research and Advocacy by RIPORT

(Jan. to April 2011)

RIPORT began 2011 by establishing new milestones set for advocacy, policy reforms, research, conflict studies and economic growth that will lead improving livelihoods and transforming mind sets.

The Chairman RIPORT Aziz held number of seminars and the workshops in this connection that are listed below;

- On the request of National Coordinator of NCTA the Chairman RIPORT held a meeting was held with staff on January 11 2011 and a proposal was submitted by RIPORT for strengthening of the National Counter Terrorism Authority. The proposal is now under examination.
- Chairman RIPORT, Mr. Khalid Aziz explained 'The Causes of Conflict in Swat' in a seminar at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad on January 26, 2011.



- Discussions were also conducted with VC PIDE to establish a center for conflict studies at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. RIPORT will be collaborating for undertaking further research. In this connection a roundtable was held in Peshawar on April 18, 2011 where RIPORT, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Graduate Institute of International & Development studies, Geneva Switzerland (GIIDS) agreed to conduct field based research to examine 'the impact of conflict on remittances in Swat'.
- Chairman RIPORT made the keynote address on February 2, 2011 at the NCTA National workshop on the 'Role of Strategic Communication in Countering Extremism'. It was a widely attended workshop.





- The Chairman delivered a seminar to students of the Beacon House National University on April 7, 2011 in Lahore on the subject of 'Causes of Conflict in Swat'.



- On April 7, 2011, Chairman RIPORE held a strategic discussion on 'Impact of withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan in 2014' with the Lahore Policy Group that is composed of leading lights containing intellectuals, businessmen and senior army officers. The participants also viewed the FATA CBP-1 documentary 'Cries of Anguish', on the genesis of war in FATA.



- On April 8, 2011, the Chairman held a roundtable with the Law faculty students and staff of LUMS on 'The Causes of Conflict in Swat'.



- It may be noted that as planned under the transition plan with CBP/USAID reading material and documentaries prepared under CBP project were also shared in the seminars /workshops/ Roundtables to raise awareness about the threat and policy measures needed to resolve insecurity in the FATA and KPK.
- Chairman RIPORE conducted a roundtable for the Association of Pakistan's Former Ambassadors on 'The Impact of Proposals for Afghanistan Post-2011', on January 31, 2011 in Islamabad, Pakistan.





- During his visit to Britain on February 20, 2011, Chairman RIPORT delivered a seminar at Derwent College, York University in the Post War Reconstruction Development Unit (PRDU). The subject was 'The Causes of Conflict in Swat'. The documentary 'Swat: Re-building Lives', prepared by RIPORT was also shown to the participants.



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- Chairman RIPORT gave a briefing on 'Security Situation in FATA and KPK' to members of House of Lords, UK on March 3, 2011 at the House of Lords.
- The Chairman participated in a seminar and shared thoughts on increasing

'Effectiveness of USAID' at PIDE on April 9, 2011.

- A roundtable consultation was held jointly with PIDE Islamabad and Graduate Institute of International & Development studies, Geneva Switzerland (GIIDS) in Peshawar on April 18 2011. The topic was 'the Impact of Conflict of Remittances in Swat', the main participants were Chairman RIPORT Mr. Khalid Aziz, Deputy Chairman RIPORT Mr. Mohammad Naeem Khan, Director PIDE Prof. Mohammad Usman, Dr. Zafar Moin Nasir from PIDE, Prof. Jean Louis Arcand & Mr. Matthias Rieger from Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Geneva Switzerland (GIIDS), and Project Director Malgaro Kor Project Mr. Abdur Rehman. Chairman RIPORT expressed his appreciation for the decision of Dr. Rashid Amjad, Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics to establish the center of 'Conflict Economics' at PIDE, Islamabad. Mr. Khalid Aziz welcomed the presence of Dr. Arcand and Mr. Matthias Rieger of Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GIIDS) in Geneva, Switzerland and Dr. Usman Mustafa, the Director of the new center. He hoped that all three organizations will undertake research leading to make policy proposals that will help in the increase of remittances in Swat and thus reduce household poverty.

Later in a meeting at RIPORT office, areas of joint cooperation between the parties were discussed to initiate a partnership in undertaking research to ensure that friendly policies were adopted so as to provide incomes and livelihoods to the people of Swat.



- Another initiative undertaken under the transition activities for USAID is the dissemination of research papers and documentaries to intellectuals and think-tanks both within Pakistan abroad. Work continues on the deliverable.