



Seminar Report

“REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR ENHANCING FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE”

Organized by

Regional Institute of Policy Research & Training (RIPORT), Peshawar
in collaboration with

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade, Peshawar

18th March, 2015

**Chief Minister Banquet Hall,
Chief Minister Secretariat, Peshawar
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**



Concept Note

KP-AFGHAN SEMINAR CONCEPT

1. Since 1979 FATA and KP have borne the brunt of fallout from Afghanistan. First as a result of the 'Jihad' against the Soviet Union and later as a fall out of the US led invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11 and the emergence of Pakistani Taliban since 2004. KP as a front line province has had its economy and infrastructure devastated and thousands have perished as a result of these international wars. With peace becoming an evident prospect, the time has come for the regional neighbors to benefit from the dividend of peace and trade. KP can play a positive role in developing such a path.
2. KP's natural resource base has suffered the most with the more than three decades of presence of homeless and destitute Afghan Refugees in the province's commons. On the other hand KP as a contiguous region has suffered the most due to the Afghan wars and its fallout.
3. Yet Afghanistan holds great promise, if conceived in terms of its economic trade and transit potential. However, owing to various difficulties this possibility was not exploited fully.
4. With the change of political leadership in Afghanistan after the Presidential elections in 2014, a new vision has emerged in Afghanistan and has been reciprocated by Pakistan. This was resulted by a shift in Pakistan's strategic matrix after the bombing of the APS on December 16, 2014 when more than 140 students, teachers and others were killed by a Taliban group.
5. Enhanced security cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan led by Gen Raheel Sharif and the Afghan leadership has resulted in prevalence of exceptional goodwill between the two nations. This momentum needs to be built upon and one wise option is to assist Afghanistan in reconciling with the armed opposition. Pakistan's assistance is vital.
6. In this background, the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Janan Mosazai met Mr. Imran Khan, Chairman PTI as well as KP's Chief Minister in Islamabad on Feb 7, 2015. They promised to enhance cooperation between the two countries, especially between Afghanistan & KP.
7. While these efforts at the political level are commendable, RIPORE in partnership with the KP provincial government, KP Board of Investment & Trade designed a seminar in Peshawar on 18th of March to be presided jointly by the Chief Minister KP and the Afghan Ambassador, assess areas of potential cooperation.

Concept Note

8. This seminar would identify the opportunities available for deepening relationships as perceived by the people of the region, who are involved in various capacities, including trade, transport, commerce, trade in fruits, vegetables, livestock and understanding the difficulties of Afghans receiving medical treatment in Peshawar hospitals, bottle-necks in transit trade, preventing safe-havens and ensuring better border control, but easing visa regime, grievance addressal refugee concerns and other matters, as well as to ease the treatment of Afghan medical patients who visit the specialist hospitals in Peshawar. It was also planned to lobby for a humanitarian approach towards the Afghan Refugees. These perceptions and recommendations it is hoped will generate an action plan that will form the agenda of both the governments and people to follow for the future.
9. In order to ensure that the energy of people of both the regions are used effectively, this effort will be built on “crowd-sourcing” for its participatory inputs, based on efforts by volunteers, particularly the youth of KP and Afghanistan.
10. During the seminar, short five minute verbal presentations will be made by each nominated sector lead (Power Point are not welcome).
11. During the proceeding where representatives of various interests are invited, a short documentary prepared by the KP BOIT about investment opportunities in KP will be shared.
12. The seminar proceedings will include addresses both by the CM, KP and the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan.
13. The secretariat work for the seminar is provided by RIPORE with the support of KP Board of Investment & Trade, IM Sciences as well as entrepreneur incubator 'Peshawar2'.



Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Introduction

According to a former foreign secretary of Pakistan, Riaz Muhammad Khan, the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan can best be exemplified as, “Three decades of friction over loosely articulated border claims by Afghanistan followed by over three decades of conflict that began with the 1979 Soviet military intervention and gradually spread to Pakistan with the rise of extremism and domestic militancy accentuated by the post 9/11 U.S. military intervention, have largely shaped Islamabad-Kabul relations. At the same time, relations between the two countries have a unique undercurrent of constant and powerful people-to-people interaction, sustained by a large demographic overlap, an intertwined history and culture and the intractable terrain of their bordering regions stretched along 2640 kilometers of the Durand line. Any study of bilateral relations, or of Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan, will have to assimilate these two dimensions of tension and conflict and of complex affinities between the two countries.”¹

The Economist in a recent review of the relations between both the countries commented on the past acrimony between the two yet saw a silver lining of hope as a new chapter had been turned with the advent of the new Afghan government of national reconciliation under President Ashraf Ghani. The paper was hopeful and stressed that, “Peace in Afghanistan is inconceivable without help from Pakistan..... Pakistan is critical in achieving that — and China and America, acting in concert, could help press it into action. Moreover, outside powers, including Iran and India, must also make clear to both sides that they will stand behind a deal and offer plenty of economic assistance if one is done. Mr Ghani’s chance may prove fleeting. He deserves all the help he can get.”²

If regional security and an increase in trust between both Afghanistan and Pakistan is dependent on brotherly relations between the two then it is even more essential that in addition to the development of positivity between the two countries on a bi-lateral level, the people to people relations and the connectivity between the people of both the nations must be encouraged to grow.

1. From an unpublished article by Riaz Mohammad Khan, “Overview of Pakistan’s Afghan Policy and Future Perspectives,” (July 2014).

2. “Seize the Day,” The Economist, March 7, 2015, Print Edition, London.

Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Major Policy Recommendations

It was with this in view that RIPORT³ with the support of the Afghan Ambassador in Pakistan, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the KP Board of Investment, and youth leaders from IMS⁴, Peshawar⁵, and the Federal Board of Investment, the network of private hospitals in Hayatabad Peshawar, Afghan officials of the embassy and the consulate general in Peshawar, organized a peoples regional seminar in Peshawar that besides focusing on issues and problems would be anchored on adopting a pro-humanitarian lens while proposing interventions so that the large number of Afghans who have been driven by circumstances to make their abode in KP and Pakistan.

So what are the concrete measures that Pakistan can take in improving the bilateral and people to people relations? These cannot be better articulated than in the words of the former Pakistan Foreign Secretary quoted earlier⁶:

” Islamabad and Kabul should manage their affairs as between two states on the basis of the established norms of inter-state relations and the confidence that neither state has designs against the other state. This will principally mean that we deal with the government in Kabul and give up backing any other Afghan groups at its expense. Pakistan cannot act as guarantor for the interests of the Afghan Pushtuns, a role that they do not expect Pakistan to play. Such a "Pushtunistan policy in reverse" will not help. Similarly, temptations and thinking underlying precepts such as "strategic depth," "Taliban option" or "Taliban as an asset," or the "Pushtun card" will have to be discouraged and abandoned.”

“Pakistani political and military leaders have a special responsibility. They will have to restrain within the country those Pakistani elements who mis-interpret Islam to defy the concept of nation-state and reject contemporary norms of inter-state relations to carry out a self-defined Jihadi agenda. Another challenge is the presence of safe haven for the Afghan Taliban and their cross border insurgent activity. The peculiar ground realities, especially the demographic overlap, make it impossible for Pakistan to deny refuge to Afghans entering Pakistan.

3. Regional Institute of Policy Research & Training, Peshawar.

4. Institute of Management Sciences, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

5. A business incubator in Peshawar focused on the youth.

6. (Ibid 1)

Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

However, the government cannot acquiesce in their military operations using Pakistan's territory. We must be seen to be making credible efforts to discourage such operations and coordinate border control with Afghan authorities. To overlook cross-border activities by the Afghan Taliban or the Haqqanis or other Afghan insurgent elements would not only fuel conflict in Afghanistan, it will in retaliation draw a backlash in the form of Kabul supporting insurgent activity inside Pakistan in which Kabul would be helped by other regional players, in particular India."

"Treating the Afghan Taliban and other insurgent elements as potential assets does not serve any conceivable strategic objective of Pakistan. The improbability of their gaining control of Kabul and negative repercussions of this unlikely scenario have already been discussed. Pakistan's reliance on them to neutralize Indian influence will be counterproductive and will push the Kabul government and other anti-Taliban political forces closer to India. Instead, Pakistan can balance Indian influence by working with Kabul and NATO members and persuading the Taliban to become part of the Afghan political process."

"Pakistan can play a constructive role in promoting reconciliation but such a role can only be played in tandem with the Kabul government, not even with the United States which in any event is wary of taking any lead following the moribund Qatari initiative. Pakistani interlocutors need to be candid as to the limits of their influence with the Taliban, nor can Pakistan oblige Kabul or Washington by hounding out Afghan Taliban leaders. However, Pakistan will be expected to restrain any Taliban militancy based in Pakistani territory. To carry out such activities, the Afghan Taliban leaders and their allied groups should move to their strongholds in Afghanistan. An important prerequisite for confidence building and credibility is that all sides be candid with each other in setting parameters for cooperation and spelling out concerns about each other's positions."



Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“Pakistan needs to give a fresh look to managing the Durand Line and the status of FATA which are inextricably linked to the Afghan policy. It will be futile if not counterproductive to push any Afghan government for de jure recognition of the Durand Line. However, operatively, Durand Line remains a functional border and as such it should be better managed. The well-established easement rights do not preclude setting up designated crossing points and introduction of identity cards for the movement of members of divided tribes. Pakistan's efforts for this purpose were opposed by Kabul in 2006-07, but there is no reason not to revive proposals that require Afghan cooperation and to introduce well thought-out measures unilaterally.”

“FATA cannot remain an ungovernable, lawless territory. Pakistan's claim of sovereignty imposes certain responsibility and it is time to consider how the territory can be integrated with the rest of Pakistan. The current Operation Zarb e Azb is aimed at pacifying and neutralizing domestic and outside militant elements. This phase will require follow-up with political, administrative and economic measures aimed at initiating the overdue integration.”

“Afghanistan's landlocked status and the concomitant issue of transit trade are an important dimension of relations with Pakistan which underscores interdependence as well as a source of friction. In the 2010 revised transit trade agreement, Pakistan has more or less accommodated all Afghan demands except those relating to overland transit of Indian goods to Afghanistan. Like other countries, India can send goods through Karachi port. Pakistan authorities need to ensure that the facilities already accorded under the 2010 agreement are kept in place and the red tape and corruption is minimized. The Afghans control a large part of the transportation business in this sector.”

“Overland transit for Indian goods is essentially part of Pakistan-India trade relations. While Pakistan no longer links bilateral trade to progress on resolution of political issues with India, the issue of MFN treatment, market access and non-tariff barriers are proving complex and provoke protectionist resistance in both countries. There is significant opposition to permitting overland transit to India on account of fears that such facility will undermine the advantage that proximity confers on Pakistani goods at present. This point is debatable . However, the argument cuts both ways.

Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

By blocking the transit, Pakistan denies to itself the benefits of becoming a hub of commerce at the cross roads of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia. Much of the idea may prove to be rhetorical, but without opening routes to India it will simply not fly. Also, if India develops a significant stake in overland transit, as already explained, it may even yield political dividend. Much of the discussion about overland transit is academic when the two countries have yet to succeed in maintaining a regular uninterrupted dialogue. Pakistan should, however, continue to make exceptions in emergency circumstances such as expeditious transit of disaster relief assistance.”

“Energy corridors through Afghanistan have an important potential, especially if the situation stabilizes and projects such as TAPI or UTAPI materialize, which are becoming doubtful with the passage of time and continued instability in Afghanistan. Limited projects such as CASA 1000 based on energy transmission from Central Asia through Afghanistan to supply energy needs in Pakistan can build interdependence and economic muscle for a stronger relationship. At another level, Pakistan and Afghanistan will need an agreement for sharing of water resources in view of the fact that Kabul River forms part of the Indus Basin.”

“International conferences, whether under the auspices of the Bonn process, NATO, donor countries or the United Nations, or regional initiatives such as the Istanbul "Heart of Asia" initiative are helpful and need to be viewed as vehicles to contain rather than to play out regional and international rivalries. In the past, Pakistan has been wary of Indian participation in such conferences, suspecting that these help India gain influence in Afghanistan. Pakistani objections to the Indian participation only deepened distrust and served little useful purpose since such conferences mostly end up reiterating unexceptionable principles and norms and commitment to reconstruction in Afghanistan.”



Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“For its part, once regular dialogue is resumed and at appropriate level, Pakistan should consider developing an informal conversation with India on Afghanistan which can possibly help to clear the air of mutual suspicions about each other’s policies. The multiple contacts between the two countries provide opportunity for them to do so.”

“When the situation in Afghanistan starts improving, Pakistan should gradually push Kabul and the international community to resettle Afghan refugees in areas where there is calm and peace. The UN and donor countries should help with resources. Meanwhile, there is need to document the refugees and for some monitoring. Many refugee camps and settlements have become "no go" areas for Pakistani law enforcement personnel and breeding ground for extremist militancy and violence. As the operation in North Waziristan proceeds, militants in such enclaves should get a message that the government is now serious about the enforcement of its writ.”

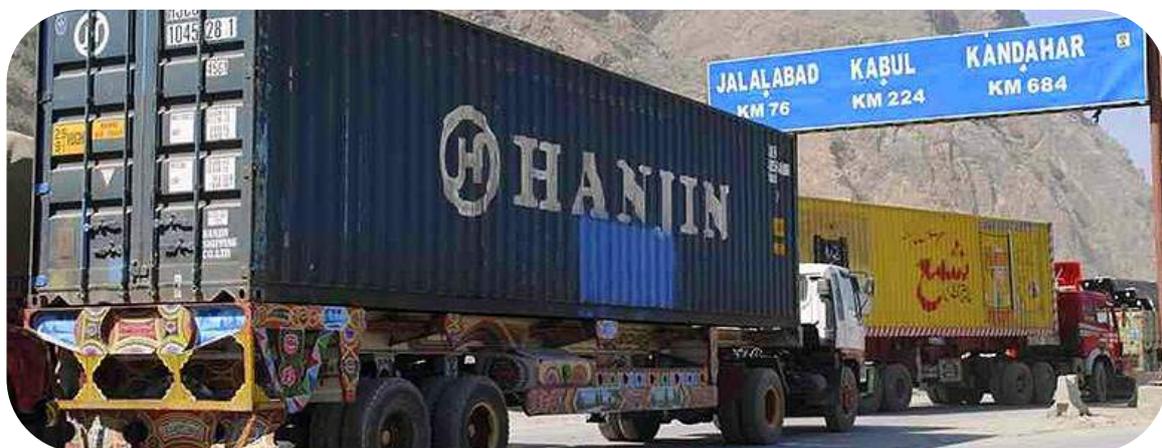
“Finally, the people to people interaction between Pakistan and Afghanistan is unique, historically rooted in a constant broad two-way osmosis, but it is informal and limited mostly to members of divided tribes in the bordering regions. An official government level and inter-institutional interaction is largely missing. There is need to build this dimension of relations through increased exchanges at the political, cultural and commercial levels. Regular and increased visits of parliamentary, business, media, cultural, educational and scientific/technical delegations and large scale programmes for scholarships and training in diverse fields can build and strengthen a pro-Pakistan constituency among the Afghans. It is a pity that most literate Afghans are critical of Pakistan and view it as a sponsor of the Taliban and retrogression. The Afghan Diaspora and Afghan intellectuals are particularly alienated from Pakistan. The trend is growing because following 9/11, the bulk of Afghan students in the West are non-Pushtuns with an understandably prejudiced view of Pakistan. The situation will take long to redress and will require sustained and steady effort.”



Public advocacy for enlarging people to people contacts between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“On 25 June 2014, Advisor to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz made a statement in the Pakistan Senate on foreign policy which affirmed that: “our Afghan policy is aimed at building a friendly and good-neighbourly relationship, in which flawed concepts of the past like “strategic depth” have no place. The key principles ...include mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference and no favorites....Our efforts are focused on intensified political dialogue, measures to prevent use of territory against each other, support for Afghan peace and reconciliation process, streamlining transit trade issues, up-scaling bilateral assistance, enhanced border management, refugee return, counter-narcotics, and intensified dialogue at regional and international level.....” Much will depend on how the two sides translate, observe and implement these precepts into practical policy.”

In order to create greater trust between Afghanistan & KP it was decided to hold a peoples joint seminar attended by different segments of people from both the regions. The program of the seminar is at Annex-1.



Recommendations

Major Seminar Recommendations

Health Sector

Dr. Tariq Hashim, Director in North West General Hospital, Peshawar presented a report on issues and problems faced by more than 100,000 patients who come every month to Peshawar to receive medical care and are confronted on the enormous problems. He proposed the following;

1. A method of easy transfer of funds between Afghanistan and Peshawar is to be developed.
2. Placement of information desks at the embassy in Kabul and at the consulates needs to be established.
3. Issuance of a medical visa to a patient on arrival at the hospital upon confirmation with the doctor's prescription.
4. Establishment of a Trauma & Ambulance facility at Torkham is needed to help the transport of critically ill patients.
5. Development of private hospitals in Afghanistan.
6. Special vehicles should be assigned to bring the patients across into Pakistan.
7. Exchange rate between currencies should be fixed to the certain amount, so that the patients can easily pay the fees and other related expenses.
8. Steps should be taken by KP government to prevent excesses by the police.



Education Sector

Dr. Mohsin Khan, Director IM Sciences, Hayatabad Peshawar, while highlighting the issues faced by Afghan students receiving training KP/Pakistan, proposed that;

1. Adequate hostel facilities to Afghan students should be provided in Peshawar.
2. More scholarships should be announced for Afghan students.
3. A strategy should be adopted to ease up difficulties of obtaining equivalency certificates for Afghan students.
4. A pre-term training program should be launched to provide learning opportunities in English, Mathematics and Information Technology for Afghan students.
5. Study visa to Afghan students should be given for the duration of a course.
6. Inclusion of Afghan Students in the laptop scheme, so that they could compete with Pakistani students.
7. IMS will assist to create a similar institute in Kabul.



Major Seminar Recommendations

Transit Trade & Commerce Sector

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Mohmand, former president KPCCI & Mr. Abdul Safir Sahar, Advisor to Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan while highlighting the issues of transit trade & Imports/ Exports of spurious medicines, suggested the following;

1. Joint Ventures between companies of KP & Afghanistan needs to be developed.
2. A strong regulatory framework should be adopted to overcome the issues and to control its standards based on industry self-regulation in partnership with Pakistan & Afghan Authorities.
3. Afghanistan government to adopt strict measures for importing quality medicines from Pakistan from licensed industry.
4. It is in the best interest of both the countries to grant each other Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.
5. Serious and sincere efforts to curb the menace of smuggling both on ground and to formulate laws and policies which minimize the chances of smuggling and misuse of transit trade provisions.
6. Regional and joint chambers of commerce between the bordering cities.

Other Recommendations

Some other speakers of the seminar proposed the following recommendations;

1. The mechanism already agreed between the Afghan Embassy and the government of KP to address grievances of Afghan Refugees living in Peshawar should be activated at the earliest.
2. The grievance addressal system should be controlled and coordinated closely with the Afghan Consulate.
3. An approach is needed which will help the Afghans in doing business in Pakistan, especially in KP.
4. Joint ventures between banking sectors will lead to boost up the economic conditions of both the regions.
5. Student to student exchange programs, cultural exchange & festivals should be initiated between the two countries which will enhance people to people contacts and relations.



Next Steps

1. In order to achieve progress in implementing the decisions of the seminar, it is proposed to create joint Afghan-KP civil society and youth based working groups, composed of stakeholders including government and other civil society representatives, youth and culture connected personalities. This institutional design will be replicated across the working groups and will be on equality basis that will likely lead to deepening of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, especially KP.

Core policy working group

2. This core policy working group will be the apex structure, guiding the working of the other working groups. Its task will be to;
 - a. Lobby for institutional support / funding.
 - b. Drawing up an annual work plan of activities with budgets,
 - c. Monitoring progress and reviewing what is happening in various fields and preparing annual reports as well as future action plans incorporating proposal from respective working groups indicated below.
 - d. This group will also discuss, map and review the progress at the bilateral level periodically. It will issue reports on the status of such progress and it will meet alternatively in Kabul / Peshawar or Islamabad.

Sectoral Working Groups

Under the apex policy group will be smaller sectoral working groups in the following areas;

- a. Working group on issues of Afghan refugees, related to their welfare issues and will include representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan as well as government of KP and Afghan Refugee representatives.
- b. A working group on health issues, facilitating treatment of Afghans in Peshawar hospitals and concerns relating to pharmaceutical industry exports to Afghanistan.
- c. A working group covering the field of education. It will examine issues related to hostel accommodation for students, degree equalization, student exchange programs, scholarships, visits of student delegations to each other's universities, exchange of research scholars and visiting experts, sports competitions.
- d. The cultural working group will have the mandate of arranging joint forums and joint celebration where the cultural aspects of both the regions in Afghanistan and Pakistan, especially KP, can be exhibited. This WG will arrange festivals, poetry recitation gatherings, sport competitions and generally creating greater regional cohesion amongst the youth and writers as well as the cultural icons of the two countries.
- e. An economic cooperation WG to focus on removing barriers to transit and bilateral trade and also promoting investments in both countries.

Next Steps

- Each of these working groups will have the following structure; 1) one representative each from KP government, and Afghan government, 2) one representative each from civil society organization from Afghanistan & KP, 3) one youth representative each from KP and Afghanistan, 4) one representative each who is a prominent cultural icon from KP and Afghanistan, preferably a poet or writer, and one representative from Pakistan's and Afghanistan's other regions will be invited as well, to respect diversity.



Student Exchange Programs & joint degrees



List of Annexures

S. No	Annexures	Annex #
1	Programme Agenda	Annex - 1
2	Participated Institutions	Annex - 2
3	List of Chief Guests and Panelists	Annex - 3
Panel Presentations		
4	Senator Mohsin Aziz	Annex - 4
5	Mr. Khalid Aziz	Annex - 5
6	Mr. Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Khel	Annex - 6
7	Dr. Tariq Hashim	Annex - 7
8	Dr. Mohsin Khan	Annex - 8
9	Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Mohmand	Annex - 9
10	Mr. Arif Khan	Annex - 10
11	Mr. Abdul Safir Sahar	Annex - 11
12	H.E Mr. Janan Mosazai	Annex - 12
13	Mr. Muhammad Atif	Annex - 13
14	Seminar Pictures	Annex - 14



Senator Mohsin Aziz V. Chairman of KP BOIT and
Mr. Khalid Aziz, Chairman, Regional Institute of
Policy Research & Training, Peshawar
request your participation

in a

**“Regional Seminar on Trade, Commerce & Improved Relations
between Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province”**

on Wednesday 18th March, 2015 at 10:00 am

Venue: Chief Minister Banquest Hall
Chief Minister Secretariat, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Programme Agenda	
10:00 am	Registration of Participants
10:30 am	Recitation from the Holy Quran
10:35 am	“An Afghans Prayer to Allah” by Mr. Fasih ud Din
10:40 am	Display of Documentary by KP Board of Investment & Trade
10:50 am	Welcome remarks by Senator Mohsin Aziz (V.Chairman – KP Board of Investment) Topic: “Invitation to Invest in KP”
11:00 am	“The Power of people to people contact” by Mr. Saleem Raaz
11:15 am	Purpose of Seminar (Khalid Aziz)
Start	Panel Presentations on core issues
11:20 am 11: 25 am	1. Mr. Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Khel (Issues of Afghan Refugees)
11: 25 am 11: 30 am	2. Malwai Shahidullah (Impact of improved contacts on peace efforts)
11: 30 am 11: 35 am	3. Dr. Tariq Hashim (Problems faced by Afghan patients)
11: 35 am 11: 40 am	4. Dr. Mohsin Khan (Regulatory Problems of Afghan students)
11: 40 am 11: 45 am	5. Mr. Gulam Sarwar Mohmand (Maintaining Quality of Pharmaceuticals)
11: 45 am 11: 50 am	6. Mr. Farooq Ahmad (Issues in Transit Trade)
11:50 am 11:55 am	7. Mr. Arif Khan (outline of a grievance system)
11: 55 am 12:00 noon	8. Mr. Abdul Safi Sahar (Posibilities of Economic Cooperation)
12:05 noon 12: 20 pm	“Road Map of future Cooperation between KP – Afghanistan” by his Excellency Janan Mosazai (Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan)
12:25 pm 12:40 pm	Concluding remarks by Senator Mohsin Aziz, V. Chairman KP BOIT
12:40 pm	Vote of Thanks (Khalid Aziz)
1:00 pm	Tea

Organized by:



Regional Institute of Policy Research &
Training (RIPORT), Peshawar 10-C, Sifat Ghayur Road,
University Town, Peshawar
0344-9290002, 091-9218411



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade, LCB Building,
1st Floor, Plot # 33,
Street # 13, Sector E-8, Phase 7, Hayatabad
Peshawar

Participated Institutions

Annex - 2



GoKP



S. No	Name	Designation	Department
Chief Guests			
1	His Excellency, Mr. Janan Mosazai	Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan	Afghanistan Embassy Islamabad
2	Mr. Muhammad Atif	Provincial Minister for Education	GoKP
3	Senator Mohsin Aziz	Vice Chairman	KPBOIT
4	Mr. Khalid Aziz	Chairman	RIPORT
Panelists			
1	Mr. Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Khel	Afghan Council General	Afghan Consulate Peshawar
2	Mr. Fasih ud Din		Director Research Library
3	Mr. Saleem Raaz	President	World Pashto Conference
4	Dr. Tariq Hashim	Surgeon	Northwest Hospital
5	Dr. Mohsin Khan	Director	IM Sciences
6	Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Mohmand	Former President KPCCI	Pharmaceutical Industry
7	Mr. Arif Khan	CEO	StepNex
8	Mr. Abdul Safir Sahar	Advisor	Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan



Invitation to Invest in KP

Speech by Senator Mohsin Aziz, Vice Chairman of the Board of Investment and Trade, KP and the co-host of the people to people seminar welcomed his Excellency Mr. Janan Mosazai the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan. He spoke about the avenues available to the Afghans for investment in KP.

Mohsin Aziz highlighted the following other issues;

1. He said that joint economic cooperation and investment by the people of both the nation's will go along way in building trust between both the countries.
2. He stated that the Peace & stability in the region was improving considerably due to joint cooperation in fields of counterterrorism and restoration of sustainable peace.
3. He stated that although the purpose of the seminar was to enlarge the people to people contact and as soon as they become better it can be foreseen that this will likely lead to joint commercial between the two people
4. He provided a list of projects that are available for joint venture and investment in KP
5. He stated that one of the main cause of export of substandard items from Pakistan was because purchases usually were not made from registered and recognized firms in KP and Pakistan.

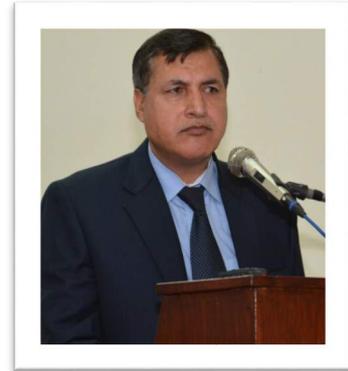


Purpose of the Seminar

Summary of the speech of Mr. Khalid Aziz, Chairman of the Regional Institute of Policy Research and Training Peshawar.

Mr. Khalid Aziz as co-host of the seminar welcomed the guests to the meeting and explained the main purposes behind the holding of the seminar.

1. He was of the opinion that before investment and trade could improve between KP and Afghanistan, it was essential that the trust between the people of the two nations should improve first. Once trust was improved then investments would automatically follow, he stated
2. He said that before the designing of the seminar he had held talks with the Afghan ambassador Mr. Janan Mosazai and both had agreed that trust building between the people of the two regions must occur before anything else was discussed. It was for this reason that about 50% off the participants to the seminar were Afghans
3. He said that it was embarrassing for him to listen to Afghans complaining about the problems that they were suffering during their presence in Peshawar and elsewhere at the hands of the law enforcement and police agencies during the conduct of their daily lives
4. Mr. Aziz thanked the volunteers from the IMS and the Peshawar 2 business incubator for providing volunteers who assisted in managing the seminar and the wherewithal that is an essential part of it
5. Mr. Khalid Aziz thanked the participants for taking part in the seminar and for giving time to it



Issus of Afghan Refugees

Summary of the speech made to the seminar by Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Khel, Afghan Counsel General in Peshawar.

He highlighted the following issues that is plaguing the relationship between KP and Afghanistan;

1. He was of the opinion that the present policy of enforced repatriation of Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan needed to be reconsidered and a phased wise approach based on humanitarian principles should be adopted
2. He stated that during the visit of Afghan patients and refugees for treatment in hospitals they were facing a lot of problems at the hand of the security staff who prevented them from obtaining medical services. Thus there was a need to discourage such harassment at the hands of the police and Khassadars.
3. He also submitted that those refugees who had proof of registration documents were not allowed to purchase a SIM card or to buy property or open a bank account; these denials were against the rules and must be reviewed.
4. Furthermore he added, that those persons who are living in the southern parts of the KP province were not allowed to come to Peshawar and those attending Kohat University could not attend and this was causing a lot of problems for students particularly those who had scholarships at Kohat University.
5. He concluded his speech by saying that now that the provincial government of KP had resolved to solve the problems of Afghans residing in KP he saw better days ahead in the relationship between KP and the Afghans for this he appreciated the efforts of RIPORE in holding this people to people seminar that was a great success and the first of its kind.



Problems faced by Afghan Patients

Summary of the speech made to the seminar by Professor Dr. Tariq Hashim, member of Northwest Hospital, Peshawar.

He highlighted a serious problem faced by Afghans who visit Peshawar for treatment.

Dr. Tariq highlighted the following difficulties faced by them;

He said that the health care infrastructure in Afghanistan has been destroyed but now its government has started developing health care facilities.

He pointed out that most of the patients from Afghanistan travel long distances for their treatment; they also visit Iran and a massive number visits India (where about 10 flights/day of Afghan patients fly to India). Besides this, he identified the following reasons for lower utilization of the medical facilities available in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Delay in getting visit visa due to long procedures and scarcity of Pakistani consulates in Afghanistan.

The other difficulty was a lack of flights between Peshawar and Kabul. There was a meagre one flight a week between these cities.

He proposed the following facilitative measures;

A method of easy transfer of funds from Afghanistan to Peshawar.

There is an absence of information available to Afghan patients. Placement of information desks at the embassy in Kabul and at the consulates was proposed.

The biggest problem faced by Afghans was harassment at the hands of police and security personnel who demanded bribes to permit patients to approach hospitals.

He emphasized the multiplier impact to the economy of KP, 100,000 Afghan patients come to Peshawar for treatment every month. While another estimate stated that each patient spends on an average USD 500. This is an enormous amount and if the government assists it could improve further.

Dr. Tariq therefore proposed the issue of a medical visa to a patient on arrival at the hospital. He also said that if a patient must re-visits his doctor, he should be given a medical visa for checkups, after providing a doctor's prescription.

He suggested that establishment of a Trauma & Ambulance facility at Torkham to help the transport of patients.

Regulatory Problems faced by Afghan Students

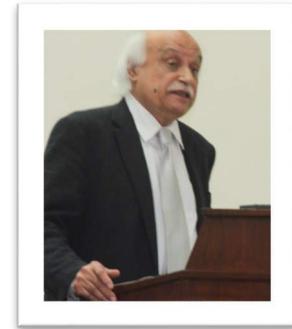


Summary of the speech made to the seminar by Dr. Mohsin Khan, Director Institute of Management Sciences, Hayatabad Peshawar.

He spoke about the regulatory issues faced by Afghan students seeking admissions or studying in educational institutions of Peshawar.

Dr. Mohsin highlighted the following issues;

1. One of the important pressing issue is the non-availability of hostel facilities for Afghan students. There are very limited universities and other institutions who provide the facility but upon merit basis. Thus many Afghan students remain at the mercy of landlords.
2. He requested the provincial government of KP and Afghan government to ensure provision of such facility, either by joint venture or to generate an endowment fund to develop hostel facilities for Afghan students.
3. He highlighted the lack of scholarships for the Afghan students. Although the government of Pakistan and Higher Education Commission (HEC) have taken an initiative in this matter but more needed to be done.
4. He said that Afghan students also face difficulty in getting their equivalency certificate from HEC. It takes about 1 year for a student to get it. Dr. Mohsin stated that he investigated and found that the main issue in obtaining equivalency certificate was that, the HEC has to send all the documents through courier to Afghanistan for verification and some time it was found that students had problems in relating to their birth certificates which caused issues.
5. He also highlighted that the quality of education provided by Afghan schools located in Peshawar to Afghan students is very poor and thus such students failed to qualify in the entrance exam.
6. He proposed that a booster program in different universities of Peshawar should be launched to help Afghan students in learning English, Mathematics and Information Technology. He said that it would require some resources and requested the GoKP and Govt of Afghanistan to invest in this initiative.
7. He said obtaining study visa and subsequent extensions was difficult. The Afghan Students were given only a 6 month Visa. Instead he proposed a visa for duration of the course.
8. It was also proposed that inclusion of Afghan Students in the laptop scheme, so that they could compete with Pakistani students.
9. Noted that IMS had been directed by Governor of KP to visit Afghanistan to check the feasibility to open a campus in Afghanistan.



Maintaining Quality of Pharmaceuticals

Summary of the speech made to the seminar by Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Mohmand, Former President KPCCI and Pak-Afghan Chamber of Commerce of Trade, Peshawar participated in the seminar and spoke on the issues followings for maintaining quality of pharmaceuticals in order to reduce complaints from Afghanistan about sub-standard supply of medicines.

He highlighted the following issues;

1. He said that there are 800 licensed manufacturing pharmaceutical industries in Pakistan both national & multi-national. The pharmaceutical industries are controlled by the Federal government inspectors, provincial government drug inspectors and drug testing laboratories in each province; they do contact quality checking.
2. However, he said that there are a huge number of sub-standard & spurious medicines producers of drugs who sell sub quality drugs. He explained the differences between sub-standard & spurious medicine and highlighted that the people of both Pakistan & Afghanistan, are facing the same menace.
3. The spurious medicines travel across the border without any check and lack of work of regulatory authorities in Afghanistan and are purchased by Afghan buyers.
4. He said that in Afghanistan a huge amount of sub-standard raw material for manufacture of medicines is imported from India, but there is no pharmaceutical industry in Afghanistan, thus this spurious material is secretly sold to Pakistan especially in Karkhano Market, Peshawar that ultimately lead to production of spurious medicines that are then exported back to Afghanistan at low prices.
5. He recommended that a strong regulatory framework should be adopted to overcome the issues and to control its standards based on industry self-regulation in partnership with Pakistan & Afghan Authorities.
6. He proposed that Afghanistan government should adopt strict measures for importing quality medicines from Pakistan from licensed industry.



Outline of Grievance Addressal System

Summary of the speech made to the seminar by Mr. Arif Khan, CEO of StepNex - An IT driven company participated in the seminar and spoke on the issues of addressing grievances by Afghan Refugees.

He highlighted the following issues;

1. He said that according to the government statistics approximately 1.6 million Afghan Refugees are taking refuge in Pakistan and a large number is found in KP. Besides this, it was also found that almost the same number of Afghan Refugees are taking refuge in Pakistan illegally or unregistered.
2. He said that billions of dollars have been spent by different donors, including Government of Pakistan for the welfare of Afghan Refugees and we still had only 5% of the Refugees completing primary education and only 20% enrollment as per UNHCR country Director, Neil Wright.
3. He stated that a mechanism of discussion, policy decisions and information/feedback should be developed for Afghan Refugees who can then be able to address their grievances, participate in the decision processes.
4. He said that it is now possible to develop a mechanism based on Information Technology using mobile phones to address grievances by call or SMS.
5. He also stated that the grievance addressal mechanism should be controlled by the Afghan consulate which will help both registered & non-registered Afghan Refugees to contact the higher authorities of their own country.



Possibilities of Economic Cooperation

Summary of the speech presented to the seminar by Mr. Abdul Safir Sahar, Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The presentation addressed the possibilities of economic cooperation between Afghanistan & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Sahar stated that both countries have common interests in peace and economic development in the culturally and politically sensitive tribal areas.

He said that overcoming the issues facing both nations would lead to creation of new jobs and improving income and welfare of the people of both regions.

Sahar highlighted the following issues;

1. He said that due to the negative security perceptions and costly administrative burdens impede the movement of people and reduce investment necessary for joint production and processing of goods.
2. It is very crucial for both countries to remove the hurdles because they share the border and also rely on each other in transit trade, where Pakistan links Afghanistan with Port Qasim, Karachi Port and Wagha. Besides this Afghanistan provides routes for Pakistan to link with emerging markets in Central Asia including Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
3. These transit corridors will facilitate movement of KP exports through Afghanistan to markets in Central Asia and beyond including China & Russia.
4. Tremendous opportunities exist for cooperation in the form of joint ventures between Afghanistan's and Pakistan's logistic and transport sectors.
5. There is an ongoing effort by both countries to open a Peshawar-Torkham-Jalalabad rail link.
6. Ministries in both the nations are trying to generate opportunities for consultation with experts in businesses and are focusing on the sectors with good potential for bilateral trade and investment including marble processing, mining, gemstones, iron smelting, steel production as well as further processed agricultural products (food and beverages).
7. People in both countries have similar culture, language and feel comfortable in doing business with each other and while marble, agribusiness, carpet and gemstones are certain areas where significant opportunities exist for businesses on both sides.



Roadmap of future cooperation between Afghanistan & KP

Summary of the speech made to the seminar held in Peshawar on 18th March, 2015 by H.E Mr. Janan Mosazai, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan. He spoke about the Roadmap of Future Cooperation between Afghanistan & KP.

On behalf of Government of Afghanistan, the ambassador thanked Mr. Khalid Aziz, Chairman RIPOIT for advocating the special relations between Afghanistan & KP and thanked him & RIPOIT and Vice Chairman of KPBOIT for organizing the seminar.

The highlights of his talk are summarized below;

1. He stated that both the countries had same culture, norms and traditions and the people of both the regions do not have any difficulty in relating to one another.
2. He said that both the countries have common interests; for instance, if there is peace in Pakistan, especially in KP, then there will be peace in Afghanistan and vice versa.
3. He stated Afghanistan and Pakistan share common transit routes for trade & commerce with other countries and thus the conditions for bilateral good relations are enormous.
4. He said that the war in Afghanistan is now ending and he hope that Afghanistan with the help of its neighbors will usher a period of peace and stability. This will pave the way developing friendly relationship with other neighboring countries.
5. He underlined the geographic contiguity of Afghanistan with Pakistan and the potential of trade with Central Asia. He assured that Afghanistan will support and provide its routes to Pakistan for trade with neighboring countries in and around its peripheries.
6. He also said that China has pledged approximately USD 360 Million to Afghanistan for the Afghanistan National Infrastructure Plan.
7. He highlighted that in Afghanistan there was a potential of \$42 Billion in mineral potential along and the government was attempting to convert it into national wealth.
8. He invited the industrialists and businessman present in seminar to visit Afghanistan and develop their own production lines and assured them full facilitation in any manner including obtaining visas and permits.
9. He stated that during his previous meeting with Chairman PTI, Mr. Imran Khan and Chief Minister, Mr. Pervez Khattak, it was decided to launch a Forum for Economic Cooperation, which will lead in boosting the economy of both the countries.
10. The ambassador referred to his meeting with the Prime Minister regarding the difficulties faced by Afghan Refugees. He said that the GoP promised to register all the remaining unregistered Afghan refugees thus easing up pressure.
11. He also referred to the government of Pakistan decision to set a desk at Torkham to facilitate the entry of those Afghans who wished treatment in Peshawar / other towns in Pakistan.
12. While concluding he again thanked chairman RIPOIT, government of KP, the Chief guest Mr. Atif Minister of education KP, Senator Mohsin Aziz and the large number of guests both Afghans and Pakistani for attending the seminar held to further people to people interactions between Afghanistan and KP and the rest of Pakistan.



Future Cooperation

Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Mr. Muhammad Atif attended the seminar on behalf of Chief Minister KP and was co-hosted for the event. He concluded the seminar and highlighted the following points;

1. He said that the root cause of the problems highlighted by different speakers in the seminar arose basically from a lack of trust between the governments of both the countries in the past.
2. He highlighted that people of both the countries were used by other forces for their geo-strategic agendas thus increasing the problems for ordinary citizens in both the nations.
3. He stated that both the countries and especially KP share the same culture, traditions and norms and are positive in their resolve for making this relationship strong to restore peace and cooperation amongst both people.
4. He wanted more student to student exchange programs, cultural exchange programs and festivals to enhance people to people contacts and build relationships.
5. He said that his TiP coalition government was available for any kind of support needed either by the Government of KP or Afghanistan, in bringing positive change to build strong relationships amongst both the people and nations.
6. He thanked His Excellency, the Afghan Ambassador and the participants for attending this highly successful event arranged for bringing the people of Afghanistan, KP and Pakistan together.





