

NEWSLETTER

October-December, 2022

Vol-II ISSUE 04

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- **Indo-US Proximity: An Apprehension**

Malik Saad Ahmad (Intern at IRS)

- **Policy Options for Combating Pakistan's Smog Crisis**

Arooj Fatima (Intern at IRS)

- **Pakistan's Cyber Threat Landscape and Prospects of Regional Cooperation on Cyber Security**

Irta Fatima Rizvi (Intern at IRS)

- **Modi's Act East Policy and the Centrality of ASEAN**

Kashif Ali (Intern at IRS)

- **Video Games: Enablers of Violence and Stereotypes?**

Mahnoor Saeed (Intern at IRS)

List of Focus

- **India and I2U2: A Challenge to Pakistan's Traditional Influence in the Middle East**

Fraz Naqvi and Khatim Ghani (Asst. Research Officer and Intern at IRS)

- **US Containment Policy against China in South Asia: Implications for Pakistan**

Usama Khalid (Intern at IRS)



Population and Food Security

11 October, 2022

As part of the Grand National Dialogue series, a roundtable discussion was organized by Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, in collaboration with Islamabad Policy Research Institute, at IRS on Tuesday, 11th October. The theme of the dialogue was "Food Security and Population". The discussion was moderated by President IRS Ambassador (r) Nadeem Riyaz. Co-chairing the panel was Maj. Gen. Ambassador (r) Dr. Raza Muhammad, President IPRI.



PRECOP27 From Paris to Sharm El Sheikh

October 19, 2022

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman has said that the devastating recent floods in Pakistan were Nature's memo to humanity delivered through Pakistan.

She was speaking at an event on 'Pre-COP 27: from Paris to Sharm-el-Sheikh' jointly organised by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).



A Retrospective Analysis of Kashmir's Accession with India

October 25, 2022

The efforts of the Government of Pakistan for the people of Kashmir will never cease, said Qamar-uz-Zaman Kaira, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mr. Kaira was speaking at an event on "A retrospective analysis of Kashmir's accession to India" organised by the Institute of Regional Studies.



Sargodha University Organises Debate On 'Population and Food Security'

October 26, 2022

A national debate on the topic of "Population and Food Security" was organised by Pakistan Institute of China Studies at the Sargodha University.

Representatives from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) Islamabad and Islamabad Policy Research Institute Islamabad (IPRI) took part in the debate, while UoS Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Khalid Bashir from University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Chairman of Department of Entomology at Sargodha University Dr. Muhammad Irfanullah, Department of Earth Science of Sargodha University were also present. Associate Professor from Sciences Dr. Umar Riaz, President of IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riaz, Director of Pakistan Institute of China Studies Dr. Fazlur Rehman, a large number of students and teachers were part of the debate.



Gwadar will transform the lives of all Pakistanis

October 27, 2022

Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambrani has said that Gwadar had the potential to transform the lives not only of the people of Balochistan but the whole country. Mr Rehman was speaking at a roundtable discussion organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



BLACK DAY 27th October, 1947 India Occupies Kashmir

October 27, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable on "BLACK DAY 27th October, 1947 India Occupies Kashmir". Ms. Maryam Mastoor, Research Analyst, India Program, discussed the history of the conflict and its ongoing nuances in the present day. She also highlighted the various causes and consequences of India's occupation of Kashmir, and provided an in-depth analysis of the impact of the decision on the people of Kashmir.



Role of Social Media in Perception-Building: Case of Cambridge Analytica

October 28, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a webinar on "Role of Social Media in Perception-Building: Case of Cambridge Analytica". The webinar was a success and provided valuable insights on the role of social media in perception-building. It discussed the historical context of Cambridge Analytica, its influence on the US elections and the implications of social media on perception-building. The webinar was attended by experts from the fields of technology, media and politics and provided an enriching experience to all the participants.



Dialogue with experts/faculty members of the University of Wah on "Population and Food Security"

October 31, 2022

Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies organized a roundtable conference with the students and faculty on 'Population and Food Security' at Wah University, under the Grand National Dialogue. The conference was chaired by Vice-Chancellor UOW Dr Jameel-un-Nabi and co-chaired by Director Research IPRI, Brig (Retd) Raashid Wali Janjua.



Roundtable on “Population and Food Security” at University of Peshawar

November 01, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable discussion on “Population and Food Security” at the University of Peshawar in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies. The experts discussed how population growth affects food security, and how to create a balance between the two. They also shared their knowledge on the strategies and success stories of the region to ensure food security.



Population and Food Security

November 10, 2022

Dr. Sabina Durrani, DG Population Programme Wing, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, has said that in a situation where the population lacks in health and education, it becomes a burden on the economy and a security threat.

Dr. Durrani was giving a talk on ‘Population and food security’ organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute at the Institute of Regional Studies. The talk was part of the Grand National Dialogue (GND) series being planned on a number of issues by IPRI.



Politicisation of floods in Pakistan: An assessment of twitter trends

November 15, 2022

Ms. Laraib Farhat, Asst. Research Officer at IRS delivered a talk on her study published by PIDE, titled, 'Politicization of Floods in Pakistan: An assessment of Twitter Trends.' She explained how she carried out a detailed discourse analysis of Twitter conversations around floods in Pakistan and found some thought-provoking hashtags which showed the overt politicization of Floods in Pakistan, 2022. She argued that, 1/3rd of the country was drowning in flood water but the political leaders took this disaster as an opportunity to push their narrative while deflecting blame and portraying local governments and political parties as ineffective. She concluded that, one, the discourse on floods pervading Twitter was primarily political. Two, Twitter users were more focused on directing their anger toward political parties for not responding effectively to the situation and three, Current state of institutional frameworks (which are already inadequate) available for disaster management bears minimal space for political influence on digital spaces.



Contemporary Socio-Political Dynamics in Iran

November 18, 2022

More than 40 years had passed since the Revolution, and Iran had experienced protests through the years over a series of issues. However, this recent chaos had been the most longstanding agitation staged since the Revolution, said Ambassador Riffat Masood. She was addressing a Roundtable Discussion, titled, "Contemporary Socio-Political Dynamics in Iran", arranged by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



US-China relations amid a shifting global order

November 21, 2022

Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to Prime Minister, has said that conducive US-China relations are good omen for global stability. The SAPM was addressing a roundtable discussion on "US-China relations amid a shifting global order organised by the Institute of Regional Studies .



Future of Taliban

November 22, 2022

Engaging with the Taliban was the first step to ensure a moderate behaviour on their part, said Ambassador Abrar Hussain. He was addressing a roundtable discussion on the future of Taliban organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). He said that the second coming of Taliban was astonishing for many people. He said that the Intra Afghan dialogue would have brought broad-based government in Afghanistan. Imprudent decisions by Ghani, his reluctance to form an inclusive government, refusal to recognize Pakistan's role in negotiations and his desire to test the Taliban on the battlefield resulted in his removal.



Strengthening Regional Climate Resilience Program

November 24, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies has launched its new research program, Strengthening Regional Climate Resilience Program. This program is designed to assess the impacts of climate change on local and regional communities and to identify effective strategies for addressing these impacts. Through this program, IRS will be conducting research, organizing public events and engaging in policy advocacy to promote greater resilience. Ms. Aisha Khan, CEO CSCCC launched the program at IRS.



Recent TTP Infiltration in the North of Pakistan: Impact and Future Prospects

November 28, 2022

Resurgence of TTP in Pakistan was manifest through the several attacks, both individual and on institutions, in the northern belt of Pakistan, said Syed Kaleem Imam, former IG Punjab, IG Sindh, and Federal Secretary of Ministry of Narcotics Control. He was speaking at a Roundtable Discussion at the Institute of Regional Studies titled "Recent TTP infiltration in the North of Pakistan; Impact and Future Prospects".



Transformative Realism by "Marc Saxer"

November 29, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Pakistan organized a Book Launch Ceremony for Marc Saxer's book titled 'Transformative Realism'.

Marc Saxer, the author, said that the book was written in the German context with the aim to address the looming economic crisis. He said that while the mitigation of looming challenges like climate change, democracy, and financial meltdown required a robust transformation of our political systems from head to toe, transformative realism was a far cry on both, global and national levels.



Cyber Security and the Role of Corporate Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

November 29, 2022

Increased reliance on ICTs had brought in its wake new and complex challenges, particularly in the domain of security, adding to the importance of the corporate sector and essentializing the implementation of information security protocols, agreed experts during a roundtable discussion on Cyber Security and the Role of Corporate Sector: Challenges and Opportunities organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with Agahi.



Nuclearization of Indian Ocean: Impact on Region & Beyond

November 30, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable discussion on "Nuclearization of Indian Ocean: Impact on Region and Beyond" for Indian Ocean Studies Consortium which is established with National Institute of Maritime Affairs - NIMA to study different domains in Indian Ocean Region. Dr. Masood Khattak (Assistant Prof. IUI), Dr. Rubina Waseem (Assistant Prof. NDU) & Dr. Aqeel Akhtar (Analyst/SPD) participated as panellists and discussed various aspects of nuclearization of IOR, Indian Naval build-up, acquisition and presence of nuclear powered submarines and overall strategic significance of IOR for Pakistan, region and beyond.



Academic Writing

December 05, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies in collaboration with Roads Initiative successfully conducted a one-day workshop on Academic Writing. It was by Ahmed W. Waheed Ph.D., who has authored multiple books and currently teaches at S3H NUST.



Iran's Pivot to East: SCO Membership and Regional Dynamics

December 06, 2022

While a detailed assessment of Iran's membership of the SCO had to wait till 2023, i.e., till the time the membership fully came into effect, it was agreed that the membership bore incredible potential for Iran, said Ms Silvia Boltuc, Managing Editor, Special Eurasia, Italy. She was addressing a webinar titled Iran's Pivot to East: SCO Membership and Regional Dynamics organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).

CORE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

FOR EVERY CAREER



SELF-AWARENESS



COMMUNICATION



INFLUENCE



LEARNING AGILITY

Core Leadership Skills

December 06, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies has successfully organised a workshop on the topic of 'Core Leadership Skills'. The workshop was well attended, with participants coming from all kind of professions. The workshop was aimed at helping participants develop their leadership skills and gain insights into the various aspects of effective leadership. The workshop was highly interactive, with participants taking part in activities, discussions and debates.

The workshop was a great success, with participants learning valuable lessons and gaining insights into the importance of core leadership skills. We would like to thank all the participants for attending the workshop and contributing to its success.



SAARC and South Asian Regional and Economic Stability

December 08, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies recently organised an engaging webinar with the aim to discuss SAARC and South Asian Regional and Economic Stability. The webinar featured insightful and thought-provoking discussions from experts in the field, all of whom shared their perspectives on the various aspects of SAARC and South Asian Regional and Economic Stability. The webinar provided a platform for attendees to learn about the various challenges and opportunities facing SAARC and South Asian Regional and Economic Stability. Attendees also had the chance to interact with the experts and ask questions regarding the topics discussed.



Interaction with Foreign Diplomats

December 09, 2022

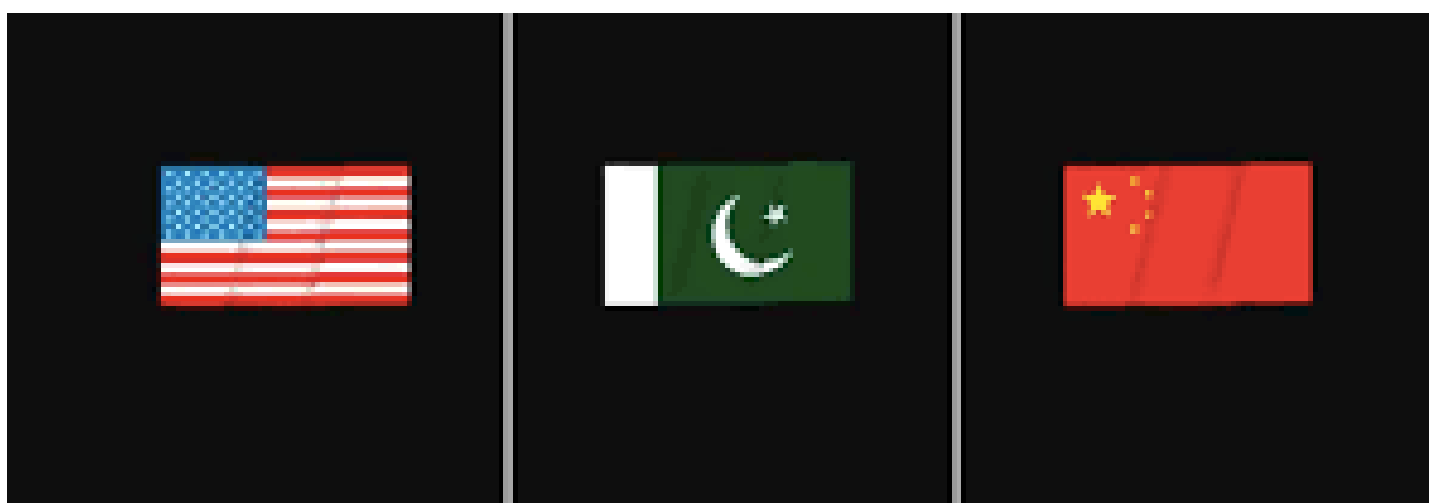
The Institute of Regional Studies held an interactive session with a delegation of diplomats from various countries. The session focused on the importance of diplomacy in global affairs and discussed topics such as international relations, political strategies, and current world affairs.



Afghanistan: Year in Review

December 13, 2022

The Taliban were here to stay, and their absence could potentially lead to another war spanning many years said Obaidullah Baheer, lecturer at the American University of Afghanistan. He was speaking at a webinar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) titled 'Afghanistan: Year in Review'.



Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges: Navigating through China-US Competition

December 09, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges: Navigating through China-US Competition." The roundtable was led by experts from various fields and included representatives from academia, policy makers, and development professionals. The discussion touched upon the ever-changing dynamics between China and the United States, and how Pakistan needs to carefully weigh its options in navigating through these two global powers. The participants shared their views on how Pakistan can maintain its neutrality while facing the pressures of geopolitics. The roundtable concluded with a set of recommendations for Pakistan to consider while formulating its foreign policy in the future.



Population and Food Security (Grand National Dialogue)

December 14, 2022

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Gwadar University, has said that the use of agricultural land for housing schemes should be put to an end if we want to ward off food scarcity. Dr Manzoor was addressing a webinar on "Population and food security" jointly organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The webinar was part of the Grand National Dialogue (GND) series being planned on a number of pertinent issues.



University of Gawadar Delegation

December 15, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised an interactive session with University of Gawadar Delegation. During this session, we discussed the development and future of the Gawadar. This session was highly informative and beneficial for everyone involved. The University of Gawadar Delegation was delighted to share their insights and experience with us.



Best Research Institutes An Appraisal

December 19, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised an virtual event on "Best Research Institutes Appraisal". Mr. Michael E'ohanlon (Senior Fellow and Director of Research in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution). He has emphasised on an approach for a researcher should be clear while conducting research work, logic should be rational, main argument and research questions must be focused.



Incorporating Human-Centered Design in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

December 20, 2022

A seminar on "Incorporating Human-Centered Design in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (AI)" was held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) Islamabad. The talk was part of the series planned under "Understanding Cybersecurity in the Context of Peace". Speaking on the importance of web security, Dr. Waleed Bin Shahid, Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Security, NUST-MCS, said that the web sector was impacted the most in the top 50 known data breaches from 2004 to 2021, with 9.9billions records lost. He said that websites were the face of organizations and these web attacks could result in massive data breaches, as well as economic and reputational loss, not only at the organizational level but at the national level as well. This could become an even more serious issue in the absence of cybercrime regulations. He also said that developers were not very well versed in cybersecurity so they left a lot of loopholes in their own system which actually invited attackers to intrude into a system easily.



Reflections in Diplomacy

December 21, 2022

The Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable discussion on "Reflections in Diplomacy". The discussion focused on the current challenges and opportunities in the field of diplomacy, and how it can be used to create effective solutions to global problems.



Research Skills Program

December 27, 2022

The Research Skills Program workshop organised by the Institute of Regional Studies was a huge success. Conducted by Syed Imran Sardar, Research Analyst at the Institute, the workshop was very well attended by participants. The workshop was focused on honing research skills and helping participants understand the basics of research methodology. It was an opportunity for the participants to gain insights into the process of research, understand the importance of research in their respective fields and learn how to apply research skills in practice.

FROM INSIGHTS

Will Vienna Talks Succeed?

Farwa Shahnawaz - October 2022

TTP Resurgence and Impacts on Pak-Afghan Relations

Zeeshan Naveed - October 2022

Ali Larijani: A Bridging Figure in Iranian Politics?

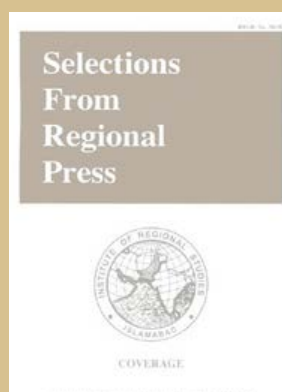
Muhammad Razi Haider - November 2022

Contextualizing Cybercrimes in Pakistan

Mahnoor Saeed - November 2022

<http://irs.org.pk/blog.php>

IRS PUBLICATIONS



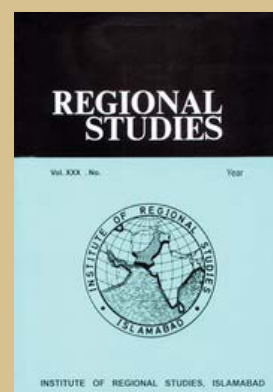
**Selection from
Regional Press**



Spotlight



Focus



Regional Studies