"Critical Water and Power Issues in Pakistan"—Mr. Shakil Durrani – 12th May, 2015

Key Messages:

Mr. Shakil Durrani discussed and highlighted the critical issues that Pakistan is facing in the power sector and also shed light on water as a resource and how its lack of management is causing further problems.

WATER:

The speaker discussed water as a resource and identified key issues related to its consumption and usage.

- Historically, every person in Pakistan had 5000 cubic meter water supply today it is below 1000 cubic meter. This shows that that Pakistan a water stress country. Mr. Durrani stressed upon how wastage of water together with lack of storage facilities and increasing population adds to the problem. Therefore, according to the speaker, given the rate of wastage, building additional capacity is secondary, conservation should enjoy top priority.
  - Low pricing and lack of proper pricing mechanism encourages wastages- Abiyana rates are very low. According to the speaker, as landlords are ruling, hence increasing the “Abiyana” seems unlikely.
  - Deforestation especially in the hilly areas has caused siltation in the water reservoirs. Siltation is decreasing the capacity of dams and secondly, it is costly and difficult to remove silt from water reservoirs. No major dams have been built so there seems to be troubles looming in future, according to Mr. Durrani, as glaciers are also melting at a fast rate.
  - The agriculture setup of the country where farmers grow crops like sugarcane and rice (which consume a lot of water) also makes the problem of water shortage more severe.

Electric Power Issues:

- According to the speaker, here the issue is poor governance that needs to be addressed. Due to bad governance, problems like electricity theft and line losses acts as impediments to the growth of this sector which further contribute to a decrease in the productivity and GDP growth.

Mr. Durrani stressed upon a good and well-functioning system which would not only focus upon building additional capacity but will also aim to minimize losses and wastages.