

PIDE Focus



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

□ PIDE's NEW RESEARCH PROGRAMME

PIDE is in the process of strengthening its institutional capacity and restructuring its research programme. With its broad agenda of developing quality research for informed policy and debate, PIDE is critically positioned to take a long-term view of Pakistan's economic and social issues, and to provide sound underpinnings of an appropriate economic policy to achieve sustainable growth and improve the living standard of its people. To achieve these objectives, PIDE has developed its work programme around a number of themes relating to institutions and governance of human capital, innovation and growth, industrial organisation, markets and regulation, macroeconomics and finance, agricultural production-related issues, and population and social dynamics.

The new research programme offers the latest research tools, professional knowledge, and policy outlines to practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and academia.

Each Division under the Markets and Society Department puts forward its research agenda. Under the leadership of Dr Ejaz Ghani, the Industrial Organisation, Markets, and Regulation Division proposes to examine the state of the industrial sector and interlinkages between the financial and goods markets. The research programme for the next six months includes the following studies:

- “The State of the Industrial Sector in Pakistan” by Musleh-ud Din and Ejaz Ghani;

- “Impact of Public Investment on Economic Growth in Pakistan” by Ejaz Ghani and Musleh-ud Din;
- “Economic Cooperation between East Asia and South Asia: The Case of Pakistan” by Nadeem Ul Haque and Ejaz Ghani;
- “Efficiency of the Manufacturing Sector in Pakistan” by Tariq Mahmood;
- “The Regulatory Environment in the Energy Industry in Pakistan” by Afia Malik;
- “The Demand for International Reserves: A Case Study of Pakistan” by Eatzaz Ahmad and Karim Khan;
- “Financial Market Reforms” by Attiya Yasmin; and
- “An Analysis of the Cement Industry in Pakistan” by Saba Anwar.

Contents

- PIDE's New Research Programme
- PIDE Policy Viewpoint
- Publications
- Workshops and Conferences
- Nurturing Minds—PIDE Seminars
- News at PIDE
- Training Programme at PIDE
- PIDE in the News

The proposed work plan of The Agricultural Production, Markets, and Institutions Division, under the guidance of Dr Munir Ahmad, reflects the shifting of emphasis on agricultural production and growth to agricultural marketing and institutions, with major focus on analysis of the existing agricultural marketing system and the ongoing process of market reforms and trade liberalisation, impact of globalisation on small farmers, assessment of the existing agricultural storage capacity, its shortfalls, policy options, and an evaluation of the special programme on Food Security and Crop Maximisation. The research curriculum comprises the following studies:

- “Impact of Domestic Policies towards Agricultural Trade Liberalisation and Market Reform on Food Security in Pakistan”;
- “Impact Evaluation of the Special Programme on Food Security (SPFS)”;
- “Impact Evaluation of the National Crop Maximisation Project (CMP)”;
- “Globalisation and Small Farms: Redesigning Our Agricultural Growth Strategy”;
- “The Status of Agricultural Storage in Pakistan: Issues and Options”;
- “The Existing Agricultural Marketing Structure and the Prospect for a Modernised Agribusiness System in Pakistan”;
- “The Political Economy of Sugar Production in Pakistan”.

The work programme of the Population and Social Dynamics Division, under the guidance of Mr Ghulam Yasin Soomro, encompasses four

major thematic areas of research: “Demographic Transition: Its Implications and Dividends”; “The Dynamics of Class Culture in Pakistan”; “Interlinkages between Population Health, Poverty, and Decentralisation”; and “Issues Surrounding Urbanisation and Migration”. The research programme includes the following studies:

- “Improving Governance and Health System under the Devolution Plan” by Naushin Mahmood and Saima Bashir;
- “Maternal Health Care Differences in Urban and Rural Pakistan” by Naushin Mahmood and Saima Bashir;
- “Perception and Awareness of Reproductive Health Issues among the Youth in Pakistan” by Saima Bashir and Saba Anwar;
- “Urbanisation in Pakistan” by Ghulam Yasin Soomro;
- “Demographic Dividend and Its Implications for Pakistan” by Durr-e-Nayab;
- “Validity of Health Surveys” by Durr-e-Nayab;
- Compilation by Durr-e-Nayab of a volume of demographic research published in *The Pakistan Development Review*;
- “An Assessment of ‘Middle Class’ in Pakistan” by Durr-e-Nayab and Foqia Sadiq Khan;
- “Imbalance in Sex Ratios and Its Effect on Marriages in Pakistan” by M. F. Kiani;
- “The Status of Women and Fertility in Pakistan” by Ali Muhammad;
- “Differentials in Timings and Births in Pakistan” by Ali Muhammad;
- “An Analysis of Homelessness in Rural Pakistan” by Khalid Hameed Sheikh;

- “Economic Development and Fertility in Pakistan” by Khalid Hameed Sheikh;
- “Devolution and Universal Education, by Poverty Status in Rural Punjab” by Rashida Haq;
- “Income and Expenditure Inequality, by Factor Components, 2004-05” by Rashida Haq.

Each Division under the Institutions, Growth, and Macroeconomic Department has put forward its research agenda. Under the stewardship of Dr Abdul Qayyum, the Macroeconomics, Banking, and Finance Division proposes the following research plan:

- “A Causality Analysis of Stock Market Price Behaviour and COT/CFS Financing in Pakistan” by Abdul Qayyum, Nadeem Ul Haque, and Tariq Hassan;
- “Impact of the Federal Budget Speech on Stock Market Returns in Pakistan” by Hasan M. Mohsin;
- “Cotton, Textile, and Trade Policies in Pakistan: A CGE-based Poverty Analysis” by Rizwana Siddiqui.

Based on a multidisciplinary approach, the work programme of the Development Strategies and Governance Division, under the supervision of Dr Musleh-ud Din, has put forward the following research agenda:

- “An Analysis of Recruitment and Promotion Practices in Civil Services” by Omer Siddique and Musleh-ud Din;
- “A Survey of Federal Civil Servants” by Musleh-ud Din, Lubna Hasan, Faheem Jehangir Khan, Omer Siddique, and Saima Bashir;

- “Myths and Realities of Long-run Development” by Lubna Hasan;
- “The Deeper Determinants of Economic Performance: Further Evidence” by Lubna Hasan;
- “Financing of Service Deliveries in Pakistan: A Governance Issue in Health, Education, Water, and Sanitation Sectors” by Faheem Jehangir Khan;
- “Poverty Reduction Strategies: The Role of Micro Credit in Realising Income Opportunities” by Faheem Jehangir Khan, Muhammad Aman Ullah, and Gertrude Buchenrieder;
- “Improving the Health System Governance under the Devolution Plan” by Saima Bashir.

Under the guidance of Dr Zafar Mueen Nasir, the Human Capital, Innovations, and Growth Division has presented its research programme as follows:

- “Impact of Human Capital and Innovation” by Uzma Zia and Shahnaz Hamid;
- “Child Malnutrition in Pakistan” by Zafar Mueen Nasir;
- “Evaluation of Government Policies on Inflation in Pakistan” by Shahnaz Hamid and Uzma Zia;
- “Poverty and Catastrophic Household Expenditure for Health Care in Pakistan: Who Spends More?” by Raja Ajmal Jahangeer;
- “Inequalities in Health and Education: Evidence from Rural Pakistan” by Raja Ajmal Jahangeer;
- “Factors Affecting the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices about Safe Drinking Water in Sindh” by Zafar Mueen Nasir;

- “Policy-induced Inflation: An Analysis of Core Inflation in Pakistan” by Kalbe Abbas.

❑ PIDE POLICY VIEWPOINT

The *PIDE Policy Viewpoint* series has been initiated recently. The objective of this series of publications is to present, in consultation with the Director and our research staff, PIDE’s views on various issues. The first issue of this series, No. 1, July 2006, has been published. Its title is “Promoting Domestic Commerce for Sustainable Pro-poor Growth”.

❑ PUBLICATIONS

The Pakistan Development Review, 44:3 (Autumn 2005), was published recently.

The contents of this *PDR* issue are:

1. “Modelling the Demand for Money in Pakistan” by Abdul Qayyum;
2. “Determinants of Collective Action under Devolution Initiatives: The Case of Citizen Community Boards in Pakistan” by Takashi Kurosaki;
3. “The Public and Private Sector Pay Gap in Pakistan: A Quantile Regression Analysis” by Asma Hyder and Barry Reilly;
4. “An Empirical Analysis of the Linder Theory of International Trade for South Asian Countries” by Syed Adnan Haider Ali Shah Bukhari, Mohsin Hassnain Ahmad, Shaista Alam, Syeda Sonia Haider Ali Shah Bukhari, and Muhammad Sabihuddin Butt.

PIDE Working Papers 2006:3. Bureaucracy and Pro-poor Change by Ali Cheema and Asad Sayeed.

Cheema and Sayeed view the bureaucracy as a key catalyst in a functioning state’s pro-poor

policies. The authors argue that state success or failure in many cases can be gauged by the degree to which the tension between the rules-based bureaucratic form of administration and the populist politics is resolved.

The study states that the disconnect between policy formulation and execution in Pakistan has widened considerably in the last three decades. This can be ascribed to bureaucratic malfeasance, incompetence, and corruption, along with the political leadership—both civil and military. This paper takes the political economy perspective to analyse the nature and causes of the decline in bureaucratic conduct. The framework used is based on the argument that the relationship between politicians, bureaucrats, and the public is an interlocked social arrangement. The electorate or the citizenry is the consumer of government services; the politicians or political power-holders translate the electorate’s demands into policy; and the bureaucrats are the agents responsible for service delivery and regulation. The efficient functioning of the system or effective bureaucratic governance depends upon a number of conditions. These include clarity about the pursuit of objectives, the efficacy of the political process, efficient bureaucratic monitoring and accountability, the degree of insulation of the bureaucracy, and the degree of bureaucratic centralisation and fragmentation.

The findings show that an overpowering bureaucracy with no accountability is incompatible with the existent level of political mobilisation that prevails in the country. A rules-based bureaucracy with a certain degree of security of tenure is thus required, but one which is appropriately accountable for its conduct to a sovereign parliament and an impartial judiciary. It

is important to reiterate that for pro-poor change, the bureaucracy is only a transmission chain. Even if efforts at creating a competent and rules-based efficient bureaucracy are successful but the objectives and goals of the state remain anti-poor, the result can actually lead to an inferior outcome so far as pro-poor change is concerned. Only an efficient anti-poor bureaucracy will execute such policies more efficiently.

Launching of Gender and Empowerment: Evidence from Pakistan by *Rehana Siddiqui, Shahnaz Hamid, Rizwana Siddiqui, Naeem Akhtar, and G. Y. Soomro.*

The book launching ceremony of *Gender and Empowerment: Evidence from Pakistan* was held on Tuesday, 13th June, 2006 at the Planning Commission Auditorium. Authored by a team of economists at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, led by Dr Rehana Siddiqui, the volume attempts to provide a comprehensive analysis of conventional and non-conventional indicators of gender roles and power in one place.

At the presentation, Dr Siddiqui said that the book presented secondary and survey-based evidence to examine several aspects of the role and status of women in society. The issues covered relate to health, education, labour market, violence, empowerment, and mental health of women. The analysis shows that parental education affects the education of children, particularly of girls. Moreover, education also affects access to the labour market, as well as female status within the household and the community. She also pointed out that education and work status were critical determinants of empowerment and mental health. The hierarchy within the family is also seen by

her team as an important determinant of family income and resource use.

Dr Aliya H. Khan, Associate Professor at the Quaid-i-Azam University, said the country still witnessed similar gender disparities as underlined in the book.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Executive Director of Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, said the authors had taken up an important issue of society, as the information contained in the book was critical to understanding society and its development. Addressing the audience at the occasion, Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Director, PIDE, emphasised the need of increasing interaction among researchers, policy-makers, and the intelligentsia.

Report on Domestic Commerce

To further Dr Nadeem Ul Haque's "Domestic Commerce" initiative, a report titled *Domestic Commerce—The Missing Link* (Islamabad: Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, 2006) highlights the existing state of Domestic Commerce in Pakistan. It has been edited by Dr Nadeem Ul Haque and Syeda Izzah Waqaar.

Domestic Commerce in Pakistan is a forgotten sector even though the labour force survey says that services, which reside in this sector, employ about 34 percent of the labour force and contribute to more than half of our GDP. The economy is a system that needs to work as a whole, with domestic and external trade supporting each other. It is the domestic markets where all manner of innovation and entrepreneurship can take place which will later move out and lead to higher exports and foreign exchange earnings. Stifling domestic markets while trying to push the external sector, as has been done in Pakistan, results in lopsided development.

The report discusses the factors constricting the growth of Domestic Commerce such as the lack of educated and trained human resource, physical infrastructure, frequent changes in government policies, copyright violation, inadequate property right, difficult financing and credit, supply chain issues, discriminatory taxation, inadequate domestic standards and quality control, and poor quality of IT infrastructure, to name a few. It also discusses the desired future state of Domestic Commerce, entailing professional urban management, secure and transparent property rights, privatisation of city centre government land, improvement in the legal and judicial system for speedy contract information, and so forth.

□ WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Devolution Reforms in Pakistan

A meeting on devolution reforms in Pakistan was held to identify themes for further research on issues related to governance. The meeting took place on the 1st of June, 2006, in Lahore, at the Royal Palm Golf and Country Club, and was funded by Dr Akmal Hussain (Senior Fellow, PIDE). Participants included members of academia, journalism, research organisations, civil service, and donors. There were three sessions, with six presentations on topics including:

1. “The Challenge of Devolution for Participatory Development and Democracy” by Dr Akmal Hussain;
2. “The Political Economy of Devolution Reforms: The Micro and the Macro Levels” by Dr Ali Cheema;

3. “Interaction between the Federal, Provincial, and Local Governments: The Question of Power, Responsibility, and Resources” by Mr Shahid Hafeez Kardar, Mr Ijaz Haider, and Mr Qaim Shah;
4. “Devolution Reforms and Efficient Service Delivery” by Dr Sohail J. Malik;
5. “Devolution Reforms, New Accountabilities, and Participatory Development” by Mr Haris Gazdar and Dr Ali Cheema;
6. “Chalking Out Research Questions, Defining Working Groups and the Process to Move Forward” was the final session chaired by Dr Nadeem ul Haque.

Apart from the above-named speakers, there were participants from DFID, UNDP, DTCE, and LUMS. After day-long deliberations, seven sub-themes emerged for research on devolution reforms in Pakistan. These are:

1. The structure and conceptual definition of decentralisation;
2. free markets and decentralisation;
3. resource control and decentralisation;
4. developing a scoring system for decentralisation;
5. the role of donors and devolution in Pakistan;
6. evaluating the citizen community boards (CCBs); and
7. capacity at the local level.

PIDE-LUMS Seminar on the New Governance Effort

On 30th June, 2006, PIDE and the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) jointly organised a seminar to discuss issues pertaining to “Law and Economics” and “Public Choice”, and their relevance for the future

growth prospects of Pakistan. Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Director, PIDE, and Osama Siddique, Head, Department of Law and Policy, Lahore University of Management Sciences, highlighted the main issues in their joint welcome address. They also raised some basic questions: Can Pakistan achieve its growth target of 10 percent under the current legal framework? Does our law support free enterprise? Can the dual target of growth and free enterprise development be realised under our existing constitution? Do we need to review and make amendments to it? The high point of the meeting was the coming together of prominent lawyers and economists (and social scientists) on one forum and approaching the problem from a multi-disciplinary point of view. A healthy debate following the presentations in fact included turning the whole debate upside down by posing the question as to what form of economic system we were hoping for. The major issues that emerged from the discussion at this forum are: political economy issues, issues related to capital market development, to enterprise development, to judicial reforms, and to the area of “public choice”.

Workshop on Writing Research and Writing about Research

On Tuesday, 11th July, 2006, PIDE organised a Workshop on “Writing Research and Writing about Research”. Professor Aurangzeb A. Hashmi, Literary Editor and Chief of the Publications Division, PIDE, delivered the lecture on research issues highlighting writing and speaking practices for researchers in general and the practices at PIDE in particular.

The objective of the Workshop was to share general requirements for writing academic

material and the prerequisites for publishing research. Participants included various groups. PIDE staff as well as advanced students and researchers from the area universities attended the Workshop.

□ NURTURING MINDS—PIDE SEMINARS

“Nurturing Minds” is a weekly seminar series aimed at stimulating development discourse. The seminars are open to policy-makers, researchers, planners, practitioners, educators, individuals from public and private organisations, and students. The series also encourages the latest and diverse research approaches.

Seminar 2006: 10. Banking System of Pakistan
by Mr Ali Raza (President, National Bank of Pakistan)

On Wednesday, 2nd June, 2006, Mr Ali Raza visited PIDE and discussed the “Banking System of Pakistan”. His talk focused on the history of banking and financial sector in Pakistan. He elaborated on his experience and ideas, as well as his contributions to reviving the National Bank of Pakistan.

Seminar 2006: 11. The E-Government: An Overview from Theory to Application
by Mr Adeel Ghayur (Executive Director, H2O Power Pvt. Limited)

On Wednesday, 7th June, 2006, Mr Adeel Ghayur presented his paper on E-Governance. The talk focused on e-government areas, theories, and models. He also shared his experience in systems and software engineering, renewable energies and fuel cells, vetronics engineering, nano engineering and e-commerce.

Seminar 2006: 12. Land Reforms: History, Technology, and Impact

by Mr Ali Hakeem (CEO of AOS Pvt. Ltd.)

On Wednesday, 14th June, 2006, Mr Ali Hakeem spoke on the history and philosophy behind computerisation of land records. He also highlighted the use of technology and its impact.

Seminar 2006: 13. National Commodity Exchange Limited (NCEL)

by Mr Asim Jung (Managing Director, NCEL)

On Wednesday, 21st June, 2006, Mr Asim Jung presented the vision of NCEL. He gave an introduction to NCEL's Agriculture Vision and discussed the role of a futures exchange in an agrarian economy, underlining NCEL's intellectual capital, technology, risk management, and product development.

Seminar 2006: 14. Employment, Migration, and HRD: Issues and Policies

by Dr Sabur Ghayur (Chairman, Policy Planning Cell, Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Government of Pakistan)

On Thursday, 22nd June, 2006, Dr Sabur Ghayur gave an overview of employment and HRD situation in Pakistan. He addressed key issues that need to be looked into carefully while developing an employment and manpower development policy, and in tapping employment and development potential.

Seminar 2006: 15. Crucial Role of Agriculture in Indian Development: A Japanese Perspective

by Dr S. Hirashima (Chairman of the Committee on Japanese ODA for Pakistan)

On Tuesday, 27th June, 2006, Dr S. Hirashima presented the Japanese viewpoint on the Crucial Role of Agriculture in Indian Development. He described the increasing inequality in terms of income and assets and its implications for poverty and future investment. He emphasised that it was the price hike of real estate that was causing major problems in Pakistan, and also showed his concern about the rural non-farm households which mostly remain below the poverty line.

Seminar 2006: 16. Social Capital: Types and Returns from Social Capital to Individuals, Groups, and Society

by Mr Syed Akhtar Hussain Shah (PhD student at PIDE)

On Wednesday, 28th June, 2006, Mr Akhtar Hussain Shah presented his research on Social Capital. He described the types and significance of social capital and argued against the validity of 'Efficiency Wage Hypothesis' for Pakistan. Moreover, he described the returns from social capital to individuals, groups, and society as a whole.

Seminar 2006: 17. One-shot Ultimatum Game and Gender Effect: Experimental Evidence from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

by Mr Shahid Razzaque (Administrative Officer, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission)

On Wednesday, 5th July, 2006, Mr Shahid Razzaque presented the findings of his study of the behaviour of men and women in the ultimatum game. The exercise involved four rounds of the ultimatum game. In each round, the size of the monetary stake remained unchanged and the gender of the players had been recorded.

The study attempted to examine answers to the questions of the changing behaviour of the opposite sexes under conditions of both anonymity and knowledge of gender.

Seminar 2006: 18. Money, Income, and Prices in Pakistan: An Investigation of Causal Relations with Shifts

by Dr Fazal Husain (Visiting Fellow, PIDE) and Mr Abdul Rashid (Lecturer, CBM)

On Wednesday, 12th July, 2006, Dr Fazal Husain and Mr Abdul Rashid presented the results of their research on Money, Income, and Prices in Pakistan. They investigated the causal relations between real money and real income, between nominal money and nominal income, and between nominal money and prices. The analysis indicated the existence of a long-run relation between money and income (real and nominal), although these variables appeared to be independent of each other in the short-run. Finally, the analysis showed a long-run relation between money and prices, where money seems to lead prices in the long run.

Seminar 2006: 19. Two Opportunities to Deliver on the Doha Development Pledge

by Mr David Orden (Senior Research Fellow, Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, IFPRI)

On Thursday, 13th July, 2006, Mr David Orden presented his analysis on the effects of a possible Doha agreement based on proposals from the U.S., the EU, and the G20 group of developing countries in a general equilibrium model of the world economy. The findings demonstrated modest market access and global income gains from a plausible but not very ambitious basic Doha scenario.

Seminar 2006: 20. Private Schools in Pakistan

by Dr Tahir Andrabi (Associate Professor of Economics, Pomona College) and Dr Asim Khwaja (Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts)

On Friday, 14th July, 2006, Dr Andrabi and Dr Khwaja presented their work on the private schooling sector in Pakistan. The study highlighted the crucial role of the public sector in facilitating private investments in education: instrumental variable estimates indicated that private schools are three times as likely to be found in villages with a girls' secondary school, an increase of 35 percentage points. Using new data, the researchers document the phenomenal rise of the private sector in Pakistan and show that an increasing segment of children enrolled in private schools are from rural areas and from middle-class and poorer families.

Seminar 2006: 21. Stock Market Liberalisation: The South Asian Experience

by Dr Fazal Husain (Visiting Fellow, PIDE) and Dr Abdul Qayyum (Chief of Research, PIDE)

On Monday, 17th July, 2006, Dr Husain and Dr Qayyum presented their analysis of the South Asian experience of stock market liberalisation. The analysis indicated significant development in stock markets in the region following liberalisation measures. The integration analysis suggested that the markets in South Asia are integrated with major markets, that is, of USA, UK, and Japan. There is clear evidence that the markets in India and Pakistan are affected by the major markets as well as the regional markets in the long run. In the short run, however, the markets appear to be independent of one another.

Seminar 2006: 22. Civil Servants' Salary Structure

by Dr Faiz Bilquees (Joint Director, PIDE)

On Wednesday, 19th July, 2006, Dr Faiz Bilquees presented a paper elucidating the salary structure of civil servants during 1991–2005. In principle, the pay scales should be revised every three years according to the rise in inflation, but there was a six-year gap between 1994–2001. The paper emphasised on the monetisation of all perks included in the salary package at the market rate. This step is supposed to benefit both the employees and the Government.

Note: Information about all seminar presentations/papers is available at <www.pide.org.pk>.

❑ NEWS AT PIDE

The New Chief Economist

Dr Nadeem Ul Haque recently took charge as Chief Economist, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, in addition to his work at PIDE as Director.

Visiting Fellows/Visiting Associates at PIDE

1. Dr Fazal Hussain has joined PIDE as a Visiting Fellow. His fields of specialisation are Financial Management, Monetary Economics, and Econometrics. He took his PhD at The Catholic University of America in 1996, and MSc in Economics from the Quaid-i-Azam University in 1983. He has also worked at PIDE as Acting Chief of Research. He has been associated with Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology as a senior faculty member, and with the State Bank of Pakistan as a Research Fellow.

2. Ms Foqia Sadiq Khan has joined PIDE as a Visiting Fellow. She is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The working title of her dissertation is “Accumulation and Rule of Law: A Case Study of the Textile Sector in Contemporary Pakistan”. She has worked on issues of human security, peace movements, rent-seeking, local body elections, devolution of power, local judiciary, political economy, and capitalist transformation in Pakistan. She studied international politics at the Quaid-i-Azam University and development studies at the University of Cambridge. She has worked previously in various research and advocacy positions at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad.

Currently, she is working on a paper on land titling and property rights. This paper investigates the mechanism of land title transfer among economic agents in Pakistan. The aim is to document the taxonomy of title transfer and study its relationship with property rights regime. Our conjecture is that different systems of title holding and transfer reflect the prevalent socio-economic and political structures.

3. Ms Syeda Izzah Waqaar has joined PIDE as a Visiting Associate. She took her MSc in Economics at the Quaid-i-Azam University in 2005. Since then she has worked in Innovative Development Strategies as a Research Associate, and as a Research Officer in the UNDP. As a consultant of the Canadian International Development Agency, she was also involved in event coordination of the

Pakistan Development Forum 2006 and assisted the Economic Affairs Division of the Government of Pakistan.

SANEI Call for Proposals

The headquarters of South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI), after completing its five-year term at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), migrated to PIDE on 26th April, 2004. The financial and contractual affairs of this organisation are now being managed by PIDE. SANEI organises research competitions within the South Asian region annually, and funds selected research projects. In its eighth round, SANEI is inviting research proposals with a thematic focus on Financial Sector Reforms and Higher Education. The closing date for submission of proposals is 31st July, 2006.

PhD Programme (Economics) at PIDE

PIDE, the premier social science research institute in the country, invited applications for the seventh batch of Pakistani and overseas students for admission to the PhD programme in Economics. The programme at PIDE has been developed to meet the new global challenges and is a step forward in a critical field of knowledge and expertise. The average time-period for the programme is four years.

For further information about the Programme, please visit <www.pide.org.pk>. The last date for the submission of completed application forms and other material was June 30, 2006. The Admission Test will be conducted on 20th August, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at PIDE, Islamabad. Successful candidates will be interviewed on 21st August, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

PSDE Call for Papers

The Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) is sending out the call for papers for its 22nd Annual General Meeting and Conference. The theme of the conference is “Governance”. Participants interested in presenting a paper are requested to send the title of the paper on any topic relevant to the theme/sub-theme of the conference by 30th July, 2006. The proposed sub-themes are: Market and Regulations, Civil Service Reforms, Law and Economics, Public Choice, Public Service Efficiency, and Decentralisation and Devolution. Details are available at <www.pide.org.pk>. The last date for submission of the completed paper is 30th September, 2006.

Internship Programme at PIDE

To build and nurture a nationwide research effort, it is proposed to introduce an Internship Programme at PIDE for new graduates in economics and development studies. The objective is to provide them practical experience of work under the guidance of a mentor/supervisor. PIDE proposes to recruit a total of six interns in various Research Divisions to provide them with practical research orientation as well as to build their academic capacity and skills. The internship will be for a duration of three months and the interns will be paid a small stipend.

A selection committee of PIDE will monitor the intern’s progress, based on monthly assessments received from them describing their work. At the end of the assignment, interns will prepare reports and make presentations about their learning and skill acquisition during the period. PIDE will maintain a database and may also

develop a post-internship follow-up. For details, please visit our website: <www.pide.org.pk>.

□ TRAINING PROGRAMME AT PIDE

PIDE recently started a new series of seminars and training workshops to equip the professionals, academics, and policy-makers with the latest tools that help in solving current problems pertaining to the economy.

In the last quarter of 2005-06, three courses were offered. A one-week course (June 26–30, 2006) on “Gender Analysis/Project Planning, and Appraisal” was conducted, with the collaboration of the Planning and Development Division and the United Nations Development Programme, for the federal government officers dealing with the basic-level project proposals/programmes. The objective of the course was to train the officers in the area of gender sensitisation so as to remove gender imbalances and disparities.

Another one-week course (June 12–17, 2006) on “Effective Communication Skills” was conducted for the federal government officers dealing with project planning, appraisal, and management.

A two-week regular course on “Project Preparation and Appraisal” was offered on May 8–20, 2006. Apart from lectures, the participants engaged in group discussions, practical exercises, and in preparation and appraisal of development

projects assigned to different groups. A study/entertainment tour to Ghazi Brotha and Tarbela Dam was also arranged as a part of this course.

□ PIDE IN THE NEWS

“Crowding Out Domestic Policy Ideas” by Nadeem Ul Haque appeared in *DAWN*, 5th June, 2006.

Editorial Team

- Faheem Jehangir Khan
Research Economist
- Syeda Izzah Waqaar
Visiting Associate

To send us your comments or queries, please contact PIDE FOCUS: <pidefocus@pide.org.pk>

Our postal address is:

PIDE FOCUS

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
Quaid-i-Azam University Campus
P.O. Box 1091
Islamabad 44000, Pakistan
Tel. +92-51-9209397 and 9209279
Fax. +92-51-9210886
Web: www.pide.org.pk