



“Afghanistan Developments: Impact on Balochistan”

BACKGROUND:

On August 16, 2021, Pakistan’s National Security Committee (NSC), chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to an inclusive political settlement representing all Afghan ethnic groups as the way forward. The Government of Pakistan’s official statements also lauded the fact that the Taliban had averted major violence in Afghanistan and called on all stakeholders in Afghanistan to respect the rule of law, protect fundamental human rights and ensure that Afghan soil is not used by any terrorist organization against any country. While the Taliban’s swift advance into Kabul has surprised many commentators, not much is known about the views of the Afghans who are to decide the future government of Afghanistan— Taliban lead or otherwise. Beyond Afghanistan’s borders, its neighbors will feel the most immediate impact. Pakistan’s province of Balochistan sharing a border of more than 1000 km with Afghanistan will be impacted, like the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, more than other provinces of Pakistan.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR:

In a regional milieu, the emerging developments in Afghanistan may impact Pakistan, including Balochistan, as the province shares a 1000 km border with Afghanistan. The purpose of the webinar is:

- a) To discuss possible impact of the events in Afghanistan, especially in the Balochistan province
- b) To sensitise the decision-makers in the federal government about the concerns of the province's people and suggest remedial measures.

We aim to address a host of issues in a series of webinars, this being the first one. The proposed webinar aims to address:

1. The likely impact of thousands of Afghans attempting to take refuge in Pakistan, including Balochistan. Already 3 million registered and unregistered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, approximately half a million in Balochistan province.



2. What could be the impact of the fresh influx of refugees on Balochistan's socio-economic conditions and the province's demography?

3. How to sensitise the new dispensation in Afghanistan to watch its population fleeing the country and the remedial measures it can take to encourage the people not to leave their country.

4. How active role can the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) play in the upkeep of refugees already taking shelter in Pakistan and create conditions, in consultation with the government in Kabul, to repatriate the refugees to their country

WEBINAR SET UP:

ORGANIZERS:

BCPP:

Balochistan Council for Peace and Policy an emerging think tank and is mainly dedicated to tackle province's concerns such as, being remote and neglected region of Pakistan, episodes of violence for the past fifteen years, the security situation and the disconnection from the rest of Pakistan in the power structure. BCPP seeks to overcome these hurdles and work earnestly through collective efforts by the people of Balochistan living in Balochistan in collaboration with people of Balochistan. Team of BCPP believes that this can be achieved through principles of hard work, dedication, accountability, and responsibility founded on respect for fundamental human rights, social equity, and social justice.

For more information: <https://bcpp.pk/>

PIDE

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics is an autonomous research organization, devoted to theoretical and empirical research in Development Economics in general and on Pakistan-related economic issues in particular. In addition to providing a firm academic basis to economic policymaking, its research also provides a window through which the outside world can view the nature and direction of economic research in Pakistan. Other social sciences, such as demography and anthropology and interdisciplinary studies increasingly define the widening scope of research that must be undertaken for proper economic policy and development to have



sound underpinnings. Over the past 61 years PIDE has earned an international reputation and recognition for its research. For more information (<https://www.pide.org.pk/>)

Reenergia

Reenergia is the first private for-profit social impact advisory and delivery firm in Pakistan. Reenergia has forged itself as a 'do-tank'—innovating and delivering solutions for improving human lives while making a profit. It has been catering to services in many verticals ranging from renewable energy to economic corridor development, women empowerment to social and rural development, technical integration to transportation and trade facilitation. Reenergia is in the business of redefining “development,” and provides services and develops and implements solutions and products to transform local, city-wide, regional, and national economies [from the village to the nation]; with a view to assist in development and implementation of public policy and with a focus on defining and solving problems and implementing solutions—firmly believing that knowledge alone is not enough.

For more information (<https://www.reenergia.com/>)

SPEAKERS:

1. Former Ambassador Asif Durrani: (<mailto:durraniasif2@gmail.com>)

Former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE. Currently serving as Senior Research Fellow in Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

About: He holds degrees of M.Sc. (Chemistry) from University of Balochistan and MA (International Studies & Diplomacy) from School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, was a journalist from 1980-86. he mostly made contributions for The Muslim and AFP. Mr. Asif Durrani joined foreign service in 1986, he has also served at headquarters as Section Officer (1988-89 & 1994-95). He also held these positions i.e., Director (UN) and Director (Disarmament) (1997 & 2004-05); Director General (UN) (2011-12); and Additional Secretary (FA) President's Secretariat (2012-13). Mr. Asif Durrani has also completed various diplomatic assignments in Pakistan missions in New Delhi (1990-94), Tehran (1998-2001), New York (2001- 04), Kabul (2005-09), and London (2009-11). He was former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE (2014-16) and is a permanent representative at International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Abu Dhabi; and former



Ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran & is a permanent representative of Pakistan to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tehran (2016-18). He retired in July 2018. He also lectured in Columbia University, Hofstra College New York, IISS London, RUSI London, Chatham House London, National Defense College Kabul, National Defense University Tehran, National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad; National

Management College (NMC) Lahore. He appears on national and International electronic media as analyst on regional issues and is a regular contributor to newspapers.

2. **Brigadier Agha Ahmed Gul, SI(M) Retd:** (mailto:agha_gul@hotmail.com)

CEO, Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN),

About: Brig Gul hails from Quetta, Balochistan. He served in Pak Army for 34 years. His career in civil includes being CEO of power sector in Balochistan, then senior general manager in Sui Southern Gas Company and became Vice Chancellor of Balochistan Univ. Presently he is serving as founder head of Balochistan Think Tank Network, Quetta the first research center in Balochistan.

3. **Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI(M) Retd:** (<mailto:samrez.salik@gmail.com>)

Former DG ISSRA National Defense University, Pakistan Army.

About: Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik was commissioned from Pakistan Military Academy with President's Gold Medal in March 1985. He is a graduate of Command and Staff College Quetta and National Defence University Islamabad. He completed his 34 years long meritorious service in October 2019. He served on command, staff, and instructional appointments. His command assignments included command of a regiment online of Control, of a brigade in North Waziristan/Peshawar and of an Infantry Division in Balochistan. His staff experience included Assistant Private Secretary to Gen Pervez Musharraf, Chief of Staff of Lahore Corps and Vice Chief of General Staff at General Headquarters. His instructional appointments comprised Pakistan Military Academy and National Defence University. The general has a flair for intellectual and research pursuits. As Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Research and Analysis (NDU) he made invaluable contributions. He authored a book titled, FIGHTING SHADOWS (Post-War on Terror: Pakistan). He also holds a PhD in Strategic Security Management of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.



4. **Dr Mir Sadaat Baloch:** (<mailto:president@bccpp.pk>)

President Balochistan Council for Peace and Policy.

About: Holds a PhD in Social Marketing from University of Hertfordshire UK and works as an Assistant Professor at University of Balochistan. His areas of expertise are: Public relations and Advocacy, Planning and Decision Making, Power relations and Conflict Management, Research and Analysis, Communication Skills,

Perception and Anger Management, Peace Building and Countering Violent Extremism, Community and Youth Engagement.

5. **Dr. Jeffery A. Stacey:** (<mailto:JStacey42@gmail.com>)

Managing Partner, Geopolicity Consulting Group U.S.A, Former state department official in the Obama Administration.

About: Dr Jeffrey A Stacey is a national security and development consultant. He is a former state department official and Senior Advisor to the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at George Washington and Tulane Universities. His consulting clients have included the United Nations, the US Defense Department, the State Department, NATO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Union as well as various think tanks, business firms, and foreign governments.

MODERATORS AND DISCUSSANTS:

1. **Dr. Nadeem UI Haq:** (<mailto:nadeemulhaque@pide.org.pk>)

Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

Dr Nadeem UI Haq holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago, also served as the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan from 2010-2013. He has wide operational experience in policy development and economic planning. Apart from his work in Pakistan, Nadeem ul Haque worked for the International Monetary Fund for 24 years.



2. **Fahd Husain:** (<mailto:fahd.hussain1@gmail.com>)

Broadcast Media Professional, Resident Editor & columnist for Dawn newspaper Islamabad & Anchor for Dawn News show 'In Focus'. Executive Director News, DUNYA TV.

3. **Amer Zafar Durrani:** (<mailto:adurrani@reenergia.com>)

CEO Reenergia and Paidartawanai.

He is an acknowledged development expert who is presently involved in renewable energy and community driven development, transport and logistics, trade facilitation, and connectivity. His experience spans over 33 years in 24 countries, of which 17 years were spent with the World Bank Group. His more recent interests lie in public policy consulting and facilitation and delivery towards (a) assembling solutions for low-cost renewable based energy, (b) improving infrastructure and connectivity governance, (c) collaborations in social entrepreneurship and (d) clean logistics and supply chain management.

FORMAT OF THE WEBINAR:

The webinar will overlap a total of 90 minutes (1-1/2 hour) Honorable Speakers and panel will engage in an informed discourse and present their keynote speeches and opinion for the first hour (15 minutes each) followed by an interactive Question and Answer session to synergies with the audience, (30 Minutes of Q&A).

DATE: 11th September 2021

VENUE: Online

TIME: PST 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

LIVE ON: Facebook, YouTube, Zoom.