



PIDE

6th

RASTA-PIDE CONFERENCE

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Friday 15th, Saturday 16th &
Sunday 17th May 2026



Mode: ONLINE

Zoom Link:



<https://bit.ly/4wqQbhQ>

Meeting ID: 825 1833 1615 Passcode: 988095

rasta.pide.org.pk

DAY 1 | Friday, May 15th, 2026

INAUGURAL

1500 – 1600 HRS

- **WELCOME REMARKS**
Nadeem Javaid (SI) (Vice Chancellor, PIDE/RAC Chairman, RASTA)
- **RASTA PROGRESS REPORT**
Faheem Jehangir Khan (Dean, Policy Advocacy, PIDE/Project Director, RASTA)
- **SECRETARY'S REMARKS**
Awais Manzoor Sumra (Secretary, Ministry of PD&SI)
- **CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS**
Prof Ahsan Iqbal (NI) (Hon'ble Federal Minister/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission/Chancellor, PIDE)

SESSION I: POLICY & PROGRAMME EVALUATIONS

1600 – 1800 HRS

- **ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN PROMOTING DIGITAL SKILLS AMONG YOUTH IN BALOCHISTAN**
Abdul Samad Kakar (University of Loralai, Loralai)
- **COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF OUTSOURCED AND NON-OUTSOURCED HEALTH FACILITIES: PUBLIC AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA**
Nauman Arif (Khyber Medical University, Peshawar)
- **EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF POLYCENTRIC CLIMATE GOVERNANCE IN PAKISTAN: A CASE STUDY OF GLOF-II**
Maleeha Sattar (Information Technology University, Lahore)
- **EVALUATING HIGHER EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN: AN APPRAISAL OF RESEARCH PUBLICATION LANDSCAPE**
Muhammad Latif Anjum (NUST, Islamabad)
- **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FRESH FRUIT SUPPLY CHAIN IN DISTRICT CHITRAL**
Aftab Tabasum (Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Chitral)

DISCUSSANT:

- **ZAFAR UL HASAN** (Former Joint Chief Economist, M/o PD&SI)

BREAK

1800 – 1900

SESSION II: HUMAN CAPITAL AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES

1900 – 2100 HRS

- **MODERNISING DIGITAL INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED LEARNERS IN PAKISTAN**
Waqas Mahmmod (The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur)
- **TRUST IN STATE & POLITICS: EVALUATING THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE AMONG CITIZENS OF PAKISTAN**
Alvina Sabah Idrees (GC University, Lahore)
- **INCLUSIVITY OF NEURODIVERSE YOUNGSTERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT: DATA-DRIVEN POLICY SOLUTION**
Siddrah Irfan (NUST, Islamabad)
- **GRADUATES' LOW EMPLOYABILITY IN PAKISTAN: MODELLING DEMAND FOR MARKETABLE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**
Ajaz Ahmed (University of Glasgow, UK)
- **EMPOWERED CHOICES: A CURRICULUM FOR UNDERSTANDING BOUNDARIES AND CONSENT**
Umm-E-Rumman Syed (National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad)

DISCUSSANT:

- **HAFEEZ A. JAMALI** (DG Balochistan Civil Services Academy, Quetta)

DAY 2 | Saturday, May 16th, 2026

SESSION III: HEALTH, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, & VULNERABILITY

1500– 1700 HRS

- **MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON PREGNANCY OUTCOMES AND NEWBORN HEALTH IN PAKISTAN**
Shehla Baqai (Bahria University Health Sciences Campus, Karachi)
- **ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**
Rubeena Kidwai (Taskeen Health Initiative, Karachi)
- **FROM “DISABLE” TO “GIGABLE”: LEVERAGING GIG-PLATFORMS FOR INCLUSIVITY AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**
Nasir Mehmood (University of Wah, Rawalpindi)
- **MANPOWER EXPORTS: A STUDY OF CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH**
Moazzam Ali (AIOU, Islamabad)
- **TAX COMPLIANCE, TAX BEHAVIOUR AND TAX MISPERCEPTION: EVIDENCE FROM FAISALABAD**
Imran Qaiser (GC University, Faisalabad)

DISCUSSANT:

- **NOOREEN MUJAHID** (*Director, AERC, University of Karachi, Karachi*)

RASTA SHOWCASE- I: EDUCATION

1700– 1800 HRS

- **EDUCATION POLICY AND PRACTICE IN PAKISTAN**
Ahsan Ul Haq (Associate Professor, PIDE), Nadeem Ahmed Khan (Director, EDC, PIDE), & Ahmad Faraz (Associate Professor, PIDE)

BREAK 1800 – 1900

SESSION IV: CLIMATE RISKS AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

1900 – 2100 HRS

- **RETHINKING SMOG MITIGATION IN PUNJAB: POLICY EFFECTIVENESS, GOVERNANCE GAPS, AND INCENTIVE-BASED SOLUTIONS**
Sahar Zia (Lahore College for Women University, Lahore)
- **CLIMATE RESILIENCE APPROACH TO SUSTAIN THE SOLID WASTE SECTOR THROUGH ANALYTICAL HIERARCHY PROCESS FOR POLICY DECISION**
Asif Iqbal (The Urban Unit, Lahore)
- **CBAM POLICY DEVELOPMENT, ADAPTATION AND COMPLIANCE: A CASE STUDY OF TEXTILE SECTOR IN PUNJAB**
Mashhood Urfi (Carbo-X Pvt Ltd, Lahore)
- **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL RESIDUE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR SMOG REDUCTION**
Musharib Khan (NUST, Islamabad)
- **MITIGATING AIR POLLUTION AND URBAN HEAT THROUGH CLIMATE-SENSITIVE HEALTH INTERVENTION**
Muhammad Nasar-U-Minallah (University of the Punjab, Lahore)

DISCUSSANT:

- **NASIR JAVED** (*Former CEO, The Urban Unit Punjab*)

DAY 3 | Sunday, May 17th, 2026

SESSION V: GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

1500– 1700 HRS

- **THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC IDEAS IN SHAPING PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL HISTORY**
M. Tariq Mahmood (Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology, Islamabad)
- **GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES UNDER COALITION GOVERNMENTS: A CASE OF BALOCHISTAN (2013 TO 2023)**
Amir Jan (Lasbela University, Uthal)

- GENESIS OF PERENNIAL INSTABILITY AND INEFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE IN PAKISTAN: ROLE OF REGIONAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN COALITION GOVERNMENTS

Samee Lashari (Houston Community College, USA)

- THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF BUREAUCRATIC TURNOVER

Abiha Zahra (Information Technology University, Lahore)

- STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: A DATA- DRIVEN APPROACH TO LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND ETHICAL COMPETENCY

Uzair Jamil Kayani (LUMS, Lahore)

DISCUSSANT:

- ATTA ULLAH SHAH (Vice-Chancellor, Karakorum International University, Gilgit)

RASTA SHOWCASE-II: DOMESTIC COMMERCE

1700– 1720 HRS

- THE STATE OF COMMERCE IN PAKISTAN: STRUCTURE, CONSTRAINTS, AND POLICY IMPERATIVES (QUETTA, PESHAWAR, FAISALABAD, LAHORE, & KARACHI)

Omer Siddique (Senior Research Economist, PIDE)

RASTA SHOWCASE-III: POVERTY

1720– 1740 HRS

- REFRAMING POVERTY REDUCTION IN PAKISTAN: TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE, MARKET-LINKED MODEL

Nasir Iqbal (Professor/Registrar, PIDE)

RASTA SHOWCASE IV: CITYPEDIA

1740 - 1800 HRS

- CITYPEDIA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PAKISTANI CITIES

Faheem Jehangir Khan (Dean Policy, PIDE/ Project Director, RASTA)

BREAK

1800 – 1900

SESSION VI: URBAN GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL PROTECTION, & INVESTMENT

1900– 2100 HRS

- CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AND FUNERAL SERVICES: CHALLENGES FOR CITY GOVERNMENT AND WAY FORWARD

Saira Tufail (Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi)

- AT THE CROSSROADS OF REFORM AND SURVIVAL: THE UNSTRUCTURED BUS SYSTEM OF KARACHI

Zaineb Mustafa Disawala (Independent Researcher, Karachi)

- PRECARIZATION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNING KHAWAJA SIRA COMMUNITY AND THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN PAKISTAN

Rana Imran Ahmed (University of Sargodha, Sargodha)

- THE FUTURE OF NATURAL GAS IN PAKISTAN: A REVIEW OF POLICY FRAMEWORK

Faisal Jamil (NUST, Islamabad)

- ANALYZING SECTOR-SPECIFIC FLOWS OF FIXED INVESTMENT AND MEASURING STOCK OF PHYSICAL CAPITAL IN PAKISTAN

Attiq-Ur-Rehman (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad)

DISCUSSANT:

- ZAINAB JAHAN (Associate Professor, Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi)

CLOSING SESSION

2100 HRS

- LESSONS, WAY FORWARD & VOTE OF THANKS

Nadeem Javaid (Vice-Chancellor, PIDE/RAC Chairman, RASTA)

