



Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March 2023
Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore

EconFest

Learn & debate your economy!

Everyone in Pakistan is worried about the economy. Whether it's a social gathering, a friends' meet up or a TV talk show, conversation drifts towards the economy. We all know that the economic crisis in Pakistan is a tale as old as its emergence in the league of nations. The country that was once considered to become the next Asian Tiger is now struggling to keep its head above water.

Every successive government promises to make amends in ways that would make the economy grow and improve the living standard of common people, but challenges remain at large.

Realising the need of time, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) – in collaboration with the Research for Social Transformation & Advancement (RASTA) programme and the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) – is holding the first-ever **Economy Festival (EconFest)** on **Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th of March 2023** at the **Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore**. The two-day event will offer opportunities to learn and debate some real issues of our economy in 34 thought-provoking sessions featuring more than 100 distinguished speakers.

EconFest represents a collaborative effort to bring together eminent economists, accomplished

public policy specialists, seasoned practitioners and professionals, esteemed academicians, and leading business, political, and thought leaders on a platform to share their views pertaining to the economic challenges facing Pakistan at national and sub-national levels.

The purpose of this gathering is to facilitate the exchange of diverse perspectives on current economic dilemmas afflicting the nation. The idea, acting as a bedrock for this event is that *“change begins with a conversation”*. This EconFest aims to kick-start a wide-spread conversation on the most pressing economic issues Pakistan is confronting today.

The program of events will encompass a diverse range of activities, including stimulating talks by renowned experts, interactive panel discussions, open mic sessions for participants to voice their opinions, book/report launches and screenings of documentaries that delve into various facets of the economy.

A variety of topics will be covered in the EconFest such as cities, investment, exports, population, real estate, energy, economic governance, taxation, foreign aid, health and education, technology, youth, employability and so on.

Join us! You won't get bored, we promise!

Follow @PIDEpk on Twitter and use #EconFest for more updates.



Saturday **11th** & Sunday **12th** March 2023

Alhamra Art Center, The Mall



www.pide.org.pk/EconFest



	Hall-I	Hall-II	Hall-III	Hall-IV
1100 - 1200	Coming Out of the Boom & Bust Cycle <i>Opening the Conversation</i>	--	--	--
1215 - 1315	Why Don't Pakistanis Invest? <i>Navid Fazil, Shahid Kardar*, Nadeem Ul Haque, Omer Saeed & M Anees Khawaja</i>	Who Are We: The Question of Identity <i>Durre Nayab*, Ramesh Singh Arora & Asif Aqeel</i> (PIDE BASICS Survey)	R&D: The Missing Link <i>Faheem Jehangir*, Gonzalo J. Varela, Mohsin M. Chandna & Mumtaz Anwar</i> (Book Launch)	Agricultural Diversification for Food Security (UAF) <i>Iqbal A. Khan, Khalid Mushtaq, Asif Kamran*, Zaheer Ahmad, Asghar Ali, Ch. Najaf Rasool & Mansoor Ali</i> (Report Launch)
1330 - 1430	Sustainable Growth & Role of Textile Sector (APTMA) <i>Gohar Ejaz, Gonzalo J. Varela, Ali Khizar, Hamid Zaman, Aamir Fayyaz & Asif Inam*</i>	Creative & Cultural Industries <i>Fasi Zaka*, Zulfiqar Jabbar Khan, Sanam Saeed, Momin Ali Munshi & Sarosh Nisar</i>	Debate: Corruption vs Incompetence <i>Asad Rahim & Bakhtawar Soofi</i>	Dealing with Inflation (Minhaj University) <i>Mumtaz Anwar, Shabib Haider Syed, Qamar Saleem & Muhammad Tayyab*</i>
B R E A K				
1515 - 1615	How to Turnaround Pakistan? <i>Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry</i>	Population: Boon or Bane? <i>Durre Nayab*, Naeem uz Zafar & Saman Rai</i>	The Perpetual Energy Crisis <i>Syed Mansoor Sarwar, Tahir Basharat Cheema*, Suhail Aftab Qureshi & Salis Usman</i> (Book Launch)	Climate Change & Resilient Cities (Urban Unit, Punjab) <i>Omar Masud, Ahmed Rafay Alam*, Mujtaba Hussain & Mehreen Mujtaba</i>
1630 - 1730	Education with No Future? <i>Asghar Zaidi*, Monis Rahman, Aqsa Shabbir & Kasim Kasuri</i>	Sludge: Cost of Regulations <i>Irfan Iqbal, Rahat Kaunain, Ahmed Waqar Qasim*, Zafar Mehmood & Saqib Rafiq</i> (Report Launch & PIDEAS)	Auto Industry <i>Almas Hayder, Suneel Munj, Manzoor Ahmed, Razi ur Rehman & Shaaf Najib*</i> (PIDEAS)	Real Estate: Plots or Construction <i>Isbah Hassan*, Ateeq Ahmed, Mumtaz Shahnawaz & Abrar Sheikh</i>
1730	MUSIC CONCERT (Taimur Rahman, Laal Band)			

	Hall-I	Hall-II	Hall-III	Hall-IV
1100 - 1200	Policy (In)Action <i>Salman Siddique, Col. Mubashir Javed, Muhammad Ali Randhawa & Tariq Awan</i>	Reform for Economic & Political Stability <i>Hamid Sharif & Salahuddin Ahmed</i>	Building Brands & Franchising <i>Asfandiyar Farrukh, Ziad Bashir, Shahid Hussain & Zahid Hussain*</i>	Future of Digital Economy (CERP) <i>Amin ul Haque, Maroof A. Syed*, Khurram Zafar, Sadaffe Abid, Monis Rehman & Tanveet Suri</i>
1215 - 1315	Peoples' Charter of Economy <i>Irfan Qadir, Nadeem Ul Haque* & PIDE Fellows</i>	Foreign Aid Dilemma <i>Najy Benhassine, Asad Hayuddin, Steven Rynecki, Shazia Maqsood Amjad & Faheem Jehangir*</i>	Taxation for Development (Econ LUMS) <i>Sher Afghan Asad*, Shabbar Zaidi, Ikram ul Haq & Kashif Anwar</i>	Environmental Governance & Green Investment (PGDP) <i>Waqar Ud Din*, Ahmed Rafay Alam, Muhammad Atif, Waseem Ahmed Raja & Aaminah Qadir</i>
1330 - 1430	Cities: The Cost of Sprawl <i>Omer Masud, Kamran Lashari, Aamir Ali Ahmed, Raza Ali Dada & Parvez Qureshi*</i> (PIDEAS)	Local Government: A Panacea? <i>Ahmad Iqbal *, Saeed Shafqat, Nafisa Shah, Ammar Ali Jan & Imran Khan</i>	Social Protection: Are We Doing It Right? <i>Syed Mustafa*, Shujaat Farooq, Beenish Fatima Sahi & Kashif Saeed</i>	Tech for Change (G&T LUMS) <i>Hadia Majid*, Maryam Mustafa, Roshaneh Zafar, Zara Basharat & Abrar Ahmed</i>
B R E A K				
1515 - 1615	نو کمری دویا ویزا دو Open Mic (PIDEAS & PIDE BASICS Survey)	Internet for All <i>Ali Naseer, Sobia Ameen, Yasira Waqar, Burhan Rasool, Ammara Masood & Fatima Akhtar*</i> (PIDEAS)	Muddying Economic Discourse <i>Babar Nizami *, Ali Khizar, Meher Bokhari & Nasir Jamal</i>	Law, Justice & Economy <i>Feisal Naqvi *, Osama Siddique & Tassaduq Hussain Jillani</i>
1630 - 1730	Economic Reform: Now or Never <i>Hafeez A. Pasha, Nadeem Ul Haque*, Shahid Kardar & Salman Shah</i>	--	--	--
1730	MUSIC CONCERT (Ali Aftab Saeed)			

PARTNERS



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Department of Economics



Minhaj
University
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The Urban Unit
Urban Cluster Planning & Management Services Unit (Pvt.) Ltd.



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