



# It's all about **Economy!**

## Programme Booklet



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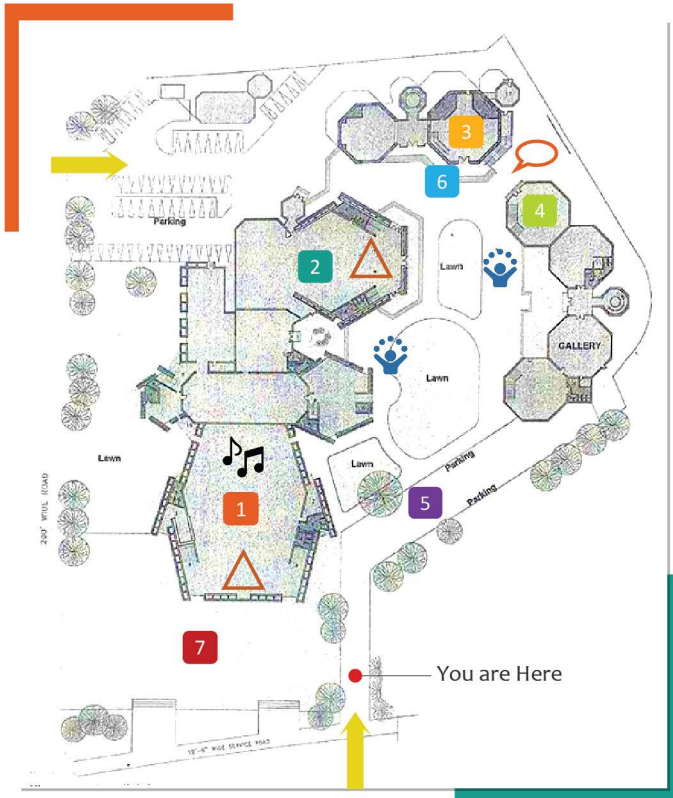
DAY 2 SESSIONS

# Day 1 SAT 11<sup>th</sup> MAR 2023

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

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

## PREMISES MAP



- |          |                  |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Hall 1           | <b>7</b> | Food Court       |
| <b>2</b> | Hall 2           |          | Books Exhibition |
| <b>3</b> | Hall 3           |          | Media Wall       |
| <b>4</b> | Hall 4           |          | Fun Activities   |
| <b>5</b> | Information Desk |          | Concert Venue    |
| <b>6</b> | EconFest Lounge  |          |                  |



**DAY 1**

**SAT 11<sup>th</sup>**

**MARCH 2023**

## Opening the Conversation

1100 – 1200 Hrs | Hall 1

### COMING OUT OF THE BOOM & BUST CYCLE

Pakistan is yet again in a debt crisis. 23 IMF programs in 75 years show how weak economic policymaking has been through our history. Productivity and investment in the country are on a downward trend. With fundamental economic reforms being continuously delayed, the future of the country looks bleak.

EconFest wants you to think hard about your future, our youth's future, and the future of economic policy in the country.

EconFest wants to build a Pakistan full of opportunities for everyone, especially the youth.

This is a session setting the tone for the two days - March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 1st Parallel Sessions

1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 1

### WHY DON'T PAKISTANIS INVEST?

- NAVEED FAZIL  
*Director, Interloop Holdings Pvt. Ltd*
- OMER SAEED  
*Board of Directors, Nestle Pakistan*
- SEEMA AZIZ  
*Founder & Managing Director, CARE Foundation*
- SHAHID KARDAR (*Moderator*)  
*Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan*

Government is repeatedly in search of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and foreign aid, yet investment in Pakistan remains the lowest in the region.

Businesses complain of whimsical and unstable politics, a highly restrictive

regulatory environment and poor work culture.

Business growth remains weak, firms not dynamic and new industries seldom open. The stock market is shrinking and has no new listings.

This is not what a pro-youth economy, that offers opportunities, looks like.

## 1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 2

### WHO ARE WE: THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY

- RAMESH SINGH ARORA  
*Former Member Punjab Assembly*
- ASIF AQEEL  
*Deputy Director, Center for Law and Justice,  
Forman Christian College, Lahore*
- DURRE NAYAB (*Moderator*)  
*Joint Director, PIDE*

PIDE BASICS<sup>1</sup> survey shows that Pakistan has very low social capital, i.e., community sense, trust and the ability to collaborate. We have always struggled to establish a national identity. Data show that we are fragmented. The recent crises demonstrate it as well.

What are the reasons for it and how it can be changed?

## 1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 3

### R&D: THE MISSING LINK

- GONZALO J. VARELA  
*Senior Economist, The World Bank Group (Pakistan)*
- MOHSIN MUSHTAQ CHANDNA  
*Secretary (Incharge), Ministry of Information Technology &  
Telecommunication*
- MUMTAZ ANWAR  
*Dean, Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Services,  
University of Punjab*

<sup>1</sup> BASICS: Beliefs, Attitudes, Social Capital, Institutions, Community and Self

- FAHEEM JEANGIR (*Moderator*)  
*Senior Research Economist, PIDE / Project Director, RASTA*

Research & Development (R&D) in Pakistan is virtually non-existent.

Despite having 200+ universities and around two dozen think tanks in Pakistan, governments have relied on donors. Not surprisingly, the country lacks knowledge networks where researchers, thought leaders, policy-makers and practitioners can interact frequently and share ideas.

At the EconFest, we shall talk about the research-policy gap and explore the missing links.

**1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 4**

## **AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION FOR FOOD SECURITY**

*(Session by the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)*

- IQRAR AHMAD KHAN  
*Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad*
- KHALID MUSHTAQ  
*Director, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad*
- ASGHAR ALI  
*Associate Professor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad*
- ZAHEER AHMAD  
*Associate Professor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad*
- MANSOOR ALI  
*Independent Consultant*
- M. ASIF KAMRAN (*Moderator*)  
*Professor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad*

In this session, we shall talk about land use and land markets. Water management and institutional reforms.

Discussion to review and restructure the state water institutions to block the leakages and make water use more efficient.

Insights into changing climate, having a far-reaching impact on agricultural production, are likely to challenge food security in the future.

Exploring the responsible investment in agriculture and food systems for enhancing food security and supporting the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food.

## 2nd Parallel Sessions

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 1

### SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ROLE OF TEXTILE SECTOR (Session by APTMA)

- GOHAR EJAZ  
*Patron-in-Chief, APTMA*
- GONZALO J. VARELA  
*Senior Economist, The World Bank Group (Pakistan)*
- ALI KHIZAR  
*Head of Research, Business Recorder*
- HAMID ZAMAN  
*Chairman North, APTMA*
- AAMIR FAYYAZ  
*Chief Executive, Kohinoor Mills*
- ASIF INAM (*Moderator*)  
*Chairman, APTMA*

Discussion in this session would focus on the following issues and challenges:

- Pakistan growth challenge: swimming out of the quicksand
- Distortions, Resource allocation and productivity in Pakistan
- Pakistan's productivity challenges
- Productivity-Trade
- Agricultural productivity and the challenge of climate change
- Firm size and Growth in Pakistan
- Foreign direct investment in Pakistan
- Closing the gap

- Pakistan's Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Vision 2030 & 2050 for Environmental Sustainability
- Textile Industry & Social-Economic Significance
- RCET: Competitive Energy Essential to Sustain & Grow Exports
- Effective RCET Policy

**1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 2**

## **CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

- ZULFIQAR JABBAR KHAN  
*Curator & Producer, Coke Studio Pakistan*
- SANAM SAEED  
*TV, Film and Theatre Actor*
- SOPHIYA ANJAM  
*Radio/Event/TV/Digital Host*
- SAROSH NISAR  
*Visual Artist*
- FASI ZAKA (*Moderator*)  
*Senior Communications Advisor*

Globally, creative industries—music, movies, social media and television—generate significant revenue. These are also important in building the positive image of a country - like Hollywood, Bollywood and the recent additions of Turkey and Korea.

Cultural and creative industry in Pakistan is now emerging; movies, music and social media are happening. What can be done to accelerate this trend and allow Pakistan to have a fair share of this growing segment in the global market?

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 3

## DEBATE: CORRUPTION VS INCOMPETENCE

### For Corruption

- ASAD RAHIM  
Partner, Ashtar Ali LLP
- NAZISH AFRAAZ  
Adjunct Faculty, LUMS

### For Incompetence

- BAKHTAWAR BILAL SOOFI  
Associate Partner, ABS & Co
- AHMED RAJWANA  
PAS Officer

- NADEEM UL HAQUE (Moderator)  
Vice Chancellor, PIDE

For 75 years we have accused every opponent of corruption without proving it. Does corruption exist or do we lack the competence to prove it?

At the same time, we lack effective policy-making, our projects do not finish on time, returns on these projects are low and execution is of poor quality.

So, the question remains: Is corruption the bigger problem or incompetence? Let's debate.

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 4

## DEALING WITH INFLATION

(Session by Minhaj University, Lahore)

- MUMTAZ ANWAR  
Vice Chancellor, University of Jhang
- SHABIB HAIDER SYED  
Professor, University of Sindh
- QAMAR SALEEM  
PhD Scholar, Minhaj University Lahore
- MUHAMMAD TAYYAB (Moderator)  
Assistant Professor, Minhaj University Lahore

Countries are struggling to control inflation. In economics, generally three ways are to control inflation:

- through increasing interest rate
- through increasing the reserve requirements
- through open market operations

Pakistan tried to deal with inflation by depreciating the Pakistani currency, austerity policy of increasing general sales and other different types of taxes.

This session will explore Pakistan's inflation experience and policies to deal with it.

## 3rd Parallel Sessions

1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 1

### HOW TO TURNAROUND PAKISTAN?

- AHSAN IQBAL CHAUDHARY  
*Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives,  
Government of Pakistan*

From being tipped to join the world's 25 largest economies by international experts in 2017 to being on the brink of default in 2022, what went wrong?

How can the political, social, and economic downturn be turned around?

An exclusive talk with Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives.

1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 2

### POPULATION: BOON OR BANE?

- NAEEM UZ ZAFAR  
*Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics*
- SAMAN RAI  
*Director General, Population Welfare Department Punjab*
- DURRE NAYAB (Moderator)  
*Joint Director, PIDE*

Population growth can impact the economy negatively or positively depending on institutional arrangements. Growing population does increase welfare but beyond a certain level, it might not. World has struggled with this proposition for a long time.

What we have known is that population growth must be accompanied by societal development that is capable of using each new generation. Without this, disaster happens.

The conventional view is that population can be controlled by fiat. In reality, family size is a choice, and varies with societal and economic development.

Where does Pakistan stand on this?

**1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 3**

## **THE PERPETUAL CRISIS – ENERGY**

- **SYED MANSOOR SARWAR**  
*Vice Chancellor, University of Engineering Technology, Lahore*
- **SUHAIL AFTAB QURESHI**  
*President Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEEP)*
- **SALIS USMAN**  
*Technical Training Lead Consultant, National Transmission & Dispatch Company (NTDC)*
- **TAHIR BASHARAT CHEEMA** (*Moderator*)  
*Former Managing Director, PEPCO*

Over the last 15 years, energy has cost more than PKR 7 trillion.

Successive governments have been unable to fix this hemorrhage.

PIDE has a plan, and we want you to discuss it.

1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 4

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENT CITIES

*(Session by the Urban Unit, Punjab)*

- OMAR MASUD  
CEO, Urban Unit, Punjab
- MEHREEN MUJTABA  
Climate Change and Health Expert
- MUJATABA HUSSAIN  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change
- RAFAY ALAM (Moderator)  
Environmental Lawyer

The session will comprise the themes below and a report launch.

- Cities: A 'cause of and solution to' climate change
- Climate resilient cities through legal & institutional lens
- The health argument for climate action
- Mainstreaming climate change from a federal to local scale
- Launching of “Sectoral Emissions Inventory of Lahore District”

## 4th Parallel Sessions

1630 – 1730 Hrs | Hall 1

## EDUCATION WITH NO FUTURE

- ASGHAR ZAIDI (Moderator)  
Vice Chancellor, Government College University, Lahore
- MONIS RAHMAN  
Co-founder & CEO, Dukan
- AQSA SHABBIR  
Associate Professor, Lahore College for Women University

- KASIM KASURI  
*Chief Executive Officer, Beaconhouse School System*

Unemployment among the educated youth is on a constant rise, while the quality of education is continuously declining. Data also show that few new jobs of quality are being created in Pakistan. All this means very little opportunity for youth in the country.

Technology is disrupting every sector of society including education.

Our panel will discuss how rapidly changing technology and globalisation should impact our education system and pave way for increasing opportunities for the young population.

**1630 – 1730 Hrs | Hall 2**

## **SLUDGE: COST OF REGULATIONS**

- IRFAN IQBAL  
*President, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries*
- ZAFAR MEHMOOD  
*Senior Vice President, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries*
- RAHAT KAUNAIN  
*Chairperson, Competition Commission of Pakistan*
- AHMED WAQAR QASIM (Moderator)  
*Senior Research Economist, PIDE*

Pakistan has become **Permissionistan** - a permission economy. Multiple permissions are required from different government agencies which amount to an invisible tax on transactions.

The cost of regulations has deteriorated the investment climate of the country.

PIDE is trying to highlight this issue through its Sludge Audit. Estimates suggest that this License Raj could cost as much as 40% of GDP.

1630 – 1730 Hrs | Hall 3

## AUTO INDUSTRY

- ALMAS HYDER  
*Chairman, Engineering Development Board*
- RAZI UR REHMAN  
*Group Director, Corporate Affairs, Atlas Group*
- MANZOOR AHMED  
*Chief Executive, World Trade Advisors*
- MOHAMMAD SHAAF NAJIB (*Moderator*)  
*Research Fellow, PIDE*

For seven decades, the auto industry has been an infant and protected industry. Consumers have paid heavily for basic cars, without much choice. There is no improvement in the state of the industry, no innovations and no exports. Deletion and indigenisation have proven to be flawed concepts.

Globally, technology has changed the auto industry. Meanwhile, we are still promoting the internal combustion engine (ICE) when the world is moving rapidly towards Electric Vehicles (EVs).

1630 – 1730 Hrs | Hall 4

## REAL ESTATE: PLOTS OR CONSTRUCTION

- ATEEQ AHMED  
*Founding Director, Office for Conservation and Community Outreach*
- ABRAR SHAIKH  
*Director & Chief Executive Officer, UNISON Group*
- MUMTAZ SHAHNAWAZ  
*Founding Partner, Variant Architecture*
- ISBAH HASSAN (*Moderator*)  
*Chief Executive Officer, Isbah Hassan & Associates*

Real Estate is too often thought of as housing societies. Our cities have become sprawling **Plotistan**.

What we need is construction and not plots. Construction adds value to plots, creates employment and opportunities for the future, and contributes revenue to the exchequer.

The regulatory regime has halted construction, and real estate has been restricted to mere plots.

We urge you all to think about the country's real estate paradigm.





**DAY 2**  
**SUN 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**MARCH 2023**

## 1st Parallel Sessions

1100 – 1200 Hrs | Hall 1

### POLICY (IN) ACTION

- SALMAN SIDDIQUE (*Moderator*)  
*Former Chief Secretary, Punjab & Former Federal Secretary, Finance*
- Col. (R) MUBASHIR JAVED  
*Former Lord Mayor, Lahore*
- M. ALI RANDHAWA  
*Commissioner, Lahore Division*
- TARIQ AWAN  
*Former President, PMS Officers Association*

Successive governments have looked for projects in the absence of well-thought-out indigenous policy.

21<sup>st</sup> century requires technical administration and policy-making, and swift dispute-resolution mechanisms. Can the inherited 19th-century colonial structures, that we have been unable to reform in the last 75 years, perform these functions?

What should the new government systems look like? How centralised should the bureaucracy be? Or should we have more autonomy, professionalism and decentralisation?

1100 – 1200 Hrs | Hall 2

### REFORM FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY

- HAMID SHARIF  
*Senior Legal Expert*
- SALAHUDDIN AHMED  
*Partner, Malik, Chaudhry, Ahmed Siddiqi*
- HAMID KHAN  
*Eminent Legal Expert*

Democracy has been unstable in Pakistan. Reform and legislation have been slow in coming. Parliament has not asserted itself as it should. Fresh entry into parliamentary leadership has been limited.

- Each agency is seeking hegemony, and the social contract has weakened.
- Is there any demand for constitutional reforms for a stable democracy in the country?
- What amendments can you think of to strengthen the constitution and democracy?
- Are we ready to reset the fundamentals of the state machinery?
- Do we need a new social contract?

**1100 – 1200 Hrs | Hall 3**

## **BUILDING BRANDS AND FRANCHISING**

- ZIAD BASHIR  
*Board Member, Gul Ahmed*
- SHAHID HUSSAIN  
*Chief Executive Officer, Servis Sales Corporation (Pvt.) Ltd.*
- ASFANDYAR FARRUKH  
*Senior Vice Chairman, Chainstore Association of Pakistan*
- ZAHID HUSSAIN (*Moderator*)  
*Founder and Chairman, Borjan (Pvt) Ltd*

We have become a commodity-producing nation but with limited exports and low margins.

Brands add value and offer high margins to businesses.

PIDE is looking at the state of domestic commerce, including branding and franchising in the country to brighten the future of business.

The question we need to ask is, why are these two aspects, branding and franchising, so limited in Pakistan?

**1100 – 1200 Hrs | Hall 4**

## **FUTURE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY**

*(Session by CERP)*

- MAROOF A. SYED *(Moderator)*  
President & CEO, CERP
- HASHIM RAZA  
Former CEO, SMEDA
- KHURRAM ZAFAR  
Founding Partner, 47 Ventures
- SADAF ABID  
Founder & CEO, Circle Women
- MONIS RAHMAN  
Co-founder & CEO, Dukan

Discussion in this session would focus on the following issues and challenges:

- Does the digital economy have a role in creating economic growth in Pakistan?
- What are the opportunities and key frictions?
- What policy environment is conducive for both export growth and domestic productivity gains?
- Bringing together diverse perspectives to help unpack the digital economy and what it means for Pakistan.

## **2nd Parallel Sessions**

**1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 1**

## **PEOPLE'S CHARTER OF ECONOMY**

- IRFAN QADIR  
SAPM, Legal Reforms, and Former Attorney General, Government of Pakistan
- NADEEM UL HAQUE *(Moderator)*  
Vice Chancellor, PIDE

Political and administrative instability has brought the economy to a deep crisis.

There is talk of a charter of economy among our political leaders. PIDE feels that academia should be researching and discussing this subject. Such discussions will inform our political leaders. Throughout history, ideas have led reform and political leaders.

Our research shows that deep institutional reform is necessary for the country to achieve stability.

- How can democratic rules be changed for better collaboration among politicians?
- How can we improve legislation, and administrative and judicial processes for smooth and speedy economic transactions?
- Should research be mainstreamed into decision-making for better policy-making?
- Come discuss the PIDE Charter of Economy with us. With your ideas, make it the people's charter!

**1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 2**

## **FOREIGN AID DILEMMA**

- **ASAD HAYAUDDIN**  
*Former Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan*
- **STEVEN RYNECKI**  
*Director, Climate and Sustainable Growth Office, USAID*
- **Muhammad Aman Ullah**  
*Joint Chief Economist, P&D Board, Punjab*
- **SHAZIA MAQSOOD AMJAD**  
*Executive Director, Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy*
- **FAHEEM JEHANGIR** (*Moderator*)  
*Senior Research Economist, PIDE / Project Director, RASTA*

Foreign aid's contribution to development is contested. Pakistan appears to be an aid-addicted country. Every government has adopted a Fund program,

seldom with success. Instead of reform and good policy, successive governments have chosen to beg for aid.

There are about 40+ official donors in the country, all of whom confront policy-makers regularly with their contrasting and competing priorities, overlapping project activities, and choice of aid modalities and instruments. Our policy capacity is incapable of dealing with this complexity of the aid delivery system.

At the EconFest, we shall discuss the following:

- Is Pakistan an aid-dependent country?
- What have we achieved with the help of development partners?
- What is the true cost of foreign aid?
- How to improve the effective value of foreign aid?

**1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 3**

## **TAXATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

*(Session by Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics, LUMS)*

- **SHABBAR ZAIDI**  
*Former Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue*
- **IKRAMUL HAQ**  
*Advocate, Supreme Court*
- **KASHIF ANWAR**  
*President, Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry*
- **SHER AFGHAN ASAD** *(Moderator)*  
*Assistant Professor of Economics, LUMS*

The tax regime is highly complicated, focusing only on revenues. The revenues are primarily driven through indirect taxation and an expanding withholding regime, and the tax net remains relatively narrow.

Repeated tax breaks, amnesties, and subsidies are counter-productive in revenue collection but also, more importantly, in achieving economic efficiency.

- Pakistan's fiscal challenges are gigantic, yet so little revenue. Why?
- How is the taxation of real estate distorting the investment climate?
- Challenges of agriculture income taxation and the way forward?
- How to effectively tax wholesale and retail trade?
- How can we engage more researchers and academia for evidence-based policy-making?

**1215 – 1315 Hrs | Hall 4**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND GREEN INVESTMENT**

*(Session by the Punjab Green Development Programme)*

- **WAQAR UD DIN** *(Moderator)*  
*Project Director, Punjab Green Development Programme*
- **RAFAY ALAM**  
*Environmental Lawyer*
- **MUHAMMAD ATIF**  
*Project Director, Sialkot Tanneries Zones*
- **WASEEM AHMED RAJA**  
*Activist for Katas Raj Pond*
- **AAMINAH QADIR**  
*Lawyer and Activist*

In this session, we shall discuss the following themes:

- Women as change agent in the context of Environment and Climate Change
- Impact of Industrial Growth on Environment and Significance of Green Investments: Case Study of Katas Raj
- Promoting Effective Environmental Governance: Discussing Gaps and Possibilities

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 1

### CITIES: THE COST OF SPRAWL

- KAMRAN LASHARI  
*Director General, Walled City of Lahore Authority*
- AAMIR ALI AHMED  
*Former Chief Commissioner, Islamabad, & Chairman, Capital Development Authority*
- OMER MASUD  
*Chief Executive Officer, Urban Unit, Punjab*
- RAZA ALI DADA  
*Architect & Managing Partner, Nayyar Ali Dada & Associates*
- PARVEZ QURESHI (*Moderator*)  
*Chief Executive, Unicon Consulting*

*“Cities are the biggest invention that make us richer, smarter, greener, healthier and happier”, Edward Glaeser.*

Cities in Pakistan are making us poorer, less smart, polluted, ruining our health and certainly not contributing to our happiness. The reason is people come second to cars in our cities. This can easily be seen by the number of flyovers we make, and widen roads to the detriment of pedestrians, bikers, and street-vending and activities.

*PIDE’s definition of a city is a dense compact area, comprising of high-rise buildings with mix-use, where cars are limited, and walkability and bike-ability is at a premium.*

Commerce and entrepreneurship must be the driving force behind designing and planning cities.

We will discuss:

- How master plans have failed us and created shortages in space for schooling, leisure, commerce, office and other city uses?

- How should cities be managed and who should decide what is to be built and where?
- Should cities be more people-friendly and denser?
- Should we limit the use of cars?
- Why can we not develop smart cities?

**1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 2**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A PANACEA?**

- AHMED IQBAL CHAUDHARY (*Moderator*)  
*Project Director, Dehleez*
- SAEED SHAFQAT  
*Professor & Founding Director, CPPG, FC College*
- NAFISA SHAH  
*Member Parliament, National Assembly of Pakistan*
- AMMAR ALI JAN  
*General Secretary, Haqooq-e-Khalq Party*
- IMRAN KHAN  
*Country Director, United States Institute of Peace (USIP)*

*Local governments (LGs) have been a perennial unresolved issue in Pakistan. Efficient public service delivery requires LGs. Many would contend that there is no real democracy without LGs.*

*We would like you to consider:*

- How and what kind of LGs should we get?
- Are LGs compatible with the inherited colonial structures? If not, what reform is required?
- How should financial and operational powers be devolved?
- How should cities and metropolitan areas be treated differently than rural areas in defining the role of LGs?
- What election systems should be used?

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 3

## SOCIAL PROTECTION: ARE WE DOING IT RIGHT?

- SHUJAAT FAROOQ  
*Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, PIDE*
- BEENISH FATIMA SAHI  
*Public Policy Specialist and Practitioner*
- KASHIF SAEED  
*Economist & Social Policy Specialist*
- SYED MUSTAFA (*Moderator*)  
*Consultant, GFA Consulting Group*

The session will explore the following sub-themes:

- Poverty has reduced, but is it because of the social protection initiatives?
- Are the initiatives poorly designed to deliver health and education?
- Is there an alternative to what is being done, maybe a market one?

1330 – 1430 Hrs | Hall 4

## TECH FOR CHANGE

(Session by GenTech, LUMS)

- HADIA MAJID (*Moderator*)  
*Chair of Economics, and Director, GenTech, LUMS*
- MARYAM MUSTAFA  
*Assistant Professor, Computer Science, and Director, GenTech, LUMS*
- ROSHANEH ZAFAR  
*Managing Director, Kashf Foundation*
- MUDASSAR AQIL  
*CEO, Telenor Microfinance Bank & Easypaisa*

Panel discussion on advancing women's digital and economic empowerment.

Exploring the digital landscape and its intersection with the women's labour market in Pakistan.

Deliberation on the existing state of women's participation and access to digital spaces, focusing on the gendered design of technologies.

What opportunities and lessons can be learned from across the globe in creating mechanisms for support that further women's access to and use of digital technologies to enable and improve their earning potential?

## 4th Parallel Sessions

1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 1

### OPEN MIC: نوکری دو یا ویزا دو

There is 34% graduate unemployment in the country. A large number of youth has poor-quality jobs, and limited career prospects. It takes youth years to find jobs.

Brain drain is a perpetual problem for Pakistan. Global economies are being led by talent, yet Pakistan has turned into a talent-repellant country. The youth is hopeless, as the PIDE BASICS survey shows that over 60% of the youth wants to leave the country. This is not what we wish upon our children.

In this session, based on PIDEAS and PIDE BASICS survey, we want to hear your stories and your views.

1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 2

### INTERNET FOR ALL

- ALI NASEER  
*Chief Business Officer, Jazz*
- SOBIA AMEEN  
*Head of Digital Transformation and CX, Telenor*
- YASIRA WAQAR  
*EdTech Professional and Lead, Faculty Development Program, LUMS*

- BURHAN RASOOL  
*Consultant, The World Bank Group*
- AMMARA MASOOD  
*CEO, NDC Tech*
- FATIMA AKHTAR (*Moderator*)  
*Director Communication, Jazz*

Everything happens on the internet now. Gone are the times when roads and highways were the symbols of prosperity.

Internet is the highway to intellect and ideas – the new Silk Road of contemporary times. The key is that it reduces the transaction cost manifolds and gives equal access to everyone; fair game to be precise. However, a limited population of Pakistan enjoys internet access. Imagine the benefits to society and economy if the entire population of the country had reliable and cheap internet access.

- What needs to be done to provide universal internet access?
- How should the spectrum be distributed to mobile network operators?
- How should cellular industry infrastructure markets be developed?
- Should the internet be a right? Should it be subsidised?
- What would be the spillover effect of universal internet provision?

**1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 3**

## **MUDDYING ECONOMIC DISCOURSE**

- MEHER BOKHARI  
*Senior Journalist & Anchorperson*
- ALI KHIZAR  
*Head of Research, Business Recorder*
- NASIR JAMAL  
*Bureau Chief, Dawn*
- BABAR NIZAMI (*Moderator*)  
*CEO, Pakistan Today*

Economics is a non-priority issue, seldom making headlines.

TV only gives headlines when there is a crisis. There is no sustained reporting on the economy. People only view the economy through sensational news.

Economic journalism seems to rely on government and aid announcements. It lacks substantive background of economic understanding and research.

What is lacking is an interface with academia. New research does not affect journalism. As a result, the polity remains un-informed about the economy.

**1515 – 1615 Hrs | Hall 4**

## **LAW, JUSTICE AND ECONOMY**

- TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI  
*Former Chief Justice of Pakistan*
- OSAMA SIDDIQUE  
*Associate Fellow, Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives*
- FESIAL NAQVI (*Moderator*)  
*Senior Partner, Bhandari Naqvi Riaz Law Firm*

It is essential to recognise the economic cost of any legal system. The litigation process in the country is tedious, with all stakeholders incurring huge costs. The judicial system has proven to be inadequate for economic development. Delays and complex systems act as a barrier to growth and development.

Discuss:

- How to eliminate litigation delays?
- Will the case backlogs ever be cleared?
- What must be done to minimize the gaming of the justice system, which increases transaction costs of justice?
- Pakistan needs a modern judicial system as per the needs of the 21st century.
- Limits to judiciary and judicial restraint.

## Concluding Session

1630 – 1730 Hrs | Hall 1

### ECONOMIC REFORM: NOW OR NEVER

- SHAHID KARDAR  
*Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan*
- SALMAN SHAH  
*Former Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan*
- HAFIZ A. PASHA  
*Former Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan*
- NADEEM UL HAQUE (*Moderator*)  
*Vice Chancellor, PIDE*

We hope that everyone will be here to reflect on the proceedings of the weekend.

In this EconFest, we have discussed a large number of reform and change ideas across society, economy and politics.

Here, our panel will reflect on what reforms are urgently required to allow us navigate this deep crisis, as well as the longer-term deeper structural reforms required for sustained growth and development.

Discuss:

- Are our governance systems capable of developing good policy and good reforms through careful research and debate?
- Can we mobilise domestic capital, decelerate flight of talent from the country, plug our losses in government, increase productivity and growth, and use our resources efficiently?
- What are the minimum changes required to make this happen? Is there a linchpin reform?



**Lahore, thanks for a healthy conversation!**

This is just a beginning...

PIDE is committed to EconFest and will carry it across the country.

**A CONVERSATION FOR ECONOMIC REFORM WILL CHANGE OUR LIVES!**





Pakistan Institute of Development Economics



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TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION



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Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad  
Department of Economics



Minhaj  
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The Urban Unit

Urban Sector Planning & Management Services Ltd. (Pvt) Ltd.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
LAHORE



FORMAN  
CHRISTIAN  
COLLEGE  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)



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