

PAK-PACIFIC BRIEF

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ADVANCING INDEPENDENT
DISCOURSE ON ASIA-PACIFIC



BRIDGING PAKISTAN AND OCEANIA

CAPS hosted an international hybrid seminar, bringing together scholars, diplomats, and practitioners from Pakistan and Oceania to foster mutual understanding and explore areas of cooperation. Discussions centered on promoting sustainable tourism, branding strategies, and the role of cultural heritage in presenting a positive global image. The forum also addressed shared climate vulnerabilities, disaster risk management, technological integration, and youth engagement as key drivers for climate resilience.

Dr. Khuram Iqbal, President CAPS, participates in the international forum on “Community Development in the Global South”, at Global Society and Sustainability Lab, Hong Kong University.

His discussion focused on China's “top-down” approach to CPEC-related development, identifying gaps and how better stakeholder consultation through civil society research and advocacy organisations can help in building partnerships envisioned in Global Development Initiative (GDI).



CAPS EXPERT LECTURE SERIES

CAPS has launched its Lecture Series for its members with the aim of broadening their knowledge base.

The first session was led by Dr. Gulshan Rafiq, Assistant Professor, NUST and Chief Organiser of CAPS, who presented on the topic “Tourism potential between Pakistan and China”.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Muhammad Shoaib, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, George Mason University, US & Senior Vice President of CAPS, who discussed the evolving dynamics of the Indo-US relationship.

Opportunity or Dependency? Türkiye–Pakistan Energy Pact

LIDZIKRI AHMAD & YUSRA SARWAR
WRITE FOR SOUTH ASIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTER

"Türkiye and Pakistan's latest energy partnership marks a new move in Islamabad's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) chapter. This partnership looks forward to boosting foreign investment, technology transfer, and energy security. While the signing of a Joint Bidding Agreement between the two offers clear opportunities, it also raises questions about whether Pakistan risks swapping one dependency for another."

<https://gasam.org.tr/opportunity-or-dependency-turkiye-pakistan-energy-pact/>



Are China, Pakistan, Bangladesh quietly planting region's new framework?

UMAIR PERVEZ KHAN & GULSHAN RAFIQ
WRITE FOR SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

"The foreign ministers of Pakistan, China and Bangladesh convened in the Chinese city of Kunming last month. It may have looked like just another diplomatic gathering, but it signalled a strategic shift – one that could recalibrate the balance of regional cooperation and breathe life into the idea of a regional framework post-SAARC. Today, SAARC feels like a relic of a bygone era."

<https://www.scmp.com/opinion/asia-opinion/article/3318341/are-china-pakistan-bangladesh-quietly-planting-regions-new-framework>

From the Pacific to Pakistan

CAPS RESEARCHER
YUSRA SARWAR

WRITES ON THE RECENT VISIT OF A
DELEGATION FROM FIJI TO PAKISTAN

<https://dailylimes.com.pk/1330119/from-the-pacific-to-pakistan/>



"Pakistan should not treat Fiji merely as a destination but as a gateway to the Oceania region to alleviate and diversify exports of its products. Furthermore, as both countries from the Global South grapple with the challenges of climate change, they aim to cooperate in climate diplomacy on the global stage. Moreover, both countries can launch joint ventures for climate-resilient agriculture projects."

"A series of policies adopted by New Delhi vis-à-vis Pakistan has shattered the belief that humanitarian gestures rooted in culture and respect for religion may prevail in South Asia. These include the abrupt termination of the Kartarpur Corridor in May 2025, the termination of the 60-year-old mutually beneficial Indus Waters Treaty, and India's reduced participation in regional forums like SAARC"

India's Foreign Policy: A Case of Upholding Unilateral Norms

CAPS RESEARCHER
M. ASIF KHAN

WRITES FOR SOUTH ASIA STRATEGIC
RESEARCH CENTER

<https://gasam.org.tr/indias-foreign-policy-a-case-of-upholding-unilateral-norms/>



PAK-PACIFIC
BRIEF

- Pakistan and China agreed to boost tourism and cultural cooperation.
- Pakistan did an investor roadshow in Beijing to promote its first Panda Bond.
- Pakistan FM Dar met Australian FM; vowed to promote trade, education ties.
- ASEAN Mission Heads met FM Dar ahead of the 32nd ARF Ministerial Meeting.
- Thailand hosts film and water festivals in Islamabad and Lahore.
- Pakistan hosts defence advisors at COSA event.
- FM Ishaq Dar met President Xi during the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting.
- Pakistan and China have signed a media cooperation agreement.
- KP Governor, Malaysian diplomat vow to promote bilateral ties.
- Japan's \$6.48 million project revives farming in flood-hit regions of Pakistan.
- Pakistan, South Korea discuss deeper collaboration in tech and digital skills development