



NUST INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT NIPS

**EVENTS AND
ADVOCACY**

**RESEARCH
PRODUCTS**

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ABOUT NUST INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES (NIPS)

NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) aims to contribute to nation building by fostering knowledge production, exchange, and dissemination in key areas of comprehensive national development, regional cooperation, and global affairs. Known for its high-quality activities and research, NIPS has grown to become one of the leading university-based think tanks in the country.

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The modus operandi of NIPS is to prioritize collaborative inquiry by bringing together eminent people and informed public, working across diverse domains in and outside Pakistan, for the deliberation of different domestic, regional, and global issues and challenges to generate correct and viable insights and recommendations for their resolution. NIPS performs a critical bridging role, whereby its events collectively serve as a high-level, yet accessible, platform for the NUST community, especially young adults, including students, scholars, and young professionals, to engage with statesmen, policymakers, senior officials, thought leaders, business leaders, and experts on urgent questions of the day.

NIPS AT A GLANCE



1. Knowledge Production and Sharing



2. Quality Research and Analysis



3. Domestic and International Collaborations



4. Seasoned Advisors and Experts



5. Forums, Conferences and Seminars



6. Linkages with NUST Knowledge Ecosystem



OBJECTIVES

Advocacy and policy intervention

Provision of knowledge-based inputs for NUST projects

Issue- and project-based publications and outreach



Multi-tiered collaboration through national and global partnerships in NIPS research areas

Identification of and work on significant subjects of national security and socioeconomic development

Promotion of academia-industry linkages, including strategic R&D

RESEARCH AREAS

- **Economy, Governance & Socio-Economic Development**
- **International Relations, Governance & Security**
- **CPEC & Belt and Road Initiative**
- **Water, Energy & Environment**
- **Knowledge Economy & Science Parks**



International Distinction

Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Principal, NUST School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H) and Director General, NIPS, has been appointed as the Member of the Advisory Council (2022-2024) of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). He is the first Pakistani ever to have been made member of the prestigious body.



The latest laurel is yet another testament to his expertise and renown. As a member of ADBI Advisory Council, Dr Khan will play a pivotal role in guiding the development policies and strategies of the ADB and those of the states in Asia and Pacific.

NIPS wishes him success in his advisory role at the ADBI.





Pakistan and the Regional-Global Environment

NIPS organized an exclusive session with eminent thought leaders on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, to discuss in detail the current situation in Pakistan in the backdrop of the evolving regional and global environment. The meeting was co-moderated by Mr Amir Yaqub, Director, Operations and Collaboration, NIPS, and Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Director General, NIPS.

The experts discussed Pakistan's pressing domestic challenges amidst a fluid and charged internal situation, and, identified major geopolitical challenges of Pakistan in the face of the ongoing regional and global redistribution of capabilities and power. The experts concurred that multiple problems across various domains were rapidly reaching a point of inflection beyond which they would become notoriously sticky.

Domestic harmony and comprehensive national development were stressed as the way forward.





Keynote Address on Russia-Ukraine Crisis

NIPS organized the keynote address by Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan on “Russian-Ukraine Crisis: Dawn of a New World Order?” on Tuesday, August 02, 2022. The distinguished speaker explained the genesis of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict in great detail and highlighted its deleterious consequences for the global economy. He pointed out that the financial and economic dimensions of the conflict included, among other things, the weaponization of energy resources and trading in Russian ruble instead of the US dollar by Russia in reaction to the massive sanctions imposed by the US and its allies. He stated that the conflict could lead the world into food insecurity and the global economic recession. The speaker further said that a multipolar world order was emerging, wherein American supremacy would face prolonged challenges from other great powers, such as Russia and China.



Keynote Address at Pakistan Navy War College

Mr Amir Yaqub, Director, Operations and Collaboration, NIPS, delivered the keynote address on the “Indian Military Structure” organized by the Pakistan Navy War College Lahore during the 3rd Executive Leadership Course XLC 2022 on Tuesday, August 02, 2022. He highlighted that India’s military strategy is motivated by its unregenerate hegemonic designs of dominating South Asia. The speaker further said that Pakistan is perhaps the only state in the world that understands the true measure of the madness captured in the misbegotten concepts of Hindutva and “Akhand Bharat.”



He pointed out that India is engaged in ceaseless hybrid warfare against Pakistan. The speaker said that India’s hybrid warfare aggression targets all major domains and key regions of Pakistan, including the security, information, societal, and development spheres, especially CPEC. He further pointed out that disinformation and social media is a major front in India’s hybrid aggression wherein an India-funded army of trolls works 24/7 to spread fake news about Pakistan and malign the country internationally. The speaker recommended that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive nation-building campaign to build multi-domain deterrence against hybrid warfare.



Special Session on Pakistan and Regional Geopolitics



NIPS organized a special session on “Pakistan and the Evolving Geopolitics of the Region and Beyond” on Thursday, August 25, 2022. The session focused on the multiple challenges facing Pakistan amidst rapidly evolving regional and global geopolitical landscapes. Multiple domestic challenges as well as key geopolitical challenges with which the country is confronted were discussed in terms of different orders of consequences for the people, state, nation, and society. Development lags, growth bottlenecks, political polarization, increase in the relative power of adversaries and competing states, and climate change-induced catastrophes were amongst the problems that were discussed by the experts.





SECDIV – NIPS International Conference – 2022

Promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation

5-6 September, 2022 Islamabad, Pakistan



Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV) of Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) jointly organized the International Conference on “Promoting Strategic Trade Controls Through International Cooperation” on September 5 and 6, 2022. Attended by more than 200 participants that included 36 foreign delegates, the SECDIV-NIPS Islamabad International Conference (IIC) – 2022 brought together domestic and foreign experts, representatives of various governments, export control regimes and international organizations, industry representatives, academic experts, think tank leaders, media professionals, members of civil society, scholars, researchers, and students.



The conference focused on fostering a greater comprehension of the dynamic domain of strategic trade management (STM), strategic trade controls, and export controls.

The conference comprehensively covered various aspects of the global non-proliferation regime and strategic trade control ecosystems of various states, including national best practices in legislative and enforcement frameworks as well as the facilitation of legitimate trade. It comprised a detailed overview of the issues and challenges related to the contemporary strategic trade.

The conference highlighted, among other things, the need to balance non-proliferation commitments related to dual-use goods and technologies with their legitimate trade for peaceful uses for national socioeconomic development.





SECDIV – NIPS International Conference – 2022 Promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation 5-6 September, 2022 Islamabad, Pakistan



The conference advocated that one of the best means or guarantees of the effective implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and the global realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was non-discriminatory regulation and access to technology for peaceful uses. Pakistani statesmen, foreign diplomats, and senior representatives of leading multilateral export control regimes were amongst the dignitaries that spoke during the conference.



Keynote Address on Digital Diplomacy

Mr Amir Yaqub, Director, Operations and Collaboration, NIPS, delivered the keynote address on “Digital Diplomacy: Need of the Hour,” organized by the Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

The address highlighted that digital technologies have become a driving force of the global geopolitical competition and represent an indispensable metric of national power. He added that the international system has resultantly become more complex. The speaker stated that digital diplomacy has become a key aspect in the struggle of nations for global influence,

with interstate interaction increasingly focusing on cybersecurity, privacy, cybercrime, and AI governance.



International Webinar on Russia-Ukraine War and Eurasian Geopolitics



NIPS organized the International Webinar on the “Russia-Ukraine War and Its Implications for the Future of Eurasian Geopolitics” on Thursday, October 27, 2022, in collaboration with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM), a leading Turkish think tank. The webinar offered seasoned Pakistani and Turkish perspectives on the ongoing conflict, including the fundamental causes of the preservation and violation of peace in the contemporary international system, Eurasian security dynamics, great-power competition, the accommodation of middle and small powers with regard to the prevailing tensions, and the challenge of creating favourable situation for interregional stability and development.

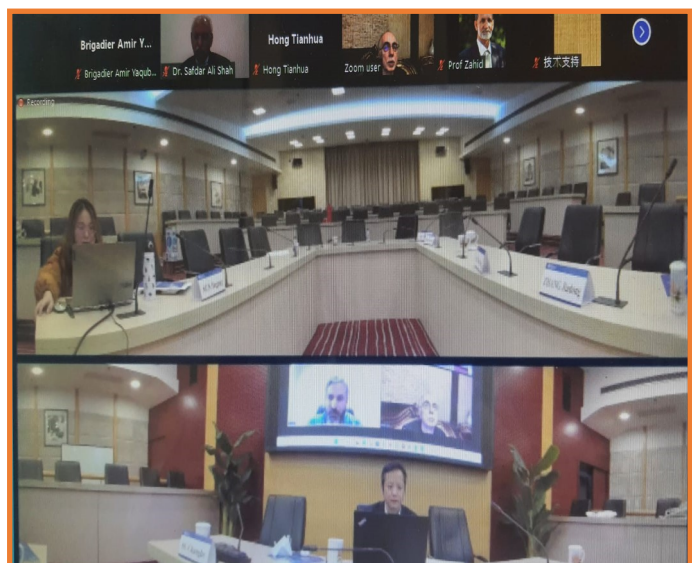
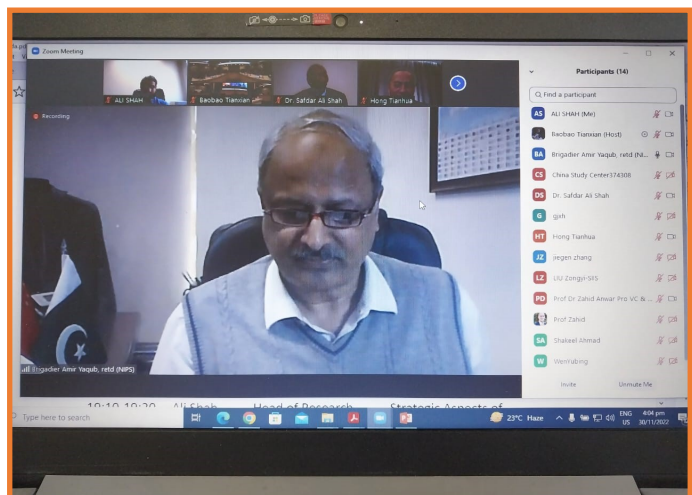
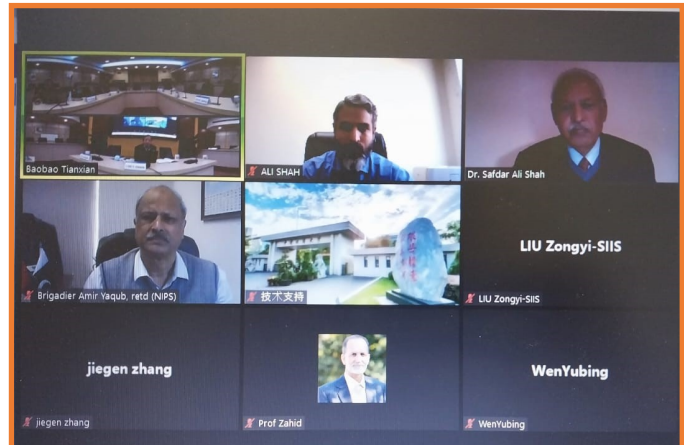
The webinar was attended by senior security analysts, veteran diplomats, experts, and students from Pakistan and Turkey.



The Changing International Order and China-South Asia Cooperation

Mr Amir Yaqub, Director, Operations and Collaboration, NIPS, and Mr Ali Shah, Head of Research, NIPS, presented their papers on integrated CPEC development and strategic aspects of China-Pakistan higher education cooperation, respectively, during the International Webinar on “The Changing International Order and China-South Asia Cooperation” organized by the Chinese Higher Education Association, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, and NUST China Study Center on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

The conference focused on key trends of the ongoing transformation of the current world order and the prospects of enhancing multidimensional China-South Asia cooperation. The papers presented by the senior staffers of NIPS critically dealt with high-quality development of CPEC and innovative bilateral higher education partnership. The webinar was attended by leading experts from China and Pakistan.



The Anthropogenic Threat to Meaning

Mr Ali Shah, Head of Research, NIPS, presented his paper on “The Anthropogenic Threat to Meaning” at the International Conference on “The Future of Meaning” organized on December 12, 2022, by the Department of English Language and Literature, The University of Lahore (UOL). The paper put forward original theses on the functional correspondence between language and money, on the one hand, and between the global climate or financial crisis and the global cultural crisis, on the other. The conference brought together leading domestic and foreign experts to discuss and explore issues and ideas intersecting the disciplinary domains of literary studies, geopolitics, development, philosophy, social theory, and cultural studies.

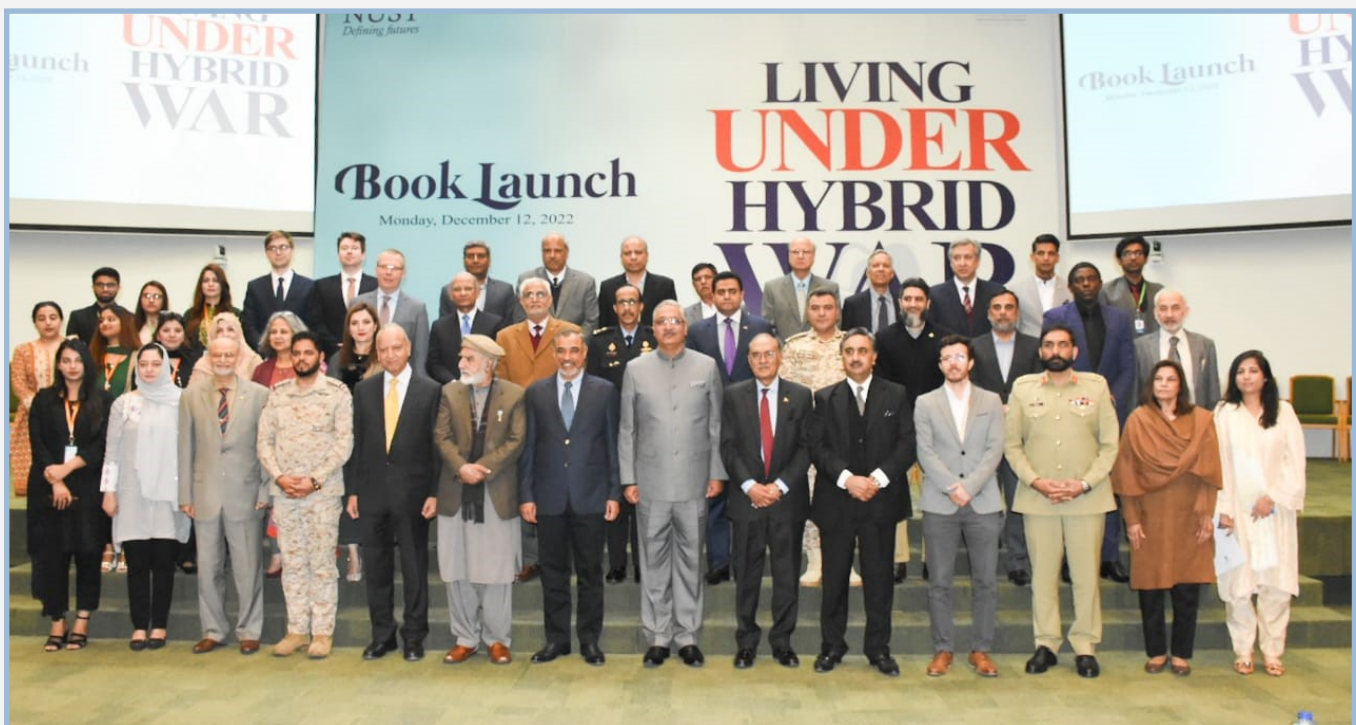


Book Launch



NUST Institute of Policy Studies launched the book, “Living Under Hybrid War,” edited by NUST social science academics, Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan and Dr Farah Naz, on Monday, December 12, 2022.

The Guest of Honor, former Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Zubair Mahmood Hayat NI(M) (Retd), appreciated the book editors and contributors for their high-quality work. He mentioned that, owing to its geostrategic location, Pakistan remains embroiled in hybrid war consisting of centrifugal political narratives, security risks, and economic dependency. He further added that debt traps, the exploitation of societal fault lines, terrorism, and extremism have been deployed against Pakistan. However, he concluded that Pakistan is a country with immense potential and resilience, which, with a strong narrative and keen awareness of the existing challenges, will be able to emerge successfully and triumphantly from this hybrid war.



NUST Climate Change Advisory Board

Mr Ali Shah, Head of Research, NIPS, has been nominated as the member of the NUST Climate Change Advisory Board. The Board, bringing together experts from various schools, institutes, and centers of the university, has been constituted to lead the preparation of the NUST Climate Action Plan as well as comprehensively steer progress on the plan. Mr Shah is one of the main authors of the plan, currently under preparation. The first meeting of the Advisory Board, convened by Dr Hamood Ur Rahman, Director Research, NUST, was held on Wednesday, December, 14, 2022.





NIPS organizes fortnightly current affairs discussion sessions to critically appraise contemporary local, regional, and global issues and challenges. These sessions also conduct futures-based thinking related to the possible resolutions paths for the prevailing national and global problems.

The current affairs discussion sessions during the second half of 2022 discussed diverse issues, such as: the looming water crisis of Pakistan; domestic financial and economic crises; challenges of nation-building; the impact of Russia-Ukraine War on China-United States strategic competition and Pakistan's options; the impact of the devastation caused by recent floods on the meagre domestic development capacity; climate diplomacy; the current state of state-society interaction; the effects of political





polarization on social stability; the challenges of functional regionalism in South Asia; foestering greater Pakistan-Afghanistan understanding and cooperation; high-quality development of CPEC; the role of women in nation-building and gender cooperation for development; challenges of domestic higher education cooperation; addressing regional domestic development disparities through balanced development, industrialization, and urbanization; challenges of good governance in Pakistan; maximizing human security in a developing-economy context, globalizaiton, digital divide, and income inequality; Chinese poverty alleviation model and the potential for China-Pakistan poverty alleviation cooperation; harnessing knowledge diplomacy and science diplomacy for inclusive development; prospects and challenges of Pakistan -Turkey cooperation; challenges facing Pakistan-United States cooperation; South-South science-based innovation cooperation; and the dynamics of hard and soft power in comprhensive national power.



NIPS Internship Program

NIPS is an integral component of the NUST knowledge ecosystem that plays a significant role in the development of skills and competencies of the university's students.

In this regard, NIPS internship program is particularly designed to engage students from diverse backgrounds within a dynamic and in-depth knowledge diplomacy skills framework that fosters critical thinking and enhances transferable skills. NIPS interns work in an enabling but demanding environment that pushes them to develop design thinking, report writing, problem-solving, and collaborative skills.

The interns are also exposed to high-level national and international events of NIPS, affording them hands-on opportunities to develop knowledge diplomacy skills, while interacting with eminent local and foreign thought leaders, policy makers, and experts.

Special sessions are regularly organized for interns to present their research conducted as part of their internship on a diverse range of issues.

Following is the summary of research work conducted by NIPS interns during the currently concluded round of internship:

Ms Mahnoor Abid, student of the Department of Governance and Public Policy, presented her research on violence against religious minorities and the lack of state capacity acting as an impediment to their integration and mainstreaming. The research highlighted the urgent need for proactive public role in providing minorities greater protection against violence and expanded opportunities for development and advancement. Integration of formal and informal approaches against extremism and radicalism was also proposed.



Ms Ayesha Yusra, student of the Department of Government and Public Policy, presented her research on Euro-centric bias in domestic policies and the challenge of re-conceptualizing and indigenizing development in Pakistan. She propounded the need for comprehensive structural reforms and cognitive rewiring of development experts, professionals, and thinkers in order for local wisdom, traditions, and priorities of growth to be foregrounded and pursued deliberately.



Ms Aqsa Ajaz, student of the Department of Public Administration, presented her research on the current national crisis of brain drain. She argued for the need for a systemic national plan for ensuring brain retention, gain, and circulation, which, among other things, was focused on promoting comprehensive science-based regional economic development and broad-based social mobility in a public culture characterized by concrete equality of opportunity, merit, and fair play.



Promoting Dialogue Among Cultures and Civilizations

NIPS hosted Mr Toaha Qureshi MBE, Founder and Chairman, Forum for International Relations Development (FIRD) a UK-based conflict resolution think tank on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Director General NIPS, and Mr Ali Shah, Head of Research, NIPS, discussed possible venues of collaboration with the visiting expert. The efforts of Mr Qureshi in Pakistan and Europe in terms of promoting multicultural and multi-civilizational dialogue and understanding were appreciated. The discussants agreed that



greater collaboration was required between experts of Pakistani origin in Europe, especially in the United Kingdom, and domestic experts in a diverse range of areas and domains. The discussants also concurred that this collaboration needed to be

planned meticulously and had to be adequately resourced in order to achieve positive results.

A few preliminary areas and modes of cooperation, including proper engagement of Pakistani diaspora, were also discussed during the interaction.



Trilateral Seminar on Socioeconomic Development

NIPS, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), and the Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) co-organized the seminar on “Socioeconomic Development in Pakistan: Strategies to Alleviate Poverty” on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, as part of IPRI’s Grand National Dialogue – 2022.

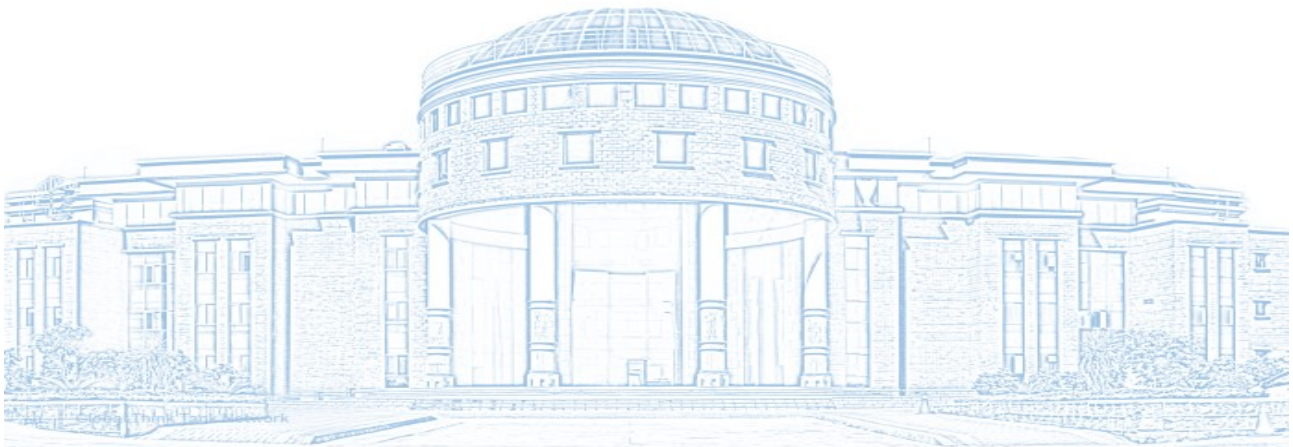
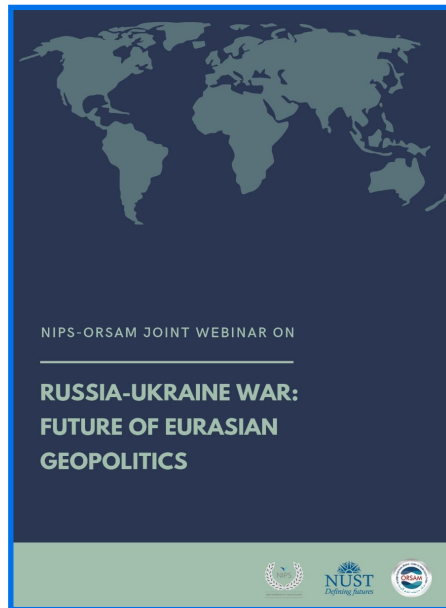
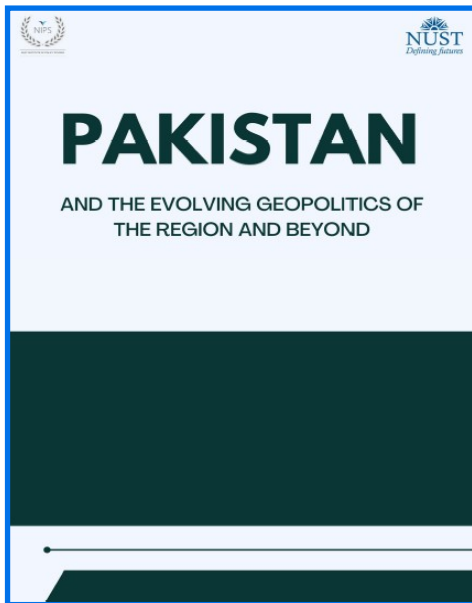
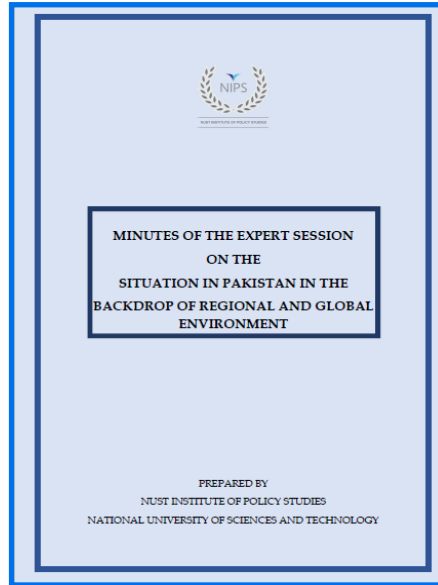
The first keynote speaker, Mr. Owais Ahmed Ghani, former Governor of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stated that development invariably presupposed good governance, which of necessity required urgent systemic reforms.

Talking about the Chinese poverty alleviation model, the second keynote speaker, Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Director General NIPS, highlighted the key pillars of the Chinese model, namely, a targeted, data-based pro-poor approach; a framework of sustained, multifaceted anti-poverty public-private partnerships, a composited package of localized and decentralized solutions, a tradition of firm leadership; and a flexible plan for sector-wise interventions.

The third keynote speaker, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, former Special Assistant of the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, identified geographical, gender-based, sectoral, and institutional asymmetries in health, education, sanitation, employment, income, wealth, and digital access.



Research Products



Research Publications

Policy Reports

Situation of Pakistan in the Backdrop of Regional and Global Environment.

Pakistan and the Evolving Geopolitics of the Region and Beyond.

Promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation.

Russia-Ukraine War and Eurasian Geopolitics.



Working Papers

Essentials of the High-Quality Development of CPEC in the Post-Pandemic Era.

Natural Hazard Vulnerability & Risk Assessment of CPEC.

Productive National Security Partnerships: The Context of Sri Lanka.

Strategic Aspects of China-Pakistan Higher Education Cooperation.

Integrated and Multi-Dimensional Development of CPEC.





Policy Papers

The Great Equivalence of Family, State, and the World.

The Partnership of Global Infrastructure and Investment PGII Scheme of G7.

Resilience to Climate Change.

Hybrid Warfare.

Pakistan's Challenges and Conference of Parties.

China the Middle Kingdom.

Water Situation in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis.

Cop27 and its Failures.

Disaster Management in Pakistan: An Appraisal in Light of the Recent Floods.

US-China Escalating Competition in Indo-Pacific: Challenges and Choices for Pakistan.

Magazine & Newspaper Articles

Disaster Response and Capacity in *the Nation* .

Brooding Incompleteness in *the Nation*.

Climate Change and Conflict in *the Nation*.

How to Sail Through the Russian Ukraine War? In *the Global Defence Insight*.

National Security and Hybrid Warfare in *the Pakistan Observer*.

Remembering Benazir Bhutto: An Icon of Democracy, Resilience, and Women's Empowerment in *the Asian Telegraph*.

Global Recession Forecast and Economic Outlook of Pakistan in 2023 in *the Pakistan Observer*.



Intern Papers

Role of State of Pakistan in the Violence Targeted Against the Religious Minorities Acting as an Impediment to Their Integration.

Improving the Capacity of Institutions of Pakistan Towards Climate Action.

Challenges to National integration.



NIPS Outreach

Participation in an International Conference, "Evolving Global Order: Challenges and Opportunities," Co-organized by Global Strategic Threat and Response (GSTAR) and Center of Aero Space & Security Studies (CASS), by Mr Amir Yaqub, Director NIPS.

Participation in a Roundtable Discussion, "Understanding Climate Security Nexus in Balochistan," Co-organized by Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan (HSF) and Center of International Peace and Stability (CIPS), by Mr Ali Shah, Head of Research NIPS.



Participation in an Expert Roundtable Discussion Session, “Pakistan’s Nuclear Safety and Security,” Organized by Center of International Peace and Stability (CIPS), by Mr Amir Yaqub & Mr Adnan Ali , Research Associate NIPS.

Participation in the Concluding Ceremony of Roundtable Discussion, “Afghanistan Regional Collective Dialogue,” Co-organized by Royal Danish Defence College and TABADLAB, by Ms Sobia Khursheed, Assistant Director Collaboration NIPS & Mr Adnan Ali.

Participation in the International Conference, “Evolving Global Order: Challenges and Opportunities,” Co-organized by Global Strategic Threat and Response (GSTAR) and Center of Aero Space & Security Studies (CASS), by Ms Sobia Khursheed & Mr Adnan Ali.

Participation in a Conference, “Image Building of Pakistan,” Organized by Pakistan Institute of Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), by Ms Sobia Khursheed & Ms Adeeba Rahman, Coordinator NIPS.

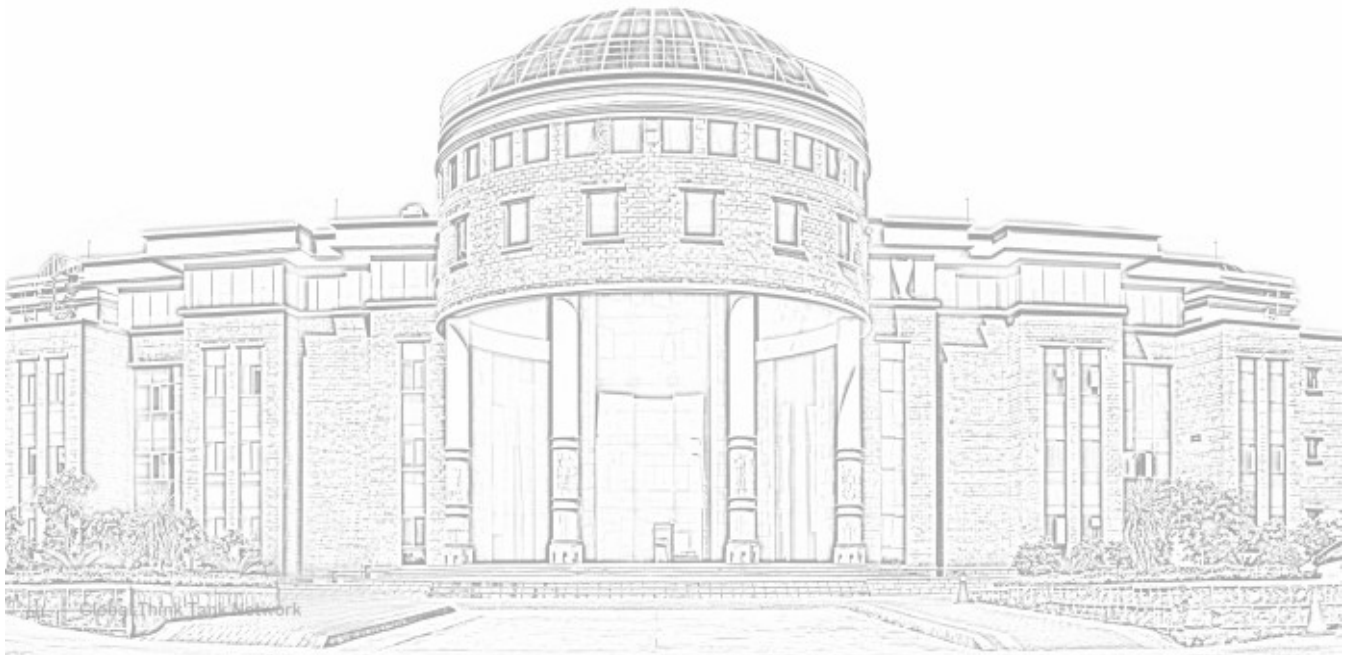
Participation in a Roundtable Discussion, “Managing Natural Disasters in Pakistan,” Co-organized by Islamabad Strategic Studies Institute (ISSI) and Islamabad Security Dialogue, by Ms Sobia Khursheed.

Participation in the Book Launch Ceremony, “Global Pakistan: Pakistan’s Role in the International System,” Organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), by Ms Aqsa Sajjad, Research Associate NIPS.

Participation in the Seminar, "Pakistan's Political System and Governance," Co-organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), and Department of Government and Public Policy NUST, by Ms Adeeba Rehman.

NIPS Global Collaborations





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