



Celebrating World Environment Day

Virtual International Conference
on

“ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE”

June 4th, 2021

POST EVENT —REPORT—



INTRODUCTION

In 21st century, the discourse on security has evolved where along with the traditional concept of national security, the discourse on Human security has gained equal relevance in which life, liberty, and dignity of individual are to be respected and ensured. While taking this into consideration. The challenges facing Pakistan in terms of human security are multifaceted. Pakistan is grappled with an immense challenge of water scarcity which ultimately threatens human security. Besides water issues, resultant food security challenges cannot be ignored either as it is the bedrock of human life, liberty, and well-being. Moreover, the state of basic education in the country craves attention as well. These indicators emphasize on reconsideration of the discourse on human security. Therefore, it is need of the hour to invest in the avenue of human security in Pakistan.

In this regard, in line with the Government of Pakistan's vision of a secure, progressive, and prosperous Pakistani society, it is believed that the time has come to talk about devising more comprehensive and holistic approaches and policies for our people's well-being.

Henceforth, *The Human Security Institute Islamabad* is the first dedicated research-oriented organization of its kind that has been established to highlight the significance and relevance of the concept and practice of Human Security in Pakistan by honestly investing in research on the subject.

Conference Report

Opening remarks: Mr. Rafique Ahmed Qureshi (DG THSI)

The Director General, Mr. Rafique Ahmed Qureshi, opened his speech by welcoming all the guest speakers for joining to celebrate the World Environment Day. He said that Pakistan was hosting World Environment Day-2021, and the theme of this year's environment day was Ecosystem Restoration, where he emphasized on restoration and rehabilitation of mother nature as a top priority. He added that human security refers to the preservation and protection of life through the advocacy of safe and healthy environment, and dignity of an individual anywhere in the world by ensuring 'freedom from fear', 'freedom from want', and 'freedom to live in dignity'. In the 21st century, a nation is secure when its people enjoy all aspects of unwavering human security.

Mr. Rafique Ahmed Qureshi acknowledged the significance of World Environment Day as the Day concentrates attention on the value of ecosystem restoration and its rehabilitation through 'Reimage', 'Recreate', and 'Restore. The theme of World Environment Day, 2021, is valuing restoration and rehabilitation of worsening environment. Safe environment has immense value for our food, culture, health, education, economics, and crops production. Moreover, the environmental challenges stemming from variety of reasons highlight the need of preservation of forest, mitigation of carbon footprint and the global warming, and halting soil erosion. We as responsible citizens should play our due part in order to develop integrated policies, and integrated solutions that are suitable for a healthy environment.

Mr. Rafique Ahmed Qureshi concluded his speech by saying that the Human Security Institute desires to contribute to the existing paradigms through new ideas and policy inputs from prominent scholars, practitioners, and policy experts in order to find more workable and sustainable solutions.

Topic 1: Environmental Security: A New Framework of Security Analysis

Speaker: Ameer Abdullah Khan

Modern problems require modern solution. Transition from traditional security to non-traditional security is the need of the hour. Five sectors of security (military, political, economic, societal, and environmental) do not operate in isolation. Initially, the whole world put its focus on traditional

security for its survival, but with the end of Cold War, the emphasis on state as referent object if security declined, and individual gained relevance as referent of security.

Equally important, environmental security is concerned with maintenance of the local and the planetary biosphere as the essential support system on which all other human enterprises depend. Toronto Group Hypothesis, Honeycomb Hypothesis, and Political Ecologist Hypothesis are the main pillars for the advocacy of environment restoration and its upgradation.

Environmental degradation in itself is a severe threat to life on earth. Climate change can be both cause and consequence of violent conflict. However, predictability and control are essential elements of military security.

All ecosystems share several characteristics: they contain living and non-living elements; they show a measurable degree of diversity (species, genes, epigenetics); they have a degree of resilience (defined as the system's ability to maintain relationships between system elements in the presence of disturbances); a net flow of energy follows a one-way path from outside to inside to heat; they have a carrying capacity for particular kinds and numbers of organisms; they exist in a state of non-equilibrium (i.e., they change over time); changes are irreversible (i.e., ecosystems do not return to a previous state, but develop to a new form).

Anthropogenic activities serving as a cause behind: global Climate Change; biodiversity loss; land degradation and desertification; massive and unavoidable floods; extreme events (Heat Waves, Hurricanes, Tornados); glacial retreat; rising Sea Level; diseases (Pandemics & Epidemics).

Various studies have been highlighting that the global temperature is ever rising because of deforestation, and usage of fossils fuel. It has increased around 0.34 centigrade in last two decades. Additionally, over population, over consumption of natural resources and deforestation lead toward consequences of environmental scarcity: migration explosion, decreased economic productivity, and deprivation conflicts.

Similarly, terrorism against ecosystem has been increasing around the world. One may take example from the findings of FBI that says that over 600 incidents of eco-terrorism occurred in the US. However, ecosystem restoration requires bifront response: first, multilateral responses that including global governance, environment-friendly regimes, bilateral resources sharing, and

management; second, unilateral responses such as securitization, policies, environmentalism, and education. Effective and viable conceptual frameworks by Josh Gellers are mentioned below.

- Impacts (Direct v. Indirect): Both
- Territorial v. Extraterritorial: Both
- Source of Threat: Internal & External
- Threat Severity: All Spectrums
- Threat Imminence: Likely
- Sectors Impacted: Society, Government, Military & Economy
- Mitigating Strategy: Self-help, Cooperation.

Topic 2: Global Environmental Governance. New models?

Speaker: Mr. Mohsen Gul

Mr. Mohsen Gul discussed that Global Environmental Governance is an umbrella term and it encompasses a lot of issues and subsequent policies that concern environmental health in general. He defined the GEG as a sum of organizations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, and procedures to regulate the process of environmental protection.

The issues related to the environment have been highlighted since the 1960s, when the global scientific community realized that human activities have a profound impact on our environment, and it will get worse with time. Hence, a comprehensive approach was needed for the protection of the environment. Such emphasis on environment caused the developed world to open up to the idea.

It is difficult to determine a policy and a course of action for the environmental protection. Various entities define it in various ways. Environment is an area which people mostly avoid taking ownership of. Many environmental issues overlap, which create a question of jurisdiction as to which area can be termed as more important than the other.

Main Instruments on Environment:

There are two main instruments on the environmental protection:

- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

- A plethora of Multinational Agreements (MEAs)

UNEP was established in 1972 as the first institution to work in environmental protection. It was established in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP is responsible for the conservation and protection of the environment around the world, and it does it by funding environmental programs in different parts of the world.

MEAs are a collection of various pacts, agreements, and accords on environmental protection that have been agreed upon by the governments worldwide. A recent and a more popular example of MEAs is the Paris Accords in 2016. Other than that, there are many other key institutions that are working on different aspects of environmental protection. Such as UN habitat, UNICEF, FAO etc.

There have been some noticeable achievements in the field of Global Environmental Governance. There are more organizations than there were previously, more money has come into the sector and there is also an increased awareness, and the norms and rules of the Global environmental governance.

Key challenges:

The key challenges to GEG are:

- The proliferation of MEAs, which has caused a fragmentation in the process of GEG.
- Lack of cooperation between the governments.
- Inefficient use of resources by the international players and regional powers too.
- The role of non-state actors such as MNCs and NGOs in a state centric international system as there are many hurdles.

Topic 3: Are our universities failing in environmental sustainability? How contributions can be made to national level efforts on environmental security.

Speaker: Maureen Kehinde

Universities can play a crucial role and contribute effectively through spreading awareness, education, teaching, research, campus operations, and community outreach. These are the vital instruments on which ecosystem can strive.

Universities can be essential in introducing environmental sustainability initiatives. Such as environmental sustainability curriculum, and environmental sustainability research can be expanded by teachers and other faculty members. On the other hand, waste management and recycling (reduce, reuse, recycle), and water management (avoid, reduce, recycle and capture), energy management (avoid, reduce, produce) must be prioritized by the university administration. Moreover, the university encourage ecosystem-friendly transport, and green spaces, within the premises of the university.

The US, Australia, Canada, and European's universities are the most vibrant in the encouragement of ecosystem restoration. Meanwhile, the Chinese, Pakistanis, and other countries' universities are slow in adoption of ecosystem-friendly policies. Unfortunately, rest of the countries even lack the fundamental resolve to initiating environmental rehabilitation.

Majority of the universities are failing in their educational practice of environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainability in curriculums is missing in these universities. Furthermore, environmental sustainability is not appearing in law, business, humanities, advertising, public relations, education, architecture, and economics' curriculum.

Unfortunately, some universities are working against the ecosystem such as overheating classrooms, generating unnecessary waste, and consumption of fossils fuel. There is no facility of recycling of bins. This unsustainable behaviour among student and staff are worsening the environment.

However, universities must strengthen global leadership for environmental sustainability discourse, promote research for the upgradation and rehabilitation of the ecosystem, encourage behavioural changes for healthy environment, and boost environment management system within their premises. Universities have begun the journey, but still needs to do more to make meaningful contributions to their national level efforts on environmental security.

Topic 4: Can Energy Tax abate Emissions in the World despite Economic Complexities

Speaker: Dr. Festus Adedoyin

Our natural environment is being compromised with a degradation in our biodiversity and this is affecting the overall health of natural environment. A rapid modernization and industrialization

have created an appetite for more modern urbanization, industrialization, population growth and deforestation. There is a lack of education on the matter environmental protection and restoration, which contributes even further to the problem.

Environmental degradation is taking place in three major forms:

- Land (soil) degradation
- Air degradation
- Water degradation

This degradation is happening on a global scale with varying levels of intensity, depending on the causal factors mentioned above. Such massive degradation is a result of an interplay of our socio-economic activities, or the institutional and industrial activities.

So what are the solutions to stop this massive degradation of our environment?

We can reduce the environmental degradation by taking the following steps and in an effective manner:

- Reduce the consumption of pollutants, such as non-reusable means of energy like fossil fuels. We can also mitigate the household waste by reducing and reusing practices.
- Multi-national firms and corporations can also play an instrumental role in curbing the environmental degradation. They can do this by avoiding the use of plastics. They can also contribute by stopping deforestation as big firms have the power and means to influence consumer behaviors, reduction in the consumption of pollution causing agents can help further reduce the levels of pollution. Shifting to other means of energy, ideally renewable sources instead of fossil fuels, can also contribute a great deal.
- The governments possess the executive authority to make and enforce policies that can help improve our environment. Governments can regulate the use and consumption of pollutants. Governments can impose fines on the violators and those persons who are causing a harm or damage to environment.

- International community can play a central role by education and by the power of active persuasion, making people realize that how they endangered their environment, and in this way can succeed in creating a wave of environmental activism around the globe.

Tax imposition and environment protection:

- Energy tax:

A tax on energy production, transmission, types of fuel, and consumption can help regulate the pollution problem. It could also become a major source of revenue due to the inelasticity of the demand for energy.

- Environmental taxes:

Businesses should provide incentives to the businesses with a more environment friendly approach. encourage business to operate in a more environmentally friendly way. A business may get reliefs or be exempt from some taxes, for example if:

- you use a lot of energy because of the nature of your business
- you have a small business that does not use much energy
- you buy energy-efficient technology for your business

A green future in the presence of economic complexities:

Economic complexities can be better understood by economic complexity index, which is a measure of the productive capabilities of large economies, and accounts for cities, regions or countries. It explains the knowledge accumulated in a population.

We can use data acquired through such methods to green and sustainable technologies such as, solar and wind power, and hydroelectric power by building dams. Less use of fossil fuels and a greater reliance on renewable energy sources can ameliorate the deteriorating environment.

Topic 5: Climate Change and Scramble for Water: A call for Building Peace

Speaker: Sadaf Taimur

Impacts of Climate Change (CC) in South Asia are threatening life in many ways. Changing water cycle causing floods on one hand and droughts on the other hand. Indus and its streams triggering inundation in monsoon season and the nation facing droughts in other seasons.

Climate Change is posing threats to farmers, groundwater, and crops productivity. According to some reports that Indus water flow would be reduced by 8 percent in 2050 due to melting glaciers. This shortage of water leads to endanger food and water security. Ultimately, these conflicts will lead to violence. This is not a hypothetical projection, one may take example of Darfur, Sudan, where water shortage creates violent conflicts. According to Powel et al (2017), freshwater has the highest conflict potential.

Nuclear powers of South Asia, India, and Pakistan, share fresh-water and this is crucial to the water-food-energy nexus in the region; shortage of water may pose threat to both the countries. Understanding the conflict between two countries from the lens of climate change will allow both the sides to see conciliation benefits.

The dispute over Kashmir and climate change can impact the origin point of water bodies in both India and Pakistan. This is a shared concern for both India and Pakistan. Ideally, both sides will show their willingness to solve the dispute because they have a strong interest in that. Additionally, projection of this dispute as an issue of religion or territory will push them to take two different positions. Climate change vulnerability may help in bringing these two countries closer and work together in the long-term.

Peaceful bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan are so unsettled that the people of India and Pakistan, must play their role in rewriting and rewiring this relationship through historical, geographical, emotional, and cultural similarities. Moreover, capacity building, documentary films, art, and journalism can all contribute to peacebuilding.

Topic 6: Environmental Management for Environmental Security

speaker: Dr. Sofia Khalid

There are three elements of the environmental security:

- Preventing or repairing the military damage done to the environment
- Preventing or responding to environmentally caused conflicts
- Protecting environment due to its inherent moral value

These elements make up the crux of the environmental security and environmental protection. Pakistan has a huge problem of environmental degradation mainly due to the human impact. Following causes are having a profound impact on our environmental health:

- Smog
- Large waste dumps (which are a common sight in Pakistan)
- Industrial and human waste released in the fresh and clean waters.

Strategies for environmental protection:

Passive environmental strategy:

It works on the principle of dilute and disperse. It means that dispersing the contaminating chemicals to dilute them into water and air. This strategy is also adopted for air pollutants. But once the concentration of these chemicals starts to increase, they become problematic.

Reactive strategy:

This approach is aimed at stopping the to reach the clean waters and air by the means of specialized devices and equipment.

Proactive Environmental Strategy:

this approach is aimed at focusing on cleaner modes of production. It is aimed that producing cleaner and more environment friendly things which could be recycled and reused. Proactive environmental strategy involves:

- Good house keeping

- Substitution of harmful Chemicals
- Green production
- Equipment modification to adopt to greener approach
- On site recovery of and reuse of the waste produced
- Technology modification

Green Procurement:

Green procurement is a strategy that focuses on the buying and selling of environment friendly produce; things that have environment friendly characteristics. Such as:

- Recycled content
- Recyclable items
- Bio-degradable products
- Energy and water efficient products
- Renewable energy
- Locally produced products which also support the local economy

This strategy also focuses on the elimination of hazardous chemicals from the produce, that are harmful for the environment.

Zero Waste Economy:

Zero waste economy is an approach which focuses on the waste management and waste reduction. This approach says that whatever we produce should go back to the system, producing as little waste as possible. Zero waste approach focuses on clean, more efficient and environmentally friendly ways of production. It focuses on consumer responsibility and producer responsibility towards environmental conservation. It encourages the resource recovery parks; a place where people recycle or exchange stuff that they do not want creating environment friendly jobs. Moreover, the governments should support green entrepreneurship. It also stresses on the removal

of governmental hurdles such as hefty rules and regulations in the way of environmental conservation.

Speaker 7: Key Notes by Major general (R) Samrez Salik

Major general Samrez, bearing a background of his service in the army, acknowledged the fact that military activities impact our environment and that there should be efforts to mitigate the military impact on the environment. Keeping in view his vast experience in the armed forces, he said that war was the most detested option for any military, and it usually happens as a last resort.

He emphasized on the importance of the nature and showed his concern on the impact of human activities which have damaged the mother nature. He supported his argument with some hard-hitting facts. He said that humans were destroying the environment which took the planet earth some 13 billion years to make, enabling the earth to sustain life in all forms including human life. He reiterated that in our pursuit of comfort and leisure, humans have had a profound negative impact on mother nature.

The ultra-modern life is depleting the resources at an unprecedented pace. He stated facts related to fossil fuels consumption, deforestation on a massive scale, carbon emission to atmosphere and water scarcity created by lack of awareness and mismanagement.

In the end, he raised some pertinent question. Are humans who are the most intelligent species on the planet on the verge of self-destruction? He answered it by drawing an analogy of self-destruct where a fool is found cutting the same branch on which he is sitting.

Profiles of Speakers:

Mr. Rafique Ahmed Qureshi



Mr. Rafique is one of the founding members of The Human Security Institute (**THSI**), and CEO of Zekab International. He is currently serving as the Director General of **THSI**. He has earned his Graduate and Master's degree from Azerbaijan and Russia. Mr. Qureshi has also been a member of the National Security Workshop at National Defence University, Islamabad. He looks forward to promote the endeavors of human security in Pakistan through this think-tank.

Mr. Ameer Abdullah Khan

Mr. Ameer is a Lecturer & a PhD Scholar at the Department of International Relations at National Defence University, Pakistan. He is a young academian and researcher with special focus on the Politics of Environment. He has conducted research on Environment-Security Linkage, Food Security, Water Security, Human Security, and Pandemics.



Mr. Mohsen Gul



Mohsen is a policy entrepreneur who works at the intersection of environment, society and governance systems in Pakistan and Asia Pacific region. He has diverse policy and practice experience in systems strengthening from a community of action lens. Mohsen has over 10 years of diverse experience in the international development sector and has undertaken multiple research and advocacy assignments with UNESCO, UNDP and UN Volunteers in the UK, Thailand, Kenya, Brazil and Nepal. Mohsen was selected as UN Young Champion of the Earth (Asia and the Pacific) regional finalist 2019 and won Emerging Star for Policy Impact award 2019 at the University of Nottingham. His doctoral research work at Universities of Nottingham and Oxford focused on critically analysing how youth volunteering can be mainstreamed in multi-level environmental governance processes in Pakistan.

Ms. Maureen Kehinde

Maureen Kehinde is a lecturer of Sustainability, Human Resource Management, and Organizational Behavior at Bournemouth University Business School, United Kingdom. She has several active research works in progress which addresses environmental sustainability issues in the areas of water, waste, energy, and biodiversity management respectively, focused on Higher Education Institutions and Faith-based Organizations. Her research ties closely to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) connected to the environment as well as sustainability.



Dr. Festus Fatai Adedoyin



Dr. Festus is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Chartered Management and Business Educator, and a lecturer at the Department of Computing and Informatics, Bournemouth University, U.K. Dr. Festus has a broad range of research publications, memberships, awards and recognition for extensive and varying work deemed exceptional by peer reviewers.

Ms. Sadaf Taimur

Ms. Sadaf is currently a Doctoral Scholar at The University of Tokyo, Japan, and Research Fellow at Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). She is a Salzburg Global Fellow at Salzburg Global Seminar for Asia-Pacific Peace Innovators Program. She is also working as a Chairperson at Youth General Assembly. Sadaf has experience of more than 5 years in the education and development sector.



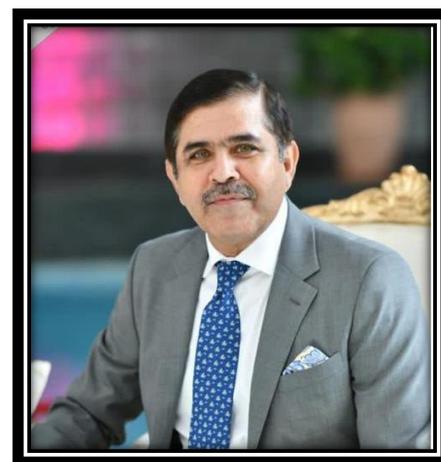
Dr. Sofia Khalid



Dr. Sofia Khalid has her Ph.D. in environmental sciences from Imperial College London. She has been teaching in the Environmental Sciences Department of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi from the last 17 years. Dr. Sofia has attended few international trainings on environmental monitoring and protection in different parts of the world. She has supervised several research projects of students related to environmental issues of Pakistan for different degree programs. She is an active participant, as stakeholder, in different policy level meetings at Ministry of Climate Change Pakistan. She is a trainer and consultant in the field of environmental sciences.

Major General (Retd.) Samrez Salik HI(M)

Major General (Retd.) Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI(M) was commissioned in 10 Medium Regiment Artillery in March 1985. The General is a graduate of Command and Staff College and National Defence University, Islamabad. He holds a master's degree in Warfare, Defence and Strategic Studies. During his 29 years of service, the General has served on number of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments, as well as United Nations Military Observer. His previous appointment was Vice Chief of General Staff at General Headquarters Rawalpindi. The General had also served as Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis, National Defence University Islamabad. Currently, he is pursuing his Ph.D. Degree from NDU.



ABOUT THSI:

Security is desirable by all, whether be it individuals, states or non-state entities. The looming insecurities that stem from variety of threats pose serious challenges to the survival of these actors. The Human Security Institute aspires to provide the foundational basis for an integrated approach focused on various aspects of human security. By generating intellectual discourse and advocacy, THSI aims to highlight the issues of human security and provide sustainable solutions.

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