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**Event Report**

**October 6, 2021**

***Freedom From Want* Through Business and Entrepreneurship: Takeaway from China**

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 more comprehensive and holistic approaches and policies for our people's well-being. The Human Security Institute (THSI) takes pride in being the first institution of its kind in Pakistan to dedicate itself on the human security discourse. It is registered under Societies act 1860 in year 2020. It endeavors to advance research and advocacy in a society where everyone deserves the right to live in freedom from fear and want and to live in freedom from dignity. While taking above into consideration THSI is keen to work delicately on all the dimensions of human security. THSI is working on existing and evolving dimensions of human security.

The idea of human security reflects a shift from a state-centric security paradigm to a people and citizen centric paradigm. Human security has several dimensions, including water security, food security, community security, health security, environmental security, and economic security. Having said this, the Human Security institute finds it imperative to learn from the vast business and entrepreneurial outlook of China in terms of human security. The spirit of China runs deeper in business and private ownership. It demonstrates itself in the government and the desires of ordinary people in order to empower people economically. The Chinese model of entrepreneurship is directly linked with the economic transition and economies like China look in to the strategies that consider the external environment of the institution with greater focus. This way the Chinese economic model and policies are strengthening the individual and alleviating poverty at the collective level. The Human Security Institute visions to work in the research and advocacy by learning from the Economic Model of China by emphasizing the importance of entrepreneurship and work in the input suggesting to alleviate poverty from Pakistan.

In collaboration with the Human Security Institute (THSI), China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organized an event on “Freedom from Want through Businesses and Entrepreneurship: Take Aways.” The seminar was a star-studded event with representation of leaders from business, entrepreneur, academic, and think tank community including: DG ISSI, Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Dir, CPSC Dr. Talat Shabir, DG THSI & CEO Zekaab; Rafique Ahmad, Former DG ISSRA; Gen. Samraiz Salik, Hina Ayra; CEO BGT, Raja Amer Iqbal; President DBOM, Zeeshan Ahmed; Director Planning and Strategic Alliance, Fouzia Qazi; Executive Director Rove Pakistan Travel and Tours, Ms. Sbahat Rafiq; CEO Lampro Mellon, Faheem Sardar; Founding and managing Director TANGENT, Sam Ali Dada; President Women Chamber of Commerce and Fashion Designer (SamDada), Naureen Ghaffar; CEO N.G. Marketing; Maj (Rtd) Syed Ali Shazad, Director Grand City; Fouzia Noreen; CEO Creative Horizons and Chairperson of All Pakistan Furniture Exporters Association, Usman Shah; CEO Nifty Sphere Institute of Arts and Designing, Urooj Raza Sayyami; Journalist, Media Entrepreneur Trainer, Nayyar Ali; Special Correspondent Anchor Person, Dr. Maaz; ENT, Sami Ullah Khan Barki; Burki Group of Companies (Pvt) Ltd, Mian Muhammad Ali Moeen; CEO Grand Enclave Housing Society Gujrat .

Director CPSC, **Dr. Talat Shabir** touched upon the subject of human security and explained its critical link to reducing poverty alleviation. He cited China as an exemplary case among the nations that worked wonders for bringing its nations out of pits of poverty. He suggested that think tanks need to provide pragmatic and actionable recommendations for businesses community of both the countries. He was of the view that the Chinese and businesses communities must invest in research and development since knowledge economy is the future.

Earlier in his welcome, DG ISSI, **Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry** highlighted the fact that human security is such a topic that received little or no attention in Pakistan. He said that human security is a strategic issue. After the consideration of geo-economics in our foreign policy overtures, we have a new triad of national security comprising of traditional security issues, non-traditional security threats, and human security. He briefed the audience about the major events of monopoly by the industrialists at national and international levels. In his opening remarks, Former DG ISSRA, **Maj Gen. Samraiz Salik** ISSRA stated that a visible shift of global power from west to east has taken place. He said that the concept of security has also changed from state-centric to individual-centric. He said that Pakistan learn a great deal in terms of open-door diplomacy from China.

During the discussion session, the speakers and the participants raised many pertinent points. They shared their own experiences with everyone and proposed result-oriented suggestions. All the speakers and discussants agreed that following the Chinese model blindly would be a huge mistake and Pakistan need to tailor this model according to its needs. They emphasised this fact that the Chinese adapted the Socialist ideology according to their circumstances and needs and described it as Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. The participants noted that the Chinese enacted multiple programs and strategies for their rural people and sectors; Pakistan should follow the same. There must be a national program that should be implemented with consistency irrespective of change in national political leadership. Small business must be encouraged at all levels. Business persons voiced their concerns about heavy taxations and FBR polices. They suggested that taxes should be eased and there must be FBR-friendly policies.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. Rafique Ahmed** said that consistency and qualified leadership are two notable dispositions that we must learn from Chinese. Beijing and Islamabad have cultural, societal, and religious differences and that must be factored in while following Chinese practices. He also stated that a gender-neutral business environment needs to be ensured while, at the same, there is the need to create more opportunities for women.