



**Center for Global &
Strategic Studies,
Islamabad**



**Embassy of
United Arab Emirates,
Islamabad**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**FORGING CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN
PAKISTAN AND UAE THROUGH MUTUAL
COOPERATION FOR PEACE &
SECURITY OF THE REGION**

26th FEBRUARY 2019



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International Conference Report

“Forging Cordial Relations between Pakistan and UAE through mutual Cooperation for Peace & Security of the Region”



**Organized by
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad in collaboration with
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Islamabad at
Marriott Hotel, Islamabad on
26th February 2019**

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference was attended by almost 450 participants including imminent scholars, policymakers and practitioners of UAE, students and faculty members from various universities, government representatives, retired senior armed forces officers, diplomats, law enforcement officials from across the country and individuals from public and private entities.

Host Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) - Chairman, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)

Guest Speakers His Excellency Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates

Mr. Sayed Zulfi Bukhari, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi – President Emirates Policy Center, United Arab Emirates

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE

Mr. Haroon Shareef, Minister Of State and Chairman Board of Investment

Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Al Suwaidi – Manager Business Development Commercial Department, DP World, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Aamir Hashmi – President, Global Think Tank Network (GTTN), Islamabad

Dr. Nazir Hussain, Director – School of Political Sciences and International Relations, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad

Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat HI (M), Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan

Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar – Federal Minister of State for Accountability, Government of Pakistan

Mr. Ali Al Shamsi - International Fund for Houbara Conservation, United Arab Emirates

Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir – Minister of State for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

His Excellency Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates



The UAE Ambassador to Pakistan contributed to enhancing bilateral ties through building new partnerships and broadening the scope of economic and commercial cooperation, for his distinguished services he was awarded with Prime Minister's Medal and UAE Medal for Pride.

Mr. Sayed Zulfi Bukhari, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development



Mr. Zulfiqar Bukhari is a successful entrepreneur and founder of HPM Developments, a luxury real estate investment and development firm, founded in 2011. He is also the co-founder of Martin Kemp Design, a leading London based design studio.

Mr. Bukhari is among the prominent leaders who plays an active role in supporting leading Pakistani social causes and particularly to some of the largest charitable projects in the country.

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi – President Emirates Policy Center, United Arab Emirates



Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi is the President of the Emirates Policy Center (EPC), founded in 2013. EPC undertakes the task of studying and foreseeing future regional and international geopolitical projects and their impact on the Gulf region based on the region's self-perception of its concerns and interests. EPC also focuses on exploring current and future issues that have an impact on the security of the UAE and the region as a whole. Dr. Al-Ketbi was appointed as member of the Consultative Commission of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf in

2015. She was also chosen by Arabian Business magazine on July 2018 in its list of 50 Most Influential Women in the Arab World as she was the first woman to lead a think tank in the Arab world.

Before she founded EPC, Dr. Al-Ketbi was a professor of political science at the United Arab Emirates University. She also held several posts such as the General Coordinator of the Gulf Development Forum, and served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Association for Political Science and as a member in the board of trustees in the Center for Arab Unity Studies, the Arab Thought Foundation, and the Arab Anti-Corruption Organization.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE



Ambassador Asif Durrani joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986 and served at Headquarters as Section Officer, Director (UN), Director (Disarmament) and Director General (UN) from 2011-2012. He held various diplomatic assignments in Pakistan' Missions in New Delhi, Tehran, New York, Kabul and London. Furthermore, he also served as Additional Secretary (FA), President's Secretariat, and Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from February 2014 to July 2016.

He served as Ambassador to Iran from July 2016 to July 2018.

Mr. Haroon Shareef, Minister Of State and Chairman Board of Investment



Mr. Haroon Shareef – Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment is a well-known global expert of economic policy, international development, economic diplomacy and financial markets and worked as the Regional Advisor to the World Bank Group for promoting economic cooperation in South and Central Asia and was also involved in the execution of CASA-1000 and Islamabad-Kabul-Dushanbe Expressway.

Previously, Mr. Haroon headed the Economic Growth Group at UK's Department for International Development (DFID) for ten years and served Executive Director for three

years at Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Moreover, Mr. Shareef is a senior fellow of the British Council for promoting regional knowledge and leadership networks between the UK and Pakistan as well as a visiting fellow at the National Defence University, Islamabad.

Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Al Suwaidi – Manager Business Development Commercial Department, DP World, United Arab Emirates



Mr. Mohammed Sulaiman is a certified Marine Engineer and started his career with DP World in 2007, taking up hands-on responsibilities for the MEP systems of DP World, UAE region's marine facilities. A team player, playing a leading role in developing innovative and sustainable solutions in partnership with customers.

Mr. Sulaiman's experience in ensuring the smooth functioning of the port's state-of-the-art quay and yard equipment has armed him well for his present role of Manager, Commercial, spearheading the sales force of the General Cargo and RORO facilities in a highly competitive market.

Mr. Amer Hashmi – President, Global Think Tank Network (GTTN), Islamabad



Mr. Amer Hashmi is a global strategist & entrepreneur, typical of the current innovation-based knowledge economy. Mr. Hashmi is a graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government's prestigious Leadership Program on 'Innovation for Economic Development'. A business graduate from the York University in Toronto, Canada, he specializes in National Economic Development, Public Policy Framework, International Relations, Corporate Strategy, Global Finance and Marketing, with a diverse international experience of excellence in organizational leadership. He is also a

graduate of the renowned IBM Executive Forum - US and Canada and has been a member of the select club of high-level executive managers at IBM.

Mr. Hashmi has also presented Pakistan's vision of NSTP at the WTA -Daejeon, Korea and has been a distinguished and keynote speaker at international and national forums including: Skolkovo Startup Village 2015, Russia's largest innovation and entrepreneurship event; London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); the prestigious US Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America (OPEN); the Canada Pakistan Business Council (CPBC); Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); National Defense University (NDU) and Government College University, Lahore (GCU).

Dr. Nazir Hussain, Director – School of Political Sciences and International Relations, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad



Professor Dr. Nazir Hussain is Director School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He has also served as Senior Research Fellow on Middle East at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad in 2001-2002. He has over 30 years of teaching, research and administrative experience.

Dr. Hussain is Member Board of Governors, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Member Board of Governors, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, Member Board of Governors, Area Study Center for Middle East and the Arab Countries, University of Baluchistan, Quetta, Member Academic Council and Member Advanced Studies and Research Board, Quaid-i-Azam University.

Dr. Hussain also delivers talks on national/international security affairs at Command and Staff College Quetta, Air War College, Karachi, Foreign Services Academy, Islamabad, Armed Forces War College, National Defence University, Islamabad and many other specialized institutes and organizations of the Government.

Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat HI (M), Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan



Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat, HI (M) – Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan. During his long illustrious career of more than 33 years, the General holds a well accomplished and diverse professional experience of various assignments. General Omar has held various Command, Staff and Instructional appointments including Chairman, Pakistan Ordinance Factories Board, Director General Procurement (Army), Directing Staff of War College at National Defence University, Islamabad, Commander Corps Logistics, Defence Attachee Procurement Washington, Directing Staff Command and Staff College Quetta.

Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar – Federal Minister of State for Accountability, Government of Pakistan



Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar is a founder and director of the Foundation for Fundamental Rights, works towards the advancement, protection and enforcement of fundamental rights. He has been the first lawyer on the ground to protect civilian drone strike victims, hereby aiming to challenge the US covert drone strikes in non-combat zones.

Mr. Akbar is involved in other human-rights centered public interest litigation including on issues such as torture, gender and land rights.

Mr. Ali Al Shamsi - International Fund for Houbara Conservation, United Arab Emirates



Mr. Ali Al Shamsi, is UAE's citizen and works as Director of Communications and Public Relations at International Fund for Houbara Conservation. Previously he was events and exhibition officer in the same organization.

Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir – Minister of State for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan



Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir is a well-known Political figure who is presently Federal Minister of State for Climate Change, in office since 5 October 2018. She has been a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since August 2018. She obtained her early education in her native town Bannu and Miranshah before moving to Lahore with her family. She attended Queen Mary College for her undergraduate studies and completed her postgraduate from National College of Arts for her postgraduate studies. She did

Textile Designing from National College of Arts.

SESSION-I (UAE’S STRATEGIC POLICIES)

Opening Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – Chairman, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)



Major General Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) commenced the ceremony by expressing his gratitude to the Excellences, Panelists, Distinguished Guests, and all participants.

He welcomed all partakers on behalf of Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) and acknowledged the worthy members of the panel who spared their previous time to talk on the significant subject of **“Forging Cordial Relations between**

Pakistan and UAE through mutual Cooperation for Peace & Security of the Region”.

In his inaugural speech, he said that the bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan have acquired new dimensions both at politico-economic and social levels emerging into trust-worthy strategic partnership which is getting stronger with the passage of time.

He highlighted the fact that right from the beginning, the UAE has been extending generous humanitarian assistance, support for better health and education to Pakistan whenever required. UAE became hub of investments, exports, technologies, tourism and renewable energies and in addition, large number of Pakistanis are still contributing a great deal in the UAE’s economic boom.

He said that in Pakistan, UAE surely has encouraged investment and helped in greater trade and commerce activities. He acknowledged the fact that UAE is one of largest investors in Pakistan and there has been a steady increase in bilateral trade over years and people-to-people contacts are constantly on increase.

Major General Khalid Amir Jaffery stated that both countries reaffirm their strong commitment to further reinforce the bonds of friendship and brotherhood and the need to expand the horizon of their bilateral cooperation in diverse fields reflecting deep-rooted and historic ties. Nevertheless, Pakistan offers vast opportunities for foreign direct

investments and joint ventures in infrastructure development, power generation, water desalination, agro-based industries, insurance and real estate etc.

He expressed that relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates are based on mutual support and cooperation and it will further strengthen in future. The development, prosperity and good governance of United Arab Emirates is exemplary in a short period of 47 years. He expressed his conviction and satisfaction about relations between the two countries which have changed into a long term strategic and economic partnership. Furthermore, both the states are determined to strengthen trade and economic ties and eliminate all impediments to seamless flow of trade and investment between the two countries.

He mentioned that Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission could play a pivotal role in chalking out a comprehensive road map, and in fast tracking the approval of pending agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs). He supported the fact that Pakistan-UAE relation is special and is based on the spirit of mutual love, affection and deep trust, and is rooted in its old civilizational, religious, cultural and commercial affinities.

Additionally, both the states resolve to strengthen their trade and economic ties and are willing to transform the existing special relations into a Strategic Long-Term Economic Partnership by adopting a direct, transparent and time bound approach.

He stressed that United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan are strategic partners, and due to rapidly changing socio-economic scenarios and geopolitical trends, it is the need of the hour that both brotherly countries must re-establish functional strategic partnership for further strengthening their socio-economic integration, food and energy security, better political understanding and above all energy cooperation in the days to come.

He concluded by stating that he is certain about future of both countries because prospects are bright and opportunities are vast to further strengthen UAE-Pakistan bilateral relations.

He finished his inaugural speech by inviting the worthy panelists of conference to further enlighten the participants, and added that he hopes that conference would not only be an informative session but will also help in promoting Pak-UAE mutual cooperation for peace and prosperity of both the countries.



Address by His Excellency Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates



His Excellency Hamad Obaid Alzaabi commenced his address by greeting Mr. Zulfi Bukhari, Excellencies and distinguished panelists. He welcomed everyone to the conference which was aimed to forge cordial bilateral relations between UAE and Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He also expressed his gratitude towards General Zahir ul Islam and Center for Global and Strategic Studies for organizing such constructive conference. He appreciated the efforts of practitioners who have travelled thousands of miles to Pakistan for sharing their experiences with us.

He said that Pakistan and UAE enjoy strong privileged relations in all political, economic and social levels. Strong foundation of this relations is based on culture, common faith and trust which was forged by Late Shiekh Zaid and by following his footsteps the UAE leadership is committed to extend these ties to broaden horizon of cooperation in the field of development and economy making UAE the largest investor in Pakistan in first decade of this century.

He stressed that on its part, Pakistan has always valued its relation with Pakistan and looked forward for wider cooperation in various field. He also reminded that Pakistan was the first country to recognize the establishment of federation of sever Emirates in 1971. Bilateral relations played a vital role in development such as more than 1.6 million Pakistani are cooperating in the prosperity of UAE. Their earning contributes significantly to the foreign reserves of Pakistan.

Moreover, this ongoing consultations between the leadership of both countries and frequent exchanges of high level delegations reflect the time tested relations. UAE's Royal Highness Shiekh Zayd Al Nahyan visited Pakistan with a high level delegation whereas PM Imran Khan visited UAE three times in last six months which reflects the brotherly relations of both states.

While appreciating the tremendous development in various fields made by government and people of Pakistan, his Excellency assured that UAE will remain committed to work jointly for the mutual benefit of our brotherly countries. In the end, he thanked all the participants in this conference.



Speaker 1

Mr. Zulfiqar Bukhari, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Overseas

Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

Topic: Pakistan and UAE: Key Players in Regional Peace and Economic Development



Mr. Zulfiqar Bukhari started his speech enthusiastically by declaring His Excellency Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan as his brother. He expressed his gratitude for other dignitaries and panelists for honoring him to be part of this wonderful occasion, an occasion which is embroiled with brotherhood and taken a new turn for betterment in last few months.

He said that our relationship with Arab countries date back to their creation of these nation-states. In 1971, when UAE was formed, Pakistan was the first country to extend recognition and till then both Islamic nation-states enjoy extremely close and fraternal relations. These bilateral relations were founded on deep-rooted cultural affinities, shared faith, and traditions, along with geographic proximity and identity of interests. Pakistan helped building UAE and at the same time UAE has extended their financial and humanitarian support in times of deprivation to Pakistan and we will never forget.

Mr. Bukhari stated, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan our bilateral relations with UAE have taken a new turn and we all have seen the passion, love and dedication of Royal Highness for Pakistan. Frequent exchanges of high-level visits and regular bilateral consultations between the two countries are reflective of the fact that Pakistan and UAE have laid strong foundations of mutually beneficial relations, friendship, and peaceful cooperation over the years.

The UAE has emerged as one of Pakistan's major economic and trading partners. A large number of Pakistani expatriates, numbering nearly 1.6 million are gainfully employed in UAE and they contributed to the economic boom of the UAE. They consider it as their second home and UAE host them generously.

He lauded the hospitality of UAE for providing environment of a home ground for Pakistan's cricket events in UAE. This relation was deemed as brotherhood by him.

He stressed the fact that UAE plays an extremely important role likewise Pakistan strategically. It is geographically significant and is right in the middle of a region which is completely devastated by conflict but yet somehow it's managed to survive and kept its way kept itself away from a form of conflict. Pakistan has had over 70,000 casualties and lost lives in unfortunately a cocktail of terrorism, which is embroiled in our system internally and externally. He was of view that, unfortunately the use of our faith has led to several issues which has a direct impact on our economic revival. There's always a relationship between your security and economic revival of a country, we need to learn from our beloved brothers in the UAE who have kept such a close grip but at the same time allowed economic prosperity to prevail. These two things also have been working agenda of both countries' foreign offices since last five months.

He said that, this is probably the first time after maybe perhaps even a decade has passed where we've had such close linkages between our ministries between our thought processes between our policing systems. Prime Minister now working on the idea of Digital Dubai, a system where the top minds are gathered from around the globe and to bring their systems on to block chain technology. By using Artificial Intelligence they have eradicated corruption and this is something which is very necessary for Pakistan.

We want FDI, we want foreign investments, we want overseas parks, unease to come to invest in Pakistan but their biggest problems becomes a land their possession of land clean title of land and in order to avoid unease, digitalization can play an imperative role, accentuated by Mr. Bukhari.

Lastly, he stated that we want to talk about the Expo 2020, and he believes that this is an opportunity for UAE to even further broaden up its horizons for the entire world. UAE has been a country which has opened up to the entire world. It is a very cosmopolitan place where you have all nationalities working there and the expo is only going to take it even further. In this regard, he requested the honorable Excellency to make sure that we allow Pakistan to play its role in the expo 2020 we would love to be part of your journey. We believe we are ready to assert an extent but we would love to further that and be as a

pivotal of a role as possible to helping our brothers helping our country and expanding and increasing this relationship that we've walked upon in the last five months again.

He acknowledged the opportunity to be part of this cause and thanked everyone for listening.



Speaker 2:

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi - President Emirates Policy Center, United Arab

Emirates

Topic: Foreign Policy Initiatives of UAE and Contribution towards War on
Terror



Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi acknowledged the effort of Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) for highlighting the experience of UAE and confronting extremism and terrorism especially in current days. She illustrated that all of us are vulnerable for a kind of extremist, whether groups or individual, however, the majority of Muslims which are portrayed as terrorists, has no color and religion. So don't believe that extremist only comes from Muslims community or country because the root causes can be identified from everywhere in all societies and countries. She also focused on the ISIS phenomena that even urged from Europe from United States from almost from everywhere they are it's not only from Muslim country enhancing stability. Enhancing tolerance and moderation by fighting extremism and terrorism are two basic pillars of the UAE foreign policy that evidently governed the Emirati positions over the past decades.

The priority of the UAE always has been to ensure regional stability in terms of cause and outcome in the UAE approach to fight with extremism and terrorism in order to enhance the moderation and tolerance. However, on one hand, there is no tolerance in the presence of the case. On the other hand security and stability bolster tolerance, moderation and development. Where there is chaos there is terrorism.

After the Arab Spring, UAE faced a new phenomenon this is a region which is witnessing vacuum after regional powers been wicked like Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. It was obvious that some of the terrorist groups are taking the opportunity to hijack these countries reaching to the power. So that's why UAE believes that the UAE Model cannot live in a region full of instability and terrorism. What UAE believes is in modernity, stability and development along with trying to give a model for others to follow. But also UAE

phenomena is that, it's impossible to defeat terrorism without defeating its radical discourse i.e. extremism. She cleared the thought that Pakistani or the Arab world and is not only involved in the extremist activities but it is everywhere in the world. In this regard, people lose their homes without any future for them that's why many of European joined ISIS or other groups, so in the UAE leaders view, there is a clear link that affirmed the need to deal with extremism and terrorism. There is a common denominators that combine the narrative of extremist, extremist funding and terrorist attack for the reason the UAE has adopted a proactive vision towards terrorist phenomena. It is based on the need to counter radical discourse that provides the ideology of justification, mobilization and polarization of all, which are the introduction to any terrorist.

She highlighted UAE competitors and their role have different way of judgement. There is lack of trust building and confidence building measure in other Arab countries, which needs to identified in merit. There is a need to resolve and normalize the issues as by geography the neighboring countries are together. Her views in every speech are acknowledged by the other community as well and elaborated that all Arabs are equal. However, in the end, when people are born, they don't choose their color, religion and country; where they are born equal with any kind of extremist ideologies. Hence, no one is born to be an extremist.

She illustrated the strategy of UAE where internal and external, in fact the last visit of the Pope and very first visit in the region and signed the document brotherhood between Muslim and Christian. Religion is between a person and God, no need to change people. We all live in the same country but religion for God. UAE believed in terms of curriculum, this is introduced in the educational character and behavior of the people. In fact the people UAE, has tolerance in their culture by default they don't belong to any sect of those hard-liner religious but still they belong is the most tolerance. She confirmed that UAE participate in the coalition against ISIS because believe will be of no stability. The problem that after Arab Spring they were a vacuum in the region, because wherever there is vacuum of extremist groups directly goes towards ISIS. Nevertheless, ISIS is not the end what is to be expected phenomena. If there is still a grievance in the region, including the regions which were taken away from the desired countries, having conflict and grievances.

She concluded by saying that the UAE diplomatic efforts are governed by the belief and the UAE doesn't live in an island, isolated from the regional environment. Therefore, the growth and development and prosperity of the Emirates Model is linked to safeguarding and ensuring a stable, secure and prosperous regional environment. UAE believes that the religion should be involved in development instead of wars conflict.



Speaker 3:

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE

Topic: UAE- Pakistan Strategic Relationship and Way Forward



Former Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE presented his speech on "UAE- Pakistan Strategic Relationship and Way Forward".

Ambassador Asif Durrani acknowledged the effort of Center for Global and Strategic Studies for stressing upon UAE- Pakistan strategic relationship and the contribution made by UAE for the regional prosperity and progress. He elaborated that Pakistan and UAE have always been strategic partners and Pakistan was the first country to recognize UAE and played a significant role in its reconstruction, about 1.5 million Pakistanis were serving in UAE are actually the backbone for the infrastructure.

He mentioned that Pakistan stood by with UAE in the past. Middle East cannot be ignored and every Muslim state should recognize its responsibilities and obligations when the stability of the region is concerned.

He was of the view that Pakistan have obligations being the Muslim country and part of the OIC and the unity of the Muslim Ummah is very important in the hostile milieu of international politics. Unfortunately, during the past four decades, Pakistan is facing sectarianism and Middle East suffered from the Arab Spring which have actually weakened the Muslim world. The Muslim world is in the center of the global political turmoil and which is surrounded by the unpredictability.

Ambassador Asif Durrani illustrated that the Arab world has been facing big challenges but UAE is a unique example of modernity and traditionalism. The rulers are accessible to the masses, each tribesman can voice his concerns and reservations no matter wherever he sits. In short, the UAE is a blend of tribal system and modernity.

He stated that UAE is the richest country in the Muslim world, also ranked as 10th richest globally due to the efforts of the ruler like Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Nahyan who laid the

foundation of his country which was ruled on merit and we can learn from UAE that how to incorporate merit with our daily dealings.

He further elaborated that the human resource of Pakistan and the natural resources of UAE can blend together for the prosperity of both the countries and for the whole region. The UAE is the most moderate country in the region and Pakistan need needs to replicate the similar model of modernity as well but certain externalities in the region has pushed it back. Stability is need of the hour of Pakistan but it has remained vulnerable due to inadequacy of the rule of law and merit prevalence which act as pre-requisites in the context of progress and prosperity.

While accentuating the bilateral relationship, Ambassador Durrani was of the view that Pakistan's contribution has been acknowledged by the government and people of UAE. There are four pillars of any relationship such as political, economic, cultural and defense. He said that at the political level both the countries has enjoyed exemplary relations and in terms of economic entities, UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and in North African region and their trade is reaching to \$10 billion.

Talking about the cultural links Ambassador Asif Durrani said that Pakistan have cultural linkages with UAE. The relationship of both the countries are rooted in history. Mentioning the fiscal deficit in Pakistan he demonstrated that the UAE is contributing to reduce the fiscal deficit faced by Pakistan from the last few decades. There had been government and ministerial level visit which have generated several diplomatic activities and further enhance the bilateral relations of both the states.

He emphasized that the strategic relations between UAE and Pakistan and said that it is significant to mention that in Pakistan there is a lack of corporate culture but the current government have the opportunity to develop the corporate culture and promote investment culture as well and we as a Pakistani should learn a lesson from UAE in this regard. The two countries must collaborate to curb black money and terrorist financing mechanism and create sensitization among the public about the strategic association between the two states.

Session-2 (UAE's Economic Prosperity)

Speaker 1:

Mr. Haroon Shareef, Minister Of State and Chairman Board of Investment



Dr. Haroon Shareef highlighted the fact that we are entering into an era of global and regional partnerships, which is a strategic shift happening across the globe and Pakistan's geostrategic location is playing a significant role in this regard. As the concept of regionalization emerged almost 12 years ago, China took lead in developing economic relations within its geographic proximity and as a result started Belt and Road initiative (BRI).

He was of view that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great initiative which will connect Pakistan with regional markets, referring to the connections with Eurasia and Central Asia. In UAE and the gulf countries, a trend of stagnation of growth in the traditional western market is prominent. Two regions are growing fast, one is Africa and the other is South Asia, as the growth of Africa is 6% above the average as number of people with a very large market. He added that in this regard, South Asia needs to catch up the level of East Asia, and this would be natural partnership of gulf economies joining hands in South Asia at earlier level, so that South Asia can get the Capital. As the markets are here, skills are here and the geography is here, so it is a natural and strategic partnership. That is how the economic and strategic partnerships works in those dimensions.

He stressed that, now Pakistan having a very useful and brotherly history of relationships with UAE, Saudi Arabia, and China. It is the time to leverage the social and cultural ties into long term investment ties. Few known sectors of investment in Pakistan are agriculture, tourism, cultural heritage and regional heritage. However, the investment prospective is when the foreigner investors invest in Pakistan by bringing FDI and add in the flow of capital.

Pakistan is looking for the influx of transfer of technologies in country, similar to the UAE, which have invested heavily in the technological development. Industry and trade, logistics, imports and shipping and now the interest is going deeper into artificial intelligence.

In addition, Pakistan is also growing its productivity and is inclined towards exportable surplus while trading with UAE, Saudi Arabia and other countries. All such plans can bolster production and export capacity of country, moreover it can also add significantly in Foreign Direct Investments of country. Other sectors of advanced cooperation with UAE are hydrocarbon industries which include refining and petrol chemical. However, we are at advanced stage of refinery and the tactical studies are almost complete. What UAE is looking is the base of Pakistan coastal line where it can actually be refined tool and look over the regional market alongside. Oil and petro chemical, food and agriculture and refineries are part of the emerging economic development and Pakistan is acquiring a new stature.

He accentuated that both countries need to make sure that MoUs are translated into agreements and agreements are translated into transactions and by the time, everyone



should see the shared prosperity and stability. Here the shared economy means purely economic preposition which are negotiated which benefits the investors and benefits the economy. There is no state subsidies or guarantees involved as

we believe that the economic potential of this country is sufficient enough as we make the rules of the games favorable to the investors, it should attract the investment anyways. However, this message has been also delivered from UAE as well that to remove the hurdles of bureaucracy, use good technology and work at the pace of private sector as

Pakistan is attractive for the investors here. Pakistan needs to monitor and as there are shared economic framework draft with the UAE government, the bilateral partnership. Here Pakistan has very strong mechanism within the framework of interested areas as well as shown interest in the alternate energy and also in housing and real estate development. He added that Pakistan hope to sign the agreement at Joint Interior Commission, once the practice is done it will be not usual rather monitored on monthly bases and reported to the Prime Minister, Royal Prince of Abu Dhabi

The future perspective and the volatility or the flux in geopolitics cannot be predicted by anyone. It is the time when the future is Asian economic century where nucleus of economic growth as already moved to Asia. It is clearly seen the opportunity for UAE, gulf countries, Pakistan and defined region because the region has move further to prosper economies. Here the size matters a lot because the larger the economy the more opportunities of shared prosperity.

Dr. Haroon recommended that Pakistan needs to improve its processes, invest on human resources, learn to resolve disputes quickly, fast track the business all the processes whether linked to taxes, red tapes, resolutions and working 24/7 to improve country's economic status. The process could be a bit slow but signals are clear to the investors across the region that Pakistan is serious and open for the business. This is the time to invest in Pakistan, don't miss the boat now.

Speaker 2:

**Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Al Suwaidi – Manager Business Development
Commercial Department, DP World, United Arab Emirates**

Topic: Ease of Doing Business in UAE



Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Al Suwaidi greeted the audience and thanked respected panelists for allowing him to express his views. He commenced his speech by introducing his organization 'DP World' which is an authority of Dubai Ports established in 1979, which was transformed from a public company to a private enterprise in 2005. DP World is currently monitoring 82 port operational terminals in more than 42 countries and this organization is now shifting its focus from just being a shipping and trade service provider at port to global trade enabler. Company wants to be part of global supply chains, along provision of end to end solutions and infrastructure development.

He highlighted the acquisition of Port Qasim as an achievement and lauded its productivity by stating the fact that this port contributes more than 36% of total volume of annual trade of Pakistan. DP world has invested hugely since 2005 and is allowing concessions till 2025, but the future plan involves expansion of terminal with \$350million investments. This project will comprise of 100% Pakistani human resource which depicts the significance and vitality of the port development for the country.

By pointing out similar initiatives of development of ports and free trade zones all around the globe, Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Al Suwaidi emphasized that development of a free trade zone in Karachi. He accentuated that such initiative will attract foreign direct investments to Pakistan and eliminate the hassles of pre-requisite local government rules and regulations.

In Dubai, we have a free trade zone which houses of more than 7500 companies and it is largest trading port of the country. This could act as a model of port development for

Pakistan and have potential to be trading partner and facilitator for Asia, Africa and Middle East region.

Our countries, Pakistan and UAE have a good relation and business partnership between the Dubai Port and Karachi Port. Karachi port have potential for new investments which is why UAE is investing in development of port for housing bigger vessels and putting the port on main line schedules.

We really admire the idea of the Great Silk Route and DP World is also playing its role in developing terminals of this route.



Speaker 3:

Mr. Aamir Hashmi – President, Global Think Tank Network (GTTN),

Islamabad

**Topic: Economic Progress Achieved By UAE and Forthcoming Dubai Expo
2020**



Mr. Aamir Hashmi delivered his speech on the topic “Economic Progress Achieved by the UAE and EXPO 2020” in which he highlighted the economic development of UAE supported with historical facts and figures and he also recommended similar policies for Pakistan to bolster its economic growth.

He commenced his speech by enlightening the audience about UAE’s historical Arabic name called ‘Al-Wasl’. He explained the meaning of this word by deconstructing it and defining its genealogy which have a denotation of ‘connection’ and ‘epicenter’ of the Middle Eastern region. In short, UAE had always been a preferred transit corridor for various destinations.

Moving on to the gist of topic, Mr. Hashmi put a spotlight on the UAE’s economic statistics as his supporting argument to the main cause and told audience that country is the second largest in the gulf region, with an estimated GDP of \$382.57 billion and a per capita income of above \$40,000. Its economy is bifurcated by sectoral contribution, Agriculture contributes 0.7 percent, Industry 44.6 percent and Services 54.7 percent to country’s GDP. Its exports (mainly oil and gas) stand at an estimated \$320 billion, while imports (mainly machinery, transport and food items) are an estimated \$250 billion.

In addition, UAE’s maximum economic dependence is upon petrochemical sales, like most of the gulf countries, but country is an exception because its alternative revenue streams are tourism and services (like finance, shipping, logistics, etc.). Moreover, country is ranked 9th in terms of Economic Freedom Index and is counted among world’s freest economies and country top the list in regional index.

Speaker credited this success to the energy market which GCC states created in the latter half of 20th century but this was steady until 2008 economic crisis which jolted the global economies. Due to a constant downfall in oil prices till 2008, fiscal operations of GCC states remained under severe strain and economic progress of UAE faced impediments. Country faced budget deficit and overall debt soared afterwards, but its visionary leadership took an initiative to diversify its economy and decrease country's dependence on petrochemicals.

He stated that it is striking to note that with the advent of shale oil, the monopoly rents accruing through oil sales have largely subsided. But the major push to business activity and development will come from increase in government spending in lieu of events like:

Expo 2020, which is expected to spur further business activity and bringing in more revenue through tourism. For this purpose, the UAE government approved a record budget of DH 60.3 billion (\$16.41 billion) for the 2019 fiscal.

The share of foreigners allowed to own local businesses was raised from 49 percent to 100 percent.



Residency visas, normally issued for restricted periods, were allowed to be issued for 10 years to technically qualified expats and investors

Governments within UAE have come up with their own plans such as Abu Dhabi government,

approved a Dh 50 billion (\$31.6 billion) stimulus plan dubbed 'Tomorrow 21' which focuses on generation of investment opportunities, knowledge and innovation and lifestyle.

In order to illustrate the potential impact of Expo 2020, Mr. Hashmi pondered upon the apparent outcome of this mega event. He was of view that an impressive array of infrastructure development is going on at pace within 438 hectares of the Expo space. An estimated 25 million visits are expected, with arrangements for at least 300,000 visitor capacity at the designated place. 180 nations are slated to be part of this international event, with 204 pavilions planned. The site will have more than 200 plus food outlets, and 400 plus buildings within its ambit. The Expo coincides with 50th anniversary of UAE founding, which will be in 2021.

Already serving as an impressive hub of global economic activity, UAEs credentials are set to be boosted further as leading investors, tourists, innovators, industrialists and businesses are set to converge at this impressive juncture. This expo coincides well with the philosophy of the UAE government which has embarked upon a wave of economic reforms and wants to amalgamate its working with modern day developments in the fields of technology and AI. Moreover, above all, it will be a statement of intent to the world by the UAE that it intends to move beyond the oil era and into the era of the 4th Industrial revolution.

Mr. Hashmi concocted his first halve of speech to the policy recommendations for Pakistan and stated that just like UAE, Pakistan also has vast potential of acting as a transit hub for business and commerce with regional economies like China and Afghanistan. The completion of infrastructure works under the CPEC, and intended \$20 billion Saudi investment would create new opportunities for businesses and mutual cooperation. UAE, given its rich experience as a transit hub of the Mideast region, can easily become part of initiatives like the CPEC and infuse Pakistan with the knowledge it has gained over the years. Government's initiatives like 'Business Connect', which aims to bring together local, regional and international businesses (for Expo 2020 and beyond).

He also suggested that UAE could use Pakistan's labor and industrial capacities, available at cheaper rates, for this purpose. Similarly, UAE imports a large quantity of food items from around the world, but Pakistan is a negligible part of UAEs import equation, which it can improve upon with the help of UAE government. Reportedly, there are plans by the UAE government to procure land outside of UAE to grow and import food. Pakistan is a

very small part of this market for food items, but has plenty of land for agriculture purposes.

However, other areas where Pakistan can improvise upon in its trade relations with UAE are Gemstones, Pharmaceuticals, Footwear, Beverages, etc. But for that to happen, Pakistan will have to significantly bolster its quality controls and upgrade its export related infrastructure.

By concluding his speech, he was sanguine about both UAE and Pakistan gains in cooperation with each other through trade and commerce.



Session- 3 (UAE's Efforts in Humanitarian Assistance)

Speaker 1:

Dr. Nazir Hussain, Director – School of Political Sciences and International Relations, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad

Topic: UAE: Symbol of Religious Tolerance and Harmony



Religion is an important part of human life and forms an important factor of philosophy as well. This stands particularly true for the five major religions; Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. These major religions have various strands of commonalities which can be utilized as tools for consensus and peace. Some basic messages which all of them preach is peace, closeness to God, piety, importance of prayer and they all focus on

humanity.

But lately, there has been on the surface, politicisation of religions as well which has led to discord, and disunity. This has been exploited and promoted by certain factions which run parallel to global peace and order. As a result there is a clash of religions alongside clash of civilizations.

In many ways, there has been a distortion of core religious values, the political usage of entities which promote antagonism and hostility giving rise to various discourses; Christianity vs. Judaism, Judaism vs. Islam, Christianity vs. Islam, Hinduism vs. Islam among the few discords.

Dr. Nazir Hussain argues that Middle East and Gulf regions are the bastions of civilizations and home to the birthplace of three Abrahamic religions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. There has also been a rise in the Hindu community in the region due to the influx of migrants from South Asia. Yet for centuries the region has gone through conflicts, some of which are rooted in religious discord and sectarianism. This makes the environment of the region volatile especially in terms of religious discord.

In this regard, UAE has become a symbol of peaceful co-existence which is a lesson other states of the region should also learn. He stated that following Emirati traditions and values and keeping pace with the social and technological customs, UAE is an 'incubator of tolerance'. Categorizing that recognition needs to be observed at all levels - individual, organisational and national.

He is of the view that UAE, introduced a first-of-its-kind Ministry for Tolerance and Happiness which ensures that religious pluralism is a way of life here. The 'National Tolerance Programme' is also in place to promote tolerance and reject racism and hatred. This programme stresses on the role of family and education in promoting tolerance among the youth, keeping them away from fanaticism and extremism - the main tenets of intolerance.

He elaborates that the Council of Tolerance helps develop policies to promote not just



locally, but regionally as well as internationally. Policies of acceptance and mutual respect are key values of the nation and its founding fathers. As a practical application of the principle of tolerance, H. H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme

Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, ordered renaming the **Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Mosque** in Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi, to **Marium, Umm Eisa which is Arabic of 'Mary, the mother of Jesus'**

While talking about the fact that the UAE is home to over 200 nationalities with 40 churches, two Hindu temples and a Sikh temple is ample proof of that. Not only had that, but small Jewish community in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, founded its first synagogue

in the city. The community is made up of Jews from other countries who work in the financial, legal, energy and diamond fields.

This has put the discourse of anti-Semitism within the Muslim country out of the window and paved way for larger religious harmony between Muslims and Jews as this step has been seen as a highly positive towards building peace in the country.

He explains that the latest example of UAE promoting religious harmony was the visit and meeting between Pope Francis head of the Catholic Church, and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Dr Ahmed Al-Tayeb. Perhaps of longer-lasting significance is the outcome of the Global Conference of Human Fraternity which the Pope, the Grand Imam, and leaders from other religious faiths, attended, and the Document on Human Fraternity that both Pope Francis and the Grand Imam signed.

He concludes his speech by arguing that 'Peace begins from home and UAE has shown that this maxim stands true'. It has shown the world and the region that harmony and tolerance between religions is possible and it can sustain peace in the longer term. It has opened up the door for the world to partake in a constructive and progressive stance of inculcating tolerance, harmony, and eventual peace.

Speaker 2:

Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat HI (M), Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan

Topic: Recognizing UAE's Humanitarian Efforts for Pakistan



Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan presented speech on "Recognizing UAE's Humanitarian Efforts for Pakistan".

He stated that Pakistan is one of the prone countries in the world which has faced the natural disasters like flood, earthquake, drought, avalanche, Cyclones, Sonami, landslides during the last fifteen years. The 2005 earthquake, the 2010 floods and the 2015 earthquake in Baluchistan have been very serious disasters which have tested our national resolve and national capacities of Pakistan.

He highlighted that one of the countries which is always stood by Pakistan in the times of need is the United Arab Emirates and the contribution that they have made in the last 20 years. The 2005 earthquake was at 7.4rs, e lost the lives of 74,000 people and 128,000 people were injured and the 600000 homes were affected in this catastrophic situation. The entire country were devastated and the entire world came to our rescue and one of the most significant contribution that we received was from UAE.

He was of the view that apart from critical support during disasters, the UAE- Pakistan access program is to work towards creating resilience in Pakistani communities. All the projects, he stressed that in the education, health, livelihood sectors are aimed to create preparedness and resilience to lead a better life and to manage disastrous situation in a better way. Number of projects are undertaken in this regard. The military hospital in Rawlakot, the housing project in Balakot, the Balakot mosque are the projects which are being done under the coalition of UAE and Pakistan.

Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat elaborates that the flood of 2010 which appeared as one of the biggest floods in the history of world in the recent past, the UAE

came to support Pakistan and helped tremendously with financial support, providing shelters and disaster management.

He elaborated that the efforts that UAE has done in the terrorism affected areas of Pakistan are considerable, the disasters are not only natural of its kind but there are human induced disasters as well.

The complex emergency was disaster management subject where law enforcement operations were launched in large part of tribal areas of Pakistan and resulted in mass migration at times in case of Swat where approximately three million people were displaced and the such environment were created to challenge the rule of the government which created resilience in that areas and the work was needed in education and health sectors and in these respective areas the UAE support has been critical to Pakistan.

The way that projects of UAE has come up in disaster affected areas of Waziristan, Swat, and South Waziristan and in other parts of FATA has helped to win the battle of hearts and minds.

He argued that UAE has provided continuous food assistance to Pakistan and assistance in drought affected areas of Thar and support to fight poverty. The UAE has provided support to build 55 schools where 25000 students can learn, vocational centers for training women to empower them, provided facilities in water sectors.

Hence, Pakistan has been working closely with all its friends' countries to create resilience in Pakistani community. Pakistan is very fortunate to have brothers like UAE who always come out to help.

Speaker 3:

Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar – Federal Minister of State for Accountability, Government of Pakistan

Topic: UAE – A Beacon of Humanitarian Assistance Globally With Special Focus on Yemen, Egypt and Pakistan



Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar deliberated on the topic “UAE: A Beacon of humanitarian assistance globally with special focus on Yemen, Egypt and Pakistan”. He thanked the organizers for providing a window of opportunity to express his views on the subject matter.

In beginning of his speech he lauded the humanitarian efforts carried out by UAE in different parts of the globe, especially in the region. He said that country is a beacon of philanthropy and its foreign assistance policy has contributed to global efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Humanitarian challenges have grown to unprecedented proportions in recent years. UAE’s humanitarian response, indeed is a major pillar of the nation’s dedication to helping those most in need.

He addressed that the multilateral system is an essential instrument for coordinating international action in the face of global challenges and the UAE is an active participant and contributor to multilateral organizations.

Barrister Shahzad Akbar stated that knowledge sharing and building human and institutional capacity is essential in addressing global challenges. Technical assistance activities are organized and coordinated through the United Arab Emirates’ Technical Assistance Program (UAETAP), aims to share the UAE experience with partner countries by connecting them with experts in their respective fields through several types of programs, such as sending expert missions to countries where technical assistance is required in particular area, focusing on the partner country’s needs and priorities.

UAE has played a vital role to provide assistance to the countries facing disaster like Yemen. The efforts exerted by the UAE to reconstruct Yemen made the UN to rate UAE

as number one worldwide in terms of offering relief to Yemen. The total assistance provided to Yemen, between April 2015 and March 2017, within the framework of the UAE's efficient humanitarian and development role and its rebuilding projects to support the Yemeni people, amounted to Dh7.3 billion (US\$2 billion).

The assistance aims to reduce the suffering of the Yemenis and is in compliance with the UAE's humanitarian and development approach and its desire to establish development, security and stability in the country.

The UAE also built power plants in Aden, to solve the power outage problem in Yemen. The UAE had renovated 154 schools in Aden and conducted repairs for the schools damaged as a result of the war launched by the rebels. The aid also included providing 8,500 school class seats, and supplying 135 schools with 1,674 computers and 200 air conditioners.

The Emirates Red Crescent presented a great support to Yemen's health sector. The ERC helped restore the Republican Hospital, the largest and one of the most important health



facilities in Aden. The hospital was also provided with five morgue refrigerators, latest medical and resuscitation equipment, emergency trolleys, Oxygen and sterilization devices.

The ERC has also supported initiatives to improve the maternity and childhood services in Yemen. The UAE had helped to renovate and reopen many universities, which were closed due to the ongoing attacks from the rebel Houthi groups. As part of the relief campaigns launched

by the ERC, Yemen, We Care initiative was launched to stand by the needy people of the country.

Following the UAE's relations with Egypt, UAE has its strong ties with Egypt and remained its strategic ally for 47 years. In the past few years, Egypt has suffered economic slowdown due to political conflict and security issues, which led it to introduce a three-year economic reform plan in 2016 that included energy subsidy cuts, tax hikes and the Egyptian pound floatation to cover shortage of US dollars.

The UAE was among the top Arab states that scrambled to support Egypt's economy after the June revolution and had offered great financial support. The UAE is ranked first on the list of countries that have established investments in the Egyptian market with \$6.2 billion in total investment, distributed over 868 projects in the fields of communication, banking, real estate, and tourism and information technology.

Moreover, the UAE, along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, provided financial support to Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi following the military ouster of former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Egypt's diversified relations with the UAE include business, trade, military, and political aspects. The Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) statistics illustrate that Egypt's trade exchange with the UAE increased by 6.5% during fiscal year (FY) 2017/18 up to \$5.822bn from \$5.815 in FY 2016/17.

The UAE also supported the Egyptian economy after the decision to float the pound as Dubai Port World, the largest port company in the world, started on February 1ST 2016 to deal with dollars on land services provided to owners and recipients of goods, instead of dealing with the Egyptian pound.

The UAE supports an unprecedented initiative for digitalizing the Arab world’s economy entitled “A joint Arab Vision for the Digital Economy”. The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), which is affiliated to the League of Arab States, hosted an event on Wednesday to announce the initiative which aims to support political, social and economic stability in the Arab world through a Digital Economy Portal.



UAE relations with Pakistan are evolving into wide-ranging cooperation. The UAE is Pakistan’s largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major source of investments. The UAE is home to more than 1.6 million Pakistani expats who contributes around \$4.5 billion annually to the GDP. UAE has served as a home ground for the Pakistan cricket team since 2009.

Pakistani military has had a notable role in training and equipping the UAE military and its air force. The UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme has greatly contributed in education, health, and energy and infrastructure development with various development and humanitarian projects.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Crown Prince Shiekh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan have agreed to transform Pakistan-UAE relations into a long-term strategic economic partnership. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates on 18 November 2018.

Expressing satisfaction at the positive trajectory of relations, the two leaders agreed to take immediate measures to further elevate their historic partnership. They resolved to

strengthen trade and economic ties and eliminate all impediments to a seamless flow of trade and investment between the two countries.

The Prime minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction over the fruitful outcome of the visit of the high-level UAE economic delegation to Pakistan recently and reiterated their resolve to transform the existing special relations into a Strategic Long-Term Economic Partnership by adopting a direct, transparent and time bound approach.

The two sides agreed to chalk out a comprehensive roadmap to accelerate cooperation and partnership in areas encompassing trade, investment, economic development, energy, infrastructure and agriculture., with a view to accrue early dividends from the economic partnership.

They further reaffirmed their commitment to hold the Senior Officials' Bilateral Political Consultations between the Foreign Ministries and fast track finalization of pending agreements at the earliest. Acknowledging the contribution of Pakistani professionals as well as skilled and unskilled workers in the development of UAE, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation on all labour related issues.

With the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to UAE and the visit of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan , PAK-UAE relations have entered a new phase of an enhanced, sustainable relations to cooperate for Socio-economic and strategic cooperation for peace and prosperity of the region.

Pakistan under the leadership of a dynamic, prolific, visionary and brave leader of Imran Khan is striving hands to change the destiny of the people of Pakistan. We Value a great deal, the support of our brotherly country UAE, investment in Pakistan which will help us in creating more jobs opportunities and also UAE's contribution in health and education sector is commendable.

Pakistani workers, technicians and engineers have also contributed great deal in the development of UAE and we always consider UAE our second home. Pakistan will also continue to support UAE initiative for the protection of environment and natural habitat.

Session- 4 (UAE's Role in Preserving the Environment and Wildlife)

Speaker 1:

Mr. Ali Al Shamsi - International Fund for Houbara Conservation, United Arab Emirates



He commenced his speech by briefly introducing the International Fund for Houbara Conservation and told the audience that it was established in 2006 in Abu Dhabi. IFHC is an organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Houbara bustard; a bird significant to Arabic culture and heritage and listed as a vulnerable species. He enlightened the audience about objective of organization which is to restore and secure sustainable wild populations of the species.

Defining the roles and responsibilities of IFHC, he said that our company can manages a network of dedicated research and breeding facilities across the global distribution range of the Houbara. IFHC works with most of the countries along the Asian Houbara migratory route through partnership and agreements.

Mission of IFHC is to Conserve and Regenerate the Houbara Population in the Wild through Active Intervention and Conservation Leadership. In addition organization works on elimination of threats to Houbara, Climate Change, and natural predation and to create awareness about unregulated hunting.

By sharing the achievements of IFHC he said that it was initiated in 1977, Abu Dhabi's programme to restore sustainable wild populations of the Houbara bustard has developed into one of the world's most significant conservation projects. It is the leading authority on the ecology of the species and the genetic custodian of the bird in captivity. It has pioneered scientific breakthroughs on the behaviour, breeding and migration of the Houbara. More than 400,000 Houbara have been produced through captive breeding and over 300,000 released back into the wild.

He also elaborated the Breeding Programme of IFHC, which has pioneered techniques now considered as the reference for captive breeding of Houbara. Two groups of birds are

produced: birds that will reinforce the breeding stock (future breeders) and surplus birds used for release and sustainable harvesting. Separate protocols dictate how the birds are treated. Future breeders receive a lot of human contact to make them comfortable with being handled. Release birds receive minimal human contact and environmental stimuli to allow them to adjust to their natural habitat. Every aspect of the bird's ecology, behavior, physiology and biology is monitored and fed back into the breeding programme. IFHC has invested in preserving the species' genetic diversity and has a genetic database detailing the pedigree of every bird.

He also provided a description of Release Programme and stated that the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Reintroduction Project releases captive-bred Houbara into the wild to reinforce the global population. Releases take place across the Houbara range based on strict protocols developed over many years of scientific study.

Mr. Shamsi told the audience that The National Avian Research Centre (NARC) was established in 1989 and was the first specialised breeding and research facility for Asian Houbara bustard. NARC is also the operational centre for the collection and analysis of data received through the satellite tracking project. In 2012, a second facility to produce captive-bred Asian Houbara – the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Centre-Abu Dhabi – became fully operational.

The Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) was established in Missouri, Morocco, in 1995. The centre breeds and releases North African Houbara. ECWP manages vast protected areas to ensure the success of the species' reintroduction and their proliferation in the wild. In 2001, and in collaboration with Moroccan authorities, ECWP established a permanent eco-reserve, which completely excludes hunting. A second breeding facility was established at Enjil, close to Missouri, in 2006.

In 2014, IFHC signed a cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan to strengthen Abu Dhabi's partnership with the Republic.

By defining the IFHC's long term relationship and collaboration with Pakistan, he said that the cooperation started with the beginning of a project to protect the environment in general and vulnerable species, including Asian Houbara and falcons. As a result of this

cooperation more than 2,000 captive-bred Asian Houbara of Pakistani origin have been released in natural habitats identified by IFHC's partners in Pakistan.

He also pondered on Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Project which is an official project began in 1995 in Pakistan. Two species were released: Saker Falcon and Peregrine. Total number of wild falcons released in Pakistan reached 895.

By concluding his speech, he stressed that the economic impact as part of UAE investment in socioeconomic projects in Pakistan over recent decades, the Fund's work has contributed to infrastructure improvements and the building of mosques, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and dams.



Speaker 2:

Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir – Minister of State for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan



Ms. Zartaj Gul, the current Minister of State for Climate Change started his speech by thanking Ambassadors, Members of diplomatic corps and all participants. She stated that ambassadors of the other countries represent our country specially UAE and German Ambassador, who expressed their love and concern for Pakistan. The relation among UAE and Pakistan has collaborated to enhance the credibility and strengthening our ties.

She was of view that as a State Minister of Climate Change, she feels privileged to know what has been done through the struggles of Pakistan and how we bridged our differences with UAE. Pakistan has been isolated and separated at every front but Muslim Gulf States always remained a close partner of our country.

Pakistan's soft image is being violated into hard image, but as we have now have visionary leader Prime Minister Imran Khan, has clearly shown the love and sincerity of Pakistani people. Last six months has been struggling by our PM Imran Khan, whether it's a Foreign policy, economic crisis, climate change, petroleum energy or any other policy, he's been working hard for the betterment of Pakistan.

She also quoted the visit of Mohammad Bin Salman to Pakistan by saying that, it was an honor for the both of the countries. When two charismatic leader stand together and unite together for the peace of the world. After all the aggression from the neighboring country India, our PM, civil forces, political leaders, armed forces and our friend like UAE, delivered the messages that what Pakistan capability is. All of them stand beside us against the aggression and understand what Pakistan is up to. Pakistan believe in peace and UAE stood for Pakistan.

Ms. Zartaj concluded his speech by stating that we desire for prosperity of Pakistan as a great nation, where peace and stability prevails and we wish all the countries must visit and see Pakistan themselves and then form an opinion. Finally, she said that no one

should dare to see Pakistan as weak state because it is a strong nation, a strong country, having a strong army, a strong leader and strong friends.



QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

Question I:

Mr. Ashfaq Gondal, the Member of Advisory Board of CGSS

What is UAE's foreign policy for Pakistan and what efforts UAE carried out to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen?



Answer: Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi stated that UAE is the symbol of modernity and development. The UAE is striving towards the diplomatic initiatives. UAE is concerned about the neighboring states' situation and consider this as the security risk to UAE if its neighbor states are in drastic situation and fighting against terrorism and insurgency.

The UAE has raised the issue of Yemen in United Nation as well as played its role in curbing the violence. The UAE has taken initiative to build schools, hospitals and other infrastructure to help the Muslim states and endangered communities.

Mr. Zulfiqar Bukhari, Prime Minister's Special Assistant, while commenting on the above question stated that Pakistan is working very closely with UAE, this is a two way process of constructing the economic associations that's why there must be an approach to develop closer ties with UAE which will further enhance the bilateral relations of both the countries. There is need to flexible the taxation system of UAE over the exports regime. UAE and Pakistan working together to stabilize the economic ties and trade relations.

Question 2:

Mr. Mueen Batlay – Chief Strategy Officer, OBORTUNITY

Question was directed towards Barister Mirza Shahzad Akbar inquiring that, how civil societies can contribute to the conflict resolution what are the practical steps that our country should follow to evade from bilateral uncertainties, such as one which our country is facing today?



Barrister Shahzad Akbar replied that currently National Security Council of Pakistan are working on the respective agenda but there is a dire need to take other countries onboard and use our shared identity and values as an Ummah (Muslim Brotherhood). He added that to address our issues we have to be united as a bloc and civil societies play an imperative role in country's development because demands come from them, which is the basic constituent of this process.

Question 3:

Mr. Ahmed Qureshi – ABB TAKK News

Why don't we follow the religiously balanced model of UAE?

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi answered that managing such conflicts isn't easy. UAE have temples, churches, Shias and Sunnis living in harmony and I think respecting religious beliefs of others is the key to a tolerant society. She was of view that working hand in hand is the solution for related state of affairs.



Dr. Nazir Hussain also expressed his views on the subject matter and said that in Pakistan's context, rule of law is the missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle. UAE is a model of harmony and is a coherent society where hundreds of different communities are living together and this is something rare one can find in the world. He recommended that Pakistan should draw its aspiration from UAE to build a religiously balanced society.

Question 4:

Ms. Tooba – Student of International Relations, International Islamic University Islamabad

What is foreign policy of UAE regarding Pakistani workers in UAE?

Dr. Nazir Hussian responded being an expert of Politics of Middle East and stated that Pakistan played a vital role in socio-economic development of gulf and especially to UAE. Millions of Pakistani expats are working in UAE in different capacities which is an explicit depiction of UAE's foreign policy towards Pakistan.



Question 5:

Ms. Rabia – Student of International Relations, Fatima Jinnah University Islamabad

What is the impact of hunting on conservation of Houbara?

Mr. Al-Shamsi answered that falconry and breeding go side-by-side and both play a significant role in the conservation of engendered species. Falconry directly contributes to the conservation of Houbara because falconers keep a check on the prey population in the region and try to provide healthy environment for their reproduction.



Brigadier Mukhtar added that there is a misconception about Arab hunters. They visit Pakistan for hunting purposes with their falcons to hunt in their traditional way. These hunters use protection teams to guard the flora of the region. He commended the communal development efforts of Arab hunters in Pakistan and stated that although their visit is for a week or ten days but they hire local people for six months to facilitate in the activities. They also build infrastructure including schools, colleges and hospital etc. which is beneficial for the denizens.

**Closing Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M),
(Retd) – Chairman, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**



General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery stated that UAE has become the hub of investments, exports, technologies, tourism and renewable energies and in addition, large number of Pakistanis are still contributing a great deal in the UAE's economic boom.

UAE surely has encouraged investment and helped in greater trade and commerce activities. He acknowledged the fact that UAE is one of largest investors in Pakistan and there has been a steady increase in bilateral trade over years and people-to-people contacts are constantly on increase.

Major General Khalid Amir Jaffery stated that both countries reaffirm their strong commitment to further reinforce the bonds of friendship and brotherhood and the need to expand the horizon of their bilateral cooperation in diverse fields reflecting deep-rooted and historic ties.

He articulated that relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates are based on mutual support and cooperation and it will further strengthen in future. He expressed his conviction and satisfaction about relations between the two countries which have changed into a long term strategic and economic partnership. Furthermore, both the states are determined to strengthen trade and economic ties and eliminate all impediments to seamless flow of trade and investment between the two countries.

While concluding his closing remarks, he stated that both the states are eager to strengthen their trade and economic ties and are willing to transform the existing special relations into a Strategic Long-Term Economic Partnership by adopting a direct, transparent and time bound approach.



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