



NSPP NEWSLETTER

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the latest edition of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) newsletter, containing the highlights of our vibrant training programs from July to September 2024. This issue captures the breadth of activities that took place at the constituent and integral units of NSPP across Pakistan. The diversity and dynamism of training programs and research activities are portrayed through the glimpses galore.



The wide range of programs and initiatives undertaken this quarter speaks volumes of our dedication to excellence. By incorporating forward-thinking topics, we ensure that our trainees are fully prepared to address the complexities of contemporary governance. Through a strong emphasis on continuous learning and professional growth, we strive to raise the standards of public service in Pakistan.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the dedicated NSPP faculty, staff, and remarkable trainees, whose efforts are at the core of our achievements. The NIPP remains at the forefront of advancing public policy research, while the EDI continues to deliver top-tier executive training. Together, we are steadfast in shaping the future of public administration through strategic and sustained initiatives.

Dr. Ijaz Munir
Rector NSPP

Graduation Ceremony of NMC-120 and SMC-35



The graduation ceremony of NMC-120 and SMC-35 took place on 12 July, 2024. Forty nine officers of BS-20 and forty six of BS-19, from various services and government organizations successfully completed their respective courses.

In his address to the participants, Rector NSPP, Dr Ijaz Munir, outlined the School's evolving training approach aimed at cultivating a competent and innovative bureaucratic workforce. Emphasizing the need for in-service training to adapt to complex governance challenges, he highlighted the balance between theoretical knowledge and practical skills offered through various courses.

The Rector congratulated the participants on achieving this milestone in their careers and urged them to apply their newfound knowledge to address societal challenges, emphasizing that the true value of their roles lay in benefiting the common man.

Inaugural Ceremony of NMC-121

NMC welcomed its 121st batch on 26 August, 2024. Officers from various service groups, provincial governments and autonomous bodies attend the 18 week long course in order to prepare for high-level national policy roles.

In his inaugural address to the participants, the Rector, Dr. Ijaz Munir, highlighted the two key foci of the program – public policy and leadership – elements that together form the foundation of effective governance. In this connection, he also alluded to the vital role technology plays in modern governance. The Rector urged participants to engage with the course in a constructive manner in order to fully benefit from it. To this end, he encouraged them to spend time in the library and take advantage of the valuable resources available to them with the aim of supplementing the insights gained from classroom learning. He noted that NSPP strives to create a vibrant and conducive environment for knowledge, aligning its ethos with the goal of encouraging intellectual freedom all the while maintaining a balanced approach to discipline. Dr. Munir also invited participants to visit the Sadequain Art Gallery which showcases a collection of precious calligraphy specimens of Surah Rehman, exclusively made by the legendary artist for the erstwhile Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC).

Visiting Personalities at NSPP

The NMC and all NIMs invited a number of distinguished guests to share their interests, thoughts, and experiences with the participants of NMC-120, NMC-121, SMC-35, SMC-36 and MCMC-40 and MCMC-41. These talks were characterized by an atmosphere which encouraged free flow of ideas and intellect in the form of conversations unhindered by academic formalism.

Mr. Mahfooz-ur-Rehman



The guest speaker, a renowned educationist has taught and groomed civil servants, professionals and businessmen in the course of his illustrious career. In his talk to the participants of NMC-120 on July 09, 2024, the speaker lamented the current state of intolerance in society, highlighting societal trends characterized by a diminishing respect for authority figures like teachers and parents. While discussing education, he criticized the shift from self-improvement to mere vocational training. He urged for a reformation of the education system, advocating for collective action to address Pakistan's challenges.

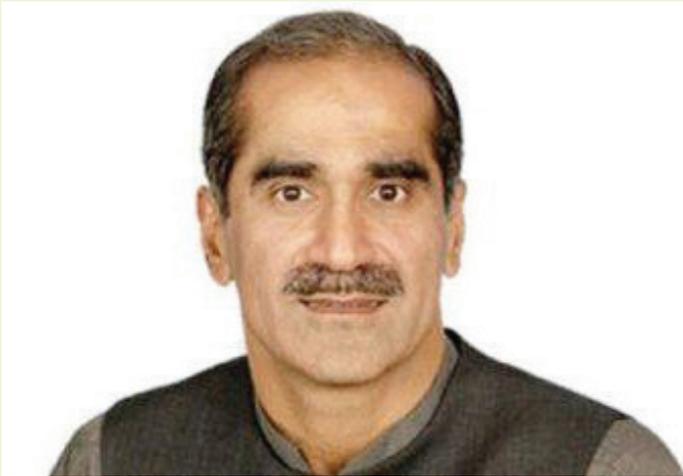
Mr. Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri



The guest speaker, former Foreign Minister, came to NMC to talk to the participants on September 03, 2024. He explored the historical complexities of Pakistan's foreign policy. Mr. Kasuri reflected on Pakistan-India relations, noting that tensions have persisted, especially post-2019 after the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, pertaining to the status of Indian Held Kashmir. Drawing on lessons from the past, the speaker underscored the need for sustainable policies to strengthen Pakistan's international standing. His engaging talk concluded with a lively Q&A session.

Mr. Saad Rafique

The guest speaker, former Minister for Railways, visited NSPP on September 11, 2024 to speak to the participants. Sharing insights from his decades' long experience, the speaker emphasized the need to empower civil servants who, despite their honesty, often hesitate to act due to fear of repercussions.



He noted that public disillusionment is rooted in a system that neglects citizens' self-esteem, urging civil servants to develop trust by engaging with the public. He asserted that true adherence to regulations, despite political pressure could lead to long-term resilience within the service.

Mr. Zahir Shah



The guest speaker, former deputy chairman of the NAB, defined accountability as the willingness to take responsibility for actions and decisions, contrasting it with responsibility, which involves accepting duties. He discussed the role of accountability in public service delivery, emphasizing its importance in curbing corruption, improving standards, and ensuring effective use of resources. Corruption's detrimental impact on investment, governance, and societal trust was highlighted with data.

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar

The guest speaker, former foreign minister visited NSPP on September 04, 2024 and dilated upon Pakistan's for-



ign policy dynamics. She highlighted the need for a multifaceted diplomatic approach, one grounded in humanity and empathy.

Analyzing Pakistan's relations with its neighbours, she stressed the importance of strategic engagement with key partners while navigating internal and external pressures. She urged for a more empathetic approach to diplomacy in order to protect the country's interests and ensure regional stability.

Panel Discussion on Resetting Pakistan's Foreign Policy for Future Challenges

On September 04, 2024, Mr. Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, and Ms. Nasim Zehra led a panel discussion on 'Resetting Pakistan's Foreign Policy for Future Challenges'.



Opening the conversation, Mr. Mushahid Hussain Syed shed light on the shifts in the global order, noting the transition of power from the West to the East, exemplified

by China's rise to power. The speaker stressed the need for Pakistan to reset its foreign policy, particularly in light of improved regional dynamics.



Ms. Nasim Zehra expressed concerns about the challenges preventing Pakistan from reaching its full potential and called for a shift towards meritocracy and adherence to regulations.



Ambassador Aizaz delved into Pakistan's relations with its neighbours particularly India, Afghanistan and Iran. Where India was concerned, he expressed disappointment attributing it to the country's pursuit of hegemonic policies in the region. He emphasized the need for a people-to-people contact stating that it was crucial for the normalization of relations.

Amb. (R) Syed Abrar Hussain

The guest speaker, Vice Chairman at the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, addressed the participants of



the 36th SMC at NIM Lahore on 'Pakistan's Relations with Afghanistan', on September 24, 2024. During his intellectual discourse, Mr. Abrar Hussain highlighted the importance of the Pakistan-Afghan relationship for both countries. He explained the historical perspective of the problem and then enlightened the participants about the recent developments on the front of bilateral and multilateral forums.

Amb. (R) Syed Sajjad Haider



The guest speaker, discussed Pakistan's foreign policy at NIM Peshawar, emphasizing its fluid nature shaped by historical, geographic, and ideological factors. He highlighted key determinants, including Pakistan's geopolitical location, security concerns, economic interests, and ideological foundation based on Islam. He recommended strategies like engaging in dialogue with India, strengthening ties with China, diversifying diplomatic relations, and focusing on economic diplomacy to enhance Pakistan's global standing and foreign policy effectiveness.

Mr. Amjad Mehmood



The guest speaker, former federal secretary discussed at NIM Peshawar that how Rules of Business (ROB) help ensure actions follow the constitution and manage how tasks are done. The speaker highlighted the Prime Minister’s key role in making decisions and how different levels of government interact within ministries and departments. He also talked about how policies are put into action, stressing the need for written orders but allowing for exceptions in urgent cases.

Qazi Waheed-uz-Zaman



The guest speaker discussed Strategic Time Management as essential for a purposeful life, emphasizing intentional decisions that align with personal goals and values. He outlined four key elements of a meaningful life: Strategic Vision, Competence, Leadership, and particularly, Strategic Time Management, which drives daily activities toward long-term objectives.

Prioritization is crucial; it involves making choices influenced by Decision-Making Routines (DMRs) shaped by habits. Effective DMRs lead to better decision-making, while ineffective ones can result in negative outcomes. The Time Quadrant System categorizes tasks by importance and urgency, helping manage time effectively.

Mr. Amjad Ali Sher



The guest speaker, Ambassador, in a thought-provoking lecture at NIM Quetta, shared his insights on “Foreign Policy and Trade Diplomacy.” His lecture shed light on the critical role that diplomatic efforts play in shaping a nation’s international relations and economic landscape, emphasizing the interconnectedness of foreign policy and trade. The key takeaway from the lecture is that diplomacy is not just about politics; it is a vital tool for economic development and global cooperation.

Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagher



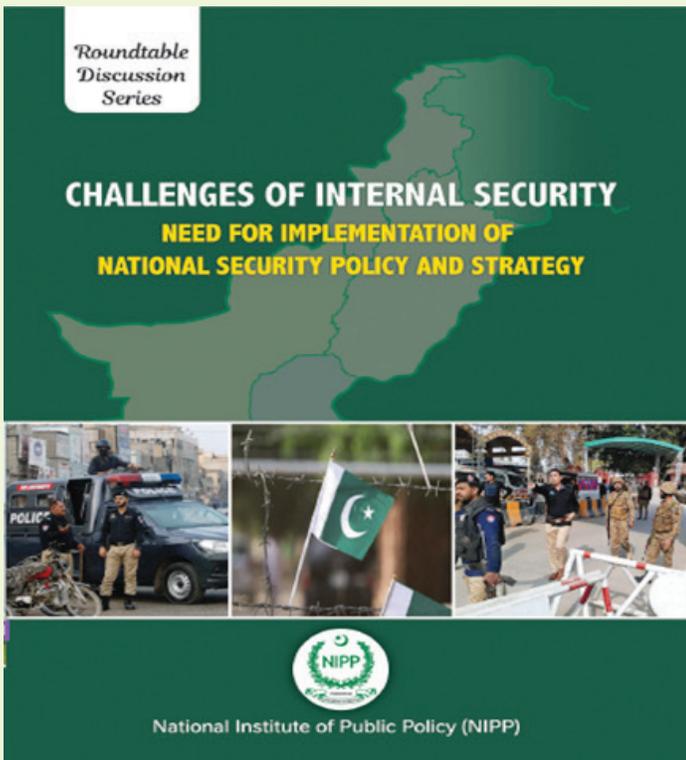
The guest speaker, former caretaker Minister, Industries, Commerce & Revenue, Sindh, enlightened the

participants at NIM Karachi about the issues and challenges of the Industrial Development in Pakistan. He emphasized that the Industrial Development strategy needed to be improved with the active support from all other stakeholders.

National Institute of Public Policy

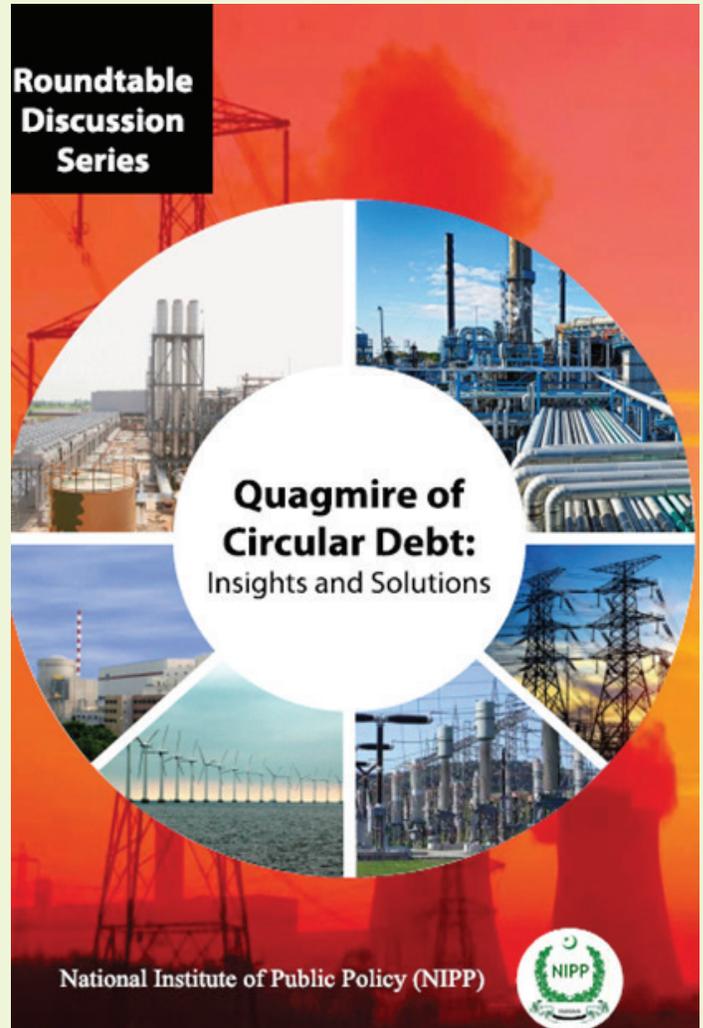
Reports of Roundtable Discussion Series:

During the quarter, report titled “Challenges of Internal Security and the Need for Implementation of National Security Policy and Strategy” was published in July 2024 based on recommendations from RTD.



This report addressed key internal security concerns and emphasized the urgency of implementing a cohesive national security policy and strategy. It contributed to ongoing discussions on enhancing security frameworks and promoting stability at various levels of governance. Another report on the bases of RTD recommendations, titled “Quagmire of Circular Debt: Insights and Solutions” was published in September 2024. The report identifies gaps and challenges within Pakistan’s energy sector that contribute to the persistent issue of circular debt, examining how regulatory frameworks and operational inefficiencies impact financial sustainability. It offers a perceptive analysis and provides recommendations aimed at breaking the debt cycle by

enhancing governance, reforming subsidy policies, and improving energy pricing mechanisms. The document also underscores the importance of harmonizing provincial and federal energy policies to create a more resilient and financially viable energy sector.



Research Publication

A research article is published in journal of “Natural Resources Forum” (Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Ltd, IF 3.5, HEC W-Category) by Dr. Ali Abbas, Research Associate NIPP, titled “Navigating the environmental impact of geopolitical risk and economic policy uncertainty: Evidence from load capacity curve hypothesis in BRICST economies”. Based on empirical results, the study suggests an extensive policy framework for attaining the objectives of SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 08 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 16 (peace for sustainable development), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG

07 (clean energy) in BRICST economies.
DOI: 10.1111/1477-8947.12538

Multitasking Workshop



NIPP hosted a multitasking training workshop on September 16, 2024, featuring Mr. Frazz Atif, an HR management professional. The workshop provided participants with valuable insights into effective multitasking techniques, offering practical strategies to enhance productivity and time management.

Internship Program

NIPP arranged its first two-month internship program for the August-September 2024 session, providing participants with hands-on experience in public policy research and administration. A large number of applicants applied for it. Fifteen interns were selected for the program. They participated in key research projects, developed policy papers, and attended conference and workshops which enhanced their skills in policy formulation and analysis.

2nd NSPP Public Policy Conference on Food Security (19-20 August, 2024)

The two-day NSPP International Conference on 'Food Security' was held at NSPP from 19 to 20 August. The conference was attended by Federal Minister for Planning & Development Ahsan Iqbal, Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Muhammad Zahir Shah KP Food Minister, Engineer Muhammad Anwar GB Food Minister, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim AJ&K Food Minister, Dean NIPP Dr. Naveed Elahi, Rector NSPP Dr. Ijaz Munir and Dr Ishrat Hussain.

Researchers, scholars and officers from different federal and provincial departments also attended the conference.

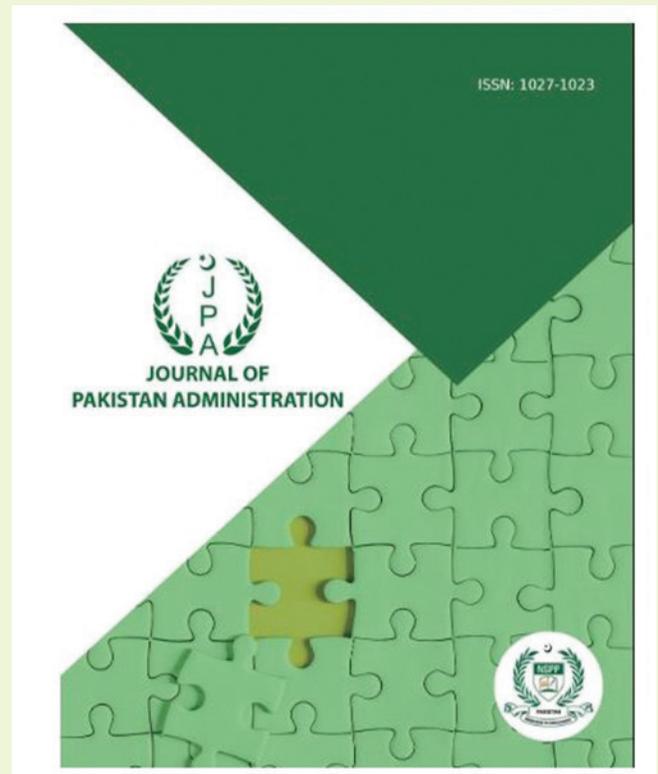




While addressing the conference in the inaugural session, Prof Ahsan Iqbal urged a shift from theoretical discussions to practical implementation of knowledge, drawing inspiration from individuals like Arshad Nadeem, who had achieved great success despite humble beginnings. Dr. Ishrat Hussain emphasized on the importance of post conference follow up for the incorporation of strategies and solutions that emerged during the two-day intellectual discourse into policies.

The conference hosted seven in-depth sessions, each focusing on critical aspects of food security in the country. These seven theme-based sessions, each addressed a key dimension of food security in Pakistan. The first session explored global and national models for food security, while the second examined the effects of urbanization and politics on agriculture. The third session focused on the impacts of climate change and the urgent need for adaptive policies. Day two began with a session on technological innovations in agriculture, followed by a “Ministers Huddle,” where ministers discussed coordinated efforts to tackle food insecurity. Whereas, the latter sessions focused on achieving SDG-2 and enhancing crop production techniques.

Recognition of Journal of Pakistan Administration (JPA) by HEC



It highlighted the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and the development of a robust policy framework to address food security was discussed.

It is a matter of pleasure and honor that the Journal of Pakistan Administration (JPA), published under NSPP, has been recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in the Y-Category on 27th September, 2024.

The JPA promotes research on significant social, economic and governance issues and the ways public policies are made and implemented. Its articles deal with topics of concern to public policy scholars and practitioners nationwide and beyond.

Executive Development Institute

For the first time, the NSPP has made history as the only public institution in Pakistan to receive authorization from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

NSPP entrusted EDI with the task to organizing a challenging and comprehensive five-day training program for potential Directors (DTP). This program is scheduled to take place from August 5th to 9th, 2024. EDI successfully delivered a training experience that was both insightful and practical, equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge to excel in their roles as future directors.



EDI has prepared a comprehensive Policy Report on AI and Digitization from the Policy Dialogue held on February 29 - March 1, 2024, at NSPP. The report captures the essence of the discussions, providing valuable insights, facts, and perspectives shared by the speakers.

Inland Study Tour

On September 12, 2024, participants of NMC-121 visited the Forman Christian College University (FCCU) where Professor and eminent social scientist, Dr. Saeed Shafqat, spoke to them about policy formulation. He emphasized the importance of trained policy managers in promoting sustainable development and democracy.



He outlined three key components of the policy formulation process — principles, processes, and methodologies for improvement — and addressed the complexities of policy-making in a multicultural society like Pakistan. In this respect, he underscored the influence of various institutions, including the military, bureaucracy, and political parties, on the policy formulation process. In concluding his talk, Mr. Saeed Shafqat emphasized the importance of empowering local communities in post-COVID policy environments.



Local visit for participants at NIM Lahore was arranged on 30th September, 2024. They visited Punjab Agriculture & Meat Company (PAMCO), Punjab Cattle Market Management & Development Company (PCMMDC), Sufi Banaspati & Cooking Oil, All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association, Special Secretary Agriculture (Marketing), Badami Bagh Fruit and Vegetable Market Committee, Punjab Food Authority, and a Model Food Processing Unit (K&N's).



Participants at NIM Islamabad visited Safe City (HQrs) ICT – Police, Islamabad, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Emergency & Disaster Management, Fire and Rescue Directorate, and Metropolitan Corporation.



Participants at NIM Peshawar visited Passport office, BRT, and Lady Reading Hospital at Peshawar.



Co-Curricular Activities

Engaging in co-curricular activities is essential for sustainable professional development, promoting self-directed learning, teamwork, and social education. These activities push participants to go beyond conventional learning, fostering critical thinking and a holistic approach to personal growth. This quarter, members from the NMC and all NIMs have actively participated in a range of aesthetic and intellectual pursuits. Their involvement in bait bazi, cultural nights, tree planting, hiking, sports events, art exhibitions, and voluntary presentations demonstrates their dedication to both personal and professional development. These experiences enhance their skills and build strong connections with peers and mentors, supporting a well- rounded and enriching professional journey.





Miscellaneous Renaming of NMC and NIMs

NSPP Board of Governors (BOG) has approved the re-naming of NMC and NIMs as Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC) and National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), respectively.

Sadequain Gallery

With special efforts of Rector NSPP, Dr. Ijaz Munir, Sadequain gallery has been opened at NSPP where the exquisite calligraphic paintings of renowned artist Sadequain, have been displayed. He wrote the Quranic verses in this calligraphy during his stay at NSPP.



Alumni Lounge

Alumni of NMC are an asset of the college. They are encouraged to visit their alma mater at their convenient time. Alumni lounge has been developed, above the NSPP library, where alumni can sit, relax and have tea & coffee.





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