

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1 : August 17, 2026 (Monday)

Registration (09:00 to 09:20)

Recitation of the Holy Quran (09:20 to 09:25)

National Anthem (09:25 to 09:30)

Introduction to Conference: Dr. Naveed Elahi, Dean, National Institute of Public Policy, NSPP
Lahore (09:30 to 09:40)

Welcome Address: Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Rector, National School of Public Policy, Lahore
(09:40 to 09:50)

Guest of Honour: Stetson Sanders, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Lahore (09:50 to 10:00)

Guest of Honour: Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Energy and Petroleum, Islamabad
(10:00 to 10:10)

Chief Guest: Ms. Maryam Nawaz, Cheif Minister Punjab (10:10 to 10:20)

Chief Guest: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special
Initiative, Islamabad (10:20 to 10:30)



Session 1 : Governance of Rare Earth Minerals in Pakistan (10:30 to 12:10)

Keynote Speaker: Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, Director General, ISSRA, NDU, Islamabad
(10:30 to 10:45)

Chair/ Moderator: Dr. Shujaat Ali, Former Dean, PASC, Lahore (10:45 to 11:15)

Presenters:

1. Economic Gains versus Ecological Costs: Modelling Rare Earth Extraction in Pakistan, Zonish Javed
Lecturer Geography, GC University, Lahore.
2. Rare by Nature, Strategic by Choice: A Documentary Audit of Responsible Rare Earth Mineral Governance
in Pakistan, Prof. Abdul Rafay, University of Management & Technology (UMT), Lahore.
3. Pakistan from Resource Potential to Strategic Power: Geopolitics, Geo-Economics, and Strategic
Statecraft in the Emerging Global Order, Dr. Muhammad Faisal Awan, Assistant Professor,
University of Karachi.
4. Pakistan in the Global Rare Earth Elements Landscape: Geopolitics, Governance, and Sustainable Development,
Dr. Uzma Naz, Head, School of International Relations, Minhaj University Lahore.

Discussants:

(11:15 to 12:00)

1. **Dr. Shahbaz Muhammad**, Deputy Director, GSP, Ministry of Petroleum, Islamabad
2. **Dr. Asghar Ali**, Director, Centralized Resource Laboratory, University of Peshawar
3. **Dr. Saif Ur Rehman**, Professor, University of Punjab, Lahore
4. **Dr. Yaamina Salman**, Punjab University.

Q / A Session (12:00 to 12:10)

Tea Break : (12:10 to 12:30)



Session 2 : Harnessing Modern Technology for Rare Earth Minerals: A Policy and Strategic Framework (Geologists' Huddle) (12:30 to 14:00)

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Adnan Alam Awan, Director General, GSP, Islamabad

(12:30 to 12:45)

Chair/ Moderator: Mr. Mairaj Ariff, Former DG NIPA Quetta

(12:45 to 13:50)

Panellists:

1. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hassan Agheem**, University of Sindh, Jamshoro
2. **Dr. Mumtaz Muhammad Shah**, Chairperson, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
3. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Basharat**, Professor, Department of Geology, University of AJK
4. **Dr. Sajjad Ahmad**, HoD, Geology Department, University of Peshawar
5. **Dr. M. Ishaq Kakar**, Director, Center of Excellence in Minerology, University of Balochistan, Quetta
6. **Prof. Dr. Shahid Ghazi**, Professor, Institute of Geology, University of Punjab

Q / A Session (13:50 to 14:00)

Lunch Time (14:00 to 15:00)



Session 3 : Geological Potential of REMs in Pakistan by BNU

(15:00 to 16:30)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Saleem H Ali, Professor of Energy University of Delaware, U.S.

(15:00 to 15:15)

Chair/ Moderator: Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Director BCPR, BNU, Lahore

(15:15 to 16:20)

Presenters:

1. Critical Minerals and the Emerging Geopolitics of Balochistan: Analyzing Great Power Competitions, Local Grievances, Security Challenges and the Way Forward, Dr. Siraj Bashir Baloch, Director Research, Balochistan Think Tank Network, Quetta
2. A Comparative Policy Analysis: What Pakistan Can Learn from the Critical Mineral Strategies of Australia and Saudi Arabia, Dr. Qudsia Akram, Associate Professor, Kinnaird College, Lahore

3. Unveiled Paleosedimentary environment, abundance of Rare Earth and Critical Elements in Paleocene Coal, Hangu Formation, Pakistan, Dr. Rahib Hussain, Sustainable Development Study Centre, GCU, Lahore
4. Pakistan's Critical Minerals: Balancing Strategic Opportunity and Human Security, Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali, Advanced Academic Programs, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Discussants:

1. **Dr. Zainab Ahmed**, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, BCPR, BNU.
2. **Dr. Asif Kamran**, Professor and Registrar, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
3. **Dr. Aisha Azhar**, Dean, School of Society and Governance, UMT
4. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhary**, Chairperson Department of Environmental Science & Policy, LSE

Q / A Session (16:20 to 16:30)

Day 2 : August 18, 2026 (Tuesday)

Registration

(09:00 to 09:25)

Recitation of the Holy Quran

(09:25 to 09:30)



Session 4: REMs in Pakistan: Environmental Risks and Sustainable Solutions (CEOs' HUDDLE of Minerals' Companies)

(09:30 to 11:00)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Danish Mustafa, Professor and Head of Geography, King's College London

(09:30 to 09:45)

Chair/ Moderator: Prof. Dr. Kamran Mirza, Professor Institute of Geology, Punjab University

(09:45 to 10:50)

Q / A Session (10:50 to 11:00)

Tea Break: (11:00 to 11:30)



Session 5 : Technological Advancements in REMs in Pakistan by BIPP (11:30 to 13:00)

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Wahid Arjmand Zia, MD Punjab Mineral Development Corporation

(PUNJMIN), Lahore

(11:30 to 11:45)

Chair/ Moderator: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sindhu, Director General, BIPP

(11:45 to 12:50)

Panellists:

- 1. Dr. Wajahat Mahmood Qazi**, Pro Vice Chancellor, Islamabad University of Health Science & Emerging Technologies
- 2. Prof. Dr. Amir Mahmood**, Director, Space Sciences, University of Punjab
- 3. Dr. Suleman Aziz Lodhi**, Dean, University of South Asia, Lahore
- 4. Mr. Rehmat Ullah**, Consultant, Science and Technology, BIPP

Q / A Session (12:50 to 13:00)

Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals in Pakistan (13:00 to 13:15)

A Strategic Perspective by Mr. Usama Butt, Executive Director of the Institute for International and Islamic Strategic Affairs (IISA), London and Founder of Critical Mineral Company (13:00 to 13:15)

Lunch Break: (13:15 to 14:15)



Session 6: Pakistan's Rare Earth Mineral Potential: Navigating Scope, Hurdles and Policy Solutions (Ministers' Huddle) (14:15 to 15:45)

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Amjad Hussain, Chief Minister, GB (14:15 to 14:30)

Chair/ Moderator: Dr. Safdar A Sohail, Former Dean, NIPP (14:30 to 15:35)

Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister, Balochistan

Sardar Sher Ali Khan Gorchani, Minister, Punjab

Muhammad Arif Ahmadzai, Minister, KP

Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Minister, Balochistan

Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister, Sindh

Q / A Session (15:35 to 15:45)



Closing Ceremony

(15:45 to 16:50)

Chief Guest: Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Speaker Punjab Assembly (15:45 to 16:00)

Guest of Honor: (16:00 to 16:15)

Guest of Honor: Mr. Sun Yan, Consul General of China (16:15 to 16:30)

Post Conference Comments: Dr. Naveed Elahi, Dean, NIPP, Lahore (16:30 to 16:40)

Vote of Thanks: Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Rector, NSPP, Lahore (16:40 to 16:50)