

MEDIA COVERAGE



3rd RASTA Conference

WEB Coverage

The News

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1111352-universities-not-conducting-quality-research-pide>

The Nation

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Sep-2023/two-day-pide-rasta-conference-concludes>

Pakistan Today

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/15/speakers-stress-on-progress-and-move-forward-with-innovative-ideas/>

APP Pakistan

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/two-day-pide-rasta-conference-concludes/>
<https://www.app.com.pk/business/we-have-only-buildings-without-professors-vc/>

WE News

<https://en.wenews.pk/pide-rasta-conference-concludes-with-insights-on-pakistans-challenges/>

Independent News Pakistan

<https://www.inp.net.pk/news-detail/pak-china/diverse-topics-and-expert-insights-dominate-day-two-of-pide-rasta-conference>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/we-have-buildings-without-professors-says-vc-pide/>

Pakistan Observer

<https://pakobserver.net/we-have-only-buildings-without-professors-says-vc-pide/>

The Nation

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Sep-2023/third-pide-rasta-conference-on-thursday>

We News

<https://en.wenews.pk/third-pide-rasta-conference-scheduled-for-thursday/>

Pakistan Observer

<https://pakobserver.net/conference-on-social-transformation-starts-today/>

APP Pakistan

https://www.app.com.pk/national/third-pide-rasta-conference-on-thursday/?_cf_chl_tk=lx0NEhOh6.nA6iCzS6aUH.KS2uDuewhljySl8sPbQjo-1694763774-0-gaNycGzNDPs

Urdu Point

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/third-pide-rasta-conference-on-thursday-1749001.html>

PNI Pakistan

<https://pni.net.pk/en/latest-business-news/third-pide-rasta-conference-on-thursday/>

Pakistan Observer

<https://pakobserver.net/two-day-rasta-conference-begins/>

Independent News Pakistan

<https://inp.net.pk/news-detail/pak-china/two-days-pides-rasta-conference-kicked-off>

Print Media Coverage



September 15, 2023

Third PIDE-RASTA Conference on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) is all set to host the third two-day PIDE-RASTA Conference from Thursday, September 14.

This event marks a significant milestone in RASTA's annual calendar, featuring an impressive lineup of sessions and research showcases, according to a press statement issued by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

A total of 20 papers would be presented across 8 engaging sessions, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights from experts in the field.

RASTA is the country's largest economic and public policy research network comprising academia and think tanks. It has been at the forefront of promoting policy debate and research culture in the country, the statement added.

September 15, 2023

Two Days PIDE's RASTA conference kicked off

Statesman Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, kicked off its 3rd RASTA conference. The research conference consisted of diverse themes, including energy issues, urban development, technology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge - the administrative burden, said in a press release here on Thursday.



September 15, 2023

Pakistan's Leading Research Network, RASTA, to Host the 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-oriented Research is proud to announce the upcoming 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference, set to take place on Thursday, 14th, and Friday, 15th September 2023 at the prestigious Gun & Country Club in Islamabad.

RASTA, Pakistan's largest economics and public policy research network comprising academia and think tanks, has been at the forefront of promoting policy debate and research culture in the country. With a commitment to producing high-quality evidence-based research that informs public policy, RASTA has expanded its influence and now boasts a network of over 60 local universities, more than 10 foreign institutes, and an impressive roster of approximately 2300 researchers, academics, practitioners, and professionals. The program is guided by a distinguished 26-member Research Advisory Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, Islamabad.

The 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference will be a highlight in RASTA's calendar, featuring an impressive lineup of sessions and research showcases. A total of 20 papers will be presented across 8 engaging sessions, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights from experts in the field.

September 15, 2023

Speakers stress progress and move forward with innovative ideas

PESHAWAR

STAFF REPORT

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the conference, was held at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's steadfast commitment to nurturing collaborative

research aimed at positively influencing Pakistan's policy landscape.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on the complexities within the legal system. In the second half, Muhammad Ahmad Barula explored "Taming the Leviathan towards Public Sector Resources Efficiency: Fiscal Federalism or Fiscal Decentralization in Pakistan," addressing governance and resource allocation. The second day of the RASTA Conference was characterized by rich discussions, robust debates, and the exchange of ideas among experts and attendees alike. The conference continues to serve as a pivotal platform for intellectual exploration and the exchange of knowledge.

September 15, 2023

Conference on social transformation starts today

STAFF REPORTER

The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) is all set to host the third two-day PIDE-RASTA Conference from Thursday (today).

This event marks a significant milestone in RASTA's annual calendar, featuring an impressive lineup of sessions and research showcases, according to a press statement issued by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

A total of 20 papers would be presented across 8 engaging sessions, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights from experts in the field.

RASTA is the country's largest economic and public policy research network comprising academia and think tanks.

It has been at the forefront of promoting policy debate and research culture in the country, the statement added.

Pakistan
OBSERVER

September 15, 2023

Two-day RASTA conference begins

STAFF REPORTER

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, started its third RASTA conference here on Thursday.

The research moot featured diverse themes including energy issues, urban development, tech-

nology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge-the administrative burden.

Inaugurating the conference, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and Chairman RAC, Dr Nadeem ul Haque stressed the need for conducting

applied research saying country's research was primarily driven by actors that are alien to our situation.

"Outsiders are driving our research, with perhaps vested agendas," he said.

He said RASTA was a platform that provided space to local researchers to come up with innovative ideas and local solutions.

September 15, 2023

Speakers stress on progress and move forward with innovative ideas

MT REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the conference, was held at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and



Financial Inclusion.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished con-

tributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore.

September 15, 2023

RASTA to Host the 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-oriented Research is proud to announce the upcoming 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference, set to take place on Thursday, 14th, and Friday, 15th September 2023 at the prestigious Gun & Country Club in Islamabad. RASTA, Pakistan's largest economics and public policy research network comprising academia and think tanks, has been at the forefront of promoting policy debate and research culture in the country. With a commitment to producing high-quality evidence-based research that informs public policy, RASTA has expanded its influence and now boasts a network of over 60 local universities, more than 10 foreign institutes, and an impressive roster of approximately 2300 researchers, academics, practitioners, and professionals. The program is guided by a distinguished 26-member Research Advisory Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, Islamabad. The 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference will be a highlight in RASTA's calendar, featuring an impressive lineup of sessions and research showcases. A total of 20 papers will be presented across 8 engaging sessions, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights from experts in the field.

September 15, 2023

Two days PIDE's RASTA conference kicks off

RASTA boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaborating with more than 10 international institutes, and involving a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, kicked off its 3rd RASTA conference at the Country and Gun Club, Islamabad. The research moot comprised diverse themes, including energy issues, urban development, technology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge - the administrative burden. While inaugurating the conference, in his inaugural address, Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and Chairman RAC referred to one of his papers "Developing Research and a Research Culture: Results from a

Pilot Project in Pakistan" as the genesis for the RASTA program. He said that the 'enlightenment movement' was nothing but the exchange of ideas among the great intellectuals of the time. Ideas bring change, however, ideas must be indigenous. Without exchange, ideas don't refine, and without refinement reaching a conclusive solution becomes exceedingly difficult. The Vice-Chancellor apprised the participants that we still have not been able to free ourselves from the colonial clutches. Our research is primarily driven by actors that are alien to our situation. Outsiders are driving our research, with perhaps vested agendas. Though, the onus is on Pakistani researchers. Why they are being silent spectators? Why don't they question things around us? PIDE's RASTA is one such platform it has provided the space for our local researchers to come up with innova-

tive ideas and local solutions. Through RASTA, we have also proved that we can do better than those who steer local research from outside. Earlier, Dr Faheem Jehangir Khan, Project Director of RASTA, presented highlights of the RASTA journey comprising over 3 years. PIDE's RASTA is a multi-year competitive grants program for policy-oriented research in Pakistan, under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the Government of Pakistan. The mission is to develop an extensive research network of academia and think tanks across Pakistan producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research to inform Pakistan's public policy process, he stated. Moreover, the program seeks to develop local thought communities and generate contextualized knowledge. Substantial outputs are to be completed

in important areas of public policy that would produce insightful research and facilitate goals that the Government wants to achieve according to its vision. RASTA, Pakistan's premier economics and public policy research grants programme, continues to make substantial strides in shaping the future of policy discourse in the country. With a robust commitment to fostering an extensive knowledge network, RASTA has emerged as a pivotal force in producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. This dynamic initiative boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaborating with more than 10 international institutes, and involving a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians. RASTA's unwavering dedication to the pursuit of knowledge-driven solutions is propelling Pakistan towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

September 15, 2023

Speakers stress on progress and move forward with innovative ideas

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the conference, was held at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad encompassed a wide array of



research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion. These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examina-

tion of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA.

Universities not conducting quality research: PIDE

Rasheed Khalid

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Vice-Chancellor Dr Nadeem ul Haque has said that we have only buildings without professors, hence we cannot call them universities.

Dr Haque was speaking at the conclusion of three-day conference here of Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) programme of PIDE. It may be mentioned that PIDE has its faculty but no campus and since inception is operating from Quaid-i-Azam University Campus.

Dr Haque pointed out that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. Universities are not conducting quality research which may benefit the country, he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future. He emphasised that RASTA represents an evolving process stressing the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements.

D. Haque highlighted the need to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. The conference included presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Speakers from academia and research circles engaged in discussions on pressing issues.

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

September 19, 2023

Two-day PIDE-RASTA conference concludes

APP
ISLAMABAD

A two-day conference organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) programme, concluded here on Friday.

The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including urban development and industry, law and judiciary, human capital and opportunities, sludge and dead capital, education and technology, and public finance management and financial inclusion, a news release said.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges.

Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. The gathering of diverse minds underscored RASTA's steadfast commitment to nurturing collaborative research aimed at positively influencing Pakistan's policy landscape.

PIDE Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Dr Nadeem ul Haque emphasized that RASTA represented an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements.

Dr Haque emphasized the need to focus on progress and move

forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. He praised RASTA's inclusivity, highlighting how it had exposed policymakers to new perspectives and emphasized the critical nature of inclusive research.

The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Speakers from academia and research circles remained engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on the complexities within the legal system.

Moazzam Ali presented a case study titled "Alternate Use of Public Assets: A Case Study of Allama Iqbal Open University," exploring efficient public resource utilization.

Anwar Muhammad Aslam addressed "Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital," discussing strategies to optimize the potential of Pakistan's railway infrastructure.

Alvina Sabah Idress analyzed "Factors Associated with School Dropout in Pakistan: An Assessment Using Survival Analysis," offering valuable insights into the education sector.

Ghazanfar Iqbal advocated for a solution to K-12 education problems with his presentation on the "Framework for Mainstreaming Career Education."

Verda Salman highlighted "Technology Adoption in Islamabad Police," showcasing innovative approaches in law enforcement.

Abdullah Anjum, Chief of Research at PIDE, contributed to the discussion on self-sufficiency in edible oil production with his comprehensive report titled "Investigation of a Value Chain of Edible Oil to Identify Possible Policy Interventions to Achieve Self-sufficiency."

September 16, 2023

2 days PIDE's RASTA conference kicks off

T.M. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, kicked off its 3rd RASTA conference.

The research conference consisted of diverse themes, including energy issues, urban development, technology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge - the administrative burden, said in a press release here on Thursday.

While inaugurating the conference held in at the Country and Gun Club, Islamabad, in his inaugural address, Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and Chairman RAC referred to one of his papers "Developing Research and a Research Culture: Results from a Pilot Project in Pakistan" as the genesis for the RASTA program.

He said that the 'en-

lightenment movement' was nothing but the exchange of ideas among the great intellectuals of the time. Ideas bring change, however, ideas must be indigenous. Without exchange, ideas don't refine, and without refinement reaching a conclusive solution becomes exceedingly difficult. Earlier, Dr Faheem Jehangir Khan, Project Director of RASTA, presented highlights of the RASTA journey comprising over 3 years. PIDE's RASTA is a multi-year competitive grants program for policy-oriented research in Pakistan, under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the Government of Pakistan.

Omer Siddique, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, presented a detailed report on "The State of Commerce in Pakistan" during his presentation. The session on "Urban Development and Industry" was expertly led by Zahid Asghar, a distinguished Professor

of Economics at Quaid e Azam University in Islamabad. Khalid Chauhan, Secretary of the Tourism Department in AJ&K, Government, skillfully facilitated the discussion on "Law and Judiciary."

The conference witnessed participants presenting their studies within the overarching themes, offering local solutions to pressing issues. Notable participants hailed from institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's commitment to fostering collaborative research for positive change in Pakistan's policy landscape.

Speakers stress progress and move forward with innovative ideas

PESHAWAR
STAFF REPORT

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the conference, was held at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUTEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's steadfast commitment to nurturing collaborative

research aimed at positively influencing Pakistan's policy landscape.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on the complexities within the legal system. In the second half, Muhammad Ahmad Barula explored "Taming the Leviathan towards Public Sector Resources Efficiency: Fiscal Federalism or Fiscal Decentralization in Pakistan," addressing governance and resource allocation. The second day of the RASTA Conference was characterized by rich discussions, robust debates, and the exchange of ideas among experts and attendees alike. The conference continues to serve as a pivotal platform for intellectual exploration and the exchange of knowledge.

Pakistan **OBSERVER**

September 18, 2023

We have only buildings without professors, says VC PIDE

STAFF REPORTER

Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Dr. Nadeem ul Haque stated "We have only buildings without professors. We cannot call them universities that don't have professors."

He expressed these words while addressing the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its 3rd Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program in a conference which successfully concluded here.

This thought-provoking observation highlights the need for a robust educational

infrastructure, including qualified faculty, to develop true centres of higher learning.

The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion, said a press release issued here.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues.

Dr. Haque pointed out

that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. "Universities are not conducting quality research, which may benefit the country," he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Haque stressed the significance of innovative and creative thinking as a cornerstone of national prosperity. He stated, "Innovative and creative thinking is crucial for prosperity," emphasizing that such thinking is essential for addressing the challenges of the modern world and driving economic development.

September 16, 2023

Two Days PIDE's RASTA conference kicked off

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, kicked off its 3rd RASTA conference.

The research conference consisted of diverse themes, including energy issues, urban development, technology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge - the administrative burden, said in a press release here on Thursday.

While inaugurat-



ing the conference held in at the Country and Gun Club, Islamabad, in his inaugural address, Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and Chairman RAC referred to one of his papers "Developing Research and a Research Culture: Results from a Pilot Project in Pakistan" as the genesis for the RASTA program.

He said that the 'enlightenment movement' was nothing but the exchange

of ideas among the great intellectuals of the time. Ideas bring change, however, ideas must be indigenous. Without exchange, ideas don't refine, and without refinement reaching a conclusive solution becomes exceedingly difficult.

Earlier, Dr Faheem Jehangir Khan, Project Director of RASTA, presented highlights of the RASTA journey comprising over 3 years.

Speakers stress on progress and move forward with innovative ideas

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
PESHAWAR

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference.

According to a press release issued here on Friday, the conference, was held at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead

Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government

College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's steadfast commitment to nurturing collaborative research aimed at positively influencing Pakistan's policy landscape.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC),

emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements.

The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

September 18, 2023

Conference fostering dialogue opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking

■ ONLINE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad. The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion. These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman

of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), stated, "We have only buildings without Professors. We cannot call them Universities that don't have Professors." This thought-provoking observation highlights the need for a robust educational infrastructure, including qualified faculty, to develop true centres of higher learning.

Furthermore, Dr. Haque pointed out that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. "Universities are not conducting quality research, which may benefit the country," he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Haque stressed the significance of innovative and creative thinking as a cornerstone of national prosperity. He stated, "Innovative

and creative thinking is crucial for prosperity," emphasizing that such thinking is essential for addressing the challenges of the modern world and driving economic development.

The PIDE-RASTA Conference, by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange, has opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking. Dr. Haque concluded by saying that the PIDE-RASTA Conference serves as a platform for scholars, experts, and stakeholders to collaborate, share insights, and shape a brighter future for Pakistan through education and innovative thinking.

He emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. Dr. Haque emphasized the need

to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. He praised RASTA's inclusivity, highlighting how it has exposed policymakers to new perspectives and emphasized the critical nature of inclusive research.

The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on

the complexities within the legal system. Moazzam Ali presented a case study titled "Alternate Use of Public Assets: A Case Study of Allama Iqbal Open University," exploring efficient public resource utilization. Anwar Muhammad Aslam addressed "Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital," discussing strategies to optimize the potential of Pakistan's railway infrastructure. Alvina Sabah Idress analyzed "Factors Associated with School Dropout in Pakistan: An Assessment Using Survival Analysis," offering valuable insights into the education sector. Ghazanfar Iqbal advocated for a solution to K-12 education problems with his presentation on the "Framework for Mainstreaming Career Education." Verda Salman highlighted "Technology Adoption in Islamabad Police," showcasing innovative approaches in law

enforcement.

Abedullah Anjum, Chief of Research at PIDE, contributed to the discussion on self-sufficiency in edible oil production with his comprehensive report titled "Investigation of a Value Chain of Edible Oil to Identify Possible Policy Interventions to Achieve Self-sufficiency."

In the second half, Muhammad Ahmad Barula explored "Taming the Leviathan towards Public Sector Resources Efficiency: Fiscal Federalism or Fiscal Decentralization in Pakistan," addressing governance and resource allocation. Ameen Shakeel engaged in a discourse on the "Withholdingisation of the Taxation System: Beneficial or Not?" examining the implications of the taxation system. Fareena Armugan delved into "Firm's Financial Inclusion and Export Performance: Evidence

from Manufacturing Sector Firms in Pakistan," shedding light on economic development strategies.

RASTA, Pakistan's premier economics and public policy research grants program, remains at the forefront of shaping the nation's policy discourse. With an unwavering commitment to fostering an extensive knowledge network, RASTA has emerged as a pivotal force in producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. This dynamic initiative boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaboration with more than 10 international institutes, and involves a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians. RASTA's steadfast dedication to knowledge-driven solutions is propelling Pakistan towards a brighter and more prosperous future, underpinned by data-driven policy decisions.

September 18, 2023

We have buildings without Professors, says VC PIDE

RASTA Conference, by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange, has opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad. The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion. These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), stated, "We have only buildings without Professors. We cannot call them Universities that don't have Professors." This thought-provoking observation highlights the need for a robust educational infrastructure, including qualified faculty, to develop true centres of higher learning. Furthermore, Dr. Haque pointed out that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. "Universities are not conducting quality research, which may benefit the country," he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future. In his concluding remarks, Dr Haque stressed the significance of innovative and creative thinking as a cornerstone of national prosperity. He stated, "Innovative and creative thinking is crucial for prosperity," emphasizing that such thinking is essential for addressing the challenges of the modern world and driving economic development. The PIDE-RASTA Conference, by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange, has opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking. Dr Haque concluded by saying that the PIDE-RASTA Conference serves as a platform for scholars, experts, and stakeholders to collaborate, share insights, and shape a brighter future for Pakistan through education and



innovative thinking. He emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. Dr. Haque emphasized the need to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. He praised RASTA's inclusivity, highlighting how it has exposed policymakers to new perspectives and emphasized the critical nature of inclusive research. The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues. In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on the complexities within the legal system.

Moazzam Ali presented a case study titled "Alternate Use of Public Assets: A Case Study of Allama Iqbal Open University," exploring efficient public resource utilization. Anwar Muhammad Aslam addressed "Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital," discussing strategies to optimize the potential of Pakistan's railway infrastructure. Alvina Sabah Idress analyzed "Factors Associated with School Dropout in Pakistan: An Assessment Using Survival Analysis," offering valuable insights into the education sector. Ghazanfar Iqbal advocated for a solution to K-12 education problems with his presentation on the "Framework for Mainstreaming Career Education." Verda Salman highlighted "Technology Adoption in Islamabad Police," showcasing innovative approaches in law enforcement. Abedullah Anjum, Chief of Research at PIDE, contributed to the discussion on self-sufficiency in edible oil production with his comprehensive report titled "Investigation of a Value Chain of Edible Oil to Identify Possible Policy Interventions to Achieve Self-sufficiency." In the second half, Muhammad Ahmad Barula explored "Taming the Leviathan towards Public Sector Resources Efficiency: Fis-

cal Federalism or Fiscal Decentralization in Pakistan," addressing governance and resource allocation. Ameen Shakeel engaged in a discourse on the "With-holdingisation of the Taxation System: Beneficial or Not?" examining the implications of the taxation system. Fareena Armugan delved into "Firm's Financial Inclusion and Export Performance: Evidence from Manufacturing Sector Firms in Pakistan," shedding light on economic development strategies. RASTA, Pakistan's premier economics and public policy research grants program, remains at the forefront of shaping the nation's policy discourse. With an unwavering commitment to fostering an extensive knowledge network, RASTA has emerged as a pivotal force in producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. This dynamic initiative boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaboration with more than 10 international institutes, and involves a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians. RASTA's steadfast dedication to knowledge-driven solutions is propelling Pakistan towards a brighter and more prosperous future, underpinned by data-driven policy decisions.

Diverse topics, expert insights dominate PIDE-RASTA conference

Need to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers: VC, PIDE

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The conference witnessed enthusiastic participants presenting their studies within these overarching themes, offering localized solutions to pressing challenges. Distinguished contributors represented various esteemed institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUIITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College

for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's steadfast commitment to nurturing collaborative research aimed at positively influencing Pakistan's policy landscape.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. Dr. Haque emphasized the need to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. He praised RASTA's inclusivity, highlighting how it has exposed policymakers to new perspectives and emphasized the critical nature of inclusive research.

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RASTA, Pakistan's premier economics and public policy research grants program, remains at the forefront of shaping the nation's policy discourse. With an unwavering commitment to fostering an extensive knowledge network, RASTA has emerged as a pivotal force in producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. This dynamic initiative boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaboration with more than 10 international institutes, and involves a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians. RASTA's steadfast dedication to knowledge-driven solutions is propelling Pakistan towards a brighter and more prosperous future, underpinned by data-driven policy decisions.

September 16, 2023

Two-days PIDE's RASTA conference kicked off

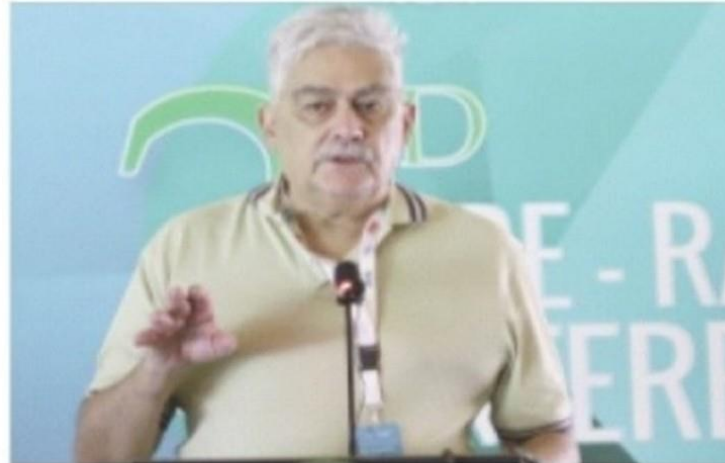
FN REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, kicked off its 3rd RASTA conference.

The research conference consisted of diverse themes, including energy issues, urban development, technology, public service delivery, social sector development, markets and regulation, the political economy of development and reform, and sludge - the administrative burden, said in a press release here on Thursday.

While inaugurating the conference held in at the Country and Gun Club, Islamabad, in his inaugural address, Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor PIDE and Chairman RAC referred to one of his papers "Developing Research and a Research Culture: Results from a Pilot Project in Pakistan" as the genesis for the RASTA program.

He said that the 'enlightenment movement' was nothing



but the exchange of ideas among the great intellectuals of the time. Ideas bring change, however, ideas must be indigenous. Without exchange, ideas don't refine, and without refinement reaching a conclusive solution becomes exceedingly difficult.

Earlier, Dr Faheem Jehangir Khan, Project Director of RASTA, presented highlights of the RASTA journey comprising over 3 years. PIDE's RASTA is a multi-

year competitive grants program for policy-oriented research in Pakistan, under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the Government of Pakistan.

Omer Siddique, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, presented a detailed report on "The State of Commerce in Pakistan" during his presentation.

The session on "Urban Development and Industry" was expertly led by Zahid Asghar, a distinguished Professor of Economics at Quaid e Azam University in Islamabad.

Khalid Chauhan, Secretary of the Tourism Department in AJ&K, Government, skillfully facilitated the discussion on "Law and Judiciary."

The conference witnessed participants presenting their studies within the overarching themes, offering local solutions to pressing issues. Notable participants hailed from institutions such as the University of Illinois Chicago USA, Government College University Faisalabad, NUML Islamabad, Government College University Lahore, Jamal and Jamal Advocates and Legal Consultants Islamabad, University of Peshawar, BUITEMS Quetta, University of Punjab, and Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. This gathering of diverse minds underscores RASTA's commitment to fostering collaborative research for positive change in Pakistan's policy landscape.

BUSINESS

September 18, 2023

'We have only Buildings without Professors': VC

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Dr. Noadeem ul Haque stated "We have only buildings without professors. We cannot call them universities that don't have professors."

He expressed these words while addressing the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) through its 3rd Research for Social Transformation and Advancement

(RASTA) program in a conference which successfully concluded here.

This thought-provoking observation highlights the need for a robust educational infrastructure, including qualified faculty to develop true centres of higher learning.

The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance

Management and Financial Inclusion, said a press release issued here.

These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues.

Dr. Haque pointed out that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. "Universities are not conducting quality research, which may benefit the country,"

he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Haque stressed the significance of innovative and creative thinking as a cornerstone of national prosperity.

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BUREAU REPORT

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Diverse topics and expert insights dominate Day two of PIDE-RASTA conference



INP

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