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Newsletter

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

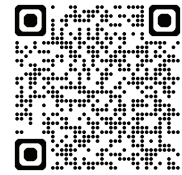
Working Papers

1 Power Sector Debt and Pakistan's Economy

Author: Afia Malik, Ghulam Mustafa

June, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/yc5vtw5b>



Knowledge Briefs

1 Principal Accounting Officer Issues & Challenges

Author: Nadeem Ul Haque, Khurram Ellahi Khan, Nadeem Khan, Hassan Rasool

May, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7hjkxr>



2 How to Ameliorate Drug Shortages?

Author: Shahid Mehmood

June, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/crubw7h3>



Research Reports

1 PIDE Reform Manifesto: Transforming Economy and Society

Author: PIDE

June, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/2973ae68>



2 PIDE Commentary: PM's Committee on Ease of Doing Business

Author: Nadeem UI Haque, Ahmed Waqar Qasim, Azwar Muhammad Aslam, Abbas Moosvi, Usman Qadir, Shahid Mahmood, Mohammad Armughan

June, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/4uymm8ca>



3 PIDE-PRIME Tax Reforms Commission: Revenue With Growth

Author: PIDE

June, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/mscrhw4u>



4 Political Party Manifestos Reform Paradox in Pakistan

Author: Shujaat Farooq, Azwar Muhammad Aslam, Nadeem UI Haque

July, 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/murxnh7y>



Webinars & Seminars

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfvyaas>

1

PIDE Invited Lecture
PEOPLE-CENTRIC AND CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN
 Speakers:
YOKO OKURA, Director, Risk Management Specialist, The World Bank
HURSHI LANS, Deputy Country Specialist, The World Bank
 May 24, 2024, 10:00 PM (PKT), A.R. KEMAL HALL, PIDC
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/5c2ne682>

2

PIDE
RLNC ENERGY MARKET DYNAMICS & PAKISTAN
 SPEAKER:
Mr. Anser Khan, CEO AT ENERGIENLCO TERMINAL
 May 21, 2024, 10:30 AM (PKT)
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153
 A.R. Kemal Hall, PIDC

<https://tinyurl.com/2p94fsc8>

3

PIDE Live Webinar
Unravelling the Wheat Crisis in Pakistan
 Speakers:
 Moderator: **Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDC
 Saturday, May 11th, 2024, 11:00 AM (PKT)
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/mr2zbs9p>

4

PIDE
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN SOUTH ASIA: Structural change, Competitiveness and Growth
 SPEAKER:
Aradhna Aggarwal, Professor, Department of International Economics, Government and Business, Copenhagen Business School
 Moderator: **Dr. Hishkar Ahmad**, Associate Professor, PIDC
 Livestream on Zoom & Facebook: Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153
 Tuesday, May 07, 2024, 10:00 AM (PKT)

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8wkvjv>

5

PIDE Book Launch Webinar
Pakistan Institutional Instability and Underdevelopment State, People & Consciousness
 SPEAKER & AUTHOR:
Dr. Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor at the Bangladesh National University, Lahore
 May 08, 2024, 10:00 AM (PKT)
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/39xw375y>

6

PIDE Live Webinar
The Unequal Effects of Service-Led Growth
 SPEAKER:
Fabrizio Zilibotti, Turin Professor of International and Development Economics, Yale University
 Moderator: **Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDC
 Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, 6:00 PM (PKT)
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/3aa9r8v3>

7

PIDE Hybrid Seminar
Maritime Economy & Areas of Research
 Speaker:
Syed Khawar Ali Shah, Former Ambassador to Maldives
 Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 10:30 AM (PKT), A.R. Kemal Conference Room
 Moderator: **Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDC
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/bdezjn4m>

8

PIDE Hybrid Seminar
REFORM in Pakistan
 Speaker:
Taimur Khan Jhagra, Former Provincial Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkwa for Finance
 Moderator: **Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDC
 Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 12:00 PM (PKT), A.R. Kemal Conference Hall, PIDC
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

<https://tinyurl.com/yzhxj5uz>

9

PIDE Webinar
RESTRUCTURING THE GOVERNANCE OF PAKISTAN
 Speaker:
Haroon Khawaja, Governance & Economic Expert, Chairman Pakistan Freedom Movement, President, Mavrick Hotels, Inc.
 Date & Time:
 Thursday, July 25, 2024, 03:00 PM (PKT)
 Moderator: **Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDC
 Meeting ID: 986 3023 1695, Password: 381153

Events / Activities



1

PIDE GYM Club observed Eco Gift Day

Event Date: **Friday, April 19, 2024**

Venue: **Virtual Online Session**



2

One Day Eco Marathon 2.0

Event Date: **Wednesday, 22 May, 2024**

Venue: **PIDE**



3

Economy Of Azad Jammu & Kashmir: Unlocking The Potential

Event Date: **May 09-10, 2024**

Venue: **AJK University, Muzaffarabad**



4

Revitalizing Pakistan Automobile Industry: Moving Towards Consumer Welfare, Global Integration, And Sustainable Mobility

Event Date: **May 14, 2024 and May 16, 2024**

Venue: **Karachi, Lahore**



5

EconFest Islamabad

Event Date: **Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th, May 2024**

Venue: **Gandhara Citizen's Club, Gate 5, F-9 Park, Islamabad**



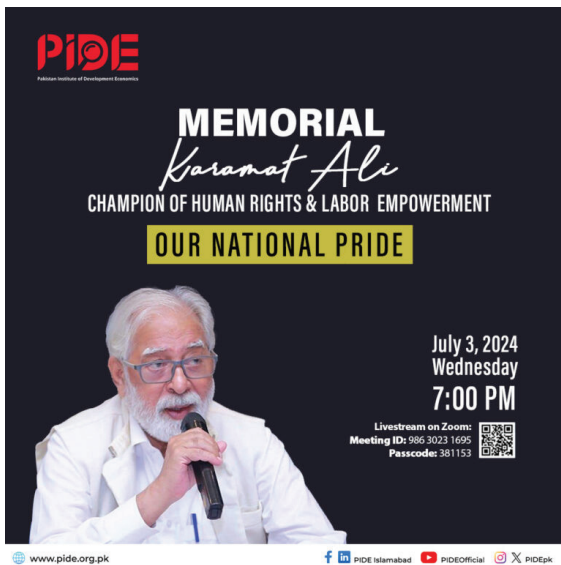


4

Memorial: Prof. Dr Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi

Event Date: **Tuesday, July 30, 2024**

Venue: **Islamabad Club**



5

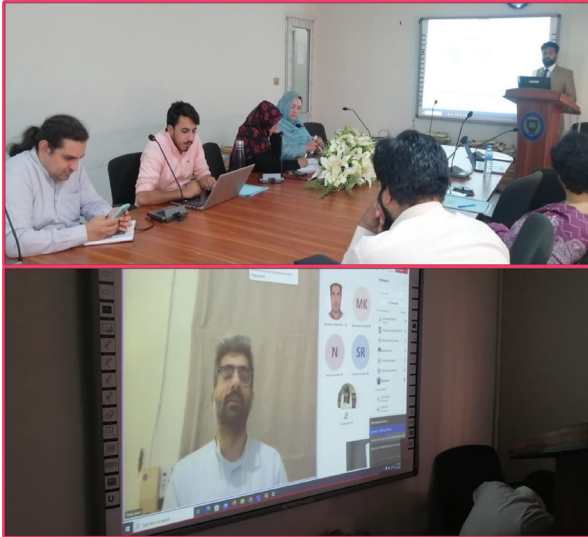
Memorial, Karamat Ali (Our National Pride) Champion of Human Rights & Labor Empowerment

Event Date: **Wednesday, July 03, 2024**

Venue: **Virtual Online Session**

Successful PhD Thesis Defense

Successfully Defended



Student Name:

Muhammad Awais Bhatti
PIDE2021FMPHILPP23

Title:

**Analyzing the Efficiency of
Metro Buses in Islamabad**

Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:

Ms. Lubna Hasan
Mr. M. Shaaf Najib

External/Internal Examiners

Dr. Umair Javid
Dr. Abid Rehman

Date/Time

08/05/2024 10:30 AM

My research pertains to the analyzing the financial efficiency of various Bus Rapid Transport Systems running in Islamabad. The research has analysed the different financial models of Red Line Metro Service, Orange Line Metro Service, Blue Line Metro Service and Green Line Metro Bus service. On the basis of the findings, the research has articulated various recommendations for the future transport discourse of Islamabad depending on the most financial efficient financial model being followed by these bus systems.

Successfully Defended



Student Name:

Muhammad Abdullah Bin Afzal
PIDE2021FMPHILDS05

Title:

**Lahore's Gajju Matta Urban Sprawl:
Assessing the Cost of Public
Utilities' Provision**

Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:

Dr. Abid Rehman
Mr. Saddam Hussein

External/Internal Examiners

Dr. Malik Asghar Naeem
Ms. Lubna Hasan

Date/Time

22/05/2024 01:30 AM

While contributing to the SDG-11, which is to create sustainable cities and communities, my thesis explores the impact of urban sprawl vs. compact development on public utility costs. This study explores the two settings of Lahore to explore the provision and per-capita cost.

Successfully Defended



Student Name:

Shaheera Bano

PIDE2021FMPHILDS03

Title:

**Role of Social Media in Producing
Alternative Discourse for the Male to
Female Transgender Community:
A Critical Analysis of Transgender Act
2018.**

Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:

Dr. Fahd Zulfiqar

External/Internal Examiners

Dr. Mehrub Maiz Awan

Mr. Fida Muhammad Khan

Date/Time

12/06/2024, 11:30 AM

“My research pertains to analyzing the role of social media in producing alternative discourse for the male-to-female transgender community in Pakistan against the hegemonic discourse put forth by the religious political party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI). The research has analyzed the tweets and posts of seven transgender activists from 2020-2022 who are active on social media. Based on the findings, the research identifies legislative gaps and areas for improvement, aiding advocacy for legal reforms and better protection of transgender rights. It contributes to academic understanding of transgender issues and digital activism in Pakistan and highlights social media’s role in empowering the transgender community, challenging stigma, and advocating for rights. The study’s findings are crucial for social mobilization and collective action, offering strategic insights for leveraging digital platforms to amplify marginalized voices and effect positive social change, thus contributing to broader movements for social justice and human rights in Pakistan and beyond.”

Successfully Defended



Student Name:
Mehreen Idrees Khan
PIDE2021FMPHILDS08

Title:
Issues and challenges Concerning first
and Last Mile Travel in Twin Cities
of Pakistan.

Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:
Dr. Abid Rehman
Dr. Saba Anwar

External/Internal Examiners
Dr. Lubaba Sadaf
Dr. Anjeela Khurram

Date/Time
11/07/2024, 09:30 AM

The cost of first and last mile travel significantly impact overall commuting expenses, leading to reliance on personal vehicles or walking. Commuters prefer modes that offer a balance between affordability, efficiency, comfort and safety. Lack of integrated and inclusive system limit their choices, often pushing them toward more expensive or less safe alternative. Various factors such as mode choice, cost, time, distance, accessibility, infrastructure, safety and comfortability affect the mode choice behavior of commuters. Transportation gaps for PWDs and transgender leading to reduced mobility, and social isolation.

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADVANCEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-Oriented Research (CGP) Project is the largest economics and public policy research grants programme in Pakistan – establishing an extensive knowledge network – producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. Initiated in July 2020 for 36 months (July 2020 to June 2025) against the total cost of Rs. 1,756 million, its network includes +65 local universities, +12 foreign institutes, & around +3,200 researchers, academics, practitioners, & professionals.

The objectives of the RASTA program are to: (a) Reduce the research-policy gap by stimulating economic and social science research and debate across Pakistan; (b) Build a network to stimulate internally defined and produced policy-relevant research; (c) Provide a knowledge-sharing platform where different actors can present and share evidence-based research to inform decision-making in the government; (d) Revisit the future policy agenda in line with the evidence produced in this program; and (e) Build capacity and improve policymaking and implementation by involving and engaging local universities, think tanks, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders. The programme is guided by the following 27 members Research Advisory Committee (RAC), chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, PIDE Islamabad.



The RASTA programme has two broad streams through which it is building research networks, funding research projects, and informing public policy in Pakistan: the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) and the Demand-Driven Research (DDR). Under CGP, research proposals are invited on specific themes/topics decided by the Research Advisory Committee, followed by a rigorous three-stage double-blind review process and announcement of awards. DDR programme is a pro-active evidence-based research approach to inform governments' policy-making processes. The final output of CGP & DDR projects is in the form of books, research reports, journal articles and working papers and policy briefs. The final output of CGP & DDR projects is published in the form of books, reports, journal articles, working papers & policy briefs which are disseminated nationwide through events. Impact of the project include: capacity building of local researchers, networking, & provision of research for informed policy.

EconFest 2024 ISLAMABAD

After receiving overwhelming responses from the EconFest Lahore (at Alhamra Art Centre in March 2023) and EconFest Islamabad (at Pak China Friendship Centre in October 2023), this year, again, PIDE, RASTA and PSDE organized the third Economy Festival - EconFest on 25th & 26th May 2024 at the Gandhara Citizens' Club, Gate No. 5, Fatima Jinnah Park, F-9, Islamabad. The EconFest featured several activities, including leaders' viewpoints, expert talks, panel discussions, debates, book launches, poster exhibitions and the screening of documentaries covering various aspects of the economy and society. The objective of this event was to bring together leading economists, public policy experts, practitioners, professionals, academicians, and business, political and thought leaders on a platform to share their views pertaining to the economic challenges facing the country.

EconFest ISLAMABAD
 Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th, May 2024
 Gandhara Citizens' Club, F-9 Park, Islamabad

Logos: RASTA, PIDE, PSDE
econfest.pide.org.pk

Day 1 SAT 25th MAY 2024

Time	Hall-I (Rethink)	Hall-II (Reform)	Hall-III (Revive)
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Islah - Beyond IMF Nadeem Ull Haque, Durre Nayab, & Faheem Jehangiri		
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Islah for Public Administration Deniyal Aziz, Nargis Sethi, Tamur Khan Jhagra, & Nadeem Ull Haque		
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Where Do They Spend My Taxes? Abdur Raheem, Shabbir Zaidi, & Mahmood Khalid	Building Wealth through Investment (SECP) Akif Saeed, Farukh H. Khan, Bedrudin Akbar, & Muhammad Lukman	Electoral Reform post 2024 (LUMS) Raza Baloch Raza, Saroop Ijaz, Anjeel Noor, & Osama Khan
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	24th IMF Program (Atlas Group) Shehri Kardar, Mohsin Chandra, Mehtab Wasil, & Nadeem Ull Haque	Are we Afraid of Evaluations? Nadeem uz Zafar & Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Team	Time to Deregulate Ahmed Waqar Qasim, Awais Manzoor Sumra, Muhammad Jah Raza, M. Ahsan Malik, & Muhammad Maalick
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Documenting the Informal Economy Shabbir Zaidi, Asad Ali Shah, Faseeh Ullah Sheer, & Omer Siddique	Urban Regeneration (The Urban Unit, Lahore) M. Omer Masud, Muhammad Shoab, Noshad Ullah Shah, Fauzia Rizwan, & Imran Ali Sultan	AI & Future of Work (LUMS) Hadia Malik, Farah Seid, Zoha Siddiqui, & Maryam Mustafa
4:00 PM	Qawali Evening with Gulam Abbas		

Day 2 SUN 26th MAY 2024

Time	Hall-I (Rethink)	Hall-II (Reform)	Hall-III (Revive)
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Next Generation: Law, Politics, & Bureaucracy Said Hameed, Haris Hanjra, Norra Anis, & Rana M. Waqas Anwar	Culture & Economics Durre Nayab & Shahid Mahmood	PIDEAS - I • The Unbearable Cost of Living • The Costly Addition to Foreign Aid
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Education without Career Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Ayeshah Razaque, Faisal Mushtaq, & Rafiqullah Kadir	Revisiting Government Jobs Nargis Sethi, Moiz Ull Haque, & Nadeem Ull Haque	PIDEAS - II • Unlocking State-captured Real Estate • Stunted Seth-State Owned Companies • Urban Vibrancy and Renewal
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Essential Steps for Pakistani Companies to Compete Globally (BoP) Shahzaib Saleem, Nadeem Babar, & Nadeem Ull Haque	Geo-Economics Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Ashraf J. Qazi, Zafar Masud & Saddam Hussein	Media & Image Building Qamar Zaman Qamar, Faseeh Manjil, & Durre Nayab
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Doing Development Better: One University, One Idea Durre Nayab & Faheem Jehangiri	Debate: Are We Poor? Shujaat Sarwar	PIDEAS - III • Is Agriculture the Future of Pakistan? • Our Energy Mess
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Immediate Reforms for Pakistan - Youth Voices		

EconFest ISLAMABAD
 SAT 25th & SUN 26th MAY 2024
 Gandhara Citizens' Club
 Gate 5, F-9 Park Islamabad

Activities: Talks, Debates, Exhibition, Cultural Show, Food Court, Fun Zone

Logos: RASTA, PIDE, PSDE
econfest.pide.org.pk

RASTA URBAN REGENERATION REVIEW WORKSHOP

An online Urban Regeneration Review Workshop was held on Tuesday, May 07, 2024 to review the research progress of 04 funded research projects.

- Dr Noman Ahmed presented the progress of the research projects 'DDR-032 Urban Regeneration for Cities in Pakistan: Case of Federal Capital Area, Karachi'
- Mr Muhammad Shoaib briefed about the progress of the research projects 'DDR-033 Urban Regeneration Proposal for Punjab Civil Secretariat & Adjoining Areas in Lahore'
- Mr Muhammad Nosheed Ullah Shah presented the findings of the research project 'DDR-034 Revitalizing Peshawar: A Sustainable Economic Renaissance at Dalazak Road and Adjacent Residential/Commercial Blocks'
- Dr Shoaib Khalid talked about the research work of 'CGP 06-253 Redefining Urban Spaces: Harnessing the Potential of Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable City Regeneration'

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADVANCEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-Oriented Research (CGP) Project is the largest economics and public policy research grants programme in Pakistan – establishing an extensive knowledge network – producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. Initiated in July 2020 (July 2020 to June 2025) against the total cost of Rs. 1,756 million, its network includes +65 local universities, +12 foreign institutes, & around +3,200 researchers, academics, practitioners, & professionals.

The objectives of the RASTA programme are to:

- Reduce research-policy gap
- Promote policy debate
- Evaluate public policy agenda
- Revisit policy decisions
- Provide a knowledge-sharing platform
- Build local research base

The RASTA programme has two broad streams through which it is building research networks, funding research projects, and informing public policy in Pakistan: the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) and the

CGP Round 1.0

In the first round, 18 research projects out of 217 research applications (407 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 53.3 million). The round has been closed after the publication of 06 books 'Local Research Local Volumes I-VI' and 02 special issues of Pakistan Development Review, which can be downloaded from the link:

<https://rasta.pide.org.pk/publications-cgp-1-0/>





CGP Round 2.0

In the second round, 12 research projects out of 163 research applications (463 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 27.7 million). The round has been closed after the publication of 06 books 'Local Research Local Volumes VII-X' and 02 special issues of Pakistan Development Review, which can be downloaded from the link:

<https://rasta.pide.org.pk/publications-2-0/>



CGP Round 3.0

In the third round, 02 research projects out of 79 research applications (233 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 5.3 million). The round has been closed.

CGP Round 4.0

In the fourth round, 17 research projects out of 187 research applications (537 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 38.5 million). Draft working papers of all projects were presented in the third RASTA Conference and can be accessed from the link:

<https://rasta.pide.org.pk/3rd-rasta-conference/>

The research reports of all 17 projects have been finalized and are in editorial process.

CGP Round 5.0

In the fifth round, 15 research projects out of 229 research applications (553 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 41.6 million). Research teams have been asked to submit Draft Final Reports (Working Papers) by July 15, 2024. The reports will be presented in the fourth RASTA Conference.

CGP Round 6.0

In the sixth round, 26 research projects out of 318 research applications (779 applicants) were awarded research grants (worth of Rs. 57.8 million). Inception reports of all projects have been submitted and the research teams have been asked to submit Interim Reports by July 21, 2024. The reports will be presented in the Mid-term Review Workshop.

CGP Round 7.0

The RASTA RAC Chairman, Dr Nadeem UI Haque, has called the Annual General Meeting of the RASTA CGP Network on July 04, 2024, to discuss topics for CGP Round 7.0.

PIDE **RASTA**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RASTA CGP NETWORK

The Chairman RASTA, Dr Nadeem UI Haque, is pleased to invite the worthy members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and all RASTA Fellows to the Annual General Meeting of the RASTA CGP Network.

AGENDA

- RASTA Progress Report
- Discussion about RASTA's Endeavors
- Topics for CGP Round 7.0

Thursday
July 04, 2024

10:00 AM
PST

Zoom

Meeting ID: 841 1943 2725
Passcode: 124145

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADVANCEMENT
Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-Oriented Research
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad
rasta.pide.org.pk

RSVP: 051 9248026 | 051 9248144 | 0334 9880647
rasta@pide.org.pk

www.pide.org.pk

Rasta Urban Regeneration Mid-term Review Workshop

An online Urban Regeneration Mid-term Review Workshop was held on Monday, June 24, 2024 to review the research progress of 04 funded research projects.

- Dr Noman Ahmed (Professor, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi) presented the Interim Report of the research project 'DDR-032 Urban Regeneration for Cities in Pakistan: Case of Federal Capital Area, Karachi'
- Mr Muhammad Shoab (Chief Executive, Spatial Logics Consulting Pvt. Ltd., Lahore) briefed about the Interim Report of the research project 'DDR-033 Urban Regeneration Proposal for Punjab Civil Secretariat & Adjoining Areas in Lahore'
- Mr Muhammad Nosheed Ullah Shah (Architect/Urban Designer, Peshawar) presented the findings of the Interim Report of the research project 'DDR-034 Revitalizing Peshawar: A Sustainable Economic Renaissance at Dalazak Road and Adjacent Residential/Commercial Blocks'
- Dr Shoab Khalid (Assistant Professor, GC University Faisalabad) talked about the Interim Report of 'CGP 06-253 Redefining Urban Spaces: Harnessing the Potential of Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable City Regeneration'

DDR: Submission Of Final Reports

Final reports of the following 04 research projects funded under the Demand-driven Research stream of the RASTA have been submitted and shall be evaluated and presented to the RAC in July 2024.

- DDR-018 'Border Crossings and Economic Nexus: Examining Paki-Afghan and Pak-Iran Border Trade Dynamics in Balochistan'
- DDR-026 proposal titled 'An Evaluation of Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Programme (SPPAP) Promoting Sustainable'
- DDR-029 proposal titled 'Accessing Public Toilets, Littering, and Spitting in Twin Cities: A Call for Healthcare Intervention'
- DDR-030 'Tracking of PPHS Panel Households'

DDR: Submission Of Interim Reports

Interim reports of the following 02 research projects funded under the Demand-driven Research stream of the RASTA have been submitted and shall be evaluated and presented to the RAC in July 2024.

- DDR 028 'Investment in Pakistan's Pharmaceutical Industry: Trends, Issues and Way Forward'
- DDR 031 'Immoveable Property Rights Law Reforms'