

The seminar on **FDI, Regional Connectivity and Research needs** was delivered by **Mr. Haroon Sharif** (former state minister and chairman of board of investment, Pakistan.)

The highlight of the talk by Haroon Sharif include:

In the era of modernize and economically developed world, a transition has been made from the Uni-polar to the multi polar world. We are no more living in the age where economic isolation might have been possible. We need connections and transactions with the neighborhood and the rest of world to stay at the better pace of Development. Country like Pakistan has to get engaged with many countries at many fronts, like FDI, Trade and Economic diplomacy.

Unless a country has regional integration or connectivity with other states it cannot progress sustainably. Pakistan has the best strategic location, sharing its borders with countries rich in resources. But again this strategic location is of no use if Pakistan doesn't take the opportunities to benefit from it. As the world today is looking for transactions and investments and Pakistan has to show up its capability for commercial transactions even if it begins with little steps.

Highlighting the last point of the agenda, Mr. Haroon threw light on the research issues that has made Pakistan lagging behind in the global race. He said the research we are producing needs to be based on empirical evidence and aligned with the demand from the government and the private sector as well. All this needs communication, integration and syncing of the institutions within the country. Our research needs to be demand based and have a buyer for it. Proper and well-designed linkages between research and industry is required.