

Two - Day Conference on:

The Economy of Azad Jammu and Kashmir: **Unlocking the Potential**



Venue

Main Auditorium King Abdullah Campus Chattar Klass, Azad Jammu & Kashmir University (AJKU)

DAY 1: Thursday, May 9, 2024

Registration

8:30AM - 09:00AM

Vision for AJK

9:00AM - 10:30AM

- How do you envision AJK in future?
- Key reforms to improve regional socioeconomic conditions
- How the economic potential of the region can be tapped

- Introductory Remarks: Prof. Dr. Samina Sabir, Chief Organizer
- Conference Vision: Dr. Durre Nayab, PRO-VC PIDE
- Welcome Address: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, VC AJKU
- Invited lecture: Dr. Nadeem UI Haque, VC PIDE
- Vision for AJK: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, Former Prime Minister AJK
- Chief Guest: Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC

Tea Break

10:30AM - 11:00AM

Economy of AJK: Unlocking the Potential

9:00AM - 10:30AM

- Prioritize economic growth: Beyond politics and slogans
- Collective policy focus for AJK for long-term growth and prosperity
- Fiscal aspects and revenue generation
- Exploring the economic potential in various sectors, i.e., power generation, tourism, services sector
- Digital economy

Speakers

- Khawaja Masood, Managing Director, Hydroelectric Board.
- Dr. Sohail Habib Tajik, Inspector General (IG) Police
- Dr. Khalid Rafiq, DG IT Board
- Mr. Shazaib Shabbir Khan, CEO Gulf Empire
- Dr. Danish Khan, Franklin and Marshall College US.

Moderator: Dr. Nadeem ul Haque

Prospect of Tourism Industry in AJK

12:30PM - 1:40PM

- What is AJK's tourism potential?
- Are mountains enough to attract local and international tourism?
- Is connectivity the only thing holding tourism back in Pakistan?
- AJK's local community: tourist offerings and comparison to global destinations
- Is easy access through personal vehicles worth sacrificing local opportunities?

Speakers

- Mrs. Midhat Shahzad, Additional Chief Secretary
- Mr. Umar Shahzad Chief Manager, State Bank of Pakistan
- Mr. Zulfiqar Abbasi, Former Chairman Chamber of Commerce
- Prof Dr. Muhammad Khalique, Treasurer, MUST/Business School MUST

Moderator: Dr. Shujaat Farooq

Lunch

1:40PM - 2:20PM

Role of University in demand driven education 2:20PM - 3:50PM

- Partnership with local industries
- Focus on practical skills essential for employment
- Promote research focused on local needs and global contributions

Speakers

- Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC
- Prof. Dr. Zakria Zakar, VC University of Poonch
- Prof. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, VC AJK University
- Mr. Ch. Muhammad Tayyab, Secretary Higher Education AJK
- Mr. Husnain Ali Gillani, UNDP

Moderator: Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro-VC PIDE

Cultural Segments

3:50PM - 4:20PM

Keynote Address on the Economy of AJK 4:20PM - 5:00PM

Mr. Muhammad Masood Khan, Former President of AJK

Mentoring discussion with various students at the research stage belonging to the various universities of AJK

5:00PM-7:00PM

DAY 2: Friday, May 10, 2024

Implication of Abrogation of Special Status of IIOJK on the economy 9:00AM – 10:00AM

Speakers

- Dr. Raja Sajjad Khan, Director, KPRI.
- Dr. Altaf Wani, Director, Kashmir Institute of International Relations.
- Dr. Rukhsana Said, Chairperson Art and Design Department

Moderator: Ms. Naila Altaf Kiani

Technical sessions (parallel)

10:00AM - 11:40AM

Tourism & Entrepreneurship

Paper Discussion

1. A Critical Review of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) Tourism Policy 2018, by **Syed Ali Abdi**
2. Unveiling the Potential of Economic Growth through Tourism in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, by **Lubna Ghani**
3. Tapping into Economic Opportunities: Economic Renaissance through Tourism in AJK, by **Wajiha Zubair**
4. Route of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development in Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Overcoming Challenges and Opportunities, by **Shenila Altaf**
5. Impact of Akhuwat Program on the Socio economic Conditions of Borrower: An Empirical Study of Akhuwat Foundation in Kotli AJK, by **Sidra Rani**

Discussant: **Dr. Muhammad Luqman**

Chair: **Dr. Ghulam Yahya Khan**

Venue: **Lincoln Corner**

Concluding Remarks

Lunch

Role of Education & Socio-Economic Development

Paper Discussion

1. The Role of Livelihood Assets' Endowment in Adoption of Rural Livelihood Strategies: An Intra-Regional Comparison of District Bhimber, by **Faisal Azeem Abbassi**
2. Evaluating Economic rights of Women in Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Challenges and Opportunities, by **Sardar M. A.**
3. The Estimation of an Asset Index at the Household Level and Measurement of Economic Disparities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Pakistan), by **Tanveer Ahmed Naveed**
4. Easy Degrees, Easy Exits: A Study of the Relationship Between University Credentials and Brain Drain from AJK, by **Syed Kafait Hussain Naqvi**
5. A Critical Study Of Primary Education Situation and Skill Development in AJK State, by **Sarfraz Siddique**

Discussant: **Ms. Maryum Bashir**

Chair: **Dr. Muhammad Jamil**

Venue: **Seminar Room**

11:40AM-1:00PM

Natural Resource Management & Development

Paper Discussion

1. How can AJK leverage its natural resources for sustainable economic growth while also considering environmental sustainability? by **Muhammad Asim**
2. Empirical Analysis of Household Energy Demand Using Almost Ideal Demand System: A Case Study of District Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan, by **Syeda Nazish Rashid**
3. Potential Analysis of Agro-based Industries in Pakistan (A Case Study of AJ&K) , by **Dr. Sardar Javaid Iqbal Khan**
4. Exploring Public Opinion on Financial Devolution and Local Government: A Study in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, by **Zoopash Khan**
5. Role of Remittances in Azad Kashmir Economy; Current Status and Recommendation for Future, by **Shakeel Shahzad**

Discussant: **Dr. Amber Imtiaz**

Chair: **Dr. Atiq Ur Rehman**

Venue: **Main Auditorium**