

YGL Initiative on Indo-Pak Cooperation

Project on Climate Change, Water Security and Disaster Risk Reduction: Managing Risks, Sharing Benefits



First six-month report with Davos 2012 post-script

December 2011

www.ygl-indo-pak.org



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YGL Initiative on Indo-Pak Cooperation Project on Climate Change, Water Security and Disaster Risk Reduction¹: Managing Risks, Sharing Benefits

1. SUMMARY

This report² provides an account of the first six months of a new initiative by Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum (WEF) from India and Pakistan to address shared risks and improve co-operation. Begun in late-2010, in response to the catastrophic floods that had struck Pakistan, the initiative was formally launched at a conference at LUMS in Lahore, Pakistan, in July 2011. Given its origins of concern at the humanitarian consequences of the floods of July 2010, the initiative began with a focus on underlying issues of climate change, water resource and disaster risk management.

Each of these issues presents a new landscape of risk for these two nuclear-tipped countries but is scarcely addressed by a political class and military still locked in old mindsets. With an acrimonious history and three wars behind them, India and Pakistan must learn to face their shared risks together if they are to survive the real threats of water scarcity, a destabilised climate and mounting natural disasters. This is a challenge that a new generation of Indians and Pakistanis will have to take on. This is the challenge that the Young Global Leaders are ready to take on, and seek to address through this effort at strategic engagement.

This report provides a background to the initiative and summarises the launch conference in Lahore and its key outcomes. The conference identified a number of activities which could start the process. In particular, it prioritised co-operation between the two contiguous states of Punjab on issues of climate change, water resource and disaster risk management. It was felt that leadership at the level of these two states could provide a role model for further transboundary co-operation on other issues, opening the way to improved trade, investment, security and people-to-people links.

This report details the outcomes of the conference as well as actions which have taken place since then. Finally, it brings results up to date with a post-script from the World Economic Forum in Davos 2012, where a private session on the initiative was held with leading parliamentarians and ministers from the two countries.

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1. This report refers to the on-going YGL project on climate change, water security and disaster risk reduction. Other projects under the YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative will seek to include issues such as trade, education, health and media.
 2. This report has been prepared by YGLs Malini Mehra (India) and Dr Saleem Ali (Pakistan).

“Shared regional challenges require bold steps in transcending political and ideological differences to find shared solutions. The World Economic Forum and its Young Global Leaders from Pakistan and India are fully committed to shaping a new generation of cooperation and collaboration in the region.”

Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Director, Head of Asia, World Economic Forum (Indian)

Saadia Zahidi, Director, Head of Constituents, World Economic Forum (Pakistani)

2. BACKGROUND

South Asia is a region highly prone to natural disasters and climate change is bringing further risk and uncertainty to countries in the region. While understanding of the impacts of climate change on the region is still in its infancy, experts point to higher temperatures, sea level rise, floods, droughts and extreme weather events as just some manifestations likely to impact every area from agriculture to human health and economic productivity.

Disasters such as the floods of 2010 in Pakistan, and regular catastrophic floods in India, are likely to increase not diminish in number and impact. Both India and Pakistan must develop effective adaptation strategies to climate risk and a proactive approach to resource scarcity to meet the needs and aspirations of their people. In a nuclear-tipped region with a history of instability and conflict, the leaders of these countries would be failing their peoples if they neglected such risks. A proactive approach could bring win-wins on both sides creating longer-term security and facilitating more sustainable regional development.

This is the premise of this YGL Indo-Pak Initiative. Importantly, changing demographics are also creating new realities and new opportunities. Both India and Pakistan have witnessed a quadrupling of their populations since 1947 and both have very young populations. If the aspirations of these young people are to be met in a region challenged by resource scarcity and climate change, it will require a new generation of thinking and an intensification of bilateral cooperation.

This is what this effort seeks to do. It brings together **Young Global Leaders (YGLs)**³ from the post-1947 generation in Pakistan and India to address shared natural resource and climate challenges with a view to building a new narrative of cooperation based on sensible risk management and benefit sharing. It is part of a broader effort within the Indo-Pak Young Global Leaders community to strengthen ties and improve bilateral understanding.

3. The Forum of Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, is a unique, multi-stakeholder community of more than 750 exceptional young leaders who share a commitment to shaping the global future. Young Global Leaders (YGLs) represent the future of leadership, coming from all regions of the world and representing business, government, civil society, arts & culture, academia and media, as well as social entrepreneurs. <http://www.weforum.org/young-global-leaders>

The long term vision is that this process will leverage our mutual strengths for improved stability and prosperity in the region through practical cooperation. The Lahore conference was intended to start this process through the identification of hands-on bilateral initiatives drawing on good practice emerging from other parts of the world such as the Middle East, North East India and South East Asia. It is aimed at climate change and DRR (disaster risk reduction) experts and practitioners, government officials, parliamentarians, humanitarian agencies, banks and insurers, analysts, civil society leaders, academics and interested media.

The conference resulted in a bilateral network of experts and practitioners with an active programme on policy engagement. The network aims to be practical and results-oriented seeking to leverage the engagement of different communities, skills-sets and cultures to promote solutions to climate change and disaster risk reduction in the region.

The Lahore conference has led to a series of follow-up events at relevant World Economic Forum summits, involving a range of key stakeholders, to influence decision-makers, inform bilateral diplomacy and build political support on the issues. Key WEF fora at which these discussions were pursued are: the 'Summer Davos' (Dalian, China: September 2011); the Middle East Summit (Amman, Jordan: October 2011); the India Economic Summit (Mumbai, India: November 2011); and the World Economic Forum Annual Summit (Davos, Switzerland: January 2012).

YGL Initiative on Indo-Pak Cooperation

***Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:
Managing risks, sharing benefits***

Launch Conference

*Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)
Lahore, Pakistan, 8-9 July 2011*

Organised by:

Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum

In partnership with:



Hosted by:



Sponsors:



3. LAHORE CONFERENCE – SUMMARY

In late 2010, a group of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) of the World Economic Forum from India and Pakistan came together to provide a humanitarian response to the catastrophic floods which had hit Pakistan in July/ August 2010. From this emerged a desire to respond in a more systematic way to underlying reasons behind such catastrophes, including the impact of climate change, on the region. This developed into a project by young Indo-Pak leaders who recognised that climate change is both a shared dilemma, as well as a unique opportunity, for bi-lateral cooperation to improve regional security and resilience.

The initiative is the work of Indian and Pakistani YGLs who believe the time is ripe for fresh thinking on how to manage shared regional risks and develop a culture of trust and cooperation. The project brought together these and stakeholders from Pakistan and India, as well as influential knowledge and media partners such as LUMS, Aman ki Asha, Beaconhouse, Centre for Social Markets, Ecopeace/ FoE Middle East, Third Pole, GEO TV (Pakistan) and NDTV (India).



The objective was to create a platform where young leaders from the post-1947 generation in both countries, could build a new narrative of co-operation based on modern themes of risk management and benefit sharing. This effort was set in the larger context of demographic change and posed the question whether a new generation of leaders was needed to more pragmatically manage bilateral tensions, and reduce cross-border security risks, than earlier generations had succeeded in doing.

The launch event at LUMS, one of Pakistan's most prestigious universities, in July 2011, saw almost 200 local attendees and was live-webcast for a larger national and international audience. The presence of senior political figures from India and Pakistan, international speakers, prominent media personalities and policy experts attracted news coverage in the English and Urdu media (see Annex 2). Media partners from NDTV and Express TV hosted panel debates which were televised in Pakistan and reached a wider national audience.

The conference had an electrifying impact on the LUMS campus and one of the immediate results was the establishment of a LUMS student committee to explore the issues discussed and establish research and cooperation links with peers in India. This was a key target group that the organisers had sought to target and reinforced the operating assumption that youth in both countries could be mobilised for change leadership on these issues.

The YGL initiative has established a web presence and all presentations, speaker biographies, sample media coverage, photos, etc. can be found on the website: www.ygl-indo-pak.org

The success of the launch initiative in Lahore, Pakistan, in July 2011, has prompted significant support from the leadership of the World Economic Forum. This is now seen as a key YGL initiative within the WEF community and a series of follow-up events have already been organised at each of the World Economic Forum's subsequent meetings: the 'Summer Davos' in Dalian, China (September 2011); the Arab regional summit in the Dead Sea, Jordan (October 2011); and at the India Economic Summit in Mumbai, India (November 2011). High-level connections have also been made between this initiative and the World Economic Forum's

Water Resources Group (WRG), which involves many of the world's leading companies as well as the World Bank and International Finance Corporation.

Follow-up to the Lahore launch of the YGL Indo-Pak Initiative includes a number of activities:

1. A presentation of the Initiative by its co-leaders, Malini Mehra (India) and Dr Saleem Ali (Pakistan), at the invitation of the World Economic Forum's chairman, Klaus Schwab, to the YGL Foundation Board at the 'Summer Davos' in Dalian, China in September 2011. This took place before members of the Foundation Board including H.E. Crown Prince Haakon of Norway; Goh Chok Tong former Prime Minister of Singapore, and N K Singh, Member of Rajya Sabha, and co-chair of the Parliamentary committee on climate change.
2. The publication of a special *Indo-Pak issue* of **Sanctuary Asia**, India's largest circulating and most influential conservation magazine. This was published in October / November to coincide with the India Economic Summit in Mumbai so that copies could be circulated there.
3. Planning sessions with the Homeland Security and Defence Studies Department of Punjab University in Chandigarh, which has agreed to host the follow-up meeting to the LUMS event in India in 2012. (The Vice-Chancellor of Punjab University is the Vice President of India.)
4. A 'Seeing is Believing' visit for YGLs to Ecopeace/ Friends of the Earth's projects in Jordan in October 2011, which has set the stage for a visit by Indo-Pak YGLs and other leaders in 2012.
5. The organisers of the YGL Indo-Pak Initiative were invited by the leadership of the World Economic Forum to take the initiative forward with world leaders at the WEF's Annual Summit in Davos, Switzerland (January 2012).

4. LAHORE CONFERENCE – NARRATIVE REPORT

8-9 July 2011, LUMS, Lahore

Summary

The YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative was successfully launched at a 2-day conference at LUMS in Lahore. The event was opened by the new Vice-Chancellor of LUMS, Dr Adil Najam, a well-known authority on climate change and environmental security. This was Dr Najam's first public engagement as Vice-Chancellor and the opening attracted almost 200 participants and an array of national and international speakers. Those unable to attend in person joined by webcast and Indian speakers were also beamed in by live video conference from New Delhi.



Joining the gathering of Young Global Leaders (YGL) from Pakistan and India were politicians, policymakers, practitioners, professionals, social entrepreneurs, academics and students. Sushant Palakurthi Rao, from the World Economic Forum, brought encouragement from the Swiss-based organisation which has supported the initiative. Prominent Indian and Pakistani politicians and media figures added their perspective on bilateral relations, converging on the importance of more liberal visa regimes as a first step to enhanced trade, people-to-people contact and improved cooperation. Public debates were led by YGL Barkha Dutt, award-winning NDTV anchor from India, and YGL Munizae Jehangir who moderated a televised discussion for her hit Express TV show, *Pakistan Puchta Hai*.

All speakers emphasised the unique opportunity presented by climate change, resource security and disaster mitigation for a new narrative of cooperation. Both countries were highly vulnerable to climate risks and natural disasters. It was agreed that pro-active and practical cooperation on these broader risks was a win-win that could generate popular support and yield practical gains. This could be a surer route to conflict prevention and confidence building measures than many other measures under consideration. The conference concluded with a commitment to establish a platform promoting Punjab-to-Punjab cooperation on climate change,

water resource management and disaster reduction engaging the full range of participants present at the conference and local communities on both sides.



The conference media partner, Aman ki Asha, provided the following published account of the two-day conference:

“Needed: Cooperation on Climate Change and Water Sharing”

“Aoun Sahi reports on a ground-breaking Indo-Pak conference on issues of climate change and disaster risk management held in Lahore last week.

“I don’t think it is tough to solve the issues of trans-boundary waters between India and Pakistan” said Jordon based Yana Walid Abu-Talib of Eco-peace/Friends of the Earth Middle East (FOEME). She was in Lahore last week to attend a two-day conference on ‘Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management-Managing Risks: Sharing Benefits’ arranged by a small group of Young Global Leaders from India and Pakistan.

The idea of such cooperation was conceived at the World Economic Forum’s regional summit in New Delhi in November 2010 under the aegis of YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative. The initiative is based on the belief that Pakistan and India need to address shared natural resources and climate challenges and develop a new narrative of cooperation based on sensible risk management and benefit sharing.

The conference took place on July 8-9, 2011 at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Pakistan. Besides LUMS, Aman ki Asha, (an initiative of the Jang Group of Newspapers Pakistan and Times of India Group, India), Beaconhouse, Centre for Social Markets (CSM), the Norwegian Embassy, Department For International Development (DFID), UK, and The Third Pole supported the conference.

Yana being one of the speakers at the conference talked about shared water resources among Jordon, Israel and Palestine. She believes that communities across

borders need to realise and understand each other's problems and water realities. She briefed conference participants about FOEME's Good Water Neighbours project. Its success, she explained, was a result of participation by community members, decision makers and the role of schools and adult community centres.

"It was very difficult for us to convince people in all three countries that we need to cooperate on shared water resources as people in all these countries do not like each other," she said. "Despite our history of enmity, we kept on working to bring people closer on the issue of shared waters. But I have observed that Pakistani and Indian people love and respect each other and seriously want to solve the issues. I don't think there should be a problem to come up with a solution in this region on shared water resources, unlike ours."

It has been said that climate change is a bigger threat than terrorism, and for our region this holds true. As far as climate change and disaster management are concerned, most countries of the region have been working in relative isolation. There is a dire need for both India and Pakistan to take a lead in the region and develop effective adaptation strategies relating to climate risk, and a proactive approach to resource scarcity in order to meet the needs and aspirations of their people. Climate change threatens our very existence in the long term and is already dramatically impacting the lives of millions in our countries.

The World Meteorological Organisation has unequivocally linked last year's floods in Pakistan to observable changes in weather patterns as global temperatures rise. Pakistan and India are frighteningly vulnerable to climatic impacts ranging from extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, droughts and storm surges, to deepening water and food insecurity. Experts in our region stress that synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) are necessary not only to avoid duplication and derive optimal benefits from scarce resources but also to add value to the projects through lessons learnt from the respective perspectives in the region.



Dr Adil Najam, vice-chancellor LUMS and a well-known environmental policy expert, who was the keynote speaker at the event, raised some important ques-

tions regarding sustainable development and conservation. He said that in the South Asian region, we must identify the problems and their solutions.

“We are currently living through climate change and there was a need to adapt to these changes and take measures to ensure that living conditions do not worsen because of natural disasters,” he said.

He shared a study that brought to light the impact of human security on climate and showed how natural disasters have a greater effect on people as compared to war, especially in our region. “If we adapt ourselves to deal with the climate change, natural disasters will cause less damage,” he said.

Four sessions were held on the first day of the conference, on “Pakistani and Indian Contexts: Current Best Practice in Climate Change, Natural Resources and Disaster Management” in both countries; “Key Flashpoints and Opportunities: Natural Resource” and “Climate Risk”, “Relevant Regional Initiatives - Lessons Learnt.”

The Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre’s consultant Michael Renner gave examples of the 2004 tsunami and 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, in the context of post-disaster diplomacy. He said that disasters could jolt the political and social trajectories. “Building early warning networks are good for regional cooperation” he commented.

Director General of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Khalid Sherdil talked about climate shift and glacial melting zones. Over the years, he said, Pakistan has become a water shortage country owing to climate change. He explained that so far India has not violated the Indus Water Treaty and all its projects are lawful under this treaty.

Prof N. Vinod Chandra Menon, former member of National Disaster Management Authority, India made his presentation via video conference from Delhi. Natural disasters are common to India and Pakistan, he observed, saying that India had learnt a lesson from the Gujrat earthquake and launched school and hospital safety projects. “Pakistan and India need to strengthen their relationship and learn lessons from each other and work together on Climate Change and Disasters Risk Reduction,” he said. “Youth from both countries is needed to participate in all such collaborations.”

Beena Sarwar, Editor Aman ki Asha - Jang Group, briefed the participants about the peace project which was launched on January 1, 2010 by the Jang Group and the Times of India Group. She explained that the project aimed to create an enabling environment and contribute towards peace building between Pakistan and India. She shared the results of surveys conducted prior to the launch and a year after the launch of Aman ki Asha, which show that despite a history of conflict, mistrust and estranged relationship, an overwhelming number of Pakistanis and Indians want peace and friendship between their countries.



On the second day of the conference, there was a closed-door session between the parliamentarians of both countries, moderated by the well-known Indian television anchor Barkha Dutt. Malini Mehra, CEO of Centre for Social Markets, YGL India's founder, termed the launch of this project in Pakistan highly symbolic. "Typically, it has been difficult for Indians to secure visas for Pakistan, and vice versa. We overcame these difficulties with excellent cooperation from the Pakistani authorities and look upon this as a good omen for the future," she said.

The ability to deal with natural disasters is already stretched in our region and the humanitarian and economic consequences are colossal. "Can you imagine how much more challenging the future will be if such trends continue with the predicted population rise? The only sensible option is to cooperate," she said.

What is needed is a joint, proactive strategy of regional climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The alternative is conflict. "And that," as Malini Mehra noted, "is something that we have had enough of that already. We need to cooperate on basic things such as assessing the risk of climate impacts on our region, sharing data on water flows and changes to hydrology; look at how food productivity is being affected by rising temperatures, and how disease prevalence is changing as vectors spread with changing weather patterns".

These are practical things in the public interest of both nations. "They are win-wins. Working on climate change is one of the best conflict reduction measures I know. It puts our risks in perspective, and reminds us that in the face of much greater natural forces, we are human and fragile and need to cooperate to survive and prosper" she said."

Source http://www.amankiasha.com/detail_news.asp?id=500

DAY 2 – Saturday 9 July 2011

Day 2 saw the following activities:

1. Private planning session in the morning (9-12pm), followed by
2. Public Panel Discussion moderated by Barkha Dutt YGL (NDTV)

3. TV show moderated by Munizae Jehangir YGL (Express TV)

1. PLANNING SESSION

Numbers were uncertain until the last minute, but eventually 25+ highly motivated people attended this session ranging from the head of the Punjab Disaster Management Authority to university professors, NGOs, journalists and activists. (Keen LUMS students also joined.) Many speakers from Day 1 - including all overseas speakers - also came. The level of commitment was high and a number of delegates had come all the way from Karachi and Islamabad for this event.

The argument that climate change, water security and disaster risk reduction are very dynamic, fast-moving areas of policy offering numerous opportunities for cross-border collaboration was emphatically endorsed by all present. This was seen as a very practical and forward-looking way of re-animating the bilateral relationship, bypassing well-known political and military sticking points to create constructive new realities on the ground - starting with the two Punjabs.

There was a very high level of interest in sharing best practice/ lessons learnt from both sides. In particular there was a strong desire to learn from India on better water management practices (e.g. East Punjab's agricultural productivity per unit of water used is 2-3 times higher than in West Punjab - same soil, same water); and developing cross-border campaigns on river clean-up (e.g. 'Give life to Ravi' - taking that as just a local Pakistani clean-up effort to a joint campaign).

Commitments were made to establishing learning platforms on Indo-Pak institutional approaches to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (e.g. state-level action plans in particular), to specifics such as mutual multi-hazard mapping at a Punjab regional level (both natural as well as development-induced risks such as dams, barrages, etc.); sharing data on everything from meteorological and water information, to resources and rosters of experts; learning from Indian experiences with Early Warning Systems and educational materials for schools to teach students how to reach in emergencies (now part of the Indian school curriculum); sharing Contingency Plans in the event of disasters, etc.

India is seen as highly innovative in this area and Mr Srivastav and Professor Menon's presentations in particular drew praise from participants - deservedly as both experts have been behind some of the best-known innovations in the field in India. The efforts at providing a live Videolink and Webcast on Day 1 of the conference were commended - despite the brief loadshedding glitch. As one Pakistani journalist/activist noted, 'It was as if they were in the room and part of the discussion.'

Many participants said later that the Planning Session was a real highlight of the past two days - enthusiastic and results-oriented. The session broke into three discussion groups and came up with a number of agreed action points and institutional / personal commitments volunteered by those there.

The central agreement was to focus on a major **Punjab-to-Punjab initiative on Climate Change and DRM** as a direct outcome of the YGL Indo-Pak cooperation initiative. This would entail a number of activities (each led by different groups but through overall coordination as a YGL initiative). This would include a local adaptation of the 'Good Water Neighbours' project of Ecopeace/ FoE Middle East that CSM is working on with EcoPeace and local community partners on both sides.

Proposed Next Steps:

1. It was agreed that the group seek to reconvene in India for a Punjab-to-Punjab mapping and planning seminar at the University of Chandigarh if possible.
2. Seek to leverage the WEF Summit in Amman in October to bring Indian and Pakistani YGLs for a site visit to Ecopeace's award-winning Good Water Neighbours projects in a 'Seeing is Believing' trip.
3. Flow into a very substantive event at the India Economic Summit in November where work already underway on the Punjab-to-Punjab initiative could be showcased as a direct outcome of the YGL Indo-Pak initiative in Lahore.

2. PANEL DISCUSSION - MODERATED BY BARKHA DUTT

All of the Indian MPs invited for the Conference – and whose visas had been secured - participated in this event. The Indian MPs were: **Manish Tiwari** (Congress spokesman, MP from Punjab); **Chandan Mitra** BJP; and **Jai Panda** (MP from Orissa). They were joined by four distinguished Pakistani panellists: **Senator Jehangir Bader**, Secretary General of the Pakistan Peoples Party; **Mr Sartaj Aziz**, former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister; **Mr Ahmed Rashid**, security analyst and writer; **Ms Feryal Al-Ghour**, Activist.



With an A-list line-up, the debate was expected to be lively and did not disappoint. Barkha Dutt, Indian YGL and award-winning NDTV anchor, moderated a wide canvas covering foreign relations and security issues, as well as trade and people-people contact. There was cross-party agreement on both sides on the im-

portance of stability for economic development on both sides, but opinions differed on sincerity of effort to attack those responsible for acts of terror. Analyst, Ahmed Rashid, said a new narrative was needed to replace the cold war narrative that still characterised discourse. Activist and novelist Feryal Al-Ghour noted the many civil society efforts taking place in Pakistan providing bottom-up momentum to efforts for political reform and peace. Panellists agreed on the necessity of liberalising the visa regime as well as the importance of Track II diplomatic efforts. The YGL Indo-Pak initiative was also brought up and discussed. Jai Panda made the interesting point that Pakistan was only an issue for Punjab and Northern India, citing that not once in his two years as MP for his district in Orissa, had any of his constituents named relations with Pakistan as one of their concerns. BJP MP, Chandan Mitra, made a number of points about 26/11 and its impact on the Indian middle class psyche, but escaped deeper questioning about Godra. At one point, Congress spokesman and Punjab MP, Manish Tiwari admitted he could not remember what President Musharraf's 4x4 formula, but Jai Panda avoided any political missteps. Off camera, but on-the-record, a constructive and even-tempered debate occurred

3. TV DEBATE - EXPRESS TV

The next debate was broadcast live on national television. YGL, Munizae Jehangir, host of the Pakistani TV programme - *Pakistan Puchta Hai* on Express TV – moderated her show on Indo-Pak relations featuring the three Indian politicians. They were joined by the statesman Sartaj Aziz (PML-N); Jehangir Bader (PPP) and the head of the Jamaat-E-Islami.

The debate was held in front of a mixed studio audience which included: ordinary working class victims of the Samjhauta Express outrage in which Pakistani citizens were murdered; highly articulate young law students who went head-to-head on-camera with the Jamaat-E-Islami chief arguing for improved relations with India; and a very bold proposal by a gentleman on why the aggressive, daily ritual held by Indo-Pak soldiers at the Wagha border, which perpetuates the narrative of mutual conflict, should be scrapped immediately. This drew applause, as did Manish Tiwari's response to the Jamaat-E-Islami's chief's contention that India was behind the destabilisation in Pakistan. Tiwari responded: 'Osama bin Laden was found in Abbottabad, not Ahmedabad.'

Overall the feeling was one of impatience with where the politicians and military are on Indo-Pak relations. The people are ready to move on - even if the politicians and militarymen are not it seems. In this context, the YGL Indo-Pak forward-looking initiative of building professional, policy and community links between the two Punjabs on climate change, water resource management and DRM issues was received with something verging on elation. It might not be a game-changer - but it seems to have energized something that could become very meaningful in contributing to normalising relations between the two nations and helping people on the ground.

5. LAHORE CONFERENCE – REPORT OF POST-CONFERENCE PLANNING SESSION AND UPDATED PLAN OF ACTION

1. Introduction



The post-conference planning session of the **YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative** took place on 9th July 2011 following the launch event on 8th July 2011. The planning session attracted 25 committed conference attendees keen to take forward proposals for bilateral cooperation on climate change, water and disaster risk reduction. Participants ranged from policymakers, practitioners, civil society leaders, academics, scientists, students, donors, journalists and activists.

Chaired by conference organisers, YGL Malini Mehra (India) and YGL Saleem Ali (Pakistan), the session started with a contextualisation of the value of this kind of forum for regional peace-building. India and Pakistan shared many commonalities, but politics sought to exaggerate the differences. Both countries were highly vulnerable to climate change and natural and man-made disasters. Both countries were acutely vulnerable to water insecurity with attendant consequences for food security, energy security, public health, livelihoods, economic and other impacts. More people were affected by these issues on a daily basis than had died in the countries' wars and conflicts with each other. The reasons for cooperation were many and true security could only be secured through full attention to these core issues. A new narrative of cooperation was required which recognised these growing vulnerabilities, and underscored the value of cooperation over conflict.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and its Young Global Leaders (YGL) provided a unique platform and youthful constituency to try and shape this new narrative. The WEF was already active on climate change, water and disaster risk management at regional and global levels. With this initiative, YGLs from India and Pakistan were seeking to bring an innovative cross-border dimension to such efforts in a pragmatic way that could contribute directly to confidence-building and regional

resilience in the face of climate and disaster risks.

It was also noted that there was a new level of institutional readiness to cooperate on these issues. Both countries had national action plans on climate change in place and had established national authorities on disaster management. Water remained an institutional casualty with few credible bilateral platforms for effective cooperation, but this could only improve with time and effort. For now, it was noted that the sub-national level (provincial/ state) provided arguably the most fertile ground for exciting new opportunities for bilateral cooperation on these issues.



2. Key Takeaways

In the session on Key Takeaways from the conference, participants reiterated the emphasis on people-to-people contact to combat political polarisation and aid normalisation of relations. For this a more liberal visa regime was essential but - as this conference had shown - where there was a will there was a way. New technologies such as webcasts and video-conferencing, as deployed at the conference, were a way of connecting people across boundaries.

Furthermore there was much to be gained by improving opportunities for scientific, professional and educational exchange. Students and young people had an important role to play in championing such efforts. The inspiring examples of cooperation in the Mekong and Middle East on shared water resources were noted by many, as were the cases of best practice from India on 'Mis-call Centres' and the FLEWS (Flood Early Warning System) developed in the north-eastern states.

3. Discussion Points

The following provides a flavour of some of the specific points raised during the discussion:

- Global climate change is complex and difficult to predict - assuming a link

between climate change and floods is a flawed approach. The challenge is to prepare oneself in all possible ways, especially looking into the education component. Indo-Pak is a volatile region and therefore we need to look beyond boundaries, in order to forge meaningful collaborations like that of scientists. We need to open things up for technical people and find a way for scientists to come together.

- Knowledge should not be confined to closed-door advocacy but must instead be delegated to other beneficiaries and practitioners. Resources are available; what's needed is the willingness to share these resources. There are examples to be learnt from in South East Asia, like the 'Safer Brother' provinces model.
- Student-student interaction should be facilitated.
- It is imperative to understand each other's practices, look at future water planning and preserve ecosystems.
- Adaptation and Punjab-Punjab interaction have to be explored through multi-sectoral initiatives.
- Institutional readiness on both sides of the border must be exploited. For example, WWF Pakistan is carrying out research on coastal community risk assessment, similar to work already done in India. One possibility of collaboration. Other areas in which work has to be expanded and replicated include developing early warning systems and determining impact of climate change on women.
- Water usage practices on both sides have been studied and media content has been analyzed. Research shows that Indian media is very elitist, mainly focused on urban water shortages. In Pakistan, media coverage is more balanced on water issues, covering the urban-rural divide.
- World Bank has reported that there is a marked difference in the utility of water between East and West Punjab. Both provinces have similar resources, yet the yield in East Punjab (India) is 2-3 times higher than in the West (Pakistan).
- One possible reason for the difference in yields is land fertility and water logging. Small projects are the need of the hour, focusing on water conservation in Balochistan and Thar. The Punjab irrigation department has 600MW potential on the canal and barrage falls, which can be exploited to reduce carbon-emissions.
- After the 18TH Constitutional amendment in Pakistan, the subject of water has been devolved to provinces which can be viewed as an opportunity for linkages between the two Punjabs. Regional sharing of ICT's is essential as India is way ahead of Pakistan in terms of preparedness. It is very important that emergency education be included in curriculum. In this regard, training in India would be valuable for Pakistani students. PDMA should make use of the ground already covered in India. Ravi conservation is another matter that demands immediate

attention. The minimum amount of water that would allow the river to breath should not be withheld as dictated by the IWT.

- The communication aspect of everything is important to look at because often matters involving aid and/or information sharing get politicized.
- WEF has the unique capacity to attract decision makers which can be leveraged on key issues and fora. Can also help find ways around the bureaucracy to get scientists to meet and collaborate. Provisions in the SAARC agreement encouraging scientific cooperation must be invoked and could be an early win-win.
- Need to push for a more inter-agency approach involving science institutions and meteorological departments besides attracting support at the NGO level. A National Action Plan on Climate Change as well as a Punjab state-level Action Plan already exists in India. Panjab University in Chandigarh offers a Master's Program in Disaster Management. The perceptible shifts in the monsoon pattern in Pakistan calls for more scientific exchange between the two countries as well as collaboration between their respective ministries.

4. Proposed Action Plan

The meeting endorsed the call for concerted action at the level of the two Punjabs and improved cooperation on climate change, water and disaster risk reduction at the national policy level.

The following were proposed as the next key focal points for action:

1. Late-September 2011: Follow-up meeting at Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Update: Accomplished. Contact has been established with the Panjab University Department for Homeland Security and Disaster Risk Management. Indian co-chair, YGL Malini Mehra, undertook a mission to the Department in September 2011 to plan for a bilateral meeting in 2012. The cooperation of the University has been secured and a proposal will be finalised in partnership with LUMS in Spring 2012. The intention is for LUMS and Panjab University to serve as the hosts for bilateral exchanges to progress the objectives of the YGL Indo-Pak Initiative for the coming 2-3 years with a view to building more tangible cross-border Punjab-to-Punjab links.

2. Mid-October 2011: 'Seeing is believing' visit of Indians and Pakistani YGLs to Ecopeace/ FoE Middle East Peace Water and Good Water Neighbour communities, to coincide with Middle East Summit of the World Economic Forum. Amman, Jordan.

Update: YGLs and WEF facilitated a 'Seeing is Believing' visit for YGLs attending the World Economic Forum Middle East Summit in Amman, Jordan in October 2011. This was hosted by Ecopeace and the objective was to introduce YGLs to



Ecopeace's Good Water Neighbour initiative. The visit was also intended as a dry-run for a set of subsequent 'learning visits' in 2012 specifically for YGLs from India and Pakistan. In pursuance of this, the organisers visited potential donors in Amman to support follow-up activities.

The date for the first such visit by Indian and Pakistani YGLs and others – with the intention of progressing cross-border cooperation on climate change, water security and DRM – has been slated for early-July 2012.

3. Mid-November 2011: Follow-up conference to coincide with the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit. Mumbai, India.

Update: YGLs organised a session on the Indo-Pak Initiative to update the community at the YGL Day on 12 November 2011 in advance of the formal India Economic Summit in Mumbai. The meeting also enabled YGLs to strategise on next steps and how to avail of opportunities to influence decision-makers at the IES and beyond.

The session also saw the release of the special 'Indo-Pak' issue of Sanctuary Asia magazine, produced at the behest of the YGL Indo-Pak initiative, to coincide with the IES. The magazine is India's premier journal on conservation issues and contained articles by YGLs from India and Pakistan.

The following specific activities were agreed to:

Visa regime

- Work to promote liberalisation of bilateral visa regimes – including through supporting efforts such as the 'Milne Do' campaign of Aman ki Asha.

Update: YGLs influenced bilateral dialogue on this through personal intervention and advocacy on both sides with senior ministers and parliamentarians.

Communication

- Create on-line Indo-Pak moderated networking group that will help consolidate information on climate change practices, extend invitation to projects and discuss relevant ideas.

Update: Initiated by YGLs

- Use of blogosphere for advocacy.

Update: Initiated by YGLs

- Penetrate the Urdu press in order to reach out to the masses in Pakistan

Update: Initiated by LUMS students

- Work with Sanctuary Asia to publish special issue on Indo-Pak.

Update: Accomplished (and part-funded by YGLs)

- Translate Third Pole content for use in India and Pakistan.

Update: Funds required for vernacular press

Education

- Curricular Exchange: Exchange information on best practice with regard to curriculum development in areas of climate change, water and DRR. Look in particular at Indian experience of integration of DRR in school curricula and opportunities for Punjab2Punjab curricular cooperation.

Action: to be taken forward by LUMS and Panjab University in cooperation with YGLs

- Scientific Exchange: Improve opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation by invoking provision under SAARC for scientific exchange.

Action: To be undertaken by scientists present at planning session in partnership with YGLs from the Indo-Pak scientific communities

Student-to-Student

- Establish student committee in LUMS and identify opportunities for students to interact from both sides.

Update: Accomplished

Punjab-2-Punjab Co-operation

1. Good Water Neighbours project modelled on Ecopeace/ FoE Middle East. Conduct study exploring options, identifying potential communities, and gauging political support for a similar model in the two Punjabs.

Update: Underway

2. Joint mapping of climate impacts, natural and man-made hazards at the Punjab level.

Update: seeking to engage NDMA's in Punjab (India and Pakistan) on this effort.

3. Establishment of professional links between provincial and state committees on climate change

Update: Objective of the first formal follow-up session at Panjab University in 2012

4. Establishment of professional links between provincial and state Disaster Management Authorities

Update: Objective of the first formal follow-up session at Panjab University in 2012

5. Development and Sharing of Knowledge and Information through Established Data Banks

Update: Objective of years 1 and 2 of follow-up initiative (2012-2013)

6. Development and Sharing of Early Warning Systems for Climate Change and Disasters

Update: Objective of years 1 and 2 of follow-up initiative (2012-2013)

7. Sponsored Training and Capacity Building Programs for relevant experts

Update: Objective of the first formal follow-up session at Panjab University in 2012

8. Seminars on Best Adopted Practices (exchange basis)

Update: Objective of years 2 and 3 of follow-up initiative (2013-2014)

9. Joint campaigning on the river Ravi – Give life to Ravi

Update: Focus of student environmental groups in Lahore and Amritsar

10. Student exchanges and joint projects

Update: To be supported

11. Punjab-2-Punjab e-listserve and discussion platform

Update: Objective of year 1.

Conclusion

It is evident from our engagement with key institutions, agencies and practitioners from both sides that the hesitation to engage more extensively on issues such as water is largely due to the highly securitized nature of the debate. This initiative intends to provide a 'safe space' for dialogue, institutional linkages and practical examples of co-operation to be created by leveraging both the prestige of the World Economic Forum in both countries, as well as the trump card of engaging prominent Young Global Leaders from both nations who can provide additional traction.

While the initiative has begun it will require serious resourcing for a serious effort. For example, each of the activities agreed to at the post-conference planning session require funds. So, far this initiative has been run largely as a labour of love by key YGLs, through in-kind institutional support and with some seed funds

provided by DFID India and the Norwegian Embassy (Islamabad).

In order for this initiative to be sustained and deliver on its potential, it will require more structured support and a multi-stakeholder platform for delivery pairing institutions from each side. Towards this, the YGL initiators are building a consortium bringing together key university, NGO, corporate and government partners from India and Pakistan. This is presently been worked on and a number of selected corporate and government donors have been identified to support it.

6. POST-SCRIPT FROM DAVOS 2012

The initiative's launch in Lahore in July 2011 has provided a very practical demonstration of what is possible when committed individuals decide to take action. The YGL Indo-Pak initiative has gained respect within the community of leaders who attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) and has been commended by Professor Klaus Schwab and Gordon Brown as an example of what young people can achieve to bridge traditional divides. It is seen as a spirited and strategic initiative and is gaining further influence and supporters with the WEF community and beyond.



As a direct follow-through to the Lahore conference – and following the trajectory set by the YGL initiators in Spring 2011 – YGLs came together in an Indo-Pak session at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2012.

The session included YGL Hina Rabbani Khar (Pakistan's Foreign Minister), Imran Khan (leader of the Pakistani opposition), YGL Sachin Pilot (Indian Minister for Communication and Information Technology), YGL Jyotiraditya Scindia (Indian Minister for Commerce) and others. It had been called as a special private session by the YGL initiators of the Indo-Pak initiative to update colleagues and invite political support.

As the meeting was held under Chatham House rules, details cannot be provided. However a full update of the scope of ambition of the initiative was provided to the politicians present by YGL Malini Mehra and specifics added by YGL colleagues from India and Pakistan. The meeting ended on a very positive note with appreciation for the passion and initiative shown and commitments made for future support.

The YGL Indo-Pak initiative leaders also had an opportunity to meet with the heads of the WEF's Global Agenda Councils on India and Pakistan to inform them of work

underway and secure their support. Several bilaterals with leading corporate and other figures from both sides – including members of the WEFs Water Resources Group – also took place to build synergy and support.

At the conclusion of Davos 2012, the YGL Indo-Pak initiative stands on a surer footing having completing its initial goal of engaging young global leaders from India and Pakistan on a forward-looking bilateral agenda on climate change, water security and disaster risk reduction. With support from the World Economic Forum, and thanks to an extraordinary partnership among YGLs from India and Pakistan, the initiative has been brought to the attention of world leaders at Davos and now has greater scope to influence positively the political agenda.

ANNEX 1

FINAL LAUNCH PROGRAMME – LUMS, Lahore, Pakistan

Time	Activity
DAY 1	FRIDAY 8 JULY 2011 (Public Session)
9.00 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome by Dr Umar Saif , Founder, Saif Centre for Innovation, LUMS. Young Global Leader
10.10 – 10.30	<p>Introduction to the Day</p> <p><i>Introduction to the YGL initiative and objectives on behalf of organising team:</i></p> <p>Mr Kasim Kasuri, Executive Director, Beaconhouse (YGL Pakistan)</p> <p>Ms Malini Mehra, Founder & Chief Executive, Centre for Social Markets (YGL India)</p> <p><i>Remarks on behalf of the World Economic Forum:</i></p> <p>Mr Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Director, Head of Asia</p>
10:30 – 10:35	Introduction to Keynote by Conference Chair Ms Malini Mehra, YGL India
10.35 – 11.30	<p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Dr Adil Najam, Vice-Chancellor, LUMS. (Formerly Frederick S. Pardee Professor of Global Public Policy; Director, Pardee Center. Boston University)</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Tea/ Coffee Break
11.45 - 13.00	<p>Session I: <i>The Pakistani Context - current best practice in climate change, natural resources and disaster management</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Saleem H. Ali, Professor of Environmental Planning and Asian Studies & Director, Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, University of Vermont. Young Global Leader</p> <p>Presentations followed by interactive discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Michael Renner, Consultant, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre Mr Muhammad Azeem Ali Shah, Suleman Dawood School of Business (LUMS) Mr Khalid Sherdil, Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Punjab
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch Session – followed by break for Friday Prayers

Time	Activity
14.15 – 15.30	<p>Session II: <i>The Indian Context - current best practice in climate change, natural resources and disaster management</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms Malini Mehra, Centre for Social Markets. Young Global Leader</p> <p>Presentations followed by interactive discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prof N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Former Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India; Convener, Consortium on Strategic Risk Management for India (CSRMI) (Joining by Videolink from Delhi) Mr P P Shrivastav, IAS (Retd.), Member, North East Council (NEC), Government of India (Joining by Videolink from Delhi) Ms Lydia Powell, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (India)
15.30 – 16.45	<p>Session III: <i>Key flashpoints & opportunities on the natural resource and climate risk agenda</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms Isabel Hilton, International Journalist & Broadcaster; editor, ChinaDialogue (London/ Beijing)</p> <p>Presentations followed by interactive discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Brigadier (Retd.) Shaukat Qadir, Pakistani expert on resource management Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Head, LEAD Pakistan and Asia Network Director, Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) Mr Aslam Perwaiz, Head, Dept of Disaster Risk Management Strategy, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (Bangkok)
16:45 – 17:00	Tea/ Coffee Break
17.00 – 18.15	<p>Session IV: <i>Relevant Regional Initiatives – Lessons Learnt</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms Munizae Jahangir, Journalist & Broadcaster, Young Global Leader</p> <p>Presentations followed by interactive discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Beena Sarwar, Editor, Aman ki Asha, Jang Group Pakistan Ms Yana Walid Abu-Talib, Eco-peace/ Friends of the Earth Middle East Mr Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Director, Head of Asia. World Economic Forum (Geneva) Mr Bilal Lakhani, CEO, Express News Group
18.15 – 18.30	Close and concluding remarks by YGL organisers
DAY 2	<p>SATURDAY 9 JULY 2011</p> <p><i>Private Morning Session followed by Public Panel Discussion & TV Debate</i></p>

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome to Day 2: Re-cap of key conclusions from Day 1 and intro to workshop format Chairs: Ms Malini Mehra YGL India and Dr Saleem Ali, YGL Pakistan
9:15 – 10:30	Moderated discussion on Day 1 and key issues
10:30 – 11:15	Breakout Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Education and Communication • Disaster Risk Reduction
11:15 – 11:50	Report back from Breakout Groups
11:50 – 12:00	Next Steps & Close
12:30 – 13:30	Public Panel Discussion: <i>Pakistan and India – Challenges and Opportunities</i> Moderated by Ms Barkha Dutt, NDTV, Young Global Leader <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senator Jehangir Badra, General Secretary, Pakistan Peoples' Party 2. Mr Chandan Mitra MP (BJP), India 3. Mr Baijyanath 'Jai' Panda MP (BJD), India 4. Mr Ahmed Rashid, security analyst and writer 5. Mr Manish Tiwari MP (Congress), India. 6. Mr Sartaj Aziz, former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan 7. Ms Feryal Ali-Gauhar, environmentalist and artiste
1:30 – 2:30	Lunch
2:30 – 3:30	Televised Panel Debate on Express TV – Pakistan Puchta Hai Moderated by TV host, Ms Munizae Jehangir, Young Global Leader <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Chandan Mitra MP (BJP), India 2. Mr Baijyanath 'Jai' Panda MP (BJD), India 3. Mr Manish Tiwari MP (Congress), India. 4. Mr Sartaj Aziz, former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan 5. Dr. Fared Ahmed Paracha Naib Qayyam, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan
3:30	Close

ANNEX 2. SAMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE

“What’s Going On? India and Pakistan on the Ecological Brink.” Special Issue, Sanctuary Asia. October-November 2011

“Can Asia put aside its rivalries to deal with the Himalayan melt?”

Lisa Friedman, E&E reporter

ClimateWire: Tuesday, October 25, 2011

In the weeks before a major meeting of Indian and Pakistani ministers, disaster experts and youth leaders in Lahore to discuss Himalayan glacier melt, Malini Mehra avoided reporters.

The normally outspoken director of an Indian environmental organization that was helping to organize the conference, Mehra said she had seen too many exchanges between India and Pakistan on critical water issues disintegrate in a pool of visa denials and political acrimony. Too much attention, she worried, could doom her conference to the same fate. ...

Read full article at: <http://www.eenews.net/public/climatewire/2011/10/25/1>

“Rivers Know No Boundaries”

Noreen Haider, Blog

It is indeed a reality that sixty four years ago India and Pakistan appeared as two independent countries on the map of the world and people on both side of the border accept the existence of the two sovereign countries but then, this is not the only reality. Another reality is that before the appearance of the border lines on the maps , from times immemorial, this land has been here on planet earth with its mountains and rivers, flora and fauna, men and beasts. No matter what the geo-political and geographical divides may be there is no way possible to separate the land and its natural resources entirely...read full article

“Needed: Cooperation on Climate Change and Water Sharing”

Aman ki Asha, 20th July 2011

“I don’t think it is tough to solve the issues of trans-boundary waters between India and Pakistan” said Jordon based Yana Walid Abu-Talib from Eco-peace/ Friends of the Earth Middle East. She was in Lahore last week to attend a two day conference on ‘Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management-Managing Risks: Sharing Benefits’ arranged by a small group of Young Global Leaders from India and Pakistan. The idea of such cooperation was conceived at the World Economic Forum’s regional summit in New Delhi in November 2010 under the title of YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative. The basic philosophy of this initiative is that Pakistan and India need to address shared natural resource and climate challenges with a view to building a new narrative of cooperation based on sensible risk management and benefit sharing...read full article

“Continuing Peace Effort Is Best Response to Mumbai Tragedy”

National Geographic, 18th July 2011

Last week, I was in Lahore, Pakistan at a forum on environmental peace-building in South Asia. Organized by a group of “Young Global Leaders” under the auspices of the World Economic Forum, this was a unique gathering of professionals and politicians. For the first time we had a delegation of three Indian members of parliament Manish Tewari (Congerss), Chandan Mitra (BJP) and Bajyanath Jay Panda (BJD) cross over to the Pakistani side along with notable TV anchor Barkha Dutt to have a public debate on Indo-Pak cooperation potential. There was even a televised talk show with a public audience, hosted by Pakistani TV host Munizae Jehangir, in which a member of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party as well as a member of the Jamaat-e-Islaami participated. The conversations were heated and bold, but ultimately civil...read full article

“Countries in South Asia, especially India and Pakistan, can change lives by coming together to overcome challenges posed by environment”

The News on Sunday, 17th July 2011

South Asia, home to one-fifth of the population on earth, is a disaster-prone region. Experts believe two-thirds of disasters the region experiences are climate-related and there have been increase in their occurrence, severity and unpredictability in recent times...read full article

“Disaster Management Can Bring Pakistan, India Closer”

The News, 9th July 2011

LAHORE: Pakistan and India can come closer through cooperation in disaster management, sharing information on climate change and a joint early warning system for flood and other natural calamities. Disasters not only transform a situation but also create new opportunities as joint rebuilding activities can become a catalyst for building mutual trust...read full article

“Regional Cooperation: ‘Climate change bigger threat than wars’”

The Express Tribune, 9th July 2011

LAHORE: People in South Asian countries are already experiencing the adverse affects of climate change. Policy making in these countries needs to take into account issues pertaining to natural disasters and climate change so that living conditions do not further deteriorate, Lahore University of Management Sciences vice chancellor Prof Adil Najam said on Friday...read full article

“Young Global Leaders Conference on Indo-Pak Cooperation Pak media role in peace better than India’s”

The News, 10th July 2011

LAHORE: Pakistan and India need to revisit their visa-related policies besides creating opportunities to provide the maximum interaction among the peoples of

both the sides...read full article

“India should open doors to common visa seekers”

DAWN.com, 9th July 2011

LAHORE, July 8: India should ease visa restrictions for the commoner instead of allowing a few privileged sections like cricketers and pop singers, a participant said at the Young Global Leaders’ conference on Indo-Pak Cooperation 2011 based on a theme, Climate change and disaster risk reduction, at the Lahore University of Management Sciences on Friday....read full article

“LUMS hosts YGL Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative 2011”

Pakistan Today, 9th July 2011

LAHORE - Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) hosted the World Economic Forum (WEF)’s Young Global Leaders (YGL) Indo-Pak Cooperation Initiative on July 8. The two-day event is WEF’s first YGL event in Pakistan. It is the brainchild of Pakistani and Indian YGLs which came together following the last year’s floods. They have now turned their efforts to mobilise the Swiss-based WEF and its network of YGLs to exert leadership on issues of mutual concern. ...read full article

“LUMS vice chancellor speaks about sustainable growth”

Business Recorder, 9th July 2011

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) hosted the World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders Indo-Pak Initiative on Friday. According to the spokesperson the two day World Young Economic Forums First Young Global Leader (YGL) is the brain child of both Pakistani and Indian young leaders who came together following last year’s floods...read full article

Jang Newspaper (Urdu), 9th July 2011

read full article

Jang Newspaper (Urdu), 10th July 2011

read full article