Centre for International Peace & Stability

Magazine **2024**

National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) PAKISTAN









About the CIPS Magazine

The CIPS Magazine serves to showcase the ongoing activities, updates, and advancements within the Centre for International Peace and Stability. It highlights the Centre's diverse initiatives in Peace Operations Training and Peace & Conflict Studies, reflecting its unwavering commitment to global peace.

The Magazine primarily focuses on the extensive Peace Operations Training Courses conducted at CIPS. It also highlights Pakistan Army's vital role in upholding global peace and security under the UN Charter. These contributions are vividly illustrated through narratives of peacekeeping missions, covering training, deployment and employment dimensions. It also features insightful articles on the experiences, lessons learned, and perspectives of Pakistani peacekeepers employed in the mission areas.

The Magazine also offers a window into the scholarly pursuits of the Department of Peace & Conflict Studies, capturing research and academic endeavors. Finally, it celebrates the milestones and accomplishments of CIPS faculty and students, acknowledging their status as intellectual pillars of the Centre. Together, these elements create a comprehensive chronicle of CIPS' enduring impact in shaping peace and stability worldwide.

Editorial Team

Chief Editor:	Associate Professor of Practice
	Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd
Senior Editor:	Dr. Muhammad Makki
Associate Editor:	Ms. Warda Gul Malik
Associate Editor:	Mr. Sabeel Ahmad Naeem
Content Provider:	Mr. Muhammad Javaid

Note from the Principal



As we unveil CIPS Magazine 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) marks a transformative chapter in its journey, advancing peacekeeping training and peace & conflict studies. This year, we celebrate our past accomplishments while embracing bold initiatives for the future. Central to this transformation is the inauguration of our state-of-the-art facility, fostering innovation through advanced technology and collaborative classrooms. This milestone reflects our ambition to meet the evolving demands of peacekeeping training and academic degree programs.

Hosting the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) exemplified Pakistan's commitment to advancing global dialogue and cooperation. This prestigious gathering convened global experts, peacekeeping practitioners, and policymakers to deliberate on the future of peacekeeping operations.

Within the pages of *CIPS Magazine 2024*, we commemorate our achievements and honor the individuals whose dedication and sacrifices continue to shape global peacekeeping efforts. As you explore this issue, you will encounter stories that reflect our mission—narratives of collaboration, innovation, and resilience. Each article highlights the efforts of committed individuals and teams striving to address the most pressing challenges of our time. At CIPS, our endeavors transcend academic pursuits, representing a global effort to build a more peaceful and secure world.

Looking ahead, we are proud to announce the launch of our MS and PhD programs in International Relations, commencing in 2025. These Programs duly complimented by Peace & Conflict Studies and Strategic Studies are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of international security, diplomacy, and global governance. They offer students an exceptional opportunity to engage with the complexities of contemporary geopolitics while equipping them with critical skills essential for navigating today's interconnected world.

We aim to promote a multidisciplinary and synergistic relationship between academic inquiry and operational effectiveness by integrating a robust theoretical foundation, actionable insights, innovative research, and practical applications. This approach reinforces CIPS' hybrid model, ensuring seamless alignment between theoretical exploration and the practical realities of Peace Operations.

In line with our strategic vision and commitment to global collaboration, CIPS remains dedicated to making a lasting impact on international peace, stability, and security. I extend my deepest gratitude to our faculty, students, researchers, and partners, whose unwavering dedication drives our mission forward. Together, we aspire to shape a more peaceful, sustainable, and resilient future for generations to come.

Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI (M), Retd

Principal, NIPCONS

Note from the Chief Editor

It is a great honor to introduce the 2024 edition of the *CIPS Magazine*. This publication encapsulates activities of immense significance and stands as a testament to our unwavering journey toward excellence, international collaboration, and enduring commitment to global peace and stability.

CIPS continues to set new benchmarks by bridging the gap between theory and practice through its comprehensive endeavors in training, capacity building in Peace Operations, and the academic reinforcement of degree programs within the domain of international peace and stability.

At the Department of Peacekeeping Training (PKT), our initiatives have reached new heights with CIPS' relocation to a purpose-built facility. This landmark structure, inaugurated on 4 November 2024, integrates virtual and traditional training domains, offers advanced educational spaces, a fully equipped library, a cutting-edge Virtual Reality lab, an Auditorium, syndicate rooms, and inhouse accommodations for students—all under one roof.

Our training portfolio has also been enriched by conducting field training at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi. This collaboration offers both international and national peacekeepers immersive exposure to realistic field environments, adding a crucial practical dimension to our training programs.

The honor of hosting the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) underscored CIPS' indispensable role in promoting the global Peace Operations agenda. Notably, our Principal, Maj Gen Raja Aftab, HI(M), Retd, was appointed *President* of the IAPTC, succeeding Brigadier General Joyce C Sitienei of Kenya. This prestigious appointment is a resounding acknowledgement of our leadership and CIPS' growing influence in peacekeeping training.

The *CIPS Magazine 2024* also celebrates the invaluable contributions of Pakistani UN peacekeepers and chronicles CIPS' significant achievements, including hosting delegations, organizing seminars and conferences, facilitating expert panel discussions, and advancing collaborative research. Showcasing the groundbreaking accomplishments of our students and faculty reflects our relentless pursuit of innovative solutions to global peace and security challenges. As you explore this Edition, I trust you will draw inspiration from the achievements, research, and advancements that CIPS has advocated over the past year.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our readers, contributors, and my dedicated team for their unwavering commitment to our shared mission. Together, we are not merely chronicling history; we are also shaping the future of peace.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Let us continue to move forward, united in our resolve to create a more peaceful world.

Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd

Chief Editor | Senior Research Fellow, R&A Cell



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We depend on you! We depend on the training that is provided by the peacekeeping training centres. We depend particularly on countries such as Pakistan, with the will to help us.

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

Jean-Pierre Lacroix

04-08 November 2024 During 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference

CIPS Centre for International Peace & Stability National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Our Sections







CIPS at a Glance



UNSOC: United Nations Staff Officers Course UNMOC: United Nations Military Observers Course UNPDTC: United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course UNPOCC: United Nations Protection of Civilians Course

- Provides pre-deployment training for • UN peacekeeping missions in line with ITS policy and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/37/49.
- Imparts theoretical and practical knowledge on conflict resolution to military, police, and civilians from Pakistan and abroad.
- Conducts 23 courses, including UN-certified MILOB, MSO, PoC, and pre-deployment training, per year.
- Attracts foreign participants to undergo training aligned with UN ITS modules.

Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

106 **MS** Graduates PhD Graduates **Current Students**

15

Issues

PhD Faculty

Exchanged

- Offers post-graduate and doctoral programs in Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS) and Strategic Studies (SS).
- Secures funds and grants to conduct academic research addressing pressing issues in PCS and SS.
- Organizes lectures, seminars, and conferences focused on PCS and SS topics.
- Establishes academic linkages with PCS departments and think tanks across Pakistan, functioning as a think tank and collaborating with other research organizations to address critical national and global challenges.

Category

Degree Programs

MS in Strategic Studies

MS in Peace & Conflict Studies

PhD in Peace & Conflict Studies

Research and Analysis Cell

NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS)

Indexed



CIPS Magazine

Publishes experiential based articles from UN Peacekeeping Mission Areas and highlights the Pakistani contributions to global peace and stability.

- Engages with leading think tanks and UN-relevant organizations in the peacekeeping sphere.
- Coordinates with the Military Operations (MO) Directorate and peacekeeping missions abroad.
- Faciliates communication with stakeholders in peacekeeping and promotes research in peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Analyzes and compiles best practices and lessons learned from Pakistani Peacekeepers, promotes research, and publishes the CIPS journal and magazine.

Our Faculty



Dr. Muhammad Makki Associate Dean, CIPS



Dr Brig Fiaz Hussain Shah, Retd Associate Professor of Practice, PKT



Brig Umair Khalid Amin, Retd Professor of Practice, PKT



Dr Rubina Waseem Assistant Professor, PCS Head of Research



Lt Col Masroor GSO 1- Training



Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd Associate Professor of Practice, HOD PKT Senior Research Fellow, R&A Cell



Brig Engr Syed Mohsan Shah, Retd Associate Professor of Practice, PKT



Dr Bakare Najimdeen Associate Professor, PCS



Dr Imdad Ullah Assistant Professor, PCS



Maj Ubaid Anjum GSO 2 - Training



Ms Warda Gul Malik Research Associate, R&A Cell



Dr Ansar Jamil Associate Professor, HOD PCS PKT



Dr Lt Col Arshad Mahmood, Retd Associate Professor of Practice, PKT



Dr Humaira Shafi Assistant Professor, PCS Student Advisor



Dr Tasleem Malik Assistant Professor, PCS Program Coordinator



Mr Sabeel Ahmad Naeem Research Associate, R&A Cell

INAUGURATION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART CIPS BUILDING:

New Chapter: Advancing CIPS Legacy

4 November 2024 🗾



On 4 November 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) marked a historic milestone with the inauguration of its new stateof-the-art building by General Syed Asim Munir, HI(M), Chief of the Army Staff. This significant event coincided with the opening ceremony of the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC). Truly a momentous occasion as Pakistan hosted this prestigious global forum for the first time. The new facility, located at the heart of NUST H-12 Campus, Islamabad, underscores Pakistan's unwavering commitment to advancing global peacekeeping efforts and promoting stability through innovative training and research.

The inauguration was attended by distinguished national and international dignitaries, including Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; the United Nations Police Advisor; the Acting Deputy Military Advisor; Pakistan's Foreign Secretary; and the Rector NUST. Designed to support the ever-evolving demands of peacekeeping, the facility integrates cutting-edge technology, including virtual reality training modules and simulation-based exercises, to equip peacekeepers with the skills needed to address modern operational complexities. As a hub for collaboration, the building will serve as a platform for engaging national and international stakeholders, facilitating critical dialogue, and promoting high-impact academic research.

By providing world-class facilities, the Centre reinforces its role in addressing multidimensional challenges. This groundbreaking infrastructure highlights Pakistan's commitment and investment for strengthening its leadership role in international peace operations. CIPS continues to expand its impact as a premier institution dedicated to fostering peace and stability in an increasingly complex global landscape. **CIPS NEW INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Tree Plantation Drive

27 February 2024



To commemorate the completion of the new CIPS infrastructure, a tree plantation drive was organized on 27 February 2024. The event was inaugurated by the esteemed Pro-Rector (P&R), Mr. Muhammad Arif Malik, and the Principal NIPCONS, Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M) (Retd), who graced the occasion as Chief Guests and planted trees to mark the initiative.

The esteemed faculty members, staff and students of CIPS along with the students from various schools across NUST actively participated in the drive, reflecting their commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable future. The event underscored the significance of environmental stewardship and the collective responsibility to create a healthier, eco-friendly environment.



Launch of VR Training Centre

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The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at NUST has introduced groundbreaking Virtual Reality (VR) training for peacekeepers, revolutionizing traditional methodologies with immersive, technology-driven solutions. This initiative was prominently showcased during the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) conference, where participants experienced firsthand the potential of VR in enhancing mission readiness. Demonstrations held at the Ideas Bazaar captivated attendees, illustrating how AI-enabled avatars and realistic scenarios could simulate complex challenges peacekeepers face in the field.

The VR training program employs Carana-oriented scenarios, a fictional yet dynamic environment designed to replicate real-world peacekeeping challenges. This immersive approach bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, equipping peacekeepers with the skills needed to navigate volatile situations effectively. By incorporating AI-driven avatars representing diverse roles such as local leaders or UN representatives, the training provides a comprehensive, risk-free learning environment, fostering confidence and competence among trainees.



Expanding Academic Horizons: Launch of **MS & PhD International Relations** Admissions Open for Fall 2025

The Centre is proud to announce the launch of its newest academic offering, the **MS & PhD Degree Programs in International Relations**, commencing in Fall 2025. This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of global politics, diplomacy, and international systems, equipping them with the analytical tools needed to address complex global challenges. The curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches, blending theoretical knowledge with practical insights to prepare graduates for impactful careers in international organizations, policy-making, academia, and beyond.

Now Open: Fall 2025 Admissions for Advanced Degree Programs!

MS in Peace and Conflict Studies

MS in Strategic Studies

MS in International Relations

PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies

PhD in International Relations

These programs cultivate critical thinking, innovative research, and a nuanced understanding of peace, security, and strategic dynamics in a rapidly changing world. The Centre's distinguished faculty mentors students and enhances knowledge through their expertise in these essential fields.

2

Take the first step toward an enriching academic journey and a career that makes a difference.

Apply now and be part of the Fall 2025 intake!



For admission details



For degree program details

GENERAL SYED ASIM MUNIR NI(M)

Chief of the Army Staff, Pakistan Army

During 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference

04 - 08 November 2024

Our glorious peacekeeping history spans over 6 decades and 4 continents. Since 1960, Pakistan has proudly contributed more than 235,000 peacekeepers in 48 missions. The blood of 181 Pakistani peacekeepers who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives is a testament of Pakistan's unwavering resolve in promoting peace and security in the world.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRES (IAPTC)

Executive Committee Meeting

5 - 8 May 2024 | Islamabad - Pakistan I



The Executive Committee Meeting of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) commenced at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Islamabad, Pakistan, on Sunday, 5 May 2024, and concluded on 8 May 2024. The meeting was inaugurated by Brig Joyce C Sitienei, President of the IAPTC. In her opening address, she expressed appreciation to the executive committee members for their collective efforts in shaping the Association's agenda and commended Pakistan for its pivotal role in peacekeeping, including hosting the upcoming 28th IAPTC Conference.

During the meeting, deliberations focused on finalizing plans for the 28th IAPTC Conference, which will take place in Islamabad from 4-8 November 2024. The conference will be preceded by UN Police Day on 3 November 2024. The theme of the conference, "Adaptive Training Strategies for Evolving Peace Operations," underscores the evolving challenges in global peacekeeping. Attendees engaged in discussions to ensure a comprehensive agenda, with topics ranging from harnessing technology for enhanced training to addressing the impact of climate challenges on peace operations.

Among the key participants were Col Muthusi Kimwele, Head of IPSTC Postgraduate School; Lieutenant Colonel Tobias Lyle, Chief of Staff IPSTC; and distinguished members such as Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan (R), Brig Muhammad Shoaib, and Col Sabindra Nigarkoti. This gathering reaffirmed the association's commitment to promoting collaboration among peacekeeping training centers and highlighted Pakistan's leadership in promoting global peace and security.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRES (IAPTC)

UN Police Day Ceremony

3 November 2024 | Islamabad - Pakistan



Pakistan was honored to host UN Police Day for the first time. The UN Police Day celebrated the pivotal role of police forces in advancing peace and security worldwide. The day was a befitting precursor to the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) being hosted by the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). The event dilated on strategies for enhancing the effectiveness, inclusivity, and resilience of UN police operations in increasingly complex global conflict zones. The day emphasized three critical areas. First, the expanding mandate of UN Police beyond traditional law enforcement roles. Secondly, discussions centered on diversity and gender balance, its contribution to trust-building and gender-specific challenges in peacekeeping operations. Lastly, the integration of advanced tools such as digital forensics, cybersecurity measures, and AI-driven analysis in line with evolving modern threats.

The Ceremony was opened by the Interior Secretary Muhammad Khuram Agha, who welcomed the participants and expressed pride in hosting UN Police Day in Pakistan for the first time. This was followed by the keynote address of UN Police Advisor Commissioner Faisal Shahkar, who deliberated on the evolving challenges faced by UN police forces. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix, highlighted the growing threats to UN peacekeepers. He stressed the need for intelligence-led strategies, increased situational awareness, and innovation in peacekeeping. Ambassador Munir Akram praised the professionalism of Pakistani police Peacekeepers, highlighting Shahzadi Gulfam's achievement as the first recipient of the International Female Police Peacekeeper Award. He also noted Pakistan's counterterrorism expertise as an asset for strengthening UN peacekeeping.

The ceremony also featured addresses from key figures, including Mr. Christian Saunders, Special Coordinator on improving the UN's response to SEA, Ms. Najla Nassif Palma, United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate, Mr. Harinder Sood, Chief ITS, and Colonel Arrigo Gareffi, IAPTC Executive Board Police Chair, who shared valuable insights on enhancing UN police operations.

Important takeaways included the necessity of specialized training to equip UN police officers with the tools to handle digital threats, organized crime, and urban conflicts effectively. The session on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) emphasized the importance of robust advocacy for gender balance in policing and the creation of gender-sensitive work environments. A collective commitment to promoting trust with host communities through proactive engagement and culturally aware practices set the tone for advancing policing within the framework of global peacekeeping. 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRES (IAPTC)

Adaptive Training Strategies for Evolving Peace Operations

5 - 8 May 2024 | Islamabad – Pakistan I



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) hosted the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) from 4 to 8 November 2024. Over 300 delegates, including representatives from more than 60 countries, the United Nations, regional organizations, academic institutions, think tanks and military/police forces, attended. Five days of activities were well balanced with day-long professional brainstorming with evenings dedicated to the exposure of the distinguished guests to Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and cuisines. In the Professional sessions, the experts deliberated on the theme "Adaptive Training Strategies for Evolving Peace Operations." The expert-level deliberations on critical topics such as inclusivity, technological innovation, environmental resilience, and the complexities of multi-dimensional conflict resolution reaffirmed CIPS' pivotal role in shaping the future of global peacekeeping.

Day 1: Opening Ceremony – A Grand Start to the Deliberations on Peace Collaboration

General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, inaugurated the Conference with a grand ceremony and delivered the keynote address. Proceedings thus initiated a week-long series of discussions aimed at addressing the challenges of modern peacekeeping through innovative training strategies and global partnerships. Dignitaries, delegates, and peacekeeping experts reflected on the collaborative spirit of the conference's theme.





The Chief Guest, General Syed Asim Munir, underscored Pakistan's illustrious history in peacekeeping, with over 235,000 peacekeepers having served in 48 Missions. He drew attention to global conflicts such as those in Kashmir and Palestine, urging the international community to prioritize just and sustainable solutions. His address highlighted the need for adaptive and resilient peacekeeping strategies to counter complex modern-day challenges like cyber threats, hybrid warfare, and climate-induced crises.

Brigadier General Joyce C Sitienei, the outgoing IAPTC President, reflected on the evolution of peacekeeping and the critical role of global partnerships in maintaining operational consistency and quality. She emphasized the need for technical skills alongside cultural and political awareness among the peacekeepers.

Major General Raja Aftab Khan, HI (M), Retired, the incoming President of the IAPTC Executive Committee, extended a warm welcome to the participants. He highlighted CIPS's role as a premier Institution contributing to peacekeeping research and training. Further, he emphasized the dynamic nature of modern conflicts and the need for context-specific training to prepare peacekeepers for challenges like transnational crime, terrorism, and misinformation.

Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's legacy in UN Peacekeeping Operations. He underscored the evolving nature of peacekeeping and the need to tackle contemporary challenges. He noted that today's peacekeepers must be prepared to function in environments influenced by diverse socio-political and environmental factors.

Ms. Amna Baloch, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, paid tribute to 181 Pakistani peacekeepers and the other fallen soldiers worldwide who made the



ultimate sacrifice for global peace. She stressed the importance of equipping peacekeepers with advanced technology and realistic mandates.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, introduced the UN's Pact for the Future and the New Agenda for Peace, emphasizing anticipatory approaches to peacekeeping. He advocated for investments in data analytics, early warning systems, and partnerships to address new drivers of conflict, such as misinformation and climate change.

The First Plenary Session of the IAPTC, themed "Future of Peace Operations," moderated by Mr. Jonas Alberoth (Consolidation & Development Committee Chair of IAPTC), explored the shifting dynamics of peacekeeping in the face of modern threats. The First Panelist, Mr. Lacroix, focused on the new agenda for peace, transitioning peacekeeping missions from reactive to preventive through intelligence-driven approaches and early intervention. Ambassador Akram emphasized addressing climate-induced conflicts and socioeconomic instability, highlighting Pakistan's experience in tactical and strategic training for UN peacekeepers. Mr Faisal Shahkar, the UN



police advisor, urged member states to support the UN's training initiatives, particularly in areas such as digital threats, cultural competency, and gender sensitivity. Brigadier General Nazmul Haque shared insights into the operational risks faced by the peacekeepers, calling for resilience, adaptability, and the use of advanced technology to counter these challenges.

The Second Plenary Session, moderated by Brigadier General Joyce C Sitienei, focused on "Training Imperatives for Women's Meaningful Participation." Commander Tyson Nicholas discussed women's participation in peace operations and the Gender Equality Plan, while Ms. Maleeha Lodhi focused on advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Lieutenant Colonel Saimoon Nahar addressed barriers to women's participation, and Mr. Christian Saunders spoke on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. Panelists reflected on frameworks like the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, offering practical steps to overcome barriers such as structural biases and inadequate support systems. Discussions highlighted the need for tailored training programs, mentorship initiatives, and leadership opportunities to empower women peacekeepers.



The Breakout Sessions titled "Sharing of Experience by Female Peacekeepers," "Inclusive Training Program for Meaningful Participation of Women in Peace Operations," and "Innovative Measures Towards Women's Participation" provided valuable insights. Female peacekeepers and experts shared their personal experiences, and innovative strategies were discussed to enhance women's roles and inclusion in peacekeeping operations. Panelists emphasized the importance of creating safe and supportive environments for women peacekeepers.



The day sessions thus discussed adapting peacekeeping to modern threats through preventive strategies and advanced training, and digital skills with due emphasis on a gender-sensitive approach. Discussions highlighted the importance of women's participation in peace operations, addressing barriers and promoting inclusivity. The need for resilience, advanced equipment, and stronger partnerships between the UN and regional organizations was emphasized.

The day provided a powerful start, showcasing Pakistan's leadership and commitment to global peacekeeping efforts. It set the groundwork for a transformative week, emphasizing adaptability, inclusivity, and collaboration as key drivers for shaping the future of peace operations.

Day 2: CIPS Brief, Addressing MDMH in Peacekeeping, and Visit to Ideas Bazaar

The second day commenced with a briefing on the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) by Dr. Muhammad Makki, the Associate Dean. This was followed by plenary and breakout sessions addressing foundational aspects of peacekeeping training. The day concluded with a visit to the Ideas Bazaar, where cutting-edge technologies and tools for peace operations were displayed.



Associate Dean CIPS, Dr. Muhammad Makki, addressed the theme, "Bringing Synergy in Scholarly Pursuit and Peacekeeping Training." He emphasized the critical need to integrate academic inquiry with practical peacekeeping efforts, asserting that the true value lies in forging meaningful linkages between theoretical frameworks and field-level applications. Dr. Makki reiterated the call for a deeper convergence between peacekeeping training and academic endeavors, stressing that peacekeepers play a vital role in advancing institutional knowledge.

He further elaborated on the functional architecture of CIPS, highlighting its distinctive capability to blend intellectual engagement with operational training. Dr. Makki explained how CIPS functions within the broader institutional framework of NUST, ensuring that its mandate aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also outlined the organizational structure of CIPS, comprising the Department of Peacekeeping Training (PKT), the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS), and the Research and Analysis Cell (R&A), which collectively enable a comprehensive response to evolving non-traditional security threats. Dr. Makki also presented the initiative of Virtual Reality (VR) training, conceptualized at NUST, attributing its success to the university's vibrant and collaborative ecosystem. He characterized the institutional culture at CIPS as one that fosters a symbiotic relationship between academic inquiry and peacekeeping praxis—an essential pillar of the Centre's contribution to global peacebuilding efforts.



The Third Plenary Session of the IAPTC, themed on "Information Integrity - Misinformation, Disinformation, Malinformation, and Hate Speech (MDMH)," moderated by Ms. Lotte Vermeij (Civilian Chair IAPTC Executive Committee), featured insights from key experts, including Mr. Alan Cheboi, Brigadier Fahad Ayub, Mr. David Haeri, and Colonel Arrigo Gareffi. The speakers discussed the challenges posed by misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech in peacekeeping, emphasizing the importance of technology, media literacy, and collaborative strategies to uphold information integrity in conflict zones. They highlighted the need for integrated training



programs, real-time monitoring, and community engagement to counter digital threats effectively. The session concluded with a consensus on the importance of continuous innovation and adaptive strategies to safeguard peacekeeping missions' integrity in an evolving digital landscape.

The **Breakout Sessions** addressed key aspects of peacekeeping in the digital age. The first breakout



session, titled "Fostering Trust and Resilience in the Digital Age", focused on building community trust to counter misinformation. "Innovative Technologies for Managing MDMH" explored tools like social network analysis for identifying threats. "Addressing Operational Challenges in MDMH Management" emphasized real-time monitoring, collaboration, and a strong policy framework.

The day concluded with a visit to the **Ideas Bazaar**, an interactive exhibition showcasing technological innovations and methodologies in peacekeeping operations. Delegates engaged with VR training simulations, advanced surveillance tools, and research publications. The CIPS stall of immersive training with real-life scenarios and interactive avatars was the center of attention and one of the most visited. Ideas Bazar demonstrated the latest research outputs and underscored the importance of academic research in developing actionable strategies for peacekeeping. Exhibitors demonstrated how these approaches and technologies could enhance operational readiness, decision-making, and mission success. The day offered participants valuable insights and tools to navigate the evolving challenges in global peacekeeping.



Day 3: Addressing Environmental Challenges and Enhancing Sustainability in Peacekeeping

Day three of the conference commenced with a series of insightful testimonial presentations by distinguished speakers, setting the stage for a day dedicated to addressing environmental challenges and sustainability in peacekeeping.

- Mr. Mark Pederson, Former Chief of Integrated Training Service (ITS), reflected on the evolution of peacekeeping training, highlighting past achievements and the importance of adapting training methodologies to meet emerging environmental and operational challenges.
- Mr. Harinder Sood, the current Chief of ITS, shared perspectives on strategic innovations and the current focus of peacekeeping training, emphasizing the need for a forward-looking approach that integrates sustainability and climate resilience into operational frameworks.
- Col Werner Klaffus, representing the Peacekeeping Centres of Europe (4-PCE), spoke on the critical role of collaborative efforts among peacekeeping centers in Europe, underlining the importance of shared knowledge and resources in promoting sustainable practices.



The day's discussions and collaborative sessions built on these presentations, exploring key topics such as environmental sustainability in peace missions, the role of global cooperation and policy development, the integration of climate risk analysis into operational planning, and the urgent need for dedicated environmental training modules.

The Fourth Plenary Session, titled "Understanding & Addressing the Effects of Environmental & Climate Challenges," was moderated by Lieutenant Colonel Darleen Young (Pedagogical Chair of IAPTC) and featured panelist Ms. Aisha Khan, who discussed strategic approaches to address environmental and climate change impacting UN missions, Mr. Harinder Sood, who focused on

addressing the effects of these challenges, and Ms. Sarah Ratia Tekenet, who highlighted approaches for preparation, prevention, and actions on climate change challenges. The session concluded with a strong consensus on the need for holistic and innovative strategies to tackle environmental and climate challenges in peacekeeping. Panelists emphasized that integrating sustainability into core strategies enhances the effectiveness of peace operations while contributing to broader goals of peace, security, and sustainable development.



The Breakout Sessions focused on "Practical Application of Effective and Best Practices at Mission Level" and "Police & Military Planning Considerations and Training Materials to Support Deployment." Discussions highlighted the importance of proactive planning and climatesensitive strategies for effective operations, emphasizing practical approaches to address environmental challenges at the mission level. Additionally, the sessions emphasized integrating environmental considerations into police and military pre-deployment training to enhance mission readiness and address environmental challenges during deployment.

Key takeaways included the need for proactive planning and climate-sensitive strategies in mission operations, strengthening local partnerships to enhance resilience, and integrating environmental considerations in training. Community engagement and capacity-building initiatives were highlighted as essential for sustainable peacekeeping. Collaborative efforts across sectors are crucial for addressing complex challenges in peace operations. The day concluded with a sense of shared commitment and a renewed focus on addressing the evolving challenges in peacekeeping.

Day 4: Embracing Innovation: Advancing Peacekeeping Training with Technology and Partnerships

Day four focused on integrating advanced technologies and innovative approaches in peacekeeping training. Discussions highlighted the role of VR and AI in providing immersive, adaptive training environments, as well as the use of smart technologies to enhance operational efficiency. Emphasis was placed on collaborative training across military, police, and civilian components and the need to focus the peacekeeping training to address emerging challenges.



The day began with the Fifth Plenary Session titled "Harnessing Technology to Enhance Training Outcomes," moderated by Major General Nasim Parvez (Former President of the Executive Committee of IAPTC). Panelists included Lieutenant Colonel Dirk Maeder, who discussed Smart Camp Initiatives and the use of digital technology in peace operations; Brig Imran Rashid, Retd, who spoke on the application of AI and VR in peace training; and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Arafat Hossain, who focused on realistic, situation-based training. The session concluded with a consensus on the transformative potential of technology in peacekeeping. Integrating advanced tools can enhance the effectiveness of peace operations and better prepare peacekeepers for the complexities of modern missions.



The Sixth Plenary Session, titled "Partnerships and Meaningful Connections in Training," was moderated by Mr. Ahmed Sameh (Deputy Director, CCCPA). The panelists included Ms. Annika Hilding Norberg, who discussed partnerships in peace operations; Mr. Herbert J. Loret, who presented on the Light Coordination Mechanism; Ms. Dana Houk, who spoke about Global Peace Operation Initiative (GOPI) for peacekeeping operations, and Mr. Ito Takakazu, who highlighted the Triangular Partnership Program. The session highlighted partnerships' key role in enhancing peacekeeping training and strengthening global operations. Panelists presented case studies of successful initiatives like the Triangular Partnership Program and the Light Coordination Mechanism, demonstrating how partnerships address training gaps, improve interoperability, and foster innovation. They emphasized that collaboration allows for pooling resources and expertise to tackle the increasing complexity of peacekeeping challenges.



The Breakout Session "Existing Cooperation Leading to Future Activities" focused on transforming trained personnel into training providers to build institutional knowledge. It highlighted the importance of extending instructors' tenure to ensure continuity and institutional memory. The session also discussed the Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM), a digital platform connecting Member States with resources, training, and funding opportunities, aiming to expand partnerships and share training packages.

Key takeaways from day four included integrating VR, AI, and smart tools in peacekeeping training to enhance efficiency and address emerging challenges. The plenary sessions highlighted the importance of partnerships and technology, while breakout discussions focused on turning trained personnel into trainers and using the LCM for resource sharing. The audience gained valuable insights into fostering innovation and collaboration for effective peacekeeping.

Day 5: Closing Ceremony 28th IAPTC: Celebrating Achievements & Handover of the Presidency

The final day of the Conference brought the weeklong event to a meaningful conclusion. It was marked by thoughtful reflections, key takeaways, and the ceremonial handover of the IAPTC presidency. The day celebrated the conference's collective achievements while emphasizing the importance of carrying forward its outcomes to strengthen global peacekeeping efforts.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the IAPTC Executive Committee, held on the final day of the 28th IAPTC Conference, marked a pivotal moment in shaping the association's future. The meeting opened with remarks from Brigadier General Joyce C. Sitienei, who reflected on the year's achievements, including the successful 27th conference in Kenva. The Secretariat Report, presented by Mr. Ahmed Sameh, highlighted institutional memory preservation, logistical support, and enhanced outreach, while commending Pakistan's role as the host nation. The CDC Report, delivered by Mr. Jonas Alberoth, emphasized theme development, host engagement, and regional collaboration. A key highlight was the announcement of new Functional **Committee Chairs** for 2024-2026, ensuring diverse representation. The AGM also confirmed future conference hosts, with CoESPU, Italy (tentative) for 2025 and GCSP, Switzerland (awaiting confirmation) for 2026, while Tanzania and Bangladesh expressed interest for later years. Closing discussions encouraged member feedback on the 2024 conference and suggestions for 2025 themes, reinforcing IAPTC's dedication to advancing global peacekeeping through collaboration, innovation, and capacity building.



The Closing Ceremony began with a heartwarming address by the outgoing IAPTC President, Brigadier General Joyce C Sitienei. She reflected on the transformative discussions and collaborations that defined the conference and praised the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) for its meticulous organization and exceptional hospitality. Brigadier General highlighted the innovative ideas shared during the plenary and breakout sessions, emphasizing the importance of partnerships, inclusivity, and technological integration in modern peacekeeping.



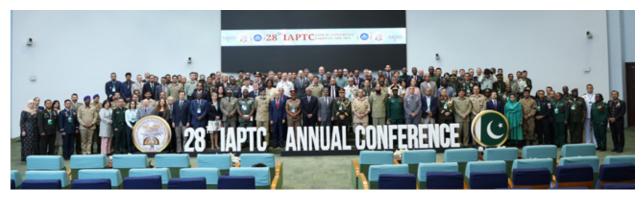
In his inaugural address, Major General Raja Aftab Khan, Retired, the incoming IAPTC President, shared his vision for the Association's future. He emphasized the need to adapt training methodologies to emerging threats such as hybrid warfare, MDMH, and climate-induced challenges. Major General Khan reaffirmed CIPS's commitment to serving as a hub for peacekeeping innovation. He stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships with regional organizations and international stakeholders to advance peacekeeping objectives.



The ceremonial handover of the IAPTC presidency from Brigadier General Sitienei to Major General Raja Aftab Khan symbolized the continuity of leadership and the Association's collective mission to advance peacekeeping training and operations. The exchange highlighted the shared commitment of all members to build on the progress made during the conference and to address the evolving challenges of global peacekeeping.

The Chief Guest, Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali. HI(M), Retd, Secretary Defence, Pakistan, delivered the keynote address, congratulating the IAPTC on successfully completing its 28th Conference. He commended the Association's pivotal role in shaping global peacekeeping and acknowledged the contributions of its members to worldwide peace and security. The Defence Secretary highlighted Pakistan's significant legacy in UN peacekeeping since the 1960s, earning widespread respect. He discussed the evolving threats peacekeepers face, such as IEDs, cyber threats, and psychological challenges, stressing the importance of advanced





training methods and emerging technologies like AI and VR. He concluded by emphasizing the need for international cooperation and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to supporting the UN and IAPTC's mission.

The Ceremony concluded with heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, particularly the CIPS' team, for their exceptional efforts in hosting a transformative conference. Delegates expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange, leaving inspired to implement the strategies discussed during the week. A farewell dinner capped off the event, featuring cultural performances and traditional Pakistani cuisine, encouraging camaraderie among participants and celebrating the conference's success.

The Day activities were a fitting conclusion to the IAPTC Annual Conference, encapsulating the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and commitment that defined the week. The reflections and ceremonial transitions emphasized the importance of sustaining momentum and translating the conference's outcomes into impactful actions for the future of global peacekeeping.

Gallery of 28th IAPTC





28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRES (IAPTC)

IAPTC Side Meets - Principal NIPCONS

04 - 08 November 2024



During the 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Conference, from 4th to 8th November 2024, several side meetings took place where Principal NIPCONS, Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M) (Retd) met with representatives from various organizations and peacekeeping training institutes to explore different areas of collaboration.

The principal focus of the discussions was based on enhancing peacekeeping training at CIPS through initiatives such as certification programs, the introduction of new peacekeeping courses, collaboration with international organizations, and faculty exchange programs to promote knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. These discussions underscored mutual efforts to advance training excellence and strengthen peacekeeping capabilities at CIPS. The details of the side-meets are as follows:





Mr. Harinder Sood (Chief ITS)

Principal NIPCONS, Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M) (Retd), briefed Mr. Harinder Sood on the existing UN-certified courses offered by CIPS, highlighting the value of these courses in enhancing peacekeeping training. He also discussed the upcoming courses under UN evaluation, including the introduction of a new course in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD/IEDD) The principal emphasized how these initiatives align with CIPS's commitment to expanding its training programs, ensuring peacekeepers are equipped with the necessary skills to address emerging challenges in the field.

Ms. Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of GCSP Peace Operations and Peace Building

During this meeting, Principal NIPCONS presented potential collaboration opportunities between CIPS and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He discussed the possibility of engaging Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for training sessions and creating an exchange program for faculty members to advance knowledge-sharing and capacity-building between the two institutions.



Furthermore, he explored the idea of online lectures, providing CIPS with access to global best practices in peace operations, which would further enhance the quality of training at CIPS and contribute to strengthening peacekeeping capabilities.

Miss Dana Houk, Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)

Principal NIPCONS briefed Miss Dana Houk on CIPS' efforts to modernize its peacekeeping training through the integration of e-learning platforms. He discussed how the Peacekeeping Operations Training Institute (POTI) offers valuable e-reading resources, and how these could be incorporated into CIPS' curriculum to further support the peacekeeping training process. By utilizing these digital resources, CIPS aims to strengthen its training programs and ensure peacekeepers have access to the latest materials and tools necessary for their missions.

Colonel Mustafizur Al Rahman (Retired) (UN ITS)

In this meeting, Principal NIPCONS shared his vision for strengthening collaboration between CIPS and the UN Integrated Training Service (ITS). He discussed joint efforts to share best practices, align training courses with UN standards, and improve the overall quality of peacekeeping training. The principal emphasized the importance of adapting training programs to address the evolving needs of peacekeeping missions, and how closer collaboration with UN ITS could enhance the capabilities of CIPS and its impact on peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Ahmed Sameh, Deputy Director CCCPA, Secretariat of IAPTC

Principal NIPCONS presented opportunities for collaboration between CIPS and the Cairo

International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA). He discussed how CIPS could work alongside other IAPTC member organizations to promote joint initiatives that would enhance the impact of peacekeeping training. The principal highlighted the importance of integrating civilian peacebuilding efforts into military peacekeeping courses, ensuring that peacekeepers are prepared to address the full spectrum of peace operations challenges.

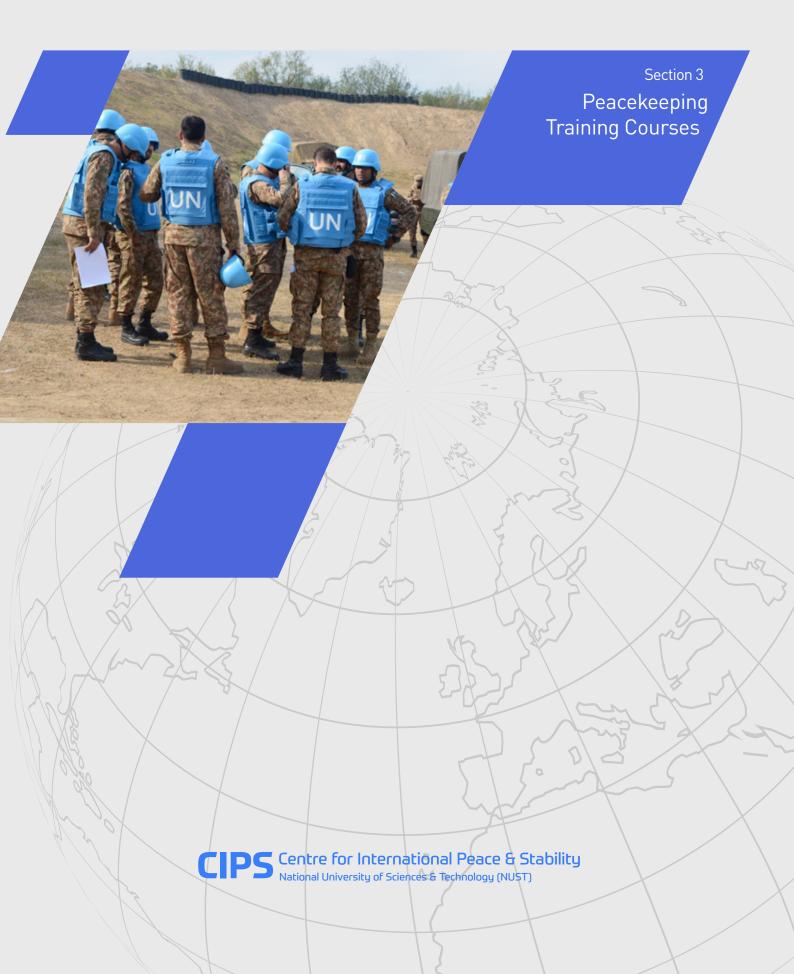
Major General Nasim Parvez (Former President IAPTC Executive Committee)

During his meeting with Major General Nasim Parvez, Principal NIPCONS emphasized the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships between CIPS and other peacekeeping training organizations. He outlined the benefits of mutual collaboration, particularly in the areas of curriculum development, innovative methodologies, and joint training programs. The principal stressed the role of these partnerships in improving the quality of peacekeeping education and ensuring that peacekeepers are well-prepared for the complex challenges of contemporary peace operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Darleen Young AM, RFD (Pedagogical Chair IAPTC Executive Committee)

In his discussion with Lieutenant Colonel Darleen Young, Principal NIPCONS focused on enhancing pedagogical approaches to peacekeeping training at CIPS. He proposed integrating more interactive and scenario-based training methods, such as Virtual Reality (VR) and simulation exercises, to better prepare peacekeepers for real-world challenges. The principal also highlighted the importance of faculty development programs to ensure that instructors have the latest pedagogical tools, ultimately contributing to the effectiveness of peacekeeping training and the broader peacekeeping mission.





MUNIR AKRAM

Permanent Representative, Pakistan's Permanent Mission to United Nations

During 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference

04 - 08 November 2024

Peacekeeping Training Institutions such as the Centre for International Peace and Stability, play a crucial role in preparing personnel for the complexities of operations, tailored training programmes, improving the competencies and readiness of military, police and civilian personnel while equipping them with essential skills, and foster a deeper understanding of the challenges they may encounter.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC-36)

11 - 22 December 2023



The United Nations Military Observer Course - 36 (UNMOC) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability, NUST Islamabad, from 11 to 22 December 2023. The course saw the participation of fifteen officers from the Pakistan Army, including one lady officer. Participants underwent a structured and tiered training approach, covering Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. Experienced faculty briefed participants on mission environments, mandates, and observer roles, offering a contextual understanding of deployment areas. The participants were trained to apply a comprehensive set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes relevant to the role of a UN Military Observer, as defined by the UN Integrated Training Service.



A key highlight of UNMOC-36 was the field exercise organized by the Peacekeeping Training Department, held in the semi-mountainous terrain of Pabbi (National Counter Terrorism Cell. This practical session was the cornerstone of the course, meticulously designed to prepare military observers for the complexities of peacekeeping operations. Participants engaged in scenario-based training that simulated realistic challenges, such as UN interactions, hostage situations, and evacuation coordination.

The course concluded with a closing ceremony on 22nd December, 2023, where Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean and Chief Guest, presented certificates to the successful participants. In his closing remarks, Dr. Makki commended the participants for their dedication and highlighted the importance of peacekeeping training in adapting to the evolving nature of conflicts. He emphasized the essential role of such training programs in enhancing understanding and addressing peacekeepers' dynamic challenges in the field. Dr. Makki further underlined the synergistic relationship between practical experience and academic knowledge as a crucial strength for peacekeepers.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Engagement Platoon Course (UNEP-2)

8 - 16 January 2024 |



The UN Engagement Platoon (UNEP-2) course, aligned with the United Nations Reinforcement Training Package (RTP), took place from 8 to 16 January, 2024. This course emphasized the critical objective of fostering meaningful gender-inclusive engagement under the purview of the conflicted communities and promoting the integration of individuals at all levels within peacekeeping missions, so as to achieve sustainable, and longterm peace.

Fourteen officers from the Pakistan Army participated in UNEP-2, including twelve female officers. The course methodology equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills for effective task execution in UN missions. Officers received targeted training on the various facets of engagement platoon roles and responsibilities.





Presentations from Adjunct Faculty provided indepth insights from subject matter experts. At the same time, training included seminars and immersive Scenario-Based/Tabletop Exercises, offering participants a comprehensive and handson educational experience.

The course concluded with a formal closing ceremony on 16th January, 2024, where participants received certificates for completion of their training. In his closing remarks, the chief guest, Dr. Muhammad Makki Associate Dean CIPS, emphasized the critical importance of gender inclusivity in peacekeeping efforts. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the participants who successfully completed the course, commending their dedication and commitment. Dr. Makki specifically recognized the significant contributions of female participants, particularly highlighting the noteworthy role of Pakistani female peacekeepers in making substantial impacts on UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.

UN Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-42)

5 – 16 February 2024



The United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-42), held from 5 to 16 February 2024, was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip attendees with essential skills for their roles as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course was attended by 30 participants, with 18 officers from the Pakistan Army, including six female officers, alongside six international participants from Sri Lanka, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Mozambique, Egypt, and Kenya.

Following Integrated Training Service (ITS) guidelines, the course incorporated Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) as a foundation. Participants engaged with DPO/DOS materials, covering peacekeeping policies, standard operating procedures, and other guidelines, supplemented by lectures from SMEs for broader insights.

During their stay, participants toured local landmarks around Islamabad, including the Pakistan Monument, Faisal Mosque, and the bustling marketplaces, with a day spent in Murree and a farewell dinner at Monal Hill Resort.

The closing ceremony on February 16th, 2024, featured Associate Dean Dr. Muhammad Makki as Chief Guest. While Defense Attachés from Sri Lanka and Nigeria also graced the occasion. Dr. Makki awarded certificates to graduates, lauding their dedication. In his remarks, Dr. Makki commended the course's comprehensive approach to preparing participants for the complexities of peacekeeping. He acknowledged CIPS' contribution to peacekeeping training, noting its record of 195 courses and over 3,600 trained peacekeepers. Emphasizing Pakistan's significant role in UN missions, Dr. Makki celebrated the course's international diversity and extended best wishes to the graduates for their future roles in global peace efforts. Souvenirs were then presented to the Dean of CIPS and faculty members, concluding the event.



UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (UNCPoCC-12)

19 February – 1 March 2024



The United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course – 12 (UNCPoCC – 12) was held from 19 February 2024 to 01 March 2024. This UNcertified course was conducted with the purpose to educate and sensitize the participants about the functioning of the UN, the roles and responsibilities of the Peacekeepers, and educating participants about working in peacekeeping operations to develop a conceptual framework for the Protection of Civilians (PoC).

The course was attended by 36 participants from diverse backgrounds, including military personnel and civilians from various institutions. Notably, there were 4 serving officers, 6 retired officers from the Pakistan Army, and 26 civilians representing multiple educational institutions.



The course methodology included an initial assessment, followed by intensive training primarily based on the latest Specialized Training Material (STM) for PoC. Key lectures from the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM 2107) were also integrated, alongside insightful sessions from Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and UN representatives, who provided essential perspectives on PoC. This diverse mix of military and civilian participants encouraged a collaborative learning environment.

The closing ceremony on March 1st, 2024, was graced by Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean of CIPS, who extended his compliments to the participants for their commitment and successful completion of the course. Dr. Makki highlighted the contributions of guest speakers, including Dr. Rathoor, Brigadier H. Chohan, Mr. Tanveer Hussain from UNOCHA, and Mr. Rajwal from UNAIDS, who brought valuable insights into the challenges and best practices of civilian protection in UN missions. He acknowledged the participants' active engagement and contributions throughout the program, emphasizing the importance of crossdisciplinary collaboration for global peacekeeping efforts.

UN Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-37)

4 – 15 March 2024



From 4 to 15 March 2024, the United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-37) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) under the supervision of the Peacekeeping Training Department (PKT). This foundational course equipped participants with the essential knowledge and skills required for effective performance in UN peacekeeping missions.

The training covered a broad spectrum of UN principles, procedures, and policies, focusing on critical themes such as conduct and discipline, sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians, human rights, gender mainstreaming, child protection, and environmental protection.



The course welcomed 27 military personnel from the Pakistan Army, including nine females. Through comprehensive materials like the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM). participants explored UN systems. legal frameworks, and specialized assignments. Adjunct faculty presentations from UN partners enriched the learning experience, while scenario-based exercises honed participants' readiness for realworld challenges in complex security and cultural contexts.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Makki, the Associate Dean of CIPS, congratulated the participants for successfully completing the course and offered best wishes for their upcoming deployments. He stressed the importance of thorough and diligent training in handling conflict zones, noting that the insights gained from the course would prepare participants for complex and uncertain situations. Dr. Makki also underscored Pakistan's significant role in UN peacekeeping operations. Additionally, he praised the professionalism of the Peacekeeping Training (PKT) Faculty for organizing a comprehensive yet concise training program. Regarding the Center for International Peace and Stability, Dr. Makki reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment to achieving international peace and stability, pledging to continue the department's dedicated efforts in this regard.

United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC-37)

22 April – 3 May 2024



The United Nations Military Observer Course (UNMOC-37) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad, from 22 April to 3 May 2024. This course aimed to prepare peacekeepers for their roles as UN Military Observers in current and prospective UN Peacekeeping Operations by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to operate effectively in complex operational environments. The training emphasized the application of the core competencies required for UN Military Observers within the framework of the UN Integrated Training Service.

The course was attended by nine military personnel, including four female peacekeepers, reflecting a commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion. Participants underwent comprehensive training



through Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. Representatives delivered expert sessions from various institutions, including UNAIDS, UNHCR, ISPR, the Military/Motorway Police Authority, and other subject matter experts on Women, Peace, and Security. The Medical and Engineering Directorates provided additional technical insights.

As part of the course, participants visited the Headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in Islamabad. They were briefed on the group's operational practices and observed their on-ground activities, gaining valuable insights into the realtime functioning of military observer groups in field operations.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean of CIPS, congratulated the participants on completing the course successfully and extended his best wishes for their future deployments. He commended the dedication of the CIPS faculty and guest speakers for their invaluable contributions to the training. Dr. Makki highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping and reminded the participants of their vital role as peacekeepers. He reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment to advancing international peace and stability and pledged to continue efforts toward this noble cause.

United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-43)

20 – 31 May 2024



The United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-43), conducted from 20 to 31 May 2024, was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course was attended by 16 officers from the Pakistan Army, including 04 female officers.

The course was conducted as per Integrated Training Service (ITS) developed training materials. The Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) remained a fundamental component of the course. Participants received DPO/DOS guidance materials





such as peacekeeping training policies, standard operating procedures and basic guidelines Also, Subject-matter experts (SMEs) in the field delivered valuable lectures.

The closing ceremony on May 31st, 2024, featured Brigadier (R) Engr Syed Mohsan Shah, Head of Department for Peacekeeping Training (HoD PKT), as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the participants on successfully completing the course and highlighted how it closely simulated real-world United Nations environments. He also expressed his gratitude to the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) for maintaining high training standards and extended his best wishes to the participants.

United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC-38)

3 – 14 June 2024 💻



The United Nations Military Observer Course – 38 was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST Islamabad, from 3 to 14 June 2024. The course aimed to prepare peacekeepers for their roles as UN Military Observers in both current and prospective UN peacekeeping operations. Participants were trained to apply a comprehensive set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with the role of a UN Military Observer, as defined by the UN Integrated Training Service.

The course was attended by 36 officers, including 20 participants from the Pakistan Army and 16 international officers from friendly countries such as Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Jordan, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Belarus, Canada, Kazakhstan, and Sri Lanka.

Participants underwent a structured, tiered training approach, incorporating Core Pre-Deployment



Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. Experts briefed participants on mission environments, mandates, and observer roles, providing a contextual understanding of deployments.

A highlight of UNMOC-38 was the field exercise conducted by the Peacekeeping Training Department at Rawalpindi Cantonment. This practical session simulated realistic challenges, such as IED handling, UN interactions, hostage situations, and evacuation coordination, preparing participants for the complexities of peacekeeping operations.

The course concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, where Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI (M), (Retired), Principal of NUST Institute of Peace a] and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS), served as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the participants on successfully completing the course and emphasized its role in equipping peacekeepers with the skills to excel in diverse environments. He commended CIPS for its professional training standards and highlighted its contribution to training over 3,700 peacekeepers to date. He also urged the participants to uphold the principles of ethics, impartiality, respect for human rights, and civilmilitary coordination in their future deployments. The ceremony concluded with the Chief Guest extending his best wishes to the graduates and encouraging them to cherish fond memories of Pakistan's renowned hospitality.

United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-39)

24 June – 05 July 2024



From 24 June to 5 July 2024, the United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-39) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) under the supervision of the Peacekeeping Training Department (PKT). This course is significant for all peacekeeping personnel and is designed to equip them with essential knowledge and skills for effective performance in UN peacekeeping missions. The training addressed key themes and priorities, including conduct and discipline, sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict-related sexual violence, child protection, and environmental protection.

The course welcomed 40 Pakistan Army personnel and focused on enhancing their readiness for peacekeeping roles. Participants gained practical insights into UN systems, legal frameworks, and





cultural challenges through Core Pre-deployment Training Material (CPTM), adjunct faculty presentations, and scenario-based exercises.

In the closing ceremony, Brigadier (R) Engr Syed Mohsan Shah, Head of PKT, congratulated the participants on their successful course completion and extended his best wishes for their future deployments. He praised the dedication of the CIPS faculty and guest speakers for their significant contributions, recognizing their commitment to shaping the participants' capabilities for peacekeeping missions. He also highlighted Pakistan's longstanding and impactful role in UN peacekeeping, reminding participants of their vital responsibility to uphold the country's reputation as a responsible member of the international community.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING United Nations Staff Officer Course (UNSOC-44)

22 July – 02 August 2024



United Nations Staff Officer Course (UNSOC-44) was held from 22 July to 02 August 2024. The purpose of the course was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, basic principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course involved 27 participants from the Pakistan Army, guided by a diverse team of instructors, including the Peacekeeping Training Faculty, representatives from the Pakistan Army and Police Directorates, the UNHCR, and subjectmatter experts. Delivered using Integrated Training Service (ITS) materials, the course emphasized Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM), peacekeeping policies, standard operating procedures, and expert lectures.





In the closing ceremony of the UNSOC-44 course, Brig. (Retd) Engr. Syed Mohsan Shah, Head of the Peacekeeping Training Department (HoD PKT), commended the participants on completing the course and highlighted the department's achievements, having conducted 207 courses and trained over 3,380 peacekeepers. He emphasized Pakistan's prominent role in UN peacekeeping as a leading troop-contributing country and reaffirmed CIPS's commitment to aligning with global standards and fostering institutional partnerships. He congratulated the participants and expressed confidence in their enhanced understanding of the UN system, marking this course as a significant step for peacekeepers.

United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (UNCPoCC-13)

12 – 23 March 2024



The United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course – 13 (UNCPoCC – 13) was conducted from 12 to 23 March 2024. This UN-certified course aimed to educate and sensitize participants about the functioning of the United Nations, the roles and responsibilities of peacekeepers, and the critical aspects of working in peacekeeping operations to establish a conceptual framework for the Protection of Civilians (PoC).

The course was attended by 23 participants from diverse backgrounds, including military personnel, police officers, and civilians. Twelve participants were from friendly countries such as Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, South Africa, and Turkiye. Additionally, four participants were from the Pakistan Army, two from the police department, and five were civilians.

The course methodology included an initial assessment, followed by intensive training primarily based on the latest Specialized Training Material



(STM) for PoC. Key lectures from the Core Predeployment Training Materials (CPTM 2107) were also integrated, alongside insightful sessions from Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and UN representatives, who provided essential perspectives on PoC.

During the course, participants visited Murree's Chinar Golf Club, Lok Virsa Heritage Museum, and Pakistan Monument to experience Pakistan's natural beauty and culture.

In the closing ceremony, Maj. Gen. (R) Raja Aftab Khan, HI (M), congratulated the participants on successfully completing the course. He emphasized the course's significance in preparing participants for realworld challenges in conflict zones, where civilians often face intentional harm, psychological trauma, displacement, and severe human rights violations. He stressed the importance of understanding the complexities of conflict zones, the laws governing armed conflict, and the protocols for protecting vulnerable populations. Further, He highlighted the need for peacekeepers to be equipped to provide physical protection, humanitarian aid, community engagement, capacity building, mediation, negotiation, and monitoring and reporting. He emphasized that the knowledge and skills gained would significantly enhance participants' ability to perform their duties in complex and challenging environments and expressed his confidence that the participants would apply the lessons learned to safeguard civilian lives in conflict zones and contribute to the overall success of UN peacekeeping missions.

United Nations Staff Officer Course (UNSOC-45)

02-13 September 2024



United Nations Staff Officer Course-45 was held from 2 to 13 September 2024. The purpose of the course was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, basic principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course had a total of 34 participants. Among them, 19 were officers from the Pakistan Army, including 5 female officers. The remaining 15 participants were from foreign countries, including Turkiye, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Sri Lanka, China, Mali, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Egypt and Vietnam.



The course was conducted as per Integrated Training Service (ITS) developed training materials. The Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) remained a fundamental component of the course. Participants received DPO/DOS guidance material such as peacekeeping training policies, standard operating procedures and basic guidelines Also, Subject-matter experts (SMEs) in the field delivered valuable lectures.

In the closing remarks, Brigadier (R) Engr Syed Mohsan Shah, HoD PKT, commended the participants, representing Pakistan and various friendly nations, for their engagement in a diverse and immersive learning environment. He emphasized the critical importance of predeployment training for peacekeepers, highlighting the Centre for International Peace and Stability's (CIPS) role as a Centre of Excellence in preparing peacekeepers in line with UN standards. Noting the Department of Peacekeeping Training's impressive achievements, with 206 courses and the training of over 3,938 officers to date. He also lauded Pakistan's longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping missions and its recognized contribution over the past 76 years. Congratulating the graduates, he expressed confidence that the course would significantly enhance their understanding of the UN system and their future roles as UN Staff Officers.

United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-40)

21 October – 01 November 2024



The United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-40) took place from 21 October to 01 November 2024 at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) under the guidance of the Peacekeeping Training Department (PKT). The course aimed to equip peacekeeping personnel with essential knowledge and skills to operate effectively in UN peacekeeping missions, covering key topics such as conduct and discipline, sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians, human rights, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection.

The course was attended by 11 officers from the Pakistan Army. It included Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM), focusing on UN systems and legal frameworks, alongside expert lectures and scenario-based exercises to prepare participants for real-world challenges in diverse security and cultural environments.

In his closing remarks, Brigadier (R) Engr Syed Mohsan Shah, Head of the Peacekeeping Training (PKT) Department, commended the successful completion of the UNPDTC course. He emphasized the PKT's achievements, including 207 courses and 3,981 peacekeepers trained, and underscored Pakistan's significant role as a leading Troop Contributing Country in UN peacekeeping missions. Brig. Mohsan expressed confidence that this course would serve as a milestone in broadening the participants' understanding of the UN system and their roles in multidimensional peacekeeping missions. He emphasized the importance of such training in preparing participants to navigate the complexities of global conflict paradigms effectively.





UN Engagement Platoon Course (UNEPC-3)

9 – 27 December 2024



The United Nations Engagement Platoon Course (UNEPC-3) was conducted from 9 to 27 December 2024 as part of the United Nations Reinforcement Training Package (RTP) for the recently launched engagement platoon. The course aimed to foster meaningful gender-inclusive engagement with conflicted communities and promote the integration of individuals at all levels and roles within peacekeeping missions to achieve sustainable, long-term peace.

Fifteen security personnel completed the course and received certificates. The training equipped peacekeepers with essential skills for UN missions through expert presentations, seminars, and hands-on Scenario-Based/Tabletop Exercises, providing a comprehensive learning experience.

Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean of the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), commended the participants of UNEPC-3 for successfully completing the course, highlighting the diversity and inclusivity of the training, which mirrors the United Nations' values. He praised Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions and emphasized the critical role of gender inclusivity in achieving sustainable peace. Dr. Makki expressed confidence that the training would enhance participants' understanding of UN systems and prepare them for future roles, concluding with best wishes for their continued success in peacekeeping efforts.





United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC-39)

18 – 29 November 2024 🔳



The United Nations Military Observers Course – 39 was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST Islamabad, from 18 to 29 November 2024. The course aimed to equip peacekeepers with the necessary skills to serve as UN Military Observers in current and prospective UN Peacekeeping Operations. Participants were trained to apply a comprehensive range of knowledge, skills, and attitudes integral to the role of a UN Military Observer, as outlined by the UN Integrated Training Service.

The course featured 38 participants, including 15 officers from friendly countries and officers from the Pakistan Army. The allied officers represented a diverse range of countries, including Belarus, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Africa, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Mozambique, and Vietnam

Participants underwent a structured, three tiered training process that incorporated Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. Military Observers with extensive field experience from key UN missions provided detailed briefings on mission environments, mandates, and the specific roles of military observers. This approach aimed to ensure participants gained a contextual understanding of their deployment areas and the operational challenges they might encounter.

Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean of CIPS, graced the certificate distribution ceremony and presented certificates to the participants.

The closing remarks were delivered by Brig Sajjad Ahmad, NI(M), Retd, Head of the Peacekeeping Training Department (PKT). Brigadier Sajjad congratulated the participants on successfully completing the UN Military Observers Course-39 and emphasized the importance of training and sensitizing peacekeepers as a key aspect of predeployment preparations for troop-contributing countries. He highlighted CIPS's achievements, including organizing 208 courses and training over 4,000 peacekeepers to date, along with its commitment to fostering partnerships with leading global peacekeeping training institutions. Brigadier Sajjad also underscored Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, which reflect the country's dedication to global peace and security. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the knowledge and skills acquired during the course would enable participants to excel as military observers in complex, multidimensional peacekeeping missions, while upholding the core principles of the UN in challenging global conflict scenarios.

Indoor Activities and Interactive Sessions









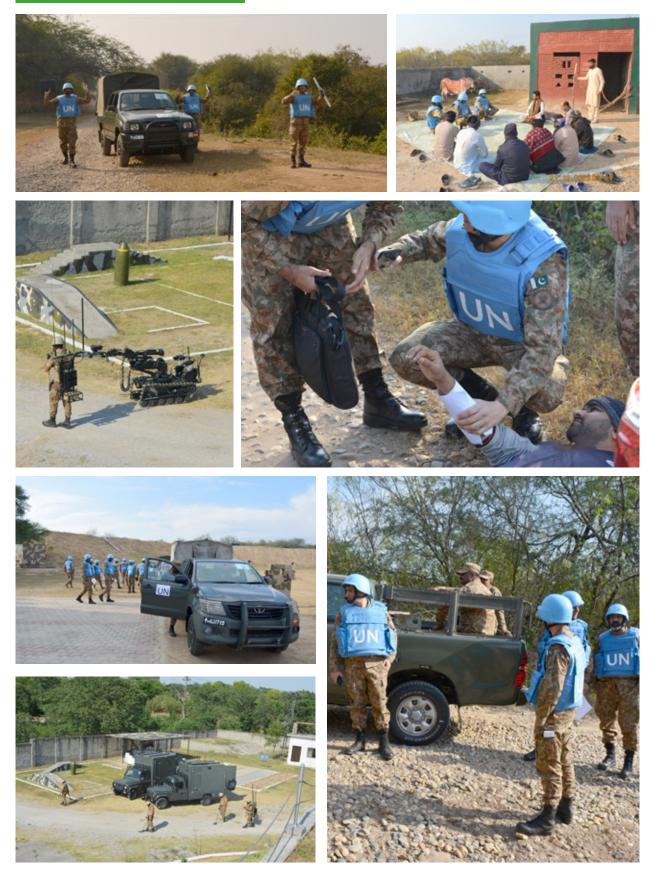








Field Excercises



Recreational Activities for Peacekeepers





















ESSAYS BY PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPERS

Facing Climate Challenges: Pakistan METF's Impact in Sector Unity, South Sudan

United Nations Peacekeeping Missions play a pivotal role in maintaining peace and security in regions affected by conflict around the globe. These missions are conducted under strict guidelines to ensure effectiveness, impartiality and adherence to international human rights. For over six decades, Pakistan's military has been a leading force in UN Peacekeeping Missions, consistently ranking among the top Troop Contributor Countries. With over 235000 service members deployed across 46 UN missions, Pakistan Army has played a crucial role in upholding the principles and mandates of UN peacekeeping. However, with each passing day Pakistani peacekeepers face new challenges in peacekeeping operation.

Climate Change is one such challenge that turned the face of peacekeeping operation in Sector Unity of South Sudan. Unprecedented rainfall has jeopardized the 250,000 lives in Bentiu and surrounding areas. Replicating its rich history, Pakistan Military Engineer Task Force (Pak METF) has played a crucial role in flood-ravaged UNITY State of South Sudan, where Pakistani Engineers are continuously saving **250,000+ lives** by fortifying critical infrastructure against floodwaters. Despite the operational challenges, they have also provided vital support to the vulnerable population and UN personnel.

Amid severe torrential rains posing a significant threat to the Bentiu Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) camps, the Pakistan Military Engineering Task Force (METF) demonstrated unwavering commitment by constructing and maintaining 60 kilometers of robust dikes. These essential flood defenses not only safeguarded the camps and ensured the safety and well-being of over 250,000 residents but also withstood intensive use of heavy engineering equipment, amounting to approximately 7,101 operational hours, and extensive travel spanning 164,000 kilometers. To further enhance flood protection, an additional



7,500 HESCO barriers are being installed to reinforce the dikes, providing critical safety for the IDP and UNMISS camps, as well as the airstrip. To counter rising water levels, Pakistan METF installed an advanced dewatering system (comprising pumps and drainage channels) to mitigate flood risks in the camp and along the Main Supply Route. This system extracted over 803.60 million liters of rainwater, ensuring safety for IDPs and UNMISS staff while keeping the supply route operational using over 1919 hours of heavy engineering equipment.





To address rising water levels, the Pakistan METF implemented an advanced dewatering system comprising pumps and drainage channels to mitigate flood risks within the camp and along the Main Supply Route. This system successfully extracted over 803.60 million liters of rainwater, ensuring the safety of IDPs and UNMISS personnel while maintaining the operational status of the supply route. These efforts involved the use of heavy engineering equipment for more than 1,919 hours, demonstrating a commitment to sustaining critical infrastructure.

The Pakistan METF also ensured the year-round functionality of the vital Bentiu airstrip, the only logistical link to Juba, through persistent and innovative efforts. By employing advanced drainage solutions and conducting regular maintenance totaling over 1,033 hours—they maintained airstrip



operations even during the severe rainy season. This sustained functionality facilitated the delivery of essential humanitarian aid and transportation under challenging conditions. In addition to serving UN agencies, the airstrip also provided access for local communities and government officials, further highlighting its critical role in the region.

Through proactive strategies, unwavering dedication, and the integration of lessons learned from previous rotations, Pakistan METF successfully prevented any breaches in the dikes during the 2023 wet season. This remarkable achievement safeguarded the IDP and UNMISS camps, ensuring the safety and well-being of their residents. The METF's steadfast commitment not only protected lives but also fostered a sense of hope and resilience among the internally displaced population.

From the UNMISS base in Bentiu, situated next to the country's largest internally displaced persons (IDP) camp, the remnants of a once-thriving forest extend in all directions. What was a verdant expanse of dense vegetation and rich wildlife just four years ago has transformed into a desolate, waterlogged landscape—a stark reminder of the devastating floods that began in 2021. Yet, amidst this bleak scenery, hope is taking root through the 'Green Bentiu Initiative,' spearheaded by Pakistan's Blue Helmets.

This initiative, launched by UNMISS peacekeepers from Pakistan, seeks to rejuvenate the region's damaged ecosystem by planting native trees. With



the goal of restoring the environmental balance disrupted by relentless flooding, the project has already resulted in the planting of 500 native trees. Originally conceived within the Pakistani engineering compound at the UNMISS Field Office, the initiative is now expanding its reach across Unity State, symbolizing resilience and a commitment to environmental restoration.

Despite the demanding nature of its operational tasks, Pakistan METF has consistently demonstrated exceptional performance, achieving a 100% success rate in all inspections. Notably, the unit received a "Beyond Expectation" grading in the

Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA), securing an impressive score of 90.9%. This accomplishment underscores the operational excellence and readiness of Pakistan METF.

The pivotal role played by Pakistan's METF in UNMISS highlights its unwavering dedication to fostering stability and safeguarding vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas. Pakistan's "Blue Berets" have consistently gone above and beyond to support both UNMISS and the South Sudanese government, reaffirming their steadfast commitment to promoting peace, resilience, and development in the region. ESSAYS BY PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPERS

From the Skies to the Ground: Pakistan Aviation's Impact in the Central African Republic

Brig Muhammad Anjum Rafique Commandant Pakistan Aviation Unit-9



Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 (PAU-9) assumed its responsibilities in August 2023, with a clear and noble mission: "To render services for humanity as professionals." Whether supporting ground forces, providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and oppressed populations, conducting Casualty Evacuation/Medical Evacuation (CASEVAC/ MEDEVAC) operations under challenging weather conditions (day or night), or executing VIP and delegation transport missions, PAU-9 has consistently emerged as the first choice for mission planners—a testament to its operational excellence and a proud moment for Pakistan.

Despite facing significant operational, administrative, and environmental challenges, PAU-9 has safely logged over 1,700 flight hours, including 85 hours utilizing Night Vision Goggles (NVG). During this time, the unit has successfully airlifted over 6,000 combat troops and passengers and transported 323,756 kilograms of cargo, including 9 tons of hazardous materials, all in the service of international peace and security.

Since its deployment, PAU-9 has consistently performed beyond the call of duty, earning widespread recognition and commendation from senior officials, multinational ground forces, visiting delegations, and evaluation teams from MINUSCA and the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.

Pakistan Aviation undertook a total of 7 major operations and 17 Casualty Evacuation and Medical Evacuation missions in a hostile environment, marked by challenging weather conditions. The following provides a brief overview of the unit's operational and administrative contributions, highlighting its unwavering commitment to excellence and humanitarian service:

Sustenance Operation N'dele-Diki (Sector Center)

On 12 August 2023, just 10 days after the contingent's arrival in the Central African Republic, Pakistan Aviation was deployed at N'dele to support ground forces in their sustenance operation at Diki. Despite the peak of the rainy season in August, the mission was successfully completed.



Refugee Operation Obo-Mboki (Sector East)

In response to the influx of refugees from South Sudan seeking refuge in the Central African Republic, Pakistan Aviation conducted a humanitarian mission. The unit successfully evacuated 48 refugees from M'Boki, providing critical support to the displaced population.



Nzakoundou Operations (Sector West)

On 21 December 2023, following an attack on the FACA Check Post in Nzakoundou Village, which resulted in civilian casualties and mass displacement, Pakistan Aviation was deployed. On 24 December 2024, the unit landed in the area without ground security or a validated landing zone, under the leadership of the Force Commander. The professionalism and courage displayed by Pakistan Aviation in executing this mission were highly praised.



Humanitarian Relief Operations Nzakoundou (Sector West)

In the aftermath of indiscriminate killings, burnt villages, and destroyed infrastructure, Pakistan Aviation played a pivotal role in providing humanitarian relief. The unit delivered 5,975 kg of critical supplies and facilitated the transportation of Bangladesh and Senegalese troops, enabling the continuation of vital operations.



Stabilization Operation Zemio (Sector East)

Pakistan Aviation contributed significantly to Phase I of the stabilization operation in Zemio, Eastern Sector, from 27 February to 3 March 2024. Deployed as part of the Air Quick Reaction Force with Portugal's Special Forces, the unit completed 23.9 flying hours, airlifting 54 combat troops and 3,339 kg of cargo, including dangerous goods.



Sustenance Operation Bangassou-Bakoma (Sector East)

From 16 to 29 April 2024, Pakistan Aviation was deployed for special operations along the Bangassou-Bakoma axis. The unit accumulated 38.37 flying hours, airlifting 42 combat troops, 10,724 kg of cargo, and 2,989 kg of dangerous goods.



Sustenance Operation Obo-Bambouti (Sector East)

Pakistan Aviation was tasked with the de-induction of ground forces in the Obo-Bambouti region, with operations conducted between 29 April and 9 May 2024, and again from 23 May to 15 June 2024. Notably, the unit successfully transported an aviation fuel trailer, a particularly challenging mission. Over the course of these operations, 124.41 flying hours were logged, and 172 combat troops, 56,323 kg of cargo, and 12,471 kg of dangerous goods were airlifted.



Casualty Evacuation & Medical Evacuation Operations

Pakistan Aviation executed 17 emergent Casualty Evacuation & Medical Evacuation, and Body Evacuation missions, including 3 night/night vision goggles (NVG) operations and 13-day missions, demonstrating its capacity to respond swiftly and effectively in critical situations. The most challenging and noteworthy missions are detailed as follows:

Emergency MEDEVAC of a Bangladesh Quick Reaction Force Soldier

(26 October 2023, Kaga Bandoro)

This mission was executed following an attempted suicide by a Bangladeshi Quick Reaction Force soldier. Conducted near dusk, the operation necessitated a transition to a night landing using NVGs. Adverse weather conditions, including continuous rainfall along the flight route, further complicated the mission. Despite these challenges, the operation was successfully completed, ensuring the timely medical evacuation and preservation of the soldier's life.



MEDEVAC of Sri Lanka Aviation Crew Following Mi-17 Helicopter Crash

(13 January 2024, Sam Ouandja)

This mission involved the urgent evacuation of Sri Lankan aviation personnel after their Mi-17 helicopter crash-landed in Sam Ouandja. The operation required a rapid response to ensure the safe retrieval and medical care of the affected crew members.



CASEVAC of Three Nepalese Infantry Soldiers Following a Road Accident

(12 May 2024, Pombolo)

A critical CASEVAC mission was undertaken to evacuate three severely injured Nepalese infantry soldiers following a road accident in Pombolo. This mission was recognized by the Sector Center Commander as the longest-ever NVGassisted evacuation conducted without refueling, demonstrating exceptional operational endurance and efficiency.



CASEVAC of Four Tunisian Infantry Soldiers in a Remote Jungle Location

(17 May 2024, Bamingui)

This operation involved the evacuation of four critically injured Tunisian infantry soldiers following a road accident in Bamingui. The mission posed significant challenges due to the absence of a suitable Landing Zone (LZ) at the point of injury, necessitating landing on a rocky mountain amid dense jungle terrain. The successful completion of this mission, despite the hazardous conditions, earned commendation from the Sector Center Commander for the crew's prompt response and operational expertise.

These missions highlight the unit's commitment to rapid response, operational precision, and the highest standards of professionalism in conducting complex medical evacuations under adverse conditions.



Joint Training and Operational Readiness Exercises

Due to its exceptional capabilities in the air domain and the extensive combat experience of its flight crews, Pakistan Aviation has remained a preferred partner for joint training initiatives with multiple international military forces. Several key training exercises were conducted, as outlined below:

Joint Training with the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force

(15-16 December 2023 & 13-14 June 2024)

Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 collaborated with the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force in two joint training exercises, conducted on 15–16 December 2023 and 13–14 June 2024. These exercises incorporated both daytime and nighttime drills, including Night Vision Goggle (NVG) operations. The primary focus areas included helicopter-borne operational procedures, designation of landing zones using NVGs, CASEVAC/ MEDEVAC protocols, and landing zone security measures. Acknowledging the professionalism and expertise of the Pakistani pilots, the Commander of the Portuguese Quick Reaction Force awarded a commendation letter to Pakistan Aviation in recognition of their exceptional skill and spirit of camaraderie.



Joint Training with the Bangladesh Air Medical Evacuation Team

(26 December 2023)

On 26 December 2023, Pakistan Aviation, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Level-II Hospital, participated in a Joint Air Medical Evacuation Training Exercise. The primary objective of this exercise was to assess and enhance preparedness for emergency MEDEVAC and CASEVAC operations, ensuring optimal coordination and response under critical conditions.



Validation and Evaluation Exercise of the Newly Formulated MINUSCA CASEVAC SOP

(28–29 February 2024)

A validation and evaluation exercise for the newly formulated MINUSCA CASEVAC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was conducted on 28–29 February 2024. Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 played a central role in this exercise, which was supervised by the MINUSCA implementation team from New York. Demonstrating exceptional readiness and operational efficiency, Pakistan Aviation successfully mobilized within 28 minutes—two minutes ahead of the stipulated reaction time—alongside the Air Medical Evacuation Team (AMET).



CIMIC Activities

In addition to its mandated tasks, Pakistan Aviation organized a series of Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities. These events, characterized by their innovative nature, received widespread coverage in UN magazines and social media platforms, highlighting the unit's commitment to fostering positive community engagement.



Recognition for Environmental Compliance and Innovation

Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 was honored as the second-best contingent for environmental compliance and innovation within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

In an awards ceremony organized by MINUSCA to recognize units demonstrating excellence in environmental maintenance and sustainability efforts in the Central African Republic, Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 emerged as a key recipient. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including special representatives from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), the Force Commander, and the Commissioner of Police.

Pakistan Aviation Unit-9 was widely acknowledged as a highlight of the ceremony, reflecting its commitment to environmental responsibility and innovative operational practices within the mission.





Lessons Learnt

Adaptability in Adverse Conditions

Successful completion of missions during the rainy season and in hostile environments underscores the importance of operational flexibility and adaptability. Notably, the Pakistan Aviation Unit was the only unit that volunteered to undertake operations in such extreme weather conditions, implying the importance of adaptability and compliance given the available circumstances.

Rapid Deployment and Mission Readiness

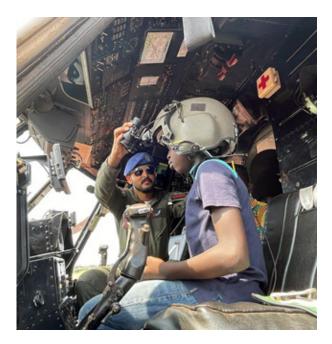
Deploying within 10 days of arrival highlights the value of robust pre-deployment preparation and logistical planning. Maintaining a high state of readiness is essential for effective response in dynamic peacekeeping environments.

Coordination with Ground Forces

Collaboration with ground forces, such as in the sustenance operations and humanitarian missions, demonstrates the necessity of synchronized efforts. Regular joint exercises and communication protocols should be reinforced to enhance coordination.

Risk Management in Unsecured Areas

Operations in unsecured zones without validated landing sites, such as the Nzakoundou mission, highlight the need for thorough risk assessment and mitigation strategies. Advanced reconnaissance tools and contingency planning can further enhance operational safety.





Effective Humanitarian Assistance

The success of humanitarian missions, including the evacuation of refugees and delivery of critical supplies, emphasizes the importance of logistical efficiency and cultural sensitivity. Future missions should integrate lessons from these efforts to refine humanitarian support mechanisms.

Capacity for Multitasking

Conducting diverse operations—ranging from combat troop transport to humanitarian relief illustrates the importance of versatile operational planning. Future deployments should emphasize multi-role capabilities in training and resource allocation.

Conclusion

Over seven decades, UN peacekeeping has demonstrated itself as resilient and an adaptive tool for international peace and security. Missions have projected their reach in the air domain to fulfill their mandate. However, airspace restrictions imposed by host countries vis-à-vis threat to air assets by non-state actors, complex Command and Control processes, financial constraints and limited expertise have barred UN in achieving the strategic objectives. To address the issue, Pakistan Army Aviation due to its inherent capabilities and vast operational experience contributed in filling the void.

ESSAYS BY PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPERS

From Peacekeeping to Self-Reliance: The UN's Exit Strategy in the DRC

Maj Mariam Kiani MO Directorate



Geopolitical and Demographic Profile of the DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), also known as Congo-Kinshasa to distinguish it from its smaller neighbor, the Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), is located in Central Africa. It is a mineral-rich country with vast reserves of gold, diamonds, coltan, cobalt, and copper. In terms of area, the DRC is the second-largest country in Africa, covering 2.345 million square kilometres, and has the fourth-largest population on the continent, with approximately 100 million people.

In 1999, a Pakistani Brigade was assigned the responsibility of bringing peace to the region under the Southern Sector (SS) emblem. However, troop deployment has fluctuated over the years based on UN requirements, with a maximum strength of seven

battalions deployed at a time. During the 2023/24 period, two infantry battalions and an aviation unit remained deployed. Additionally, Uruguay's aviation unit, the Chinese Engineer Company, the Chinese Level-II Hospital, the Bangladesh Military Police (Ban MP), with a total strength of 293 military personnel, and the Egyptian and Jordanian Formed Police Units (FPU) were co-located with 43 Military Observers (MILOBs) and Military Staff Officers (MSOs) from Pakistan across the mission area in Congo.

The Southern Sector Headquarters (HQ SS-19), located in Kavumu, assumed operational responsibility on July 27, 2023. Since then, it has been extensively involved in operational planning, conducting operations, and providing intelligence and logistical support to local security forces (LSFs). South Kivu is marred by deep-rooted intercommunity rivalry and hostility, which extends to government officials, local security forces (LSFs), and other stakeholders. In the absence of the government's authority and the deployment of LSFs, there is a lack of trust between the communities. To date, 54 armed groups (AGs) are active, each defending their own interests. Due to a lack of political will, infrastructure, and employment opportunities, these armed groups resort to engaging in criminal activities (CAs) and human rights violations (HRVs). The reduction of MONUSCO forces over the past four years has further allowed these armed groups to operate with greater freedom in areas that lack MONUSCO's presence.



Pakistan's Contribution towards Peace and Stability in South Kivu/ DRC

Pakistani troops deployed in South Kivu have consistently performed to the highest standard, often going above and beyond the call of duty when necessary. The relative peace and stability in the region, which enabled MONUSCO leadership to plan the withdrawal of forces from South Kivu (compared to the situation in other provinces), is a testament to the effectiveness of the operations conducted by the Pakistani contingent/force. A few key milestones from their two-decade-long mission stand out as particularly significant:

- a. The battalion locations and operating bases in South Kivu became secure zones, providing stability and safety for the local population. This is evident from the fact that people, who were previously dispersed over large areas, gradually began to gather around these bases. These "islands of security" allowed the local government, NGOs, and humanitarian organizations to operate more effectively, providing essential services and support to improve the welfare of the local communities. Examples of such locations include Bunyakiri, Kavumu, Uvira, Mikenge, and Minembwe.
- b. Twelve internally displaced persons (IDP) camps were established within the area of responsibility of the Pakistani contingent/ MONUSCO bases, with nearly 50,000 people residing in these camps (averaging 4,000 to 4,500 IDPs per camp). Pakistani troops constantly monitored these camps, providing extensive support in terms of protection and security to ensure the safety and well-being of the displaced population.
- c. A total of 63 continuous kinetic operations and 2,620 non-kinetic operations, including Key Leader Engagements (KLEs), 1,439 Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities, 21 assistance missions to orphanages, support to 43 schools, and 102 medical camps, significantly improved the security situation in the region. These efforts contributed to the stabilization and overall safety of the area.
- d. Continuous awareness campaigns helped local communities discourage youth from engaging in violence, leading to the highest rate of combatant surrenders in Eastern DRC. Mission leadership acknowledged and appreciated this success. Even in the final year of deployment, 2024, 57 combatants from various armed groups surrendered.



Events Leading to Withdrawal of UN Forces from DRC

The decision to begin withdrawing United Nations forces from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was influenced by several factors indicating both progress and practical challenges in maintaining an extended international presence. The phased withdrawal process has been planned to ensure that the DRC government can progressively handle its security and administrative responsibilities without leading to a resurgence of violence. A few of the factors influencing withdrawal are as under:

a) Improvements in Stability. Over the years, certain areas of the DRC have experienced a

significant reduction in conflict levels, which has allowed for more robust local governance and security forces to take over duties previously managed by UN troops.

- b) Political Pressure and Sovereignty. The DRC government is increasingly demanding a reduction in foreign military presence to reclaim full sovereignty and manage security internally.
- c) Economic Considerations The high cost of maintaining one of the largest UN peacekeeping missions has also prompted the UN to reconsider its long-term deployment strategy, focusing on areas where immediate intervention is critical.



Lessons Learned

Given that the Southern Sector's actions were largely impromptu and driven by necessity, with limited alternatives available, the following recommendations are proffered to facilitate a more seamless transition in the future:

- a) Reality-Based Disengagement Planning. Realistic assessments of the ground situation are crucial for establishing timelines that facilitate a smooth and successful disengagement, preventing unrealistic expectations and potential complications. A unified planning body consisting of stakeholders from the Force Headquarters (FHQ), Mission Support Center (MSC), and Sector should collaborate effectively to achieve a shared end-state.
- b) Training of LSFs.Enhancing the capacity of Local Security Forces (LSFs), particularly the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), is crucial for a sustainable transition. A dedicated four-week training window should be integrated into the withdrawal timelines, ensuring adequate preparation and capacity building for LSFs to assume full responsibility for protecting Civilians (PoC). This comprehensive approach will enable the LSFs to effectively shoulder the security mantle, guarantee a seamless transition, and maintain the hard-won gains in the region, at least for some time.
- c) Guaranteed Engineer Support. Meticulous planning, utilizing all available engineer assets, is essential for the timely and effective rehabilitation of roads. Representatives from both the Force and Mission levels must conduct thorough on-ground reconnaissance to establish informed and realistic disengagement timelines. Continuous engineer support should be provided until completion, ensuring uninterrupted progress and a smooth transition.
- d) Status of Land/ Disposal of UNOE. The Head of Office and Political Affairs should be proactively engaged throughout the disengagement process, playing a key role in promptly addressing sensitive issues related to land status and UN Owned Equipment (UNOE) disposal. Their active involvement will facilitate the timely resolution of potential disputes, ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and maintain a positive legacy of the mission. By doing so, they will help mitigate risks, foster a smooth transition, and uphold the organization's reputation.

- e) Coordinating Repatriation Flights and Base Closure Activities. Movement Control (MovCon) should coordinate with the Mission Support Center (MSC) and Sector Headquarters to finalize repatriation flight dates, taking into account the progress of base closure activities. This collaborative approach will ensure a synchronized and efficient withdrawal process, aligning flight schedules with the pace of base closure and minimizing potential disruptions or delays
- f) Disposal of Surplus & Unserviceable COE. The disposal process for surplus and unserviceable COE (Contingent Owned Equipment) that cannot be repatriated under UN arrangements should begin at least six months in advance to account for potential delays due to procedural requirements and unforeseen circumstances. This proactive approach will ensure a timely and efficient disposal process, reducing the risk of delays and facilitating a smooth transition.
- g) Dedicated Aviation Support. Dedicated and guaranteed aviation support is essential for the closure process, enabling effective planning and execution of personnel and equipment withdrawal. It ensures a reliable and efficient transfer of resources, mitigating risks and ensuring a successful mission conclusion.



Conclusion

The Democratic Republic of Congo stands at a critical juncture. During its deployment, the Pakistani contingent worked diligently to achieve the assigned objectives outlined within MONUSCO's mandate, all while upholding the national flag with pride. The withdrawal of UN forces marks a pivotal step toward self-sufficiency but also tests the resilience of the country's institutions and the international community's commitment to supporting peace without direct intervention. The success of this transition will depend largely on the effective implementation of mitigation strategies that address both the immediate symptoms and the underlying causes of conflict in the region.

ESSAYS BY PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPERS

Women in Uniform: Pakistan's Trailblazers in UN Peacekeeping

Major Komal Masood Served as Staff Officer in MINUSCA



Pakistan's Pioneering Role in UN Peacekeeping

United Nations peacekeeping missions represent one of the most critical tools in global diplomacy. They aim to restore stability, protect civilians, and facilitate the transition to peace in conflict-affected regions. Pakistan, a steadfast contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts for over six decades, has played a pivotal role through its male officers and as a trailblazer in deploying female peacekeepers.

In alignment with the United Nations' gender equality policies and the broader Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, Pakistan began deploying female peacekeepers in 2007. This marked a transformative milestone, reflecting the nation's commitment to promoting gender equality within its armed forces while enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. Recognizing women's unique perspectives, skills, and empathy to such missions, Pakistan's female peacekeepers have become instrumental in bridging cultural gaps, engaging with local communities, and advancing the UN's mandate for inclusive and sustainable peace.

Overcoming Skepticism and Embracing Diverse Roles

Initially, these deployments were met with skepticism and cultural challenges, both domestically and internationally. There was hesitation about women's ability to perform in traditionally maledominated military roles and concerns about their integration into peacekeeping missions. However, the determination, dedication, and professionalism demonstrated by these pioneering women soon dispelled any doubts regarding their capabilities.

From the very beginning, Pakistani female officers were integrated into various crucial roles, showcasing their versatility and diverse skills. They served as military observers, staff officers, and essential members of larger contingents,



effectively contributing to the operational success of peacekeeping missions. These women represented Pakistan and embodied the growing recognition of the need for gender diversity in peacekeeping efforts.

Pakistani female peacekeepers have been deployed in several critical UN missions across the globe. These include high-stakes operations in conflict zones such as MINUSCA in the Central African Republic, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMIL in Liberia, Cyprus under UNFICYP, Western Sahara with MINURSO, Sudan through UNAMID, South Sudan under UNMISS, Greece also in UNFICYP, and Mali through MINUSMA. In these diverse settings, they brought their expertise, empathy, and cultural sensitivity, playing key roles in promoting peace, stability, and gender equality under the guidance of the United Nations.

These deployments highlight their diverse experiences in various conflict zones and their critical roles in promoting peace, stability, and gender equality under the auspices of the United Nations. These contributions have been instrumental in advancing the UN's goals of achieving sustainable peace and strengthening gender equality. As they continue to serve in these challenging environments, Pakistani female peacekeepers remain a testament to the vital role that women play in global peacekeeping efforts and the importance of their inclusion in every facet of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Promoting Gender Sensitivity in Conflict Zones

peacekeepers have Pakistani female made contributions significant beyond traditional peacekeeping operations, promoting a gendersensitive approach in conflict zones. They recognize the unique needs of women and girls, working closely with local communities to empower women and raise awareness of their rights and participation in peacebuilding processes. These peacekeepers advocate for the prevention and response to genderbased violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse. They actively work to integrate gender perspectives into all aspects of peacekeeping, from planning and implementation to evaluation. By challenging gender stereotypes and biases, they foster a more inclusive and equitable peacekeeping environment, ensuring that women's voices are heard and their needs addressed in conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts.



Honoring Pakistani Female Peacekeepers

The contributions of Pakistani female officers to UN peacekeeping have been widely recognized and celebrated both nationally and internationally. Among these officers, Major Komal Masood from MINUSCA and Major Sania Safdar from UNFICYP have stood out for their exceptional dedication and achievements. The officers were honored with



certificates of recognition from the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2023-2024 for their role as Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2023. These awards commend their tireless efforts in advancing gender equality and promoting peace within their respective missions. Their recognition not only celebrates their individual bravery and commitment but also underscores Pakistan's leadership in promoting gender equality in international peacekeeping efforts.

Moreover, globally, the role of women in peacekeeping has significantly increased. In 2022, women made up 7.9% of military, police, justice, and corrections personnel in UN field missions, up from just 1% in 1993. The UN continues to advocate for Member States to deploy more female personnel to achieve peace and security goals.

As Pakistan continues to champion the participation of women in peacekeeping operations, the legacy of its female officers serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact that diversity and representation can have on advancing global peace and security. Their involvement has proven essential in enhancing peacekeeping efforts, as women bring unique perspectives and skills crucial to addressing complex conflict dynamics. These women have played a key role in shaping more inclusive and effective peacebuilding strategies by breaking



barriers and challenging stereotypes. Their contributions not only highlight the importance of gender equality in peacekeeping but also set a strong example for other nations, reinforcing that inclusive participation leads to more sustainable peace processes.

ESSAYS BY PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPERS

Climate Change and UN Peacekeeping: Challenges, Implications, and Adaptive Strategies

Major Arooj Arif Military Operations Directorate



Climate change is increasingly acknowledged as a critical factor shaping the landscape of UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. It poses substantial challenges to both the operational capacity and strategic effectiveness of missions tasked with maintaining peace and stability in conflict-affected regions. It presents significant challenges to peacekeeping operations worldwide, affecting both the operational capacity and strategic effectiveness of missions aimed at maintaining peace and stability in conflict-affected regions. The intersection of environmental degradation, extreme weather events, and socio-economic vulnerabilities complicates the landscape in which peacekeepers operate. Addressing these challenges requires adaptive strategies and innovative approaches to ensure peacekeepers can effectively fulfill their mandates in an evolving global context. Following are some key challenges posed by climate change to UN peacekeeping operations:

Environmental Stressors and Operational Challenges

Climate change poses significant operational challenges for peacekeeping missions by exacerbating environmental stressors and impacting the infrastructure, health, and overall effectiveness of operations in conflict-affected regions.

 Environmental Stressors. Climate change exacerbates environmental stressors such as water scarcity, desertification, and unpredictable weather patterns. These challenges often intensify competition for scarce resources among local communities, potentially fueling or prolonging conflicts that peacekeepers are tasked with managing or resolving.



- Infrastructure Vulnerability. Peacekeeping missions rely heavily on critical infrastructure such as roads, airstrips, and buildings, which can be severely impacted by extreme weather events intensified by climate change. Hurricanes, floods, and storms can damage infrastructure, disrupt supply chains, and hamper mobility, thereby compromising mission effectiveness and safety.
- Health and Safety Risks. Rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns pose significant health risks to peacekeepers, impacting their operational readiness and ability to perform effectively in harsh conditions. Climateinduced health concerns, such as the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria, may also necessitate additional resources for prevention, treatment, and overall health management.

Humanitarian Implications of Climate Change.

Moreover, climate change intensifies humanitarian crises in conflict-affected regions and increases vulnerabilities among local populations, complicating the delivery of aid and support by peacekeeping missions. A few humanitarian implications of climate change are mentioned:

 Displacement and Vulnerability: Climate change contributes to forced displacement as people flee from areas affected by environmental degradation, natural disasters, or resource scarcity. Peacekeepers often find themselves providing humanitarian assistance to displaced populations, managing camps, and protecting vulnerable civilians who are particularly susceptible to exploitation and violence in insecure environments.

- Food and Water Security: Changes in climate patterns impact agricultural productivity and water availability, threatening local food and water security. Peacekeepers may need to support local communities with food aid, water purification, and sustainable agriculture initiatives to mitigate shortages and prevent further instability
- Exacerbation of Inequalities: Climate change often disproportionately impacts marginalized and vulnerable populations, deepening existing social and economic inequalities. Peacekeepers may need to ensure inclusive support, including children and marginalized groups, in humanitarian efforts to build trust and resilience within affected communities.
- Health Crises Among Local Populations: Climate-related factors such as rising temperatures, flooding, and stagnant water contribute to the spread of diseases, including malaria, cholera, and respiratory illnesses. Peacekeepers may need to facilitate access

to healthcare, assist in disease prevention campaigns, and coordinate with humanitarian organizations to address emerging health crises.

Security Implications of Climate Change

Climate change has profound security implications, as it acts as a risk multiplier that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and fuels instability in conflict-prone regions. The interplay between environmental stress, socio-economic grievances, and resource competition creates a volatile landscape, complicating peacekeeping missions tasked with maintaining stability and advancing sustainable peace.

- Conflict Intensification. Climate change intensifies existing conflicts or creates new sources of tension by amplifying competition over dwindling resources, exacerbating grievances, and increasing vulnerability to exploitation by armed groups. This dynamic complicates peacekeeping efforts as missions must navigate complex social, economic, and environmental factors contributing to conflict dynamics.
- Peacebuilding Challenges. Sustainable peacebuilding efforts require addressing root causes of conflict, including environmental degradation and resource scarcity exacerbated by climate change. Peacekeeping missions increasingly incorporate environmental

considerations into conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding strategies to promote long-term stability and resilience.

Operational Responses, Adaptation and Resilience Building.

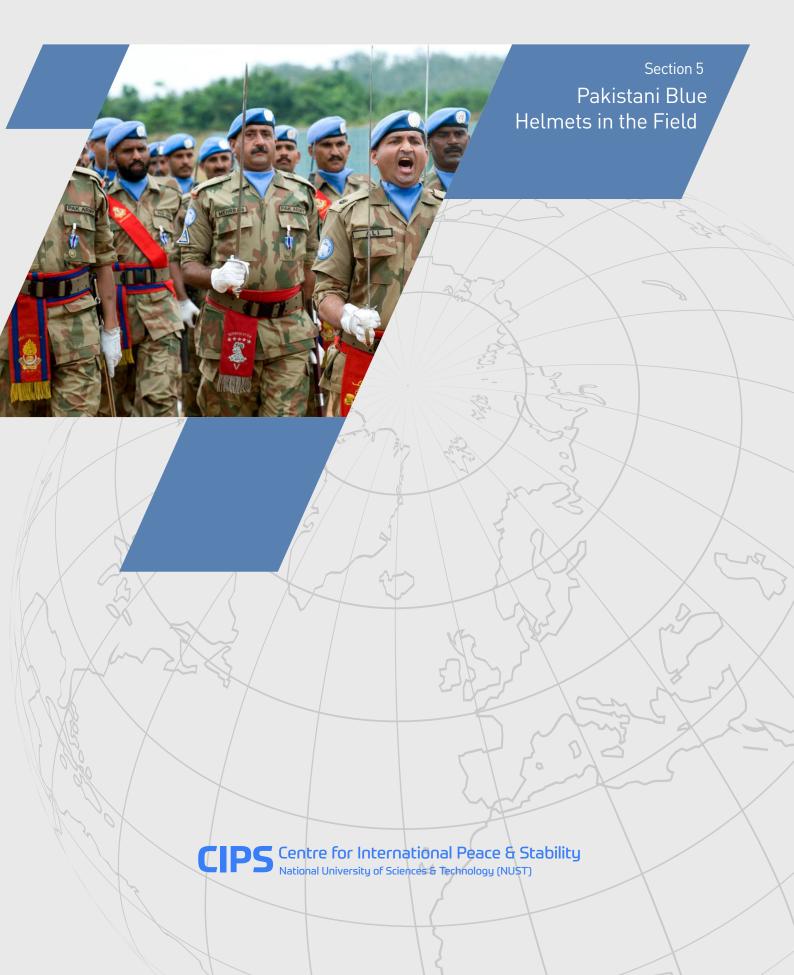
To effectively address the impacts of climate change on peacekeeping operations, adaptive measures and resilience-building efforts are essential. These efforts not only support mission effectiveness but also promote sustainable peacebuilding by addressing root causes of conflict related to resource scarcity and environmental degradation. These include the following:

- **Climate-Sensitive** Mission Planning. Integrating climate risk assessments into mission planning helps peacekeeping operations anticipate and mitigate environmental hazards, enhance preparedness, and improve operational resilience. This includes developing strategies to protect infrastructure, manage critical natural resources sustainably, and respond effectively climate-related emergencies. to
- Sustainable Practices. Adopting sustainable practices within peacekeeping operations, such as reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy sources, and practicing responsible waste management, contributes to environmental conservation efforts and supports local communities in building resilience to climate impacts.



International Cooperation. Addressing the impacts of climate change on peacekeeping operations requires international cooperation and collaboration among UN agencies, member states, humanitarian organizations, and local stakeholders. Multilateral efforts to enhance resilience. support sustainable climate development, and strengthen peacebuilding capacities are essential for addressing the interconnected challenges posed by climate change and conflict. Collaborative initiatives between peacekeeping missions, humanitarian agencies, and local communities can leverage expertise and resources to address shared challenges and enhance the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts.

In conclusion, climate change poses complex challenges to peacekeeping operations by exacerbating environmental stressors, humanitarian emergencies, and security risks in conflict-affected regions. These challenges are particularly acute in fragile states, where the confluence of climate change, resource scarcity, and ongoing conflict can create a volatile Addressing environment. these challenges requires proactive measures to enhance resilience, promote sustainable development, and strengthen international cooperation. By integrating climate considerations into peacekeeping strategies and operations, the international community can better support peace efforts and build a more secure and sustainable future for all. Moreover, UN peacekeepers must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to address climate-induced conflicts and migration, recognizing that climate change is an environmental issue and a critical peace and security challenge. Adapting peacekeeping missions to the realities of climate change will enable more effective responses to the evolving dynamics of conflict, ultimately contributing to long-term stability and peace in vulnerable regions.



A Journey for Peace - MONUSCO

22 June 2024 |



On 22 June 2024, 1 FF Regiment successfully concluded its mission as part of the United Nations Security Force in Congo (MONUSCO). The Battalion's professionalism, bravery, and strategic acumen during the peacekeeping mission were highly commendable. The Unit's exceptional contributions included extensive operational activities, with a total of 2,671 patrols, including escorts. Furthermore, the Battalion conducted 59 community outreach and Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities, 20 of which were highlighted in MONUSCO's Force Reports. Notably, the largest contingent of Pakistani women was commanded by the Battalion.

The Battalion achieved an impressive 87.19% result during the Operational Efficiency Inspection, the best among all infantry units, and a 98.06% result during the third inspection of Contingent Owned Equipment, which was also exemplary. One of the most significant roles played by the Unit was the successful closure of all Permanent Operating Bases (POBs) during the deinduction of the Pakistani contingent from Congo, which involved both auctioning and donating equipment.

A special Quick Reaction Force (QRF) deployment was carried out at Goma (Sake) to assist an Indian battery, which was operating outside its designated area of responsibility (AOR) and had been ordered



by UN authorities to engage with rebels. As a result, citations were initiated for 20 individuals at UN Headquarters. The Force Commander visited the site and praised the troops for effective control in the area.

The Regiment hosted visits from several distinguished individuals, including the Under-Secretary-General (USG) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG). The SRSG highlighted the Pakistan Army's significant role in peacekeeping during the annual UN meeting. Unit also provided special training to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and local police during the de-induction process to maintain stability in the AOR.

The entire process of extricating the Contingent Owned Equipment was efficiently managed by the Regiment, including the closure of five Permanent Operating Bases. The closure of Baraka, which took nearly a month due to the lack of dry patches on the road, was marked as a particularly effective step in the overall closure of the bases. The regiment's contributions were also acknowledged by the local population, who highlighted their role to various visitors. Overall, the 1 FF Regiment significantly enhanced the reputation of the Pakistan Army through its dedication, valor, and professionalism.





A Journey for Peace - UNISFA

24 January 2025



On 24 January 2025, the 24 Sindh Regiment successfully completed its mission as part of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The Regiment's professionalism, bravery, and strategic acumen during the peacekeeping mission were highly commendable. Among its exceptional contributions, the unit successfully confiscated a large number of dangerous weapons from anti-peace elements, including an armored personnel carrier armed with ammunition, heavy anti-aircraft guns, and numerous grenades an unprecedented achievement in the history of UNISFA.

The Unit transformed Sector North into the only "Weapon-Free Zone" in the entire mission area, fostering a sense of peace and normalcy. Additionally, the 24 Sindh Regiment holds the distinction of receiving seven commendation certificates, along with appreciation from Sudan, South Sudan, the local community, and even from New York. During the International Peacekeeping Conference, both the Under-Secretary-General (USG) and the Director of Military Affairs (DMILAD) specifically highlighted the Regiment's exceptional performance, declaring it the most distinguished battalion in the mission.

A testament to the unit's operational readiness was its remarkable 94% evaluation score in the Mission Performance Evaluation Team's assessment, underscoring the exceptional training standards of the Pakistan Army. Due to the outstanding efforts and exemplary performance of the 24 Sindh Regiment, the UN's Military Capability Study Team approved the deployment of an additional battalion from Pakistan to further strengthen the UNISFA peace mission. One brave son Sepoy Tariq made the ultimate sacrifice in performance of services for the peace.

In terms of soft power initiatives, the unit utilized its own resources to reconstruct local schools and provide educational materials, thereby enabling local children to access education. This initiative exemplified the Unit's multidimensional approach, extending beyond military operations to demonstrate the contingent's sincerity and compassion for community welfare.

Overall, the 24 Sindh Regiment significantly enhanced the reputation of the Pakistan Army through its sacrifices, valor, and professionalism in the United Nations mission.



A Shared Commitment for Peace – Heads of Military Component Convene At UNHQ

Colonel Umar Shafique – United Nations Headquarters



The Heads of Military Components Conference (HoMCC), organized annually by the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Office of Military Affairs (OMA), convenes at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This conference serves as a unique platform that brings together the Heads of Military Components and Force Commanders of DPO-led peacekeeping missions. The 22nd HoMCC, held from 10 to 14 June 2024, centered on the theme A4P+: "Advancing peacekeeping effectiveness for sustainable peace by ensuring the right capability, in the right place and at the right time with the right mindset." The event aimed to critically analyze emerging challenges-both kinetic and nonkinetic-harmonize strategies, consolidate best practices, and recommend a forward-looking approach aligned with the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) initiative.

The conference facilitated an in-depth assessment, consultation, and engagement on the priorities and cross-cutting thematic issues of A4P+. It brought together a diverse group of participants, including military and civilian peacekeeping practitioners, technology experts, policymakers, academics, and representatives of civil society organizations. The event featured keynote speeches, case studies, panel discussions, and interactive forums. These sessions, coupled with opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing, significantly enhanced strategic foresight, preparedness, coordination, and resilience among participants.

The 2024 HoMCC witnessed the participation of all DPO-led Field Mission Force Commanders (FCs) along with their accompanying staff. In addition to field mission representatives, the leadership of UN Headquarters, including the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations (USG DPO), the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support (USG DOS), and other senior officials, graced the occasion. OMA leadership, staff officers, and members from various pillars of the UN Headquarters supporting DPO-led missions also contributed as presenters on topics relevant to the conference theme.

The discussions and critical analyses undertaken during the conference not only enhanced strategic foresight, coordination, and resilience but also fostered innovation and effectiveness in peacekeeping operations. The deliberations under the A4P and A4P+ initiatives resulted in



the establishment of realistic goals and priority areas for the continued evolution of peacekeeping practices.

As part of the conference, HoMCC delegates were invited to the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN (PAREP), Ambassador Munir Akram, warmly welcomed the participants, while the Military Advisor to PAREP, Colonel Umar Shafique, delivered a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's contributions to global peace. Delegates commended Pakistan's role as one of the top troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping operations. The visit concluded with a luncheon hosted by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan, marking a historic first of its kind. This gesture of hospitality was widely lauded and resonated positively within UN circles.



Pakistan's Active Participation in Advancing Peacekeeping Training: Exercise Blue Flag, Germany

Lt Col Usama Tufail Overseas Operation Cell, GHQ Pakistan



Introduction to the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre

Lindau, situated on the picturesque shores of Lake Constance in Bavaria, Germany, is home to the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre. This premier facility of the German Armed Forces specializes in pre-deployment training, offering realistic, role-player-based exercises to prepare military and civilian personnel for complex international missions.

The Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre is committed to delivering requirement-oriented, hands-on training in collaboration with NATO, the United Nations, and international partners. By employing modern training technologies and adhering to quality standards, the center ensures personnel are effectively prepared for contemporary and future peacekeeping missions.

Overview of the Exercise Blue Flag

Among the numerous exercises conducted by the Bundeswehr Training Centre is the Exercise Blue Flag — a cornerstone initiative within their UN Military



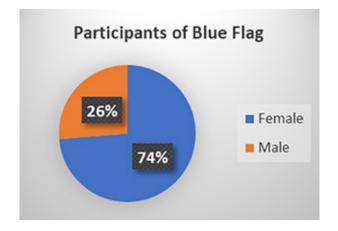
Observer Course. This exercise is conducted under the "4 PCE Flag" framework—a collaborative effort among military training centers in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The exercise, held from 27–30 June 2024, serves as a simulation of real-world scenarios to prepare United Nations Military Observers for deployment.

Participation and Contributions of Pakistan

In 2024, Pakistan participated as an observer delegation, led by Brig Muhammad Shoaib, Director of the Overseas Operations Cell. This delegation had the privilege of observing the intricate and challenging scenarios of Exercise Blue Flag. The exercise featured a diverse group of participants, including 26 international and 12 German student officers, 12 instructors, and 120 role players. Lieutenant Colonel Kiran Ali of the Pakistan Army contributed as an instructor, highlighting Pakistan's active engagement in peacekeeping initiatives.

Execution and Key Components of Exercise Blue Flag

The exercise commenced with a formal opening ceremony attended by delegations from multiple nations, including Pakistan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Austria, Thailand, and Finland. Participants were divided into two teams and tasked with managing dynamic, scenario-based challenges, such as humanitarian aid missions, negotiation exercises, and conflict resolution. Exercise Blue Flag was a female dominant exercise having 74 % Female Participation. It is the intent of the German Government to contribute significantly to raise the



number of females in category of United Nations Military Observers for deployment.

Key Learning Outcomes and Strategic Insights

Exercise Blue Flag was meticulously designed to achieve several critical objectives, including enhancing operational readiness, fosterina interoperability, and strengthening crisis and conflict management capabilities. The Bundeswehr, in collaboration with its allied counterparts, demonstrated seamless coordination, highlighting the vital role of interoperability in contemporary military operations. As observers, the delegation was particularly impressed by the exercise's emphasis on cross-cultural engagement, multinational cooperation, and the unwavering commitment of participants to excel in their preparation for United Nations deployments. Exercise Blue Flag provided invaluable insights and learning opportunities, which included:

- Operational Adaptability: Enhanced decisionmaking skills through exposure to complex, evolving scenarios.
- Cultural Competence: Strengthened understanding of local customs and practices to build trust and facilitate effective communication.
- Leadership and Collaboration: Fostered leadership capabilities and promoted seamless coordination among diverse stakeholders.

Opportunities for Bilateral Engagement and Networking

Exercise Blue Flag also provided a platform for meaningful bilateral discussions and networking. The Pakistani delegation shared insights on training methodologies at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Pakistan, and highlighted the upcoming 28th IAPTC Annual Conference, scheduled for 04–08 November 2024.



Key dignitaries engaged during these interactions included:

- Major General Chumphot Nurakkate, Director of Peace Operations Centre, Thailand
- Brigadier General (R) Stephen Kabanda, former Zambian Armed Forces
- Colonel Knappe, Staff Officer, German Ministry
 of Defense
- Colonel A. Staub, Commandant, Swiss Training Centre "International Command"
- Colonel Wolf, Commandant, Dutch School for Peace Operations

Conclusion: Strengthening International Peacekeeping Collaboration

Exercise Blue Flag at the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre exemplified the spirit of international cooperation and commitment to global security. For Pakistan, participation in the exercise offered valuable insights into contemporary peacekeeping practices while fostering mutual respect and collaboration with Germany and other partner nations.



Training on Climate, Peace & Security at Slovenia

Lt Col Hassan Chaudhary – 18 Signals Battalion



The Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) in Slovenia conducted the 2nd edition of the specialized training program on Climate Security at Jable Castle, Slovenia, from 20-22 May 2024. It covered different impacts of climate change on peace and security. In a groundbreaking initiative, Slovenia has taken the lead in addressing the critical intersection of climate change, peace, and security. Recognizing climate change as a security issue and a significant global threat multiplier, POTC developed an extensive training program in 2023, covering various impacts of climate change on peace and security worldwide. The 1st edition of this training was held on April 2023 and had 33 participants from 25 countries.

The 2024 edition was built upon pilot delivery, incorporating subject matter changes to provide an updated and enhanced learning experience. The training was part of the country's efforts to prioritize climate security in peace operations. It was attended by police, military, and civilian personnel from international missions and operations. The aim of training was to equip international mission personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complex relationships between climate change, peacebuilding and security. This training session demonstrated Slovenia's dedication to addressing the pressing issue of climate change and its impact on peace and security. The country's efforts to prioritize climate security in peace operations are a step in the right direction toward creating a more sustainable and peaceful world.

The training was supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. It was a joint initiative between the Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The training program was designed to achieve the following objectives:

• Provided participants with a fundamental understanding of the interconnections between



climate change, peacebuilding, and security, including the impact of climate change on vulnerable social groups.

- Educated participants on the international legal framework regarding climate change and its implications for global peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts.
- Highlighted the critical role of water infrastructure and access to water in enabling climate security.
- Address environmental issues affecting international missions and operations with real-world examples from the field.
- Clarified the mandate and capabilities of climate advisors in international missions.
- Introduced participants to adaptation and mitigation approaches employed by international missions and operations.

• Gender dimensions in climate-related conflicts were discussed in detail.

The training featured a range of activities, including:

- Expert-led lectures were delivered on the Nexus between climate change, peacebuilding, and security.
- Interactive discussions facilitated knowledge sharing and understanding of the issue.
- Real-world case studies illustrated the practical applications of the training.
- Collaborative and individual exercises reinforced learning and built skills.

Climate Change, Peace, and Security Training is a vital step towards addressing the pressing challenges of our time. As climate change affects peace operations worldwide, this training empowered international mission personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate these complex issues. Slovenia's leadership in this initiative sets a precedent for other nations to follow, paving the way towards a more sustainable and peaceful future. Slovenia's commitment to peace efforts and climate security is evident in its activities in the UN Security Council. The country has been actively engaged in promoting peace and security and addressing environmental challenges. The training was a vital step in addressing the challenges posed by climate change in peace operations. By empowering international mission personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills, this program contributed to creating a more sustainable and peaceful future.

PAKISTANI BLUE HELMETS IN THE FIELD Major Sania Safdar: A Trailblazer in UN Peacekeeping



In a proud moment for Pakistan and the Pakistan Army, Major Sania Safdar has made history as the first UN peacekeeper in Cyprus to receive the prestigious **2023 Certificate of Recognition** for her unwavering commitment to advocating gender equality.

Currently serving as the Mission's Force Signal Officer with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Major Safdar's achievement shines a spotlight on the vital contributions of Pakistani female peacekeepers to global peacekeeping missions. The award, presented by Colin Stewart, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Cyprus, underscores her exemplary efforts in advancing the UN's agenda on gender equality.

The award, issued by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations in New York, not only honors Major Safdar's individual contributions but also highlights Pakistan's commitment to inclusive peacekeeping efforts.

In her acceptance statement, Major Safdar reflected

on the significance of this recognition, saying: "Receiving this certificate as the first peacekeeper from UNFICYP is deeply meaningful to me. It represents a milestone not just for me personally but also for the Pakistan Army Mission in Cyprus."

Her accomplishment reinforces Pakistan's growing reputation for providing highly skilled and dedicated female peacekeepers to UN missions around the world.

This recognition of Major Sania Safdar's work is a testament to the transformative role women can play in peacekeeping, inspiring future generations of Pakistani women to contribute to global peace and stability.

Pakistan: A Leader in Female Peacekeeping As a member of one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, Pakistan has been at the forefront of promoting female participation in global peace operations. Major Safdar's recognition serves as another milestone in this journey, reflecting the excellence and professionalism of Pakistan's female peacekeepers.

Major Komal Masood: A Visionary in the Central African Republic



Major Komal Masood, deployed with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), has been honored with the 2024 UN Gender Advocacy Award for her remarkable contributions to advancing gender equality in one of the world's most challenging conflict zones.

During her tenure, Major Komal displayed exceptional professionalism and dedication by promoting the active participation of women in peacekeeping initiatives. Her efforts to establish platforms for local women to voice their concerns and engage in security discussions have significantly strengthened the mission's effectiveness in fostering peace and stability.

The award, created by the UN Department for Peace Operations (DPO), recognizes peacekeepers who have integrated gender perspectives into their work. Major Komal received her award at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York**, in a ceremony that celebrated her transformative contributions to peacekeeping.

According to Pakistan's Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), Major Komal demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment, making significant strides in empowering women and promoting sustainable peace in the region.

A Landmark Achievement for Pakistani Peacekeepers

The historic recognition of Major Sania Safdar as the **first-ever recipient of this award in Cyprus** and Major Komal Masood's transformative work in the Central African Republic underscores the exceptional contributions of Pakistani peacekeepers to global peace efforts. These achievements highlight Pakistan's ongoing commitment to gender-inclusive peacekeeping, inspiring future generations to champion equality and justice in peacebuilding missions worldwide.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOYCE C SITIENEI

President IAPTC Executive Committee

During 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference

04 - 08 November 2024

Training institutes such as the Centre for International Peace and Stability, play a crucial role in preparing personnel for the complexities of operations, tailored training programmes, improving the competencies and readiness of military, police and civilian personnel while equipping them with essential skills, and foster a deeper understanding of the challenges they may encounter.

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INTERNATIONAL VISITS, ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Strengthening Iran-Pakistan Ties for Peace and Stability



On 26 July 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) had the honor of hosting an esteemed delegation from Islamic Republic of Iran. The visitors were warmly received by Senior Research Fellow, Brig Sajjad Ahmad and GSO-1 Training, Col Masroor. The discussions during the visit centered on advancing future collaborations and strengthening the fraternal ties between Iran and Pakistan. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to advancing peace and stability through mutual cooperation and strategic partnership, marking the visit as a significant step toward deeper bilateral relations.

As a gesture of goodwill, the delegation was presented with the official copy of the annual CIPS Magazine and the prestigious NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability as souvenirs.

Visit of National Defence University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



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German Delegation Visits CIPS



A distinguished German delegation recently visited the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), where they were warmly received by Brig Sajjad Ahmad, Head of the Peacekeeping Training (PKT) Department, and Col Masroor, G1 Training. During their visit, the delegation was given an in-depth briefing on CIPS' extensive contributions to peacekeeping, highlighting its role in capacity building and its distinction as a United Nations-certified training centre. The discussion underscored CIPS' commitment to advancing peacekeeping training through innovative approaches and international collaboration.



As a gesture of appreciation, Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, Principal of NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS), presented the delegation with souvenirs, marking the visit as a significant step in strengthening ties between CIPS and its international partners.

Visit by the head of UN Peackeeping Training Centres, Germany

Colonel Werner Klaffus, Commandant of the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre at Hammelburg and Wildflecken, Bavaria, visited the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) on invitation of the Military Operations Directorate. This visit underscored mutual commitment to advancing global peacekeeping training and education.



The delegation was warmly welcomed by Brig Sajjad Ahmad, Head of the Peacekeeping Training (PKT) Department, and Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean CIPS. During an in-depth briefing, Colonel Klaffus was introduced to the comprehensive activities and achievements of CIPS in the realm of peacekeeping, including its pivotal role in capacity building and its unique position as a premier United Nations-certified training centre.

A highlight of the session was the detailed overview of CIPS' UN-certified courses, such as the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course



(CPOC), Pre-Deployment Training Course (PDTC), Military Observer Course (MOC), and Staff Officer Course (SOC). Colonel Klaffus reciprocated by sharing insights into the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre's offerings, particularly the Military Observer (MILOB) Course and its specialized peacekeeping training programs for civilians.

The exchange of ideas culminated in discussions about potential collaboration and future partnerships, aiming to synergize the strengths of both institutions to enhance the global peacekeeping landscape.

Colonel Klaffus also explored the cutting-edge infrastructure of CIPS, including the recently inaugurated facilities and the Virtual Reality (VR) Training Room. He commended CIPS for its innovative training methodologies and state-of-theart resources.

To commemorate the visit, souvenirs were exchanged. Colonel Klaffus was presented with a copy of CIPS' Annual Magazine and the NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS), showcasing the institution's dedication to academic excellence and research in peace and conflict studies.

The visit served as a cornerstone for advancing stronger ties between CIPS and the Bundeswehr United Nations Training Centre, paving the way for collaborative efforts in promoting peace and stability across the globe.



Iranian Delegation Explores Collaboration with CIPS at NUST



From 16 to 20 December 2024, a distinguished delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) at NUST, Islamabad. The visit marked an important step in fostering academic and research collaborations between CIPS and international partners.

During their visit, the delegation was warmly received by CIPS leadership and provided an extensive briefing on the center's mission, vision, and contributions to peace and conflict studies. The briefing also highlighted CIPS's affiliation with NUST, Pakistan's premier university, renowned for its innovationdriven approach and interdisciplinary excellence.

A key highlight of the visit was the delegation's tour of the newly inaugurated CIPS building, which features state-of-the-art facilities designed to support advanced research and training. The delegation also had the opportunity to experience the center's cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR) room. This innovative facility showcases CIPS's commitment to leveraging modern technology in peacekeeping training and research.



The Iranian delegation expressed keen interest in CIPS's initiatives, including its focus on promoting research in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and post-conflict development. Discussions explored potential areas of collaboration, such as knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and participation in training programs.



INTERNATIONAL VISITS BY CIPS FACULTY

Participation in the Annual General Meeting and Workshop of the Association of Asia-Pacific Peace Operations Training Centers (AAPTC) by Brig Imran Rashid Retd and Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd



The Asia Pacific Centre for Training (AAPTC) is a key initiative designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations under the United Nations mandate. It brings together centers and government institutions from the Asia Pacific region, focusing on the training and education of personnel from national armed forces, security forces, and civilians appointed to participate in UN peacekeeping missions. AAPTC's core objective is to ensure the preparedness of peacekeepers by promoting advanced training methods and fostering international cooperation in peacekeeping education. This year, the 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Workshop, held from 27-30 May 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, will center on the development of multi-dimensional peacekeeping training modules, with a particular emphasis on leveraging new technologies to address evolving asymmetric threats in the UN peace operation environment.

At the AGM, Brig Imran Rashid and Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan HI(M) from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS)

represented Pakistan, underscoring the nation's long-standing contribution as a Troop Contributing Country (TCC) in UN peacekeeping operations. Brig Rashid highlighted Pakistan's significant role in peacekeeping missions globally, emphasizing its commitment to maintaining peace and stability in conflict zones. He also discussed the vital role of CIPS in training and preparing peacekeepers, positioning the center as a leader in peacekeeping education and research. His presentation reflected Pakistan's ongoing dedication to supporting the UN's peacekeeping efforts and the strategic importance of institutions like CIPS in shaping future peacekeeping strategies.

This participation further solidified Pakistan's position as a key player in international peacekeeping efforts and reinforced CIPS' commitment to advancing peacekeeping training and research. Through such engagements, Pakistan continues to contribute to global peacekeeping, ensuring that peacekeepers are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to face the complexities of modern peace operations.



Dr. Muhammad Makki represents CIPS at Zentrumstage 2024 Conference in Germany



Dr. Makki, Associate Dean of the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), presented his paper at the Zentrumstage 2024 & Annual Conference held from 9 – 11 October 2024, at Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany. His research, titled "Reclaiming 'Peace': Examining Epistemological and Methodological Constraints in Peace Studies," critically examined the contested nature of peace and security concepts, addressing how historical and theoretical limitations influence the field.

The conference, themed "Historicities of Security and

Peace," was jointly organized by the Collaborative Research Center "Dynamics of Security," the Center for Conflict Studies, and the EUPeace Research Hub "Security and Conflict Transformation." It convened scholars and practitioners to explore the evolving interpretations of peace and security across different epochs, emphasizing their contested and contextual character. Dr. Makki's participation underscored CIPS' commitment to contributing to global scholarly discourse on peace studies and enhancing its engagement with international academic communities.

CIPS-NUST Marks Successful Completion of CRDF Fellowship in Nuclear Security, Strengthening Global Collaborations with Participation by Dr. Rubina Waseem and Ms. Haleema Sadia

The Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) proudly announces the successful completion of the CRDF Fellowship Project 2024 by Dr. Rubina Waseem, Assistant Professor at CIPS, and Ms. Haleema Sadia, PhD scholar at NUST. This prestigious fellowship, supported by Global Affairs Canada's (GAC) Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP), aimed at empowering women in nuclear security, marking a significant achievement for CIPS-NUST.

Representing Pakistan on the international stage, Dr. Waseem and Ms. Sadia participated in a capstone workshop in Vienna, Austria, where they engaged with global experts, shared insights from their research, and contributed to discussions on best practices in nuclear security and nonproliferation. As part of their visit, they had the esteemed opportunity to tour the United Nations headquarters and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) laboratories, where they



showcased NUST's research initiatives and explored advancements in nuclear security.

The fellowship provided Dr. Waseem and Ms. Sadia with advanced training, equipping them with critical skills and resources that they are now integrating into projects at CIPS. Their experience will not only benefit their academic community but also contribute to strengthening nuclear security in Pakistan. Their participation underscores the importance of inclusive leadership in nuclear security, particularly in empowering women within the field, and highlights NUST's commitment to global peace and security.

This milestone reaffirms CIPS' dedication to cuttingedge research, policy engagement, and leadership development in nuclear security. Through initiatives like the CRDF Fellowship, CIPS-NUST continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening Pakistan's contributions to international security, reinforcing the university's vision for a more peaceful and cooperative global landscape.

Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan HI(M), Retd represents CIPS at the International Peace and Security Symposium 2024



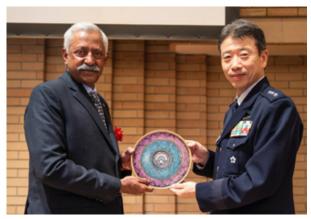
International Peace and Security Symposium 2024 was hosted by the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center Tokyo on 6 December 2024. Principal NIPCONS and President Executive Committee of IAPTC, Major General Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd delivered the keynote address. The event was attended by prominent global experts, academics, and practitioners dedicated to advancing international peace and security.

In his thought-provoking address titled "Challenges in International Peace Operations – Toward Strengthening Partnerships", Principal NIPCONS underscored the evolving nature of peacekeeping missions in response to dynamic global conflict landscapes. He highlighted the journey of United Nations peacekeeping from its early years of ceasefire monitoring to its current multifaceted roles, encompassing political processes, protection of civilians, human rights monitoring, and postconflict reconstruction.

The Symposium featured a series of panel discussions and presentations that covered a wide range of themes including the protection of civilians in the conflict zones and integration of new technologies in peacekeeping efforts. Participants engaged in fruitful discussions, sharing experiences and best practices to strengthen future peacekeeping initiatives.



Principal NIPCONS concluded his speech with actionable recommendations, including the need for harmonized training standards, stronger community engagement, and a renewed focus on preventive diplomacy. CIPS (NIPCONS) remains committed to contributing to global peace and security through active participation in international forums and collaborations.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL MUHAMMAD ALI, HI(M), RETD

Secretary Defence, Pakistan

During 28th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference

04 - 08 November 2024

The Pakistani government in general and our premier training institute in particular is proud to be providing intellectually groomed and professionally well trained peacekeepers in the UN service.



GUEST LECTURES AND CONFERENCES Ambassador Johar Saleem Discusses Gaza Conflict at CIPS



On 18 April 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) had the distinct honor of hosting Ambassador Johar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and former Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Saleem, a seasoned diplomat and former Director General of the Foreign Service Academy, delivered a distinguished guest lecture titled **"The Gaza Conflict and its Global Reverberations."** The thought-provoking lecture offered deep insights into the complexities of the Gaza conflict and its far-reaching implications on global peace and security. Following the session, an engaging faculty interaction took place, led by the Associate Dean of CIPS and Ambassador Saleem. The discussions explored avenues for mutual collaboration, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening the partnership between CIPS and the IRS.

Dr. Ashfaque Hasan Khan Explores Geo-Economic Trends at CIPS



On 6 May 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, hosted a distinguished guest lecture featuring Dr. Ashfaque Hasan Khan, a renowned economist and Director General of the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS).

Dr. Khan shared his profound insights on **Emerging Geo-Economic Trends and the Dynamics of Regional Blocs**, offering students an in-depth understanding of the shifting global landscape. Drawing from his extensive expertise, he unraveled the complexities of the evolving geo-economic paradigm, equipping attendees with a nuanced perspective on the interplay between regional alliances and global economics.

CIPS extends its gratitude to Dr. Khan for his enriching discourse, which has undoubtedly broadened the horizons of the participants. Such events continue to enhance the academic vibrancy of CIPS and provide unparalleled learning opportunities for future leaders.

Dr. Serena Hussain Illuminates the Society and Politics of Jammu and Kashmir



On 7 May 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) hosted a thought-provoking guest lecture on **"Society and Politics of Jammu and Kashmir."** The session featured Dr. Serena Hussain, an accomplished scholar and Associate Professor at Coventry University, United Kingdom.

Dr. Hussain provided a comprehensive analysis of the intricate socio-political dynamics of Jammu and Kashmir, with a particular focus on the repercussions of the abrogation of the region's special status. Her critical insights, supported by extensive research, offered a fresh perspective that captivated both students and faculty members.

The lecture concluded with an engaging Q&A session, allowing participants to delve deeper into the socio-political context of the region. Dr. Hussain's expertise enriched the understanding of the audience, making the event a valuable addition to CIPS' efforts to promote critical discourse on pressing global and regional issues.

Guest Lecture by Mr. Jonas Alberoth: The Quest for International Peace and Security



On 8 May 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) had the privilege of hosting Mr. Jonas Alberoth, a renowned expert in global affairs and peace operations, for a distinguished guest lecture and interactive session with postgraduate students.

Mr. Alberoth, affiliated with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in Sweden and the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC), delivered a lecture titled **"The Quest for International Peace and Security."** He explored the historical and contemporary role of the United Nations in maintaining global peace, shedding light on the complexities and challenges inherent in international peacekeeping efforts.

The session offered students a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the intricacies of global peace operations. CIPS extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Alberoth for his invaluable contribution to the lecture series and his commitment to fostering knowledge on critical issues of peace and security.

Guest Lecture by Dr. Kenneth Holland: Higher Education and Peacebuilding



On 24 September 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) hosted a distinguished guest lecture by Dr. Kenneth Holland, Chief of Party for the USAID Higher Education Project in Pakistan under the Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), implemented by the University of Utah.

Dr. Holland's lecture, focused on "The Role of Higher Education in Fostering Peace in Transitional and Post-Conflict Countries," offered a profound exploration of how education serves as a catalyst for peacebuilding and stability. Drawing from his extensive experience in leading higher education development projects in Afghanistan, Iraq, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and Myanmar, Dr. Holland provided practical insights and innovative approaches to leveraging education for peace in challenging contexts.

CIPS expresses its gratitude to Dr. Holland for sharing his expertise and enriching the academic discourse on the transformative power of education in conflict-affected regions. His lecture was a valuable contribution to CIPS' ongoing efforts to explore multidimensional solutions for peace and stability.

4th International Conference on Business, Management and Social Sciences (ICBMASS-2024)

The 4th International Conference on Business, Management & Social Sciences (ICBMASS-2024) was held on 22–23 April 2024, hosted by the NUST Business School (NBS), with significant contributions from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). This year's theme, **"The Digital Revolution and its Impact on the Workforce of Developing Economies: Opportunities and Threats,"** explored the profound implications of technological advancements on labor markets in developing economies, emphasizing both opportunities and challenges.

The conference brought together a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Prof. Dr. Cihan Cobanoglu (University of South Florida), Dr. Muhammad Zahid (Bahria University), Dr. Faizan Ali (University of South Florida), Dr. Moeen Ahmad Moon (Air University), Mr. Qanit Khalilullah (Economist and Public Policy Expert), Prof. Radu Burlacu (Grenoble IAE-INP), and Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi (Muslim Youth University). These experts shared diverse perspectives on critical issues such as workforce automation, digital skill gaps, cybersecurity, climate



resilience, and economic transitions driven by rapid technological change. The sessions underscored the need for a multidisciplinary approach to navigating the complexities of the digital revolution.

ICBMASS – 2024 exemplified NUST's commitment to advancing impactful research and dialogue on pressing global issues. By providing a platform for academia, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange ideas, the conference continues to advance actionable strategies for addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities of the digital era, particularly for developing economies.



WORKSHOPS

Academic Writing Workshop

6 – 7 March 2024



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) recently organized a two-day academic writing workshop from 6 – 7 March 2024, aimed at equipping researchers and students with advanced writing and research skills. The workshop provided participants with valuable insights into research methodologies and tools, empowering them to navigate the intricacies of academic research with confidence and precision.

The workshop featured a lineup of esteemed guest speakers, each an expert in their respective fields as enlisted below:

- Dr. Muhammad Makki : Master the Art of Technical Writing for Journal Publications
- Dr. Humaira Shafi: Unlock your Academic Writing Potential: Essays, Reports and Briefs
- Dr. Najimdeen Bakare: The Art of Research Proposal Writing
- Ms. Khudaija Ashfaq Ahmad: Unlock the Secrets of Effective Literature Review and Referencing

- Dr. Rubina Waseem: The Power of Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks
- Dr. Madiha Gohar: Unleash the Power of Qualitative Analysis: Dive into Thematic and Content Analysis
- Dr. Ayesha Nazuk: Excel in Quantitative Data Analysis
- Mr. Syed Ali Akash: Unlock the Power of Research Methods: Master your Approach to Scientific Inquiry
- Ms. Warda Gul Malik: Dos and Don'ts of Publications

Over the course of two days, participants engaged in sessions that covered critical aspects of scholarly work, including research design, statistical analysis techniques, and effective strategies for disseminating research findings. These sessions not only deepened participants' understanding of academic practices but also emphasized the importance of clarity and rigor in scholarly writing.





CIPS Successfully Organizes the 8th International Peace and Security (IPS) Summer Course

July 29 - August 9, 2024



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at NUST proudly organized the 8th International Peace and Security (IPS) Summer Course, held from July 29 to August 9, 2024. This two-week intensive program brought together academics, students, and professionals, offering them a deep dive into South Asia's evolving security landscape. With a focus on career enhancement in diplomacy, international relations, security studies, and public service, the course provided participants with essential insights to navigate the complexities of regional and global security.

The opening ceremony and welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean, CIPS, setting the stage for an engaging and intellectually stimulating experience.

A Dynamic and Engaging Program

The IPS Summer Course 2024 featured a meticulously designed curriculum, incorporating interactive lectures, insightful discussions, and thought-provoking sessions led by distinguished national and international experts.

The course was structured around key themes, including:

- Traditional and Non-Traditional Security
- Nuclear Security
- International Law and South Asia
- UN Peacekeeping in the Context of South Asia
- Terrorism and Internal Conflicts





Fostering Meaningful Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

The course provided a rich intellectual environment, enabling in-depth conversations and networking opportunities among participants and subjectmatter experts. The diverse range of lectures and discussions facilitated critical analysis, problemsolving skills, and strategic thinking essential for future leaders in international peace and security.

Closing Ceremony & Certificate Distribution

Maj Gen (R) Aftab Khan, Principal, NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS), delivered the closing remarks and distributed certificates to the successful participants. He appreciated the efforts of CIPS in organizing the 8th IPS Summer Course and recognized the dedication and hard work of all participants. He emphasized the crucial role of such programs in equipping future leaders with the knowledge and skills to tackle complex security challenges in South Asia and beyond. Maj Gen (R) Aftab Khan further encouraged participants to apply their insights in their respective fields, contributing to a more secure and peaceful global environment.

Through this initiative, CIPS reaffirms its commitment to advancing global peace and security, equipping participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate today's most pressing security challenges.



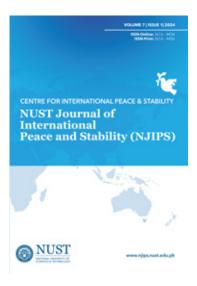






CIPS RESEARCH, ACHIEVEMENTS & ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS)



At the Centre International for Peace and Stability (CIPS). The NUST Journal International of Peace & Stability (NJIPS), an Open Access, peerreviewed. biannual academic journal, stands as a significant milestone resulting from the collaboration

between the Peacekeeping Training Department (PKT) and the Peace & Conflict Studies Department (PCS). The defining aim of the journal has been to revive the understanding of contemporary peace and conflict dynamics to address the most ruinous predicaments to international development—and, by extension, international peace.

• Latest Insights: NJIPS Volume 7, Issues 1 & 2

Explore the latest advancements, cutting-edge research and thought-provoking articles by scholars and practitioners, addressing critical issues shaping the global peace landscape by diving into Volume 7, Issue 1 & Issue 2 of the NJIPS. All articles are readily available for perusal and download at no cost. To access the most recent issues, visit the designated DOI links: https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i1 and https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i2

Submission

NJIPS welcomes submissions on a wide range of issues that constitute the field of peace and conflict, including UN peacekeeping, armed conflict and peacebuilding, regional and international security, conflict resolution, and violent extremism and terrorism. For more information about the author guidelines and submission process, please visit: https://njips.nust.edu.pk/index.php/njips/ submissions On behalf of the NJIPS editorial team, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all authors who contributed to Volume 6. It was with the mere cooperation, enthusiasm, and spirit of the authors and reviewers that we could make NJIPS a success.

Following are some of the selected articles and book reviews from NJIPS for the reader's attention:

Articles:

- Internalization of Responsibility to Protect (R2P): Responsibility to Invoke 'Peace from Within' Afghanistan by the Taliban Regime (2021) by Fujin Naz Haidery: DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/ njips.v7i1.165
- UN Call to Action: Exploring the Responsibilities & Roles of Peacekeepers—A Case Study of Pakistan's Peacekeeping Training Department by Farah Naz
- DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i1.164
- Empowering Women and Children: Pakistan Army Female Engagement Team's Vital Role in UN Peacekeeping by Talat Yasmin: DOI:https:// doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i1.167
- The Impact of Identity on the Success of Peacekeeping Missions: The Pakistani Perspective by Jawaiza Sulehri and Humaira Shafi: DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i2.174
- The Great Game of Space: Space Political Adventurism and Battle for Superpower Status Beyond the Horizons by Asma Rashid and Nigham Fatima: DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/ njips.v7i2.171

Book Reviews:

- War and Peacekeeping: Personal Reflections on Conflict and Lasting Peace by Martin Bell by Memoona Nasir: DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/ njips.v7i1.168
- When Peacekeeping Missions Collide by Paul Diehl, Daniel Druckman, and Grace B. Mueller by Hiba Malik: DOI: https://doi.org/10.37540/njips. v7i1.169



CIPS-HSF Research Collaboration

The Student Research Fellowship is a cornerstone initiative of an academic research collaboration between the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). Focused on "Good Governance, Regional Dialogue, and Non-Traditional Security Challenges," this program empowers emerging scholars to explore critical issues shaping global and regional security landscapes.

This joint effort encourages students to investigate a broad array of interconnected topics, including cybersecurity, climate change, food security, institutional harmonization, environmental sustainability, human security, and economic and energy security. By going beyond traditional security paradigms, the program promotes innovative research aligned with contemporary challenges.

For the 2024 fellowship, four MS PCS students were awarded funding for diverse and impactful research projects that reflect the dynamic scope of this collaboration:



Amjad Hussain

Confronting the Impact of Tourism on Climate Change: The Scenario of Abrupt Escalation of Tourism in Gilgit Baltistan



Waleed Sami

Prospects of Indo-Pakistan Trade Normalization: Policy choices for Pakistan



Tayyab Mehmood

The Role of Student Governing Bodies in the Political Framework of Pakistan



Tehrim Tariq

The Role of Green Finance in the Sustainable Development: A Study of Private and Public Sector Banks in Pakistan

The significance of this collaboration lies in its proactive approach to addressing contemporary global challenges across three thematic areas: **Good Governance, Regional Dialogue, and Non-Traditional Security Challenges.** This initiative reflects the shared commitment of CIPS and HSF to advancing academic research in critical domains, promoting innovative solutions, and contributing to evidence-based policymaking. By engaging emerging researchers in these vital areas, the partnership enhances the academic landscape and equips scholars to address the evolving complexities of governance, regional cooperation, and security in the modern era.

CIPS-NUST & IB Academy Establish Strategic Partnership

11 January 2024



On 11 January 2024, CIPS-NUST formalized a significant collaboration with the Intelligence Bureau Academy through the signing of a General Agreement of Cooperation. This partnership marks a major step toward enhancing institutional synergy in key areas of national importance.

The agreement was officially signed by Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd, Principal NIPCONS, and Qazi Jamil, Commandant IB Academy. It establishes a framework for the exchange of resource persons to facilitate specialized training in counter-terrorism, national security, and information security. Additionally, the partnership paves the way for joint research initiatives, further strengthening both institutions' contributions to national security.



This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing knowledge and expertise in critical domains, reinforcing the roles of CIPS-NUST and IB Academy as key stakeholders in shaping a secure and resilient future.

CIPS Academic Publication in 2024

JOURNAL ARTICLES

 Makki, M., Butt, F. A., Akash, S. A., Petrova, K., & Naeem, S. A. (2024). Fragile Geographies and the Climate-Conflict Nexus: Investigating Climate-Induced Security Risks, Migration, and Inequality in Balochistan, Pakistan. Alternatives, 0(0). https://doi. org/10.1177/03043754241291728

Abstract: Although climate change has been recognized as a "threat multiplier," its specific effects on conflict-affected areas remain underexplored. This study investigates the nexus between climate change and violent conflict within the "fragile geography" of Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province. Balochistan's increasingly fragmented security landscape and recurring natural disasters, notably the 2022 floods, provide a pertinent background for examining the interplay between climate change and violent conflict. A qualitative approach was employed, whereby interviews and group discussions were conducted in two Balochistan districts. The analysis revealed that weak institutional capacity, deep-rooted socioeconomic and political inequalities, and notably, "migration patterns" are critical variables influencing the dynamic interplay between climate change and violent conflict in the region. By analyzing the vulnerabilities inherent in Balochistan's diverse physiography, this study illuminates how climate change exacerbates violent conflict in a region already beset by instability, highlighting the urgent need for a more nuanced understanding to address these complex challenges.

 Makki, M., & Akash, S. A. (2023). Poverty, regional inequality, and the role of governance: tracing geographies of violent extremism in Pakistan. GeoJournal, 88(3), 2635-2650.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-022-10766-6

Abstract: The article focuses on the convergence between the theoretical and empirical understanding of structural determinants of violent extremism in Pakistan. Given its broad-spectrum, the explanations accord special attention to Francis Stewart's thesis of horizontal inequalities. Coalescing the theoretical explanations and data, the research argues that the drivers of violent extremism in Pakistan are diverse and centrally rooted in horizontal inequalities. The prevalent drivers of violent extremism and terrorism in Pakistan are the economic, political, and governance-related factors that add to the existing sense of alienation; eventually leading to the deepening of grievances resulting in the violent mobilization of (ethno-religious) identities. Moreover, the economic drivers of violent conflict also seem to overlap with political drivers. Emanating from the cases of erstwhile FATA and South Punjab, this article also establishes the nexus between regional inequalities (i.e., spatial exclusion) and violent extremism.

 Abbas, N., Nazuk, A., Tahir, F. & Makki, M. (2023). Horizontal inequalities, sectarian identities, and violent conflict: the case of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Contemporary Islam, 17(1), 133-156

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11562-023-00517-w

Abstract: Sectarian-based violent extremism has long been a security concern for the Government of Pakistan. Despite the perseverance of state authorities in countering violent extremism, a discourse centered on horizontal inequalities as the determinant of violent extremism and conflict remains lacking. This paper highlights the importance of an empirical study in understanding the nexus between horizontal inequalities and sectarian-based violent extremism in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). By analyzing the responses from Shia and Sunni sectarian identities, the study contextualizes violent conflict and elucidates how horizontal inequalities intersect with sectarian identities in the capital city of GB. In doing so, socioeconomic and cultural inequalities have been evaluated. The study relies on a multistage random sample of 212 respondents through a structured questionnaire. The findings reflect significant socioeconomic inequalities between the sectarian identities and suggest a linear relationship in which horizontal inequalities generate identity-driven "us" vs "them."

Makki, M., Iftikhar, W., & Yamin, T. (2024). '(Re) ordering' North Waziristan, Pakistan: Post-Conflict Transition, Borderland Dynamics, and Spatial Identities. Civil Wars, 1-20.

https://doi.org/10.1080/13698249.2024.2302722

Abstract: North Waziristan is emerging from an episode of terrorism that lasted for decades. Critically examining the dynamics of borderlands, this paper explicates the intersection of informal cross-border trade with the local economy and livelihoods. These socio-economic patterns created by ungoverned geographies, and porous uncontrolled borders foster a dependence on the informal economy, which is largely responsible for financing and perpetuating the instability. The paper signposts that effective border management and ongoing security reconstruction have contributed to rejuvenating the local economy and providing the necessary impetus for post-conflict economic development, keeping widespread unrest and militancy on hold.

 Shah, S., Mahmood, A., & Kamran, M. (2024). Resurrection of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan Amidst Afghan Regime's Indifference: Threats to Intersectional Security Strands in the Region. Social Inclusion, 12, Article 8598.

https://doi.org/10.17645/si.8598

Abstract: As the Afghan Taliban came to power in August 2021, the terrorist attacks by the Afghanistan-based Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operatives intensified in Pakistan. Despite Pakistan's repeated requests, the Taliban's regime looked the other way and facilitated a renewed spate of TTP-led terrorism in Pakistan, specifically its regions dividing the two countries. This article scrutinizes the multifaceted threats of TTP's brutal resurgence to intersectional security strands in the strategically important region and their impact on the complex relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Drawing on the analysis of historical context and contemporary terrorist growth in Pakistan's territories, the study elucidates the evolving dynamics in the frontier regions and settled areas and bilateral relations in the wake of TTP's resurrection in the period of 2021–2024. The investigation employs a mixed method combining a qualitative approach for the analysis of historical

ties, bilateral diplomatic discourse, and measuring intensification of terrorist incidents in Pakistan since 2021 with quantitative data. The study leads to a rational perception of the complicated interplay between states and non-state actors, regional geopolitics, and Pakistan–Afghanistan relations in the era of heightened uncertainty on Afghan soil with a potential to project regional terrorism.

 Bakare, N. (2024). Self-determination and secessionism in Nigeria: a contextual analysis through Edward Azar's protracted social conflict theory. Journal of Contemporary African Studies, 42(4), 564–580.

https://doi.org/10.1080/02589001.2024.2390384

Abstract: This article examines the rising divergence but convergence of self-determination and secessionist campaigns in Nigeria. For a contextual analysis, it turns to Edward Azar's protracted social conflict (PSC) theory, exploring the connections between communal disgruntlement and selfdetermination. The analysis indicates a significant relationship between communal dissatisfaction and self-determination. Through purposive sampling, it selected 44 in-depth interview respondents to obtain complementary qualitative data that were content analysed. In contrast to the 1960s secessionism, which was largely restricted to Eastern Nigeria, combined with the legacies of colonial rule, popularity of ethno-religious politics, an increase in insecurity and violence, economic hardship, communal insecurity, and deeper perception of ethnic marginalisation, the current wave of self-determination is more contagious and politically attractive in three (South West (SW), South East (SE) and South (SS) –) of the existing six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The article concludes, returning to the erstwhile regionalism will salvage Nigeria from territorial disintegration.

 Muhammad, S., & Bakare, N. (2024). Human Security Discourse: A Case of Civil Society Activism in Sindh, Pakistan. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 8(3), 112-125. https://doi. org/10.35484/pssr.2024(8-III)09

Abstract: This study strives to build a nexus between human security and civil society in Sindh which is a highly marginalized and socio-economically challenged province of Pakistan. Keeping the

qualitative nature of the study in mind, field visits were conducted in District Ghotki and Umerkot. Sindh province in October 2022. The visits enabled the gathering of data through in-depth interviews, focused group discussions (FGDs), and community engagement. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents for interviews and FGDs. The findings shed contextual light on the human security landscape and the state of civil society groups of the districts. The study concludes that that local civil society groups are playing a significant role in the accomplishment of human security goals while enduring numerous challenges intellectual/ideological, across organizational, bureaucratic, political and financial fronts. In order to effectively address the human security issues in the districts, the research suggests the autonomous functioning of of civil society groups, adequate understanding of human security issues among those groups and their proper collaboration with government agencies.

 Bakare, N., Sadaf, L., Wahaj, Z., Kamal, K., & Anwar, S. (2024). Human Security and Sustainable Development Goals: The Voices of Afghan Women Refugees in Pakistan. Journal of Asian and African Studies, 0(0). https://doi. org/10.1177/00219096231219757

Abstract: This study investigates the lived experiences of Afghan women refugees in Kohat camps in Pakistan. The objective of the study is to understand women's everyday experiences of discrimination and/or empowerment while living in these camps. Using the thematic analysis (TA), the major themes extracted in this study relate to submissiveness and docility, gender equality and empowerment, and structural inequalities culminating in discrimination. These themes were found to be influential in the lives of Afghan women refugees. Drawing from the discussions surrounding human security, gender security, SDGs 5 (gender equality) and 10 (reduced inequalities), the key findings suggest that women in camps have cocooned lives, and their patriarchal cultural set-up perpetuates gender-spatial segregation which consequently limits women's opportunities to access and traverse spaces other than their immediate residential location (camps). In addition, they are deprived of seeking education outside the radius of the camps and are not allowed to have mobile phones. Consequently, this limits their worldview. Given these circumstances, it is pertinent to extend facilitation to refugee women in Pakistan within a holistic framework.

 Ali, F., & Malik, T. (2024). Business, Family, and Frontier: Reading Family Histories of Frontier Business Community. *The Journal* of Humanities & Social Sciences, 32(1), 28-50. http://ojs.uop.edu.pk/jhss/article/view/1202

Abstract: Family histories of the frontier business community constitute a genre on the interstices of history and literature. They offer resources for and sites of reimagining frontier scholarship, the northwest frontier in this case. They represent the voices of those frontier communities who, despite having a critical role in the social, political, and economic history of the colonial frontier, have remained mainly excluded or left to low margins. Literature from and regarding such communities has yet to be addressed and is limited in scope and scholarship. To bring 'commercial' construction of frontier, this paper undertakes a critical reading of five selected texts exploring three aspects context, nature, and contribution of these works. The study concludes that such indigenous narratives constitute useful sources for and offer insights into future research on the significant role of commercial communities in critical reading and understanding of the colonial frontier.

 Waseem, R., & Malik, T. (2024). US-China Strategic Competition: Conventional Deterrence & the Changing Face of Modern Warfare. *The Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*, 32(2), 161-183. http://ojs.uop.edu. pk/jhss/article/view/1416

Abstract: This paper explores the future prospects of conventional deterrence in the context of the United States and China's rapidly advancing military technology, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI). As global technological advancements accelerate, modern warfare is increasingly characterized by deploying sophisticated tools such as AI, transforming military capabilities across multiple domains. Technologies like AI, demonstrated by long-operating Mars rovers like Spirit and Opportunity, showcase machines growing abilities to learn, plan, and make decisions autonomously, paralleling human intelligence. The study adopts critical analysis to describe the dynamics of modern warfare between the US and China. Yet, the strategic competition between the US and China shapes conventional deterrence in multifaceted spheres. Recent conflicts, such as the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, underscore the profound impact of Al-driven tools, including drones, satellites, and cyber technologies, on contemporary military strategy. By examining these developments, this paper aims to highlight the implications of Al and emerging technologies for conventional deterrence strategies, providing insights into the evolving contours of security and power in the 21st century.

 Malik, T., Jan, F., & Ullah, Z. (2023). The epistemicide in Afghanistan: an analysis of Taliban's policies towards national and cultural symbols. Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal (LASSIJ), 7(2), 61-80. https://doi.org/10.47264/idea.lassij/7.2.4

Abstract: After taking over Kabul for the second time when the US-led NATO forces left Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban resumed their past practices. To run the affairs of Afghanistan, the Taliban use political Islam, the way they understand and interpret it, as the nodal point around which they articulate the signs and symbols in a chain of equivalence. This paper analyses the Taliban's policies regarding Afghanistan's historical, national, and cultural symbols. Using epistemicide as an analytical device, we argue that in the name of Puritanism and the reconstitution of Afghanistan, according to Sharia, the Taliban discovered and erased all symbols of historical Afghanistan. This tends to serve as a case of epistemicide of the Afghan culture and wipes the slate of Afghan history clean. This paper explains how the Taliban silenced, devalued, and consequently moved to eradicate Afghanistan's cultural memory and knowledge system. This paper provides an account of what the Taliban's policies convey by silencing Afghanistan's historical texts, histories, and narratives. The Afghan society is faced with internal colonisation, which refuses that knowledge production is a social practice that takes into cognisance the history and culture of the Afghan people, among other factors.

 Malik, T., Jan, F., & Khan, P. (2023). A Foucauldian reading of 'Technologies of the Self'in Anatole France's novel Thaïs. Journal of Humanities, Social and Management

Sciences (JHSMS), 4(2), 96-109. https://doi. org/10.47264/idea.jhsms/4.2.6

Abstract: This study uses a phenomenological perspective supported by Foucault's 'hermeneutics of the self' to analyse Anatole France's novel Thaïs. The novel narrates the story of a Christian hermit, Paphnutius, and a courtesan, Thaïs. Living an abstemious life in the desert and reflecting on his sins of the past, Paphnutius recalls having met a delightful actress, Thaïs and how she seduced men, including him, into the sins of the flesh. Taken in by his exhortations, she leaves all her wealth and possessions and follows the monk to attain eternal beauty and bliss. Paphnutius successfully converts Thaïs to the courtesan before she dies as a 'purified' soul. However, after her conversion, Thaïs's desire and love afflict Paphnutius, who ends up doubting the truth of his faith. When he comes to know that Thaïs is on her deathbed, he starts having doubts about the reality of death and hence of God/his belief. We attempt to add a theoretically driven analysis and set forth a few observations. This paper argues that Thaïs is the story of complex human interactions revolving around the axes of truth and subjectivity and provides an excellent narration of the aesthetics of existence in the pagan and early Christian world.

Conference Paper

 Makki, M., & Iftikhar, W. (2024, October 9-11). Reclaiming 'Peace': Examining Epistemological and Methodological Constraints in Peace Studies Historicities of Security and Peace: Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany.

Book Chapters and Edited Volumes

 Bakare, N. (2024). Russia's Engagement in Afghanistan Pre and Post 2001 and Future. In: Peng, N., Rahman, K. (eds) The Uncertain Future of Afghanistan. Indo-Pacific Focus. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-2409-3_7

Abstract: The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, followed by its dismemberment, did not entirely diminish Russia's influence in the area. Russia maintained its presence and engaged with successive Afghan governments primarily through

sustained Indo-Russia relations. The events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent U.S. invasion of Afghanistan renewed Russia's strategic interests in the region. By examining Russia's official foreign policy documents, this chapter highlights why Afghanistan holds significant importance for Russia's economic and geostrategic reassertion in the region. It addresses key questions such as the main considerations of Russia's Afghan policy, the evolution of this policy since 2001, how Russia plans to engage with the new Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and whether neighboring countries such as Pakistan should be cautious about Russia's resurging interest in Afghanistan. From a theoretical perspective, the chapter underscores how the United States succumbed to a "hegemonic overstretch," leading to its inability to prepare and establish competitive players in Afghanistan visà-vis the Taliban. As a result, Russia is compelled to engage with the Taliban as a major player in the Afghan landscape.

 Bakare Najimdeen, & Ojedokun Ayodele. (2024). The law of armed conflict and the classification of the situation in Cabo Delgado as a non-international armed conflict. In M. Svicevic & M. Bradley (Eds.), Mozambique's Cabo Delgado conflict: International humanitarian and regional security (pp. 85-99). Routledge.

Abstract: The situation in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique involving clashes between the defence force, Ansar al-Sunna and the armed forces of foreign states necessitates an assessment to be done of the typology of the nature of the conflict. An assessment of the hostilities is needed to determine the existence of an armed conflict and of the applicable legal regime. Notably, an application of the rules of international humanitarian law depends on the existence of an armed conflict. The argument in this chapter asserts that hostilities among the parties meet the threshold of an armed conflict and maintain they have been escalated above a Common Article 3 conflict to the level of an Additional Protocol II-type conflict. An intervention in the conflict by foreign states raises a query about the classification of the nature of the conflict, but it is maintained that it remains a non-international armed conflict.

 Bakare Najimdeen. (2023). Nation-building challenges in contemporary discourse: A comparative analysis of Nigeria and Pakistan. In Nation-building in Pakistan: Prospects & challenges. Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue.

Abstract: Building a nation, especially in a multicultural milieu has always been a laborious venture, which does not discriminate between the developed and developing nations. As more nations join the comity of nations, nation building challenges have generated remarkable intellectual discourse and have equally become more salient amongst policymakers. Nigeria and Pakistan are not new to this debate, in fact since independence, one of the protracted and contending issues is nation building. To place the discussion in perspective, the paper is sectionalised into three, the first explores the scholarship on nation building, in the backdrop of which subsequent discussions were predicated. The second section begins with a brief scholarship on post-truth and is successively used as a point of reference for the discussion on the nexus of post-truth and nation building in the context of Nigeria and Pakistan. The last section situates secessionism as a product of colonial legacy and establishes the intersection of secessionism and nation building. To this end, the latter two sections also help answering the following questions: (1) what are the multidimensional challenges to nation building in contemporary Nigeria and Pakistan? (2) What are the similarities and dissimilarities with regard to the challenges of nation building? The paper concludes that resolving the challenges of nation building, governments must employ a balanced approach.

Books by CIPS Faculty

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA 1992-1995 Author: Tughral Yamin Year: 2019



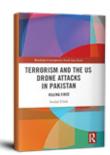


Securing Pakistan: Making Sense of the fundamentals of Counter-Terrorism and Counter Violent Extremism.

Authors: Muhammad Makki & Tughral Yamin

Year: 2021

Terrorism and the US Drone Attacks in Pakistan Killing First Author: Imadad Ullah Year: 2021





The Wrong Ally: Pakistan's State Sovereignty Under US Dependence

Author Ahmed Waheed

Year: 2018

The Evolution of Nuclear Deterrance in South Asia Author: Tughrul Yamin

Year: 2014





Refugee Crisis: Lessons from Pakistan and Beyond

Edited by: Muhammad Makki and Waseem Iftikhar

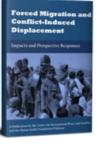
Year: 2015

Forced Migration and Conflict-Induced Displacement A Publication Impacts and Prospective Responses

Edited by Muhammad Makki Aizah Azam, Syed Ali Akash and Faryal Khan

International Peacekeeping - Perspectives from Pakistan Edited by Tughral Yamin

Year: 2022



International

Peacekeeping



Cyber Space CBMS between Pakistan and India Hardcover

Author: Tughral Yamin.

Year: 2014



Arab-Isreali Normalisation of Ties - Global Perspectives

Edited by Bakare Najimdeen Year: 2024

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Bakre Najimdeen Ayoola Honored with Best Researcher Award



In a proud moment for the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), **Dr. Bakre Najimdeen Ayoola**, Head of Research, has been conferred with the prestigious institutional **Best Researcher Award** at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) **BRAIN Awards 2024**. The ceremony, held on 7 August 2024, celebrated the exceptional contributions of NUST faculty in advancing research and innovation during the academic year 2022-23.

Dr. Ayoola's recognition reflects his unparalleled dedication to producing cutting-edge research and his ability to secure national and international funding for impactful scholarly projects. His contributions have not only elevated the research profile of CIPS but have also significantly impacted the broader academic and policymaking community, especially in areas of peace and conflict studies.

The Rector of NUST, Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, praised the awardees, describing them as the backbone of NUST's vibrant research ecosystem. This honor bestowed upon Dr. Ayoola underscores the commitment of CIPS to promoting excellence in research and innovation, further cementing its position as a leading institution in peace and stability studies. Dr. Ayoola's achievement is a source of immense pride for CIPS and an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike.





Mr Nauman Gul

After completing his mediation training from the International Mediation Campus (IM Campus) Nauman Gul has been an IM Campus fellow and Alumni since July 2023. Since entering into the field of mediation, he has been advocating for peaceful resolution and mediation approaches in his community. As a peace fellow, he has been able to collaborate locally and internationally to promote mediation in Pakistan. In the year 2024, he was notified as a mediator by the Ministry of Law and Justice (MOLJ) according to the accreditation rules 2023 for which he was eligible. After the accreditation as a mediator by the accreditation committee, his name has been mentioned in the official gazette of Pakistan as per the accreditation rules. Moreover, Mr Nauman Gul was also interviewed by the International Mediation Campus and was featured in the November 2024 Alumni Spotlight. During his interview, he shared his journey and how he connected with his roots and for him this achievement is something not short of a blessing to continue his grandfather's legacy.



Maj Ayesha Khan

Maj Ayesha Khan, a PhD scholar at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), is currently deployed as a Military Public Information Officer with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Alongside her core responsibilities, she is also supporting the Joint Military Action Centre (JMAC) with analytical and intelligence inputs, as directed by the Force Commander's Office. Her work reflects a dynamic blend of communication, coordination, and strategic insight at the heart of a peacekeeping mission.

Her appointment entails extensive travel across the buffer zone and remote villages as part of efforts to support bicommunal projects. Most recently, she accompanied a media team to Varishia, a remote and sensitive location that highlights the reach and relevance of her role. Despite the operational demands and mobility challenges, she continues to represent the values of service, resilience, and professionalism. Her journey stands as an inspiring example of dedication to peacebuilding on the international stage.



Ms Kainat Kamal

Ms. Kainat Kamal, a PhD student at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at NUST, represented CIPS as well as Pakistan at the prestigious Gen-Forum 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, held from May 21 to 23. Organized by UN Women Asia and the Pacific, the forum convened young leaders, researchers, and activists from across Asia and the Pacific to advance Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiatives, with a focus on emerging challenges in AI, cybersecurity, and climate change.

As a distinguished participant, Ms. Kamal led a session on "Peace and Art," where she presented her project on using art as a medium for peacebuilding. Her presentation underscored the role of creative expression in bridging cultural and political divides, offering an innovative approach to peace and security efforts. Her contributions reflected CIPS's commitment to interdisciplinary research and highlighted the impactful role of young Pakistani leaders in the WPS field. Global Social Media Recognition of Pakistani Peacekeepers by United Nations

UN Peacekeeping © @UNP... • 03 Jun In 2022, a rupture in a dike threatened the lives of 300,000 people in South Sudan. Since then, @UN Peacekeepers from Pakistan have maintained over 80 km of dikes, protecting the Bentiu Internally Displaced Person camp. #GenerationRestoration @UNEP

bit.ly/3yyEnkg





#PeaceBegins with camaraderie! When a Bentiu, #SouthSudan Re, resident's car accidentally fell into floodwaters, #UNMISS peacekeepers from #Pakistan Re were quick to help, pulling the vehicle back onto dry land.

Our Blue Helmets are here to make life in their host communities better. #A4P



UN Peacekeeping @ @... • 06 Dec 23 Pakistan pledged to deploy a strategic communications unit, more infantry, special forces, helicopter, air & riverine units, and police officers with specialist skills. Also training courses, renewable energy initiatives & support for the wellbeing of peacekeepers. #PKMinisterial



United Nations Peacekeeping o 1 Aug - 🔊

...

#PeaceBegins with community support.

In Abyei, heavy rains have made most roads impassable. Pakistani peacekeepers with United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei are assisting civilians by helping recover stuck vehicles and rescuing those stranded along the Goli-Todach road.



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) • 18 Jan · @

#PeaceBegins with learning! When on the ground in Rubkona, #SouthSudan Re, the #UNMISS Female Engagement Team from #Pakistan Re met students, raising awareness on keeping surroundings clean + prioritizing education

They also distributed stationery / & hygiene items / Kudos to them!

#A4P





Swift response by @UNISFA #Pakistan peacekeepers resulted in the rescue of 22-year-old #Ngok #Dinka women from armed kidnappers. She was among six women who were collecting firewood near #Amiet Market. Grateful for her safe return to her family in #Amiet.



United Nations Peacekeeping
....

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is deeply concerned by the violence that occurred over the weekend in Abyei, which resulted in the tragic death of numerous civilians & attacks on United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei during which two peacekeepers, from Ghana and Pakistan lost their life #ServingForPeace.

The Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, NewYork



UN Peacekeeping © @UNP... • 08 Jul In #Abyei, @UNISFA_1 regularly organizes free medical camps for local communities.

Recently, peacekeepers from Pakistan led a camp providing healthcare services and free medicine to help locals combat harsh conditions and diseases.

#OurCommonFuture @PakistanUN_NY



Celebrating International Women's Day at CIPS

08 March 2024



On 8 March 2024, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) proudly celebrated International Women's Day, highlighting the vital role of women in promoting peace and security worldwide.

From conflict zones to peacekeeping missions, women have consistently been at the forefront of advancing harmony and stability. CIPS honored their invaluable contributions to creating a better, safer world for all.

The event featured participation from both PCS and PKT Departments, who emphasized the importance of recognizing and supporting women's efforts in diverse spheres of life.

As we commemorate this significant day, CIPS reaffirms its commitment to championing gender



equality and women's empowerment, envisioning a future of peace, progress, and prosperity for everyone.

CIPS Annual Alumni Dinner 2024

20 December 2024



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) held its first-ever Annual Dinner on 20 December 2024, marking a significant milestone as an alumni homecoming event. Hosted at the newly inaugurated CIPS building, the evening brought together former graduates, faculty, and staff to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared journey in fostering peace and stability. The event was a vibrant gathering filled with heartfelt conversations, laughter, and a renewed sense of camaraderie, reflecting the deep bonds formed within the CIPS community. The Annual Dinner also served as a platform to honor the achievements of CIPS alumni who have made remarkable contributions in diverse fields, ranging from academia to international peacekeeping missions. With inspiring speeches, a delightful array of food, and a warm ambiance enhanced by beautiful decorations, the event underscored CIPS's commitment to maintaining lifelong connections with its alumni. It was an unforgettable evening, setting the stage for a cherished tradition in the years to come.

Convocation 2024



In this issue, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of the 2021 and 2022 cohorts of the Master's programs in Peace and Conflict Studies and Strategic Studies. These exceptional students have successfully completed rigorous coursework and defended their dissertations, achieving key milestones in their academic pursuits. Their perseverance and dedication are a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence.

We are especially proud to spotlight Zushmalen Iqbal, Maryam Shahid and Hiba Malik, graduates from the 2022 cohort, who have earned a distinction certificate for their extraordinary academic performance. Achieving a flawless 4.0 CGPA, They have set an inspiring benchmark for their peers and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to scholarly excellence. This accolade reflects not only their hard work but also their passion for the field.

As these graduates embark on the next chapter of their professional journeys, the Centre wishes them every success. Equipped with the knowledge, insights, and skills acquired during their studies, they are poised to make impactful contributions to peacebuilding and conflict resolution in diverse contexts worldwide.

Pakistani Peacekeeper explores the newly launched VR technology at CIPS during UNPDTC-40 | 21 Oct – 01 Nov 2024

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DAK



PAKISTAN PE CONTRIBUTION

👌 Haiti

Western Sahara

PAKISTAN'S DEPLOYMENT IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	Congo
UN Multidime nsional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA)	Central African Republic
UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)	Abyei
UN Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	Western Sahara
UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)	South Sudan
UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)	Mali
UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)	Somalia
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Cyprus
UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)	Libya
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)	Sudan

Guine

ACEKEEPING S (1960-TO DATE)



