

ECMPR Quarterly Newsletter



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1. INTRODUCTION

After the enactment of the 18th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, the provincial governments in Pakistan have been given more autonomy, mandate, powers and resources. However, there hardly exists any systematic mechanism at provincial level to support the provincial governments with independent analysis of their policies so that the quality of their policies be objectively assessed and improvement/changes suggested for a free, open and prosperous Pakistan.

Realizing the critical nature of the existing gap, Experts in Management and Social Sciences (Pvt.) Ltd., a group of experts working with all stakeholders to address their social and economic well-being through a variety of interventions, like research interventions, trainings, seminars, workshops, and conferences, has decided to set up Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR). The Centre will be tasked to act as an independent policy think tank in Pakistan. The research and advocacy work of the think tank will target improvement in the quality of public policy at provincial as well as federal level through exploring creative solutions and developing innovative ideas.

The ECMPR will be a nonprofit public policy organization based in Peshawar with a coordination office in Islamabad. In future, the ECMPR will consider setting up regional offices in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Muzafarabad and Gilgit. However, most of the activities will be conducted online.

ECMPR Vision

The ECMPR envisions public policy making process in the country based on evidence for a free, open and prosperous Pakistan.

ECMPR Mission

The ECMPR is committed to work for the ideals of liberty, governments with limited interventions, rule of law, free markets and property rights by fostering high quality policy-relevant research, and disseminating the findings widely to decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Pakistan in general and in provinces in particular.

ECMPR Values

Key values of the Centre include:

- Freedom of thoughts
- Creativity
- Learning
- Dialogue
- Continuous improvement
- Objective thinking
- Collaboration

2. OUR SERVICES

Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR)

- ECMPR since 2020 with the core objective of launching research initiatives on the themes of liberty, governments with limited interventions, rule of law, free markets and property rights has fostered high quality policy-relevant research, and has been continuously disseminating the findings widely to decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Pakistan in general and in provinces in particular.

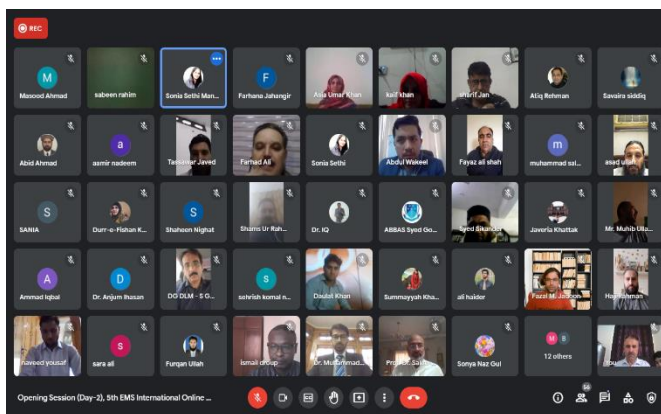
ECMPR Offers a broad range of research services, which include the following:

- **Conferences:** ECMPR organizes seminars, conferences and symposia. During last two years alone, the Center has organized 7 international conferences in which papers on diverse topics from across the globe have been presented and scholars from more than 20 countries have participated virtually as well physically.
- **Surveys:** ECMPR provides services of designing and conducting research surveys. The surveys include market surveys, feasibility surveys, and academic surveys. The Center has a dynamic and experienced data collection teams to ensure a strong quality mechanism.
- **Publication:** ECMPR has a pool of academic writers and editors dedicated to undertake market and policy based researches/papers and publish the same through different media.
- **Leadership Development:** ECMPR has been designing and implementing different courses on Leadership Development to capacitate the elected local representatives and opinion leaders.
- **Round Table Discussion:** The Center has been conducting regular round table discussion to pool ideas from experts in the legal fraternity, legislators, bureaucrats, and social activists.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** The Center has been conducting regular awareness campaigns relating to public interest issues i.e., individual liberty, limited governments' interventions, free markets, and property rights through rule of law.

3. OUR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

We have, so far, conducted 07 international conferences. Summary is herewith:

- **1st International Conference (Online) on Issues in Management and Social Sciences in the Context of COVID-19:** It was organized on August 22-23, 2020 in which researchers from 12 countries presented 174 research papers. These papers were reviewed by 92 professors/subject experts.



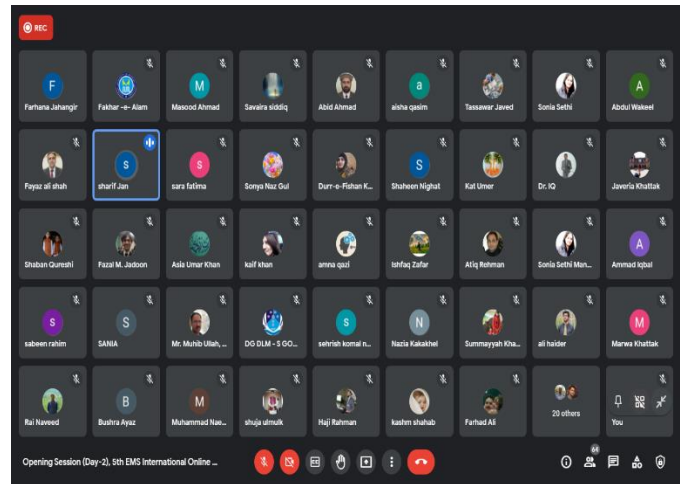
- **2nd International Conference (Online) on Emerging Issues in Management and Social Sciences, November 28-29, 2020:** The Center organized the 2nd international conference on November 28-29, 2020 in collaboration with two national and two foreign universities. More than 100 researchers from 5 countries presented 78 research papers. These papers were reviewed by 98 professors/subject experts.



- **3rd International Conference (Online) on Islamic and Comparative Religious Studies, February 27-28, 2021:** The specialized conference was also organized in collaboration with two national and two foreign universities. The presenters representing 2 countries presented 24 research papers. These papers were reviewed by 13 professors/subject experts.



- 4th International Online Multidisciplinary Research Conference, July 11, 2021:** Like the previous two conferences, the 4th international conference was also organized in collaboration with two national and two foreign universities, in which the presenters representing 3 countries presented 38 research papers. These papers were reviewed by 86 professors/subject experts.
- 5th International Online Multidisciplinary Conference on Changing Landscape, October 23-24, 2021:** This conference was also organized in collaboration with two national and two foreign universities. The conference received a total of 201, the Conference Review Committee accepted 119 for presentation, out of 111 got registered in the conference. These papers were reviewed by 86 professors/subject experts.
- 6th International Interdisciplinary Online Conference on Connecting Knowledge with Practice, March 19-20, 2022:** This conference is organized in collaboration national and international organizations. The participants focused that the existing gap between knowledge and practice is widening day in and day out which needs to be a source of concern for the researchers and practitioners alike.



- **7th International Multidisciplinary Research Conference: Post Covid 19 Global Prosperity through Research & Sustainable Development July 26-28, 2022:** The conference was organized in collaboration with Sarhad University, Peshawar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar in Bara Gali.
- **Seminar on the Role of Qami Jirga in Land Settlement:** Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR) along with Dir Think Thank have successfully conducted seminar on the Role of Qami Jirga in Land Settlement of Dir. Different stakeholders including Project Director, Judges, Lawyers, Professors, Religious Scholars, Youth Representatives, Local Elders and Researchers addressed the gathering from different angles. The cranks of the matter was that all stakeholders welcomed the decision of land settlement in Dir. They emphasized on cooperation and collaboration among all the stakeholders to ensure peaceful resolution of land disputes during the process of land settlement. There was general agreement that rule of law is panacea of all social and legal issues.



- Round Table Discussion on Individual Rights, Liberty, and Free Markets in Post-COVID Context in Pakistan:** A round table discussion was held at Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology Peshawar in collaboration with Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research. The aim of the discussion was to exchange ideas on free, prosperous, and peaceful world by encouraging education, principles of individual rights, liberty, and free markets through Conferences, Workshops and carrying joint events.
- Meeting regarding Collaboration with Georgia State University, USA:** Dr. Fayaz Ali Shah, CEO ECMPR, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail, Chair Sir Foundation, USA and Prof. Dr. Rashid Naim from Georgia State University had a detailed meeting at Akhunkhail house Atlanta, USA. The delegates discussed various options for working together in the future. They agreed to form a joint network for academic collaboration and prosperous society.
- Pubic Litigation Petition:** A Case related to CPEC (seeking direction of the court for the Govt. for early completion of N-45, Chakdara to Chitral Highway) filed by the Sir Foundation (Rahim Shah Akhunkhail, Chair of Sir Foundation) and ECMPR (Dr. Wali Rahman, Director ECMPR) was heard by the Double Bench headed by the Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (April 27, 2022). The bench called for comments from the four respondents.



PHC seeks replies in petition against delay in road construction

CPEC Authority and three other govt bodies are respondents in petition

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A Peshawar High Court bench has sought comments from China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority and three other government bodies in a petition seeking direction of the court for the government for early completion of N-45 (Chakdara to Chitral highway) as part of CPEC's western route.

The bench consisting of PHC Chief Justice Qasim Raza Khan and Justice Ijaz Ahmad directed that four of the respondents including the CPEC Authority through its chairman, Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC), National Highway Authority and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority should

submit their respective replies within three weeks.

The petition is filed by two residents of Dir Lower district named Rahim Shah Akhunkhail and Prof. Wali Rahman. They have requested the court that apart from N-45, the court may also direct the government to expedite work on the 29.6-kilometre Dir Expressway from Chakdara to Rahu.

Next date of hearing the petition will be fixed later.

The respondents in the petition are: CPEC Authority through its chairman, federal ministry of planning and development, federal secretary economic affairs, ECNEC through its chairman, NEA through its chairman, KP Highway Authority through its managing director, KP chief secretary and provincial secretary finance.

The petitioners' counsel Malik Muhammad Anwar Khan stated that the friendly country Peoples Republic of China had started the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) worldwide and one of its projects was commonly known as CPEC.

He said that according to official documents, N-45 was part of CPEC. He said that as per available record, all the projects under CPEC were categorised as completed projects, under construction projects and pipeline projects. He added that N-45 had duly been approved by the ECNEC as a western route and under construction project.

He claimed that the respondents due to reasons best known to them had been delaying the project. He stated that another project was that of Dir Expressway, a 29.6-kilometre long road to be completed at a cost of Rs38.8 billion. He added that its PCI had already been completed and was mentioned as a pipeline project.

The counsel stated that another project was that of Shandur Chitral Road, an alternative route of Karakoram Highway. It would be 153-kilometre long and would cost \$10 billion. He stated that it was shown as an under-construction project and its ground breaking ceremony had taken place in April 2021.

The counsel stated that there was also a proposal to extend Dir Expressway to Chitral by stretching it around 214-kilometre at a cost of Rs329 billion.

Mr Anwar stated that the Chakdara to Timergara section of N-45 called as Section I would be about 34.85-kilometre and would include the widening and rehabilitation of the said route.

He claimed that the route from Chakdara to Timergara was shown as under-construction but there was nothing on record about the route from Timergara to Dir.

He argued that Article 19A of Constitution guaranteed the right to information of a citizen, and under the said article the petitioners wanted to know about the money spent so far from the public exchequer on the N-45 route and Dir Expressway.

He contended that delay in construction of the said roads was an injustice with the inhabitants of the areas from where these roads would be passing.

He claimed that provincial government had also been interested in construction of the 82-kilometre long Chakdara to Peshawar, Swat Expressway Phase II, due to which it had been delaying the other road projects.

سٹی پیکیج دیر چترال، وڈ کی تعمیر میں تاخیر کیخلاف رٹ دائر
N-45 دیر چترال روڈ کی پیک منصوبے کا حصہ ہے، اس کی تکمیل میں تاخیر کی جارہی ہے، ملک اسمبل خان کی رٹ
پشاور (نیوز رپورٹر) کی پیک منصوبے کے تحت جس میں اس منصوبے کو مکمل کرنے کیلئے متعلقہ واصلات سے درخواست گزار رحیم شاہ اکھونکھیل
دیر چترال روڈ N-45 کی تعمیر میں تاخیر کیخلاف حکام کو احکامات جاری کرکے استدعا کی گئی ہے، سکے تحصیل خال دیر لوئر اور ڈاکٹر دلی رجان نے
پشاور ہائی کورٹ میں رٹ پیشین دائر کردی گئی ہے رٹ پیشین ملک محمد اسمبل خان ایڈووکیٹ کی دائر کی ہے جس (باقی صفحہ 7 بقیہ نمبر 46)

- **Sensitization Session on Rule of Law:** Keeping the prevailing status of the rule of law in Pakistan, a team of ECMPR comprising of Prof. Shahid Jan, Dr. Fayaz Ali Shah, Prof Dr. Wali Rahman, and Dr. Mohibullah met senior advocates, Mr. Rahmanullah Shah, Ex-Vice President Peshawar High Court and other senior lawyers of the Peshawar High Court. In the panel discussion the ECMPR team and the senior advocates comprehensively discussed different aspects of the legal system and opinions of the legal fraternity were heard. ECMPR team members also shared their understanding of the justice system and the concerns of the man in the street. All the members expressed their concerns on the huge pendency of cases in the courts, the resulting despondency and the declining trust on the courts, and the weak management system of the court authorities. The members unanimously concluded that there is a need of serious attention to the issues related to the rule of law in the country.
- **International Women's Day Celebrated:** Celebrating this day is not only a reminder of the grit, challenges, & achievements of women but also a great opportunity to imagine and work towards a gender equal and bias free world free of discrimination against any gender". Celebrating International Women Day 2022 with collaboration of Unilever Pakistan, Makkah Enterprises Peshawar, Peshawar Chamber of Commerce, ASI Pakistan and ECMPR at Islamia College Peshawar.



- **ECMPR delegates meet Senior Advocate:** The delegate met with Mr. Malik Muhammad Ajmal Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan at his Law chamber. The delegate, on behalf of ECMPR and Sir Foundation, USA wholeheartedly appreciated his sincere efforts for his public oriented legal approaches. The delegate was briefed about the public interest litigation cases. The discussion was concluded to work jointly for public interest projects and governance issues in Dir specifically and in Pakistan generally.
- **ECMPR signs MoU with Meezan PCU:** The Center signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Meezan PCU, Rawalpindi (SME). The purpose of the MoU is to strengthen the relationship between ECMPR and Private sector organizations. Through this MoU both the organizations agree to work jointly for business echo system and promoting business friendly environment especially for the private entities in Pakistan.
- **CEO Attended Virtual Hujra:** A detailed discussion was held with the Director Project Mr. Khalid Zaman in the virtual Hujra of DOPA regarding land settlement project of Dir. The director highlighted the importance and procedures of land settlement. Finally it was agreed that all the stakeholders will join hands to successfully complete this project on time.



- **ECMPR signs MoU with Sir Foundation, USA:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Sir Rahim Shah Akhunkhail Foundation (USA) and ECMPR to work for the benefits of their respective stakeholders. Sir Foundation (USA) is an independent, non-governmental, non-political, non-for-profit, charitable organization, registered in the United States of America and in Pakistan. The objective of the Foundation is to work on charitable basis for sustenance programs, education, health, sports and volunteerism related work. Through this MoU both the organizations have agreed to empower the youth with right skills, attitudes and tools, to work at their fullest potential aiming at enriching their profession skills to uplift their and their families' social, psychological and economic wellbeing.
- **ECMPR Arranged a Virtual Think Tank forum on Why Does Think Tanks and Policy Advocacy Matter in Times of Crisis:** The Center held a virtual think tank discussion on this important issue. A number of think tank executives, researchers, academicians, policy makers, practitioners, NGO's Executives, and members of the civil society attended this virtual meeting.



**Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR)**

Global Virtual Think Tank Forum
On
Why Think Tanks and Policy Advice
Matter in Times of Crisis?

Points for Discussion:

1. What are think tanks?
2. How do they work?
3. What roles do they perform and what value do they deliver?
4. Are think tanks more important today than ever before in a highly competitive marketplace and in crisis situations as the COVID-19 pandemic?
5. The future of think tanks

Who can participate?
Think Tanks Executives, Researchers, Academicians, Policy makers, Practitioners, NGO executives, and Members of Civil Society

Join us on Google Meet:
meet.google.com/oem-xcka-upj

Date: February 03, 2021
Timing: 07:00-09:00 pm (Pakistan Standard Time)

Website: <https://expertsms.org>
Contact: ceo@expertsms.org

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4. ECMPR TEAM



Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman, PhD (Human Resource Development) NUML, Islamabad, Pakistan.



Dr. Wali Rahman, PhD (Human Resource Development) NUML, Islamabad, Pakistan.



Dr. Shahid Jan, Post Doc (Corporate Social Responsibility) Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, USA.



Dr. Fayaz Shah, PhD (Gender Discrimination and Organizational Justice) Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Malaysia.



Dr. Mohibullah, PhD (Religious Tourism) Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Malaysia.



Dr. Sonia Sethi, PhD (Corporate Social Responsibility in SMEs in Pakistan), Islamia College Peshawar, Pakistan.



Dr. Maimona Saleem (Islamic Management), Qurtaba University Peshawar.



Mr. Jehangir Amin, ACCA (The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Mr. Nazir Muhammad (MPhil Statistics), Islamia College Peshawar.



5. ADVISORY BOARD

1. **Rahim Shah Akhunkhail**, Chair, Sir Foundation, USA (Chairman)
2. **Prof. Dr. Amran bn M. Rasli**, Johar Baru, Malaysia (Member)
3. **Prof Dr. Salim-ur-Rahman**, VC, Sarhad University of Science & IT Peshawar (Member)
4. **Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Nas**, Turkey (Member)
5. **Mr. Atif Shehzad**, CEO Makkah Agency and Ex-Vice President, Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peshawar ((Member)
6. **Mr. Asif Jamal**, Shiraz Group of Companies Peshawar (Member)
7. **Mr. Aftab Alam Khan**, International Expert on Food Security, Islamabad (Member)
8. **Mr. Arshad Abbassi**, International Expert on Water Resources, Islamabad (Member)