

1st International Multidisciplinary Research Conference (IMRC 2007)

The international conference titled "Policy Dynamics in Pakistan: In Search of a New Paradigm" was held on 1st and 2nd June 2007 at Sarhad University of Science and Technology in Peshawar, organized in collaboration with partners like the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNS) and Liberal Forum Pakistan.

Conference Overview

- **Location:** Sarhad University of Science & Technology, Peshawar, Pakistan.
- **Organizers:** Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNS) and Liberal Forum Pakistan.
- **Core Focus:** Evaluating public policy challenges, governance frameworks, and political shifts in Pakistan to find alternative development and management models.

The conference brought together prominent national and international scholars, politicians, and civil society members to debate several critical pillars of Pakistani policy:

- **Socio-Economic Disparities:** Evaluating how past economic frameworks fueled regional imbalance and poverty, and proposing free-market, pro-poor alternative structures.
- **Federalism and Devolution:** Deliberating the distribution of power between the federal capital and provinces, advocating for provincial autonomy to resolve ethnic and political grievances.
- **Foreign Policy Shifts:** Exploring how Pakistan's geographic constraints and entanglement in superpower rivalries (like the Post-9/11 War on Terror) severely strained its domestic fabric, driving the need for a shift from geopolitics to regional economic cooperation.
- **Institutional Governance:** Addressing the friction between military interventionism, political parties, and judicial independence to outline a civilian-led democratic transition.