

**7th Karachi International
Water Conference**

**WATER
PEOPLE
HEALTH**

Coping with the Floods

28th and 29th October 2025



WATER PEOPLE HEALTH

Coping with the Floods

**Proceedings of the
7th Karachi International
Water Conference**

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**This report is dedicated to the
(late) Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Economist
and Council Member of Hisaar
Foundation.**

Dr Pervaiz Amir was a leading professional on water, food, agriculture and environment. He was well known in Pakistan and across the world. As a Council Member of Hisaar Foundation, Dr Amir guided our programming, participated in all our Karachi International Conferences and was Advisor to the University for Water Network since its inception. In recent years he was also associated with Pakistan Water Partnership and many other platforms on water and food sectors. We will miss his wisdom, commitment and dedication. May he rest in peace.

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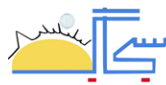
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QR Code for Reports

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RETHINKING WATER, RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE

What is the world today except ecological disasters, dwindling biodiversity, boiling oceans, melting glaciers, polluted ground and surface water. We have unexpected and intense changes in water regimes and water cycles. Seasons are shifting, natural regions have been distorted, there's loss of ecosystems and major threats to rivers. The clarion call now is for returning to nature and to nature-based solutions, free-flowing rivers and breaking the status quo of the dominant capitalist systems that has finally been acknowledged as the principal cause of climate change in the Anthropocene age.

Perceptions about rivers are also changing. Rivers have had a profound influence on civilizational development. They have been invested with personality. They have prehistory, myths, and oral traditions, and we have come full circle in that conservation groups are now talking about obtaining legal persona for rivers.

The language of water is changing from water pricing to value of water, from disputes to cooperation and coordination, from consumer goods to global common good, from competition to justice and equity, from transboundary to hydrological cycle. Governing the hydrological cycle as a global common good is now understood. Our interdependence through both blue and green water flows is now established. People are talking about minimal water requirements for a dignified life, not just for production, and water provision to those who are left behind. Redirecting today's massive subsidies that contribute to water's overuse in many sectors and environmental degradation is now being replaced by water saving solutions, protection and restoring freshwater ecosystems.

The recent devastating floods in Pakistan resulted in a loss of valuable lives, caused severe economic and social impact, and led to billions of dollars in damages. The disaster also destroyed infrastructure and led to widespread poverty and a health crisis.



Simi Kamal
Chairperson, Hisaar Foundation

Specifically, the floods caused:

- Increased malnutrition.
- Rampant spread of waterborne diseases.
- Threatening of food security.

Today, irresponsible behaviour of sections of people in Pakistan is deepening existing inequalities and propelling new ones. Mismanagement across different sectors, and rapid population growth has left Pakistan quite water-stressed. Adding to ecological failures are political failures that determine who gets water and access to water, and how decisions are made.

The urgency to address the interconnections between water, people and health has never been greater than it is now.

This 7th Karachi International Water Conference is designed as a platform for coming up with actionable solutions.

This conference brings together leading thought leaders, experts, government representatives, private sector, NGOs and community voices on a joint platform of actionable solutions.

This conference focuses on:

- Highlighting the less visible, yet deeply interlinking consequences of water on people's well-being and health, and on justice and equity.
- Ensuring that the voices most affected and often unheard, are now actually heard.

Action begins with decolonizing our approaches to forge a future where local knowledge contributes to a globally transformative movement for people and water.

Dear friends, the lessons of development were always a one-way street. One learned from the West, now called the North, and brought home these learnings like obedient pupils. We became the implementers of the white man's burden. We loved going to smooth western capitals for learning how development is done, where everything worked, and where we were feted as black and brown people for rising above the superstition, corruption, and backwardness of our poor countries.

We had flawed relations with our neighbors, but our colonizers and their ilk remained our guiders, and their capitals remained our Mecca.

In the past, I too have been part of the glamour and pull of the West and then the North and their slogan "Think Global, Act Local."

But please, no more. The time for Think Global, Act Local is long gone. We are replacing it with what should have been patently and intuitively obvious: Think Local, then make it the call for Global Action. And not from global to grassroots, but from grassroots to global.

And this shift has been made possible by the thought leadership, debates, arguments, analysis, and sheer cussedness and brazenness with which Hisaar Foundation has worked for 22 years.

We started our interventions with and for communities, respecting and using the collective wisdom and carrying these voices into the corridors of discussions, debates, research, policy, action, and power. It has been absorbing wisdom and building thought leader-

ship on this wisdom. Looking at individual ideas and building them up to collective expression.

Let me take you on Hisaar Foundation's journey, where we have moved from interventions to policy and strategy and now to a people's charter, a living charter on people and water.

On the way, Hisaar Foundation developed a think tank on rational use of water, innovative low-cost and nature-based solutions, a whole series of networks and water partnerships: the Karachi International Water Conference, the Panjwani Hisaar Water Institute which is a public-private partnership among the NED University, Hisaar Foundation, and Panjwani Charitable Foundation.

Perhaps the most important part of thought leadership has to be changing the narrative in ways that will change the outcome. It's not sufficient to talk about the existing paradigm but to change the paradigm itself. That is what Hisaar Foundation has excelled in for the last 22 years.

We have learned that while working with the government, working with corporate sector, and working with academia, what has to underly all of this is a powerful people's voice and people's will that needs to be expressed. That is why this conference is dedicated to a living charter for water and people.

So, what's ahead for Hisaar Foundation? Currently, with International Water Management Institute, we are working on developing a global Water Panel on Transformative Futures. And to get there, we have chosen a route very different from IPCC, which was top-down. We have chosen a bottom-up approach, which means that the first National Water Panel on Transformative Futures has been established in Pakistan.

Its first inaugural meeting was already held last year. And this year, the full panel is going to meet during the Pakistan Water Week being organized by IWMI, in which Hisaar Foundation is also a co-host. These are the two next initiatives of Hisaar Foundation. I thank you for your attention.

As Conference Director of the 7th Karachi International Water Conference, titled “Water, People, Health – Coping with the Floods,” it is my privilege to present this proceedings report and to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the many individuals and institutions whose commitment and collaboration made this conference possible.

We are profoundly grateful to our host institution, Karachi School of Business and Leadership, for providing an enabling academic environment and steadfast institutional support. Hosting the conference within an academic setting—rather than a hotel venue—distinguished this year’s gathering and fostered a space grounded in scholarship, purpose, and genuine engagement. KSBL proved to be an ideal venue for dialogue, deliberation, and meaningful exchange.

We extend our sincere thanks to our keynote speakers, panelists, technical session chairs, and paper presenters—researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and development partners—whose thoughtful contributions enriched discussions on water governance, climate resilience, the water–health nexus, urban water management, and community-centered solutions.

Organizing this year’s conference—comprising 16 sessions, 87 speakers, and more than 1,200 participants—was a significant undertaking requiring sustained planning, coordination, and partnership. It would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners. We particularly acknowledge Pathfinder International, COMSTECH, Panjwani Charitable Foundation, Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute, UNICEF and World Bank, whose engagement was instrumental, alongside the valued contributions of our 20 partners and sponsors. All are duly recognized in this report.

We are indebted to the Academic and Conference Committee members—especially Ms Simi Kamal, Ms Afia Salam, Mr Ashraf Kapadia, and QZ Catalyst—ably led by Dr Yasmeen Qazi, who dedicated their time and expertise to ensuring the quality and integrity of the conference content and execution. We also acknowledge the invaluable guidance of Mr Zohair Ashir for

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Sanaa Zulfikar Causer
Conference Director

his supervision and oversight, as well as the teams at AASA Consulting and Starlinks PR for their critical support in social media outreach and public relations.

A special note of appreciation goes to the entire staff of Hisaar Foundation, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes ensured the seamless execution of every aspect of the conference. We are equally grateful to the volunteers and students who assisted us throughout the two days of deliberations.

Finally, we thank all participants, speakers, facilitators, partners, and sponsors whose engagement and expertise shaped the conference and its outcomes. Together, we reaffirmed that water is not merely a matter of survival, but a cornerstone of the climate and health nexus.

This proceedings report offers a comprehensive account of the panel discussions and key insights, reflecting our shared commitment to advancing the agenda, integrating water meaningfully into climate and health discourse, and strengthening informed decision-making and practical solutions.

Thank you for being part of this collective effort. We look forward to continuing this journey together and to welcoming you again in 2027 for the next Karachi International Water Conference.



In the wake of the catastrophic floods of 2022, Pakistan once again faced devastating flooding that resulted in the loss of precious lives, billions of dollars in damages, and the widespread destruction of infrastructure. Entire communities were displaced, poverty deepened, and public health crises intensified, including rising malnutrition and the rapid spread of water-borne diseases.

The agricultural sector—central to livelihoods, food security, and export revenues—was severely affected. Repeated extreme weather events, coupled with slow and inadequate international financial support for climate adaptation, continue to compound the crisis.

Scientific projections warn of rising temperatures, accelerated glacial melt, and increased flood risks, pointing toward prolonged and recurring impacts if urgent action is not taken.

It is no longer a matter of choice; learning to coexist with nature has become an urgent necessity. Collective, sustainable strategies must move from rhetoric to implementation. Governments, communities, the private sector, and international partners must unite around a shared call to action—thinking locally while acting with global responsibility.

Against this backdrop, the conference brought together leading thinkers, practitioners, policymakers,



youth, and community representatives to confront the pressing challenges of water and climate governance. More than a forum for dialogue, it served as a platform for advancing actionable, solution-oriented approaches.

Communities were placed at the center of the conversation, recognizing that lived experience and indigenous knowledge are critical to developing innovative, nature-based solutions. Through the sharing of practical models and grounded experiences, the conference sought to move beyond debate toward tangible action—strengthening resilience, addressing governance gaps, and redefining responses to water- and

climate-related crises.

Water remains the lifeline that shapes civilizations, sustains economies, and determines the health and well-being of populations. Yet climate change—exacerbated by unsustainable practices—is destabilizing the global water cycle, resulting in intensified storms, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and recurrent floods. These disruptions are not only environmental in nature; they are also deepening existing inequalities and creating new vulnerabilities.

The urgency of addressing the interconnections between water, people, and health has never been greater. While the visible destruction is evident, the

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

longer-term consequences—disease outbreaks, food insecurity, economic strain, and water scarcity—continue to unfold. This is a pivotal moment to rethink, recalibrate, and redesign strategies so that societies are better prepared for the next climate-driven disaster.

In Pakistan, the Indus River—the nation’s lifeline—supports agriculture, energy generation, and domestic use. Yet the combined pressures of climate change, governance challenges, mismanagement, and rapid population growth have rendered the country water-stressed, with per capita water availability declining dramatically since independence. These are not merely ecological failures; they are also political and institutional challenges shaped by how water is governed, who has access, and how decisions are made.

The conference highlighted community- and youth-led action, showcasing people-centered models co-created with women at their core. It empha-

sized sustainable, long-term solutions that integrate nature-based approaches for climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration. By placing local communities, women, and young people at the forefront, the conference reinforced their vital role in shaping resilient and inclusive responses.

It also underscored the less visible, yet deeply interconnected, consequences of water insecurity on health and well-being—ensuring that the voices of those most affected, yet often unheard, inform policy and practice.

At the heart of this transformative journey are local communities that have long nurtured nature-based solutions. Their enduring relationship with land and water has enabled adaptive practices that restore ecosystems while sustaining livelihoods. Recognizing and scaling such practices is essential to building a more resilient and equitable water future.



Hisaar Foundation

7TH KARACHI INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE

28th & 29th October 2025



WATER
PEOPLE
HEALTH
Coping with the Floods

DAY 1 | TUESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2025

TIME	SESSION & TOPIC
0900 - 1000	Registration & Networking
1000 - 1100	Session 1 Opening Plenary: The Hisaar Foundation Story: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow Auditorium
1100 - 1130	Tea Break
1130 - 1300	Session 2 Second Plenary: Citizens' Commission on Floods: Impact on Water, People and Health Auditorium
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1530	Session 3A Water for People: Advancing South-South Cooperation Lecture Hall 1 Session 3B Water for Health & Food Security: Framing the Debate Lecture Hall 3 Session 3C Water for Justice: Global Compacts on Transboundary Waters & Indus Waters Treaty Auditorium
1530 - 1700	Session 4A Water for People: Role of Private Sector in Water Risk Management Challenges, Initiatives & Way Forward Lecture Hall 1 Session 4B Water for Health: Water Borne Diseases in Flood Times Auditorium Session 4C Water for Justice: Everyone is Downstream - Indus Water Apportionment Accord Lecture Hall 3
1700 - 1800	Evening Tea

DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER 2025

TIME	SESSION & TOPIC
0900 - 1000	Networking Tea
1000 - 1130	Session 5A Water for People: Urban Drainage & Floods Lecture Hall 1 Session 5B Water for Health: Child Stunting - Why is it not Being Addressed? Auditorium Session 5C Water for Justice: Living on the Edge with Floods - Economic & Social Impacts Lecture Hall 3
1130 - 1300	Session 6 Caf'e of the Unheard Cafeteria
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1530	Session 7A Water for People: Putting People First - Indigenous Water Wisdom Lecture Hall 1 Session 7B Water for Health: Sanitation - The Forgotten Part of WASH Lecture Hall 3 Session 7C Water for Justice: Water for Human Rights & Prosperity - Building Women's Leadership Auditorium
1530 - 1700	Session 8 Closing Plenary: Living Charter for Water & People Auditorium
1700 - 1800	Close of Conference & Tea

7TH KARACHI INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE

28–29 OCTOBER 2025

Karachi, Pakistan



Speakers

87



International Speakers

4



Guests (Opening & Closing)

527



Delegates

418



Youth Participants

130



Guests for Women's Session

107



Media Representatives

44



Volunteers and Staff

50



Sponsors and Partners

20

**7th Karachi International
Water Conference**

**WATER
PEOPLE
HEALTH**

Coping with the Floods

Preamble

Water is life, health, dignity, and justice. In Pakistan, water lies at the heart of climate vulnerability, public health crises, food insecurity, gender inequality, and economic survival. Floods, droughts, unsafe drinking water, child stunting, and waterborne diseases are not isolated problems — they are symptoms of a fragmented system that has failed to place people, especially women, children, youth, and marginalized communities, at the center of water governance.

This Living Charter for Water and People emerges from collective reflection, lived experience, and evidence shared by policymakers, scientists, health professionals, civil society, and community leaders. It is a call to move beyond policy statements toward grounded, people-led action. As a *living* document, it invites continuous learning, adaptation, and participation.

LIVING CHARTER FOR WATER & PEOPLE



Vision

A Pakistan where water is recognized as a fundamental human right; where water governance is just, inclusive, and accountable; and where healthy ecosystems, healthy people, and resilient communities are mutually reinforcing.

Guiding Principles

1. Water as a Human Right

Access to safe, affordable, and sufficient water must be guaranteed to all, independent of land ownership, income, gender, or geography, in line with the Constitution of Pakistan and internationally recognized human rights obligations.

2. Alignment with SDG 6 and Climate Commitments

All actions under this Charter align with **Sustainable**

Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

and its targets on universal access, water quality, efficiency, integrated water resources management, and ecosystem protection, as well as Pakistan's commitments under global climate frameworks.

3. People-Centered Governance

Communities most affected by water insecurity — especially women and youth — must be decision-makers, not just beneficiaries, consistent with constitutional principles of devolution and local self-governance.

4. Equity and Justice

Water policies must prioritize those historically excluded: informal urban settlements, landless farmers, flood-prone regions, and water-stressed rural areas.

LIVING CHARTER FOR WATER & PEOPLE

5. Prevention Over Reaction

Preparedness, early warning, and household-level behavior change must replace crisis-driven responses of condolence, compensation, and delayed aid.

6. Integration, Not Silos

Water, health, nutrition, sanitation, climate adaptation, and gender equality are inseparable and must be addressed together.

7. Science Grounded in Society

Technical solutions must be informed by rigorous research, social behavior, local knowledge, and cultural realities.

Core Challenges

- Recurrent floods treated as disasters rather than predictable events requiring preparedness
- Unsafe water contributing to waterborne diseases, environmental enteropathy, and child stunting
- Exclusion of women and youth from water governance despite their frontline roles
- Fragmented institutional mandates across health, water, food, and planning sectors
- Overreliance on large, elite-driven infrastructure with weak local ownership
- Failure to translate research and policy into operational, community-level action

Strategic Pillars for Action

These pillars operationalize Pakistan's constitutional obligations, provincial and national water policies, and climate commitments, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), by translating them into people-centered, locally actionable pathways.

1. Community-Led Water Governance

- Establish and strengthen **Women's WASH Com-**

mittees and youth organizations as formal partners in planning and implementation

- Recognize caregivers and household managers as key agents of change
- Institutionalize **Public-Private-Community Partnerships (PPCPs)** to bridge state capacity gaps
- Empower functional local governments in line with constitutional commitments

2. Flood Preparedness and Resilience

- Shift from reactive flood response to **anticipatory action** using early warning systems
- Invest in low-cost, scalable solutions such as ponds, wetlands, and traditional water storage systems
- Promote community stewardship initiatives such as *"Million Talaab Tabdeeli"* (a million ponds movement)
- Protect health by controlling contamination sources before floods strike

3. Water, Health, and Nutrition Nexus

- Treat **clean water as a nutrient**, essential to child growth and cognitive development
- Address child stunting by linking WASH, maternal health, nutrition, and sanitation
- Integrate stunting prevention into SOPs for gynecologists, general practitioners, and frontline health workers
- Revitalize **Basic Health Units (BHUs)** to document health and water indicators in real time

4. Household-Level Behavior Change

- Prioritize social and behavior change communication to address unsafe water practices
- Promote sanitation, hygiene, safe defecation, and water quality monitoring as health interventions

- Build awareness that stunting is irreversible and begins during pregnancy

5. Gender and Intergenerational Justice

- Center women's leadership in water governance at all levels
- Address reproductive health, birth spacing, and women's decision-making power as determinants of nutrition and water outcomes
- Invest in training a new generation of water professionals, especially women

6. Systems Reform and Accountability

- Move beyond policy formulation toward **operational roadmaps** with measurable outcomes
- Improve efficiency and equity within the Indus Basin irrigation and drainage systems
- Develop a **circular water economy** focused on conservation, reuse, and recycling
- Ensure unused climate finance is unlocked through viable, community-grounded proposals

7. Science, Research, and Knowledge to Action

- Place **science and applied research** at the core of water governance, health planning, and climate resilience
- Bridge the persistent gap between research, policy, and on-ground implementation by embedding evidence into decision-making at all levels
- Integrate hydrology, public health, nutrition, climate science, social sciences, and behavioral research to address complex water challenges holistically
- Promote **community-informed research**, valuing indigenous knowledge and lived experience alongside scientific inquiry
- Invest in data systems, real-time monitoring, and

LIVING CHARTER FOR WATER & PEOPLE

early warning mechanisms that inform preventive action rather than post-crisis response

- Strengthen national and regional research capacity through institutions such as the **Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute**, envisioned as a hub for interdisciplinary research, policy innovation, practitioner training, and community-linked solutions
- Support partnerships between universities, think tanks, government agencies, and civil society to translate research into scalable, low-cost, people-centered solutions

Implementation Commitments

- Align Charter actions with **Pakistan's National Water Policy, provincial water and sanitation policies**, and sectoral frameworks on health, nutrition, and climate change
- Operationalize the **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** through community-led water resilience, flood preparedness, and health protection measures
- Uphold constitutional principles of the right to life, dignity, and devolution by strengthening local governments under Article 140A
- Integrate SDG 6 indicators into planning, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms at federal, provincial, and district levels
- Recognize research and evidence generation as continuous public goods essential to water justice and accountability

A Living Commitment

This Charter is not an endpoint. It is a shared commitment to act, learn, and adapt together. It belongs to the communities it serves and will evolve as new voices, evidence, and experiences shape its path.

True water security will not come from institutions alone, but from people — especially women and youth — leading the transformation toward a just, healthy, and resilient future for Pakistan.

CONFERENCE GALLERY

**WATER
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Coping with the Floods

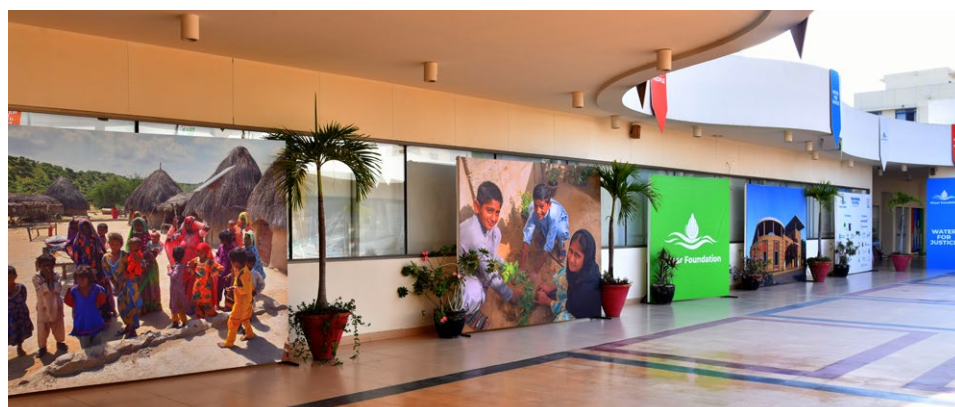


A CONFERENCE IN PICTURES





CONFERENCE GALLERY



“Congratulations!! The conference was a phenomenal experience for me and I am sure for all who attended

I have been to many academic conferences before and this was my first conference in Pakistan and I can say of all the conferences I have attended this one has touched me beyond words. Part of it was, yes so many experts in one place but more so the passion. I think of moments from the conference be it Dr Yasmeen's passionate speech in the start or Dr Bhutta's session at 5 am his time or recounts of field experience working with local communities. It was a truly humbling experience for me the way these people have touched lives.

Thank you so much for having me contribute whatever little I could!

– **Dr Mariam Sohail**

Researcher, Circular Plastics Institute



“Women do not only hold up half the sky; seeing so many women in leadership positions at KIWC 2025, i think they are key to the solution to the water crises.



– **Mushahid Hussain Syed**

Senator (r)

“The two-day event was exceptionally informative, focusing on issues of immense importance. It was very well designed, covering key issues related to water, health and people. The participant profile was also excellent, the event brought together sector experts, academics, activists, journalists, the private sector and the government. The Charter that emerged from the deliberations is an important and much needed (living) document.

– **Rashida Dohad**

CEO – OAKDF



“The Living Charter for Water and People, is a powerful roadmap reflecting our shared com-

REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

mitment to a just, healthy, and water-secure future.

– **Obaidullah Rauf**

Under graduation Student at NED University

“Congratulations, Team HF, on a wonderful conference! To me, it was the best conference by far. The carefully chosen topics and participating professionals resulted in excellent delivery and meaningful knowledge sharing.



– **Jamal Ansari**

CEO Akbar Associates group

“To date not a single Water dispute has been resolved by the Council of Common Interest. We don't know how to speak to each other on water – and when we do make laws, we don't act on them.

– **Ahmad Rafay Alam**

Environmental Lawyer



“We can engineer many solutions but we cannot engineer our way against nature.



– **Hammad Naqi Khan**

DG WWF-Pakistan

“I would like to formally compliment Hisaar on a very successful 7th Karachi International water conference. It was a superbly organised, content-driven intellectual discourse led by the best in their respective fields, with the HF team working seamlessly and handling all guests very courteously.

– **Seema Taher Khan**

CEO STK Media and member Hisar Foundation's Think Tank on Rational Use of Water



“I want to give a huge shout out to the Hisaar water conference for bringing together diverse experts working on water, climate, health, sanitation, Urban and rural water and business sustainability. This conference has created a unique platform to explore enter linkages and synergies between different areas

REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

of work, addressing critical issues like climate, health and water and Pakistan.

– **Dr Fazilda Nabeel**

Climate and Water Governance Specialist



“Attending the 7th Karachi International Water Conference 2025 as a senior rapporteur was an experience that truly broadened my perspective. Sitting through the sessions, taking notes, and capturing key discussions gave me a front-row seat to conversations shaping Pakistan's water future.

It was fascinating to hear experts, policymakers, and industry leaders share ideas on sustainability, climate resilience, water governance, floods, and health. Every session was a reminder of how deeply connected our environment, economy, and communities really are.

– **Sharmeen Ali Bukhari**

Reporter 7KIWC

“The Problem in Pakistan is not Water Scarcity, but of Water Governance.

– **Ehsan Leghari**

Member IRSA (Sindh)



“It's not enough to build projects we can celebrate – without documented science-based urban planning, they will remain elusive.



– **Dr Noman Ahmed**

“Women have always been at the heart of water management – especially in rural Pakistan – yet their voices remain excluded from formal water dialogues.

– **Afia Salam**

Journalist



“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the thoughtful arrangements made to

facilitate my participation in the Karachi International Water Conference. It was a truly enriching experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to engage in such a well-organized event.



– **Sonia Binte Murshed, PhD**

Associate Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET, Bangladesh.

“Water governance must include people in decision-making. Without understanding human dimensions, sustainability challenges cannot be addressed effectively.

– **Dr Neil Lazarow**

Research Program Manager, ACIAR



“There are strong similarities between water challenges in Bangladesh and Pakistan — too much water in wet seasons and too little in dry seasons. We face floods, droughts, and salinity. These shared challenges create opportunities for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and partnership.



– **Dr Awlad Hossain**

Director, ICT-GIS, IWM Dhaka, Bangladesh

“This conference focuses on stunting and its links with water and nutrition. Clean water plays a significant role in addressing stunting and broader health issues.

– **Dr Naveed Bhutto**

Maternal Adolescent Child health Nutrition Expert, Government of Sindh



“This is a very important effort for our country and for humanity. Water is wealth. We must understand how water is used at both household and large scales, and develop principles that lead to appropriate solutions.



– **Javed Jabbar**

Senator (r)



Session 1

OPENING PLENARY – THE HISAAR FOUNDATION STORY: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Facilitator	Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer, Director External Relations, Conference Director, Hisaar Foundation
Moderator	Mr Talha Jatoi, Journalist, Anchorperson, 365 News/Awaz TV
Speaker	Ms Nadira Panjwani, Chairperson, Panjwani Charitable Foundation
Speaker	Mr Ashraf Kapadia, Council Member, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Ms Simi Kamal, Chairperson, Hisaar Foundation

This session was sponsored by Hisaar Foundation.

Welcome and Introduction

The Opening Plenary of the 7th Karachi International Water Conference commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a powerful live rendition of the Pakistan national anthem by the delegates and participants. The Opening Plenary brought together Ms Simi Kamal, Ms Nadira Panjwani, Mr Ashraf Kapadia, and Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer to reflect on Hisaar Foundation's story – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Opening Address

In her opening address, Ms Simi Kamal highlighted the escalating global ecological crises, including biodiversity loss, melting glaciers, polluted water bodies, and disrupted water cycles. She called for a fundamental shift toward nature-based solutions, free-flowing rivers, and a rethinking of extractive economic systems that have driven climate change in the Anthropocene era.

She noted a transformation in the discourse on water—from pricing to valuing water; from disputes to cooperation; and from viewing water as a commodity to recognizing it as a global common good grounded in justice and equity. Increasing attention is now being given to minimum water requirements for a dignified life, prioritizing the most vulnerable, and restoring freshwater ecosystems.



Nadira Panjwani

Referring to Pakistan's devastating floods, she underscored the profound human and economic losses, including malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and threats to food security. She emphasized that beyond ecological failures, governance and political decisions shape access to water, often deepening inequalities in an already water-stressed country.

Describing the 7th Karachi International Water Conference as a platform for actionable solutions, she stressed the importance of amplifying marginalized voices and decolonizing development approaches. She proposed shifting from "Think Global, Act Local" to "Think Local, Act Global," advocating grassroots-driven global action.

Tracing the 22-year journey of Hisaar Foundation, she outlined its evolution from community interventions to policy advocacy and the development of a Living Charter on People and Water. She referenced initiatives such as the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute, established in partnership with NED University of Engineering and Technology and Panjwani Charitable Foundation.

Looking ahead, she shared that Hisaar Foundation, in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute, is advancing a bottom-up Global Water Panel on Transformative Futures, with Pakistan's National Water Panel already convened and set to meet again during Pakistan Water Week.

Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute

Ms Nadira Panjwani noted that the conference has been a flagship initiative of the Hisaar Foundation since 2013. Reflecting on her association with the Foundation since 2012, she acknowledged its early leadership in raising awareness on water scarcity, food insecurity, and environmental challenges at a time when these issues received limited public attention.

She highlighted the evolution of the Karachi International Water Conference into a respected platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in the water sector. A key focus of her address was the establishment of the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI) at the NED University of Engineering and Technology, conceived as a center of excellence for water research, education, and solutions. She noted that the Institute began its academic activities in 2019 and currently offers Master's programs and professional courses aimed at strengthening water expertise and resilience in Pakistan.

Emphasizing Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change—including floods, droughts, glacial melt, and governance challenges—Ms Panjwani underscored the urgent need for institutional reform, improved water management, and national ownership of climate response efforts. She described PHWI as a long-term legacy initiative dedicated to safeguarding water

resources for future generations.

She concluded by reaffirming that protecting water is essential to securing Pakistan's health, prosperity, and future.

Hisaar Foundation's Programs and Projects

The next speaker, Mr Ashraf Kapadia underscored that water is life and a shared responsibility, highlighting Pakistan's escalating water crisis as an existential threat. While overall water availability has remained largely unchanged since independence, rapid population growth has drastically reduced per capita



Ashraf Kapadia

availability, shifting Pakistan from water secure to water stressed. Climate change, recurrent floods and droughts, waterborne diseases, poor sanitation, and widespread contamination further compound the crisis. He noted that outdated agricultural practices consume over 93% of water resources, while weak wastewater management and lack of public awareness continue to degrade water quality.

He outlined Hisaar Foundation's nationwide interventions since 2003 in water, food, and livelihood security,

including installation of low-cost water systems, rehabilitation of school WASH facilities, construction of wells and community ponds, public awareness campaigns, and large-scale capacity-building initiatives. He also highlighted the Foundation's Think Tank on the Rational Use of Water, which has produced key policy papers including the Citizens' Water Policy and the Million Ponds Initiative, as well as the biennial Karachi International Water Conference as a global platform for dialogue and action.

Focusing on long-term solutions, Mr Kapadia emphasized the need for an institutional and integrated approach to fundamentally transform water governance in Pakistan. He presented the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI) as this strategic response—an interdisciplinary center established in collaboration with Panjwani Charitable Foundation and NED University. PHWI aims to build professional capacity, advance research, and integrate engineering, natural sciences, economics, and behavioral sciences. Equipped with five specialized laboratories and offering professional, Masters, and PhD programs, the Institute seeks to reshape how Pakistan plans, manages, and values water.

He concluded by calling for collective action to secure Pakistan's water future for generations to come.

Karachi International Water Conference

Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer presented Hisaar Foundation's multipronged and collaborative approach to addressing Pakistan's water crisis. She outlined the Foundation's vision of solving Pakistan's water challenges in a changing environment and its mission to strengthen leadership in water, food, and livelihood security through innovative, low-cost solutions for marginalized communities.

Emphasizing a multi-stakeholder model, she highlighted engagement with government, international agencies, private sector, academia, civil society, media, and citizens.

Ms Causer's presentation traced the evolution of



Sanaa Zulfikar Causer

the Karachi International Water Conference (KIWC), launched in 2013, from a modest initiative into a leading platform influencing national water discourse. She noted that each biennial conference has been action-oriented and outcome-driven, generating significant initiatives such as the Think Tank on the Rational Use of Water, Universities for Water Network, Citizens' Water Policy, the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Insti-

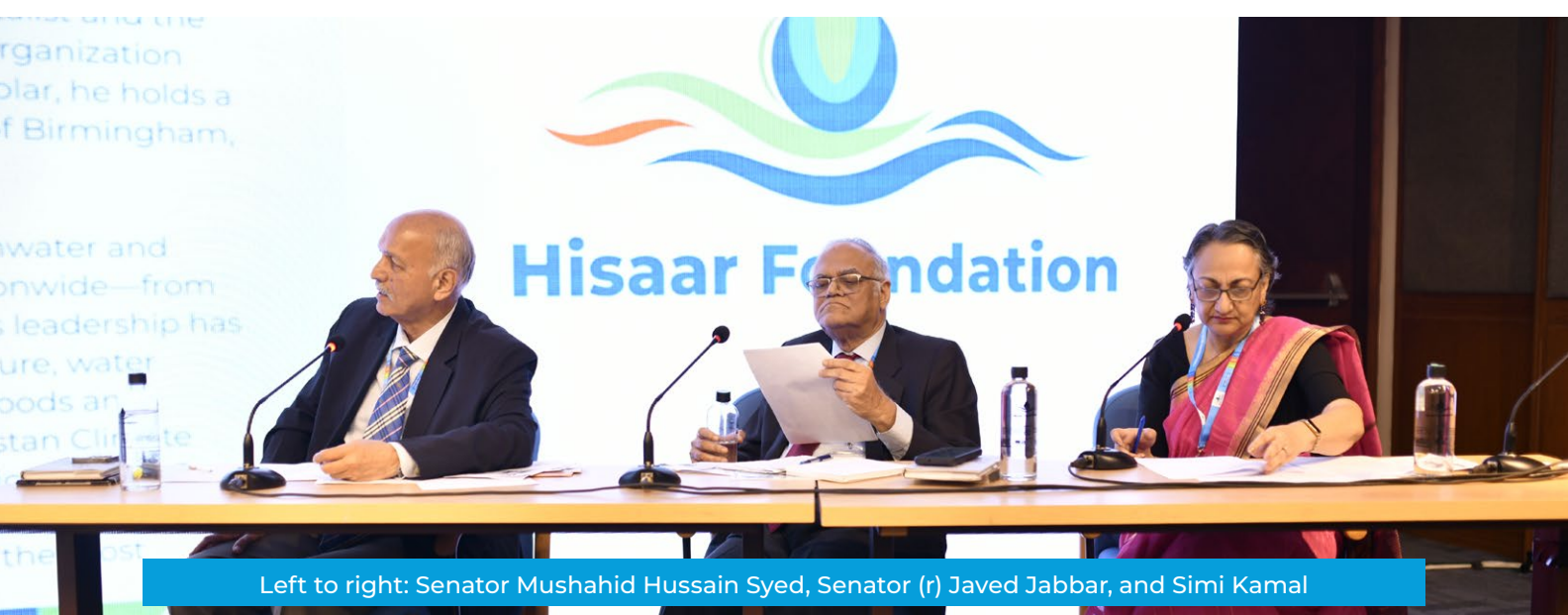
tute, Women & Water Network, Water and Youth Network, and the Pakistan Water Panel for Transformative Futures.

Ms Causer's presentation reaffirmed KIWC's role as a catalyst for policy influence, institutional development, and collaborative action in Pakistan's water governance landscape.

Conference Walkthrough and Agenda

Closing the plenary, Ms Simi Kamal re-emphasized the strategic objectives of the 7th KIWC, including strengthening climate adaptation and disaster risk management approaches related to floods, deepening understanding of the water-climate-health nexus, integrating WASH considerations into health systems, expanding multi-stakeholder partnerships, and advancing PHWI's role as a national knowledge and training hub. She explained the conference sessions are divided into three main thematic areas: Water for People, Water for Health and Water Justice. She especially drew attention to the closing plenary, which would focus on collective commitments, including the Living Charter for Water and People, as a framework for shared responsibility and action.





Left to right: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, and Simi Kamal

Session 2

SECOND PLENARY – CITIZENS’ COMMISSION ON FLOODS: IMPACT ON WATER, PEOPLE AND HEALTH

Facilitator Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer, Director External Relations & Conference Director, Hisaar Foundation

Moderator Mr Talha Jatoi, Journalist, Anchorperson, 365 News/Awaz TV

Commission Member Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator (r), Journalist, Former Federal Minister

Commission Member Senator Javed Jabbar, Senator (r)

Commission Member Ms Simi Kamal, Chairperson and CEO, Hisaar Foundation

Expert Mr Ehsan Leghari, Member Sindh, Indus River System Authority (IRSA)

Expert Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation

Expert Dr Yasmeen Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst

Expert Dr Noman Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor, NED University

Expert Ms Afia Salam, Communications Consultant & Advisor, Hisaar Foundation

Expert Mr Hammad Naqi Khan, Director-General, WWF Pakistan

Youth Representative Syeda Malaika Zehra, Trainee Engineer, K-Electric

This session was sponsored by Karachi School of Business & Leadership (KSBL) and Hisaar Foundation.

This Second Plenary session was a unique and dynamic execution of a Citizens’ Commission on Floods. This flagship session articulated the rationale behind the conference theme and its relevance for Pakistan and the wider region. Particular emphasis was placed on the far-reaching consequences of the recent floods,

and the interconnections between water security, human well-being, public health in flood-affected contexts, and conference sub-themes and key focus areas. This was seen as setting the stage for sustained dialogue and cross-sectoral engagement throughout the conference.

Opening Remarks

The session opened with a student-produced video presenting Pakistan's water crisis from a youth perspective, focusing on the urgency for change and stronger policy action, reflecting growing concern among young people about water insecurity and climate impacts.

power imbalances favoring influential groups in controlling water resources, thereby depriving marginalized communities of their rights.

Looking at issues from a legal standpoint, Mr Rafay Alam reflected on legal challenges to translate principles into practice, highlighting weak interprovincial governance, poor communication, and routine disre-



Left to right: Dr Yasmeen Qazi, Ehsan Leghari, and Afia Salam

Citizens' Commission on Floods

After the viewing, Ms Syeda Malaika Zehra spoke on behalf of Pakistan's youth, expressing deep concern over the country's worsening water crisis and the consequences of continued inaction. She highlighted the rising incidence of waterborne diseases, unsafe urban infrastructure, and the growing fear associated with rainfall due to flooding and collapsing systems. Referring to the floods of 2022 and 2025, she questioned the country's preparedness for future monsoons and emphasized the repeated loss of homes, livelihoods, and agricultural land. She underscored that the youth are demanding action and accountability, calling for a National Youth Water Action Plan and meaningful inclusion of young people in water governance and decision-making processes.

The moderator, Mr Talha Jatoti then invited Senator Javed Jabbar, Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain and Ms Simi Kamal to set their Commission to address the complaints put forth by Ms Zehra. The Commission members invited experts one by one and requested them to share their thoughts on what they had heard and seen. The first speaker was Mr Ehsan Leghari, Member IRSA. Mr Ehsan Leghari noted that governance failures underpin Pakistan's water crisis, with

guard for legal frameworks as key barriers to effective water management.

Dr Yasmeen Qazi spoke on the human cost of the 2022 floods; more than 33 million people were affected, and most worrying of all, women lost access to health-care, children to safe water, and entire communities to essential services, describing water as both a source of life and, in times of crisis, a cause of death. While solutions exist, she continued, they remain poorly implemented. She also drew attention to the hidden health crisis following floods, particularly for women and girls, who bear a disproportionate burden yet are often overlooked, including heightened risks of sexual violence, as well as long-term trauma and anxiety.

Prof Dr Noman Ahmed highlighted the unchecked urbanization afflicting Pakistan, a complex and relatively new challenge. He highlighted serious anomalies in Pakistan's urban development, including the prevalence of informal settlements and governance failures. Using examples such as the Swat hotel disaster, he stressed the need for an honest assessment of urbanization patterns and the intrinsic link between land and water access. He argued that sustainable urban water provision is impossible without equitable

access to land and called for policies focused on rehabilitation and revitalization rather than neglect.

The gender dimension of the water challenge was explored by Ms Afia Salam, who noted that dominance by technical and engineering perspectives often overlooks social realities, especially the need for the meaningful inclusion of women—who constitute nearly half

and the respect it has earned on its journey, and the long-standing geopolitical significance of water, both within Pakistan and beyond, and that governance reforms have yet to trickle down to the provinces. Meaningful water governance reform must begin with empowered citizens and stronger local institutions, he continued, while acknowledging the paradoxical role of floods in replenishing soil.



Left to right: Dr Noman Ahmed, Syeda Malika Zehra, and Hammad Naqi Khan

the population—in water governance, drawing on documented examples of women-led water management initiatives in Sindh.

With solutions to Pakistan's water dilemmas few and far between, Mr Hammad Naqi Khan addressed the continued preference for brick-and-mortar solutions over nature-based approaches, reflecting on traditional engineering techniques, water stewardship, corporate engagement, and hybrid models that integrate engineered infrastructure with nature-based solutions.

Ms Syeda Malaika Zehra, was once again invited to share her thoughts on the views expressed by the experts. She reiterated that young people are ready to take on future challenges if given the opportunity, rejecting held assumptions that young Pakistanis are merely a “social media generation,” highlighting their roles in technological innovation, climate activism, and collective action. She called for updated education, relevant training, and meaningful opportunities, stressing that young people want to be part of mainstream decision-making.

Senator Javed Jabbar outlined the role the Hisaar Foundation has played in Pakistan's water debate

Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain emphasized the strong linkage between water, public health, and communities, noting that grassroots efforts have demonstrated practical solutions. Critiquing the official flood response, he described it as a repetitive cycle of the “three C's” — Condolences, Compensation, and Commitments for foreign aid — which has failed to produce lasting results.

He called for a results-oriented and collaborative “hybrid model” involving government, civil society, media, and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. He concluded by appreciating the practical, action-focused approach of the conference and acknowledging the Panjwani Hisaar Water Institute as a model for translating ideas into institutional impact.

Concluding Remarks

The session concluded with Ms Simi Kamal's announcement that the Living Charter for Water and People aims to address the shortcomings highlighted by the experts. She stated that the charter will be developed collaboratively during the conference and would be presented at its conclusion.



Session 3A

WATER FOR PEOPLE: ADVANCING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Facilitator Ms Afia Salam, Communications Consultant & Advisor, Hisaar Foundation

Chair Dr Pervaiz Amir, Senior Economist Board Member, GWP (South Asia Chapter)

Speaker Dr Mollah Md Awlad Hossain, Director, ICT-GIS, Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) Dhaka, Bangladesh

Speaker Dr Akissa Bahri, Board of Governors, International Water Management Institute

Speaker Mr Johan Gely, Asia Director for Research Impact, International Water Management Institute

Speaker Dr Fazilda Nabeel, Adjunct Faculty, Climate and Water Governance WIT-LUMS

This session was sponsored by OIC-COMSTECH and Panjwani Charitable Foundation.

Opening Remarks

Ms Afia Salam set the stage for a robust session by outlining the session objectives: the value of learning from diverse regional experiences, as international experts would be essential to the debate.

Panel Discussion

Dr Awlad Hussain began his talk by sharing insights from Bangladesh's water issues, highlighting the

country's high population density and the pressures on its - now increasingly polluted - river and canal systems. and the use of digital models to predict water hazards, including floods, droughts, cyclones, and salinity, and to plan preventive measures.

He also spoke on Bangladesh's structural and non-structural solutions, including 970 ongoing projects, the use of 2D simulation models, groundwater monitoring, and meteorological forecasting. Agricul-

ture remains a national priority, he continued, with innovations like the Khamari Mobile App aiding mustard cultivation and optimizing fertilizer use. While work on the Ganges system is advanced, 53 other river systems still require attention.

Dr Akissa Bahri emphasized the importance of South-South Cooperation, advocating for decolonized development and shared solutions among nations with common challenges. Her presentation was a compelling reminder of the role indigenous knowledge and local wisdom play in strengthening sustainable practices. She also spoke on solar irrigation, water and soil management and salinity control, and the potential

The background to Track II initiatives, in advancing South-South Cooperation, was covered by Dr Fazilda Nabeel. She traced the concept's evolution over 25 years, highlighting successes in the Mekong, Nile, and Jordan river basins, where informal dialogues led to formal negotiations and durable water-sharing agreements. She noted that there were caveats to this approach; while Track II initiatives have kept conversations going, political and funding constraints have limited their direct impact on policy change. Additionally, Dr Nabeel also suggested exploring AI-based early flood warning systems, citing examples from Europe and India, as potential collaboration opportunities for Pakistan.



Left to right: Dr Akissa Bahri, (late) Dr Pervaiz Amir, Dr Mollah Md Awlad Hossain, Johan Gely, and Dr Fazilda Nabeel

use of wastewater as a valuable resource for agriculture, recreation, and industry, citing examples from Tunisia and Pakistan.

Mr Johan Gely spoke on the collaboration between South Sudan and Bangladesh, noting challenges for landlocked countries and the importance of securing funding for joint initiatives and the role of equity, trust, and sovereignty in transboundary water cooperation, drawing on lessons from the Chu and Talas River Basins in Central Asia, managed primarily by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, Dr Pervaiz Amir highlighted key lessons from the debate. Bangladesh provided a strong model for flood management, while Tunisia's frameworks and the three models presented by Dr Bahri offered practical guidance for Pakistan. Track II diplomacy for Pakistan, especially in the context of India, he said, and the importance of reciprocity and knowledge exchanges in South-South cooperation was the way forward.

Dr Amir concluded the session by thanking all speakers and participants for their contributions.



Left to right: Dr Jai Das, Farrah Naz, Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Bashir Anjum, and Mahmood Nawaz Shah

Session 3B

WATER FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY: FRAMING THE DEBATE

Facilitator	Dr Yasmeen Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst
Moderator	Dr Zulfiqar Ali Umrani, Director, ORIC Director, Clinical Trials, Ziauddin University
Chair	Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Country Representative - Senior Fellow, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Pakistan
Panelist	Dr Jai Das, Associate Director, Institute for Global Health and Development Aga Khan University
Panelist	Mr Bashir Anjum, Chief Operating Officer, Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN)
Panelist	Ms Farrah Naz, Country Director, GAIN, Pakistan
Panelist	Mr Mahmood Nawaz Shah, President, Sindh Abadgaar Board and Member, Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation

This session was sponsored by International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

Session 3B examined the interlinkages between water scarcity, agricultural productivity, public health outcomes, and food security in Pakistan. Speakers highlighted how climate change, recurrent floods, rapid population growth, and declining per capita water availability are intensifying malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and economic vulnerability—particularly among smallholder farmers and marginalized communities.

The discussion aimed to identify policy gaps, explore nature-based solutions, and propose cross-sectoral approaches to challenges that are currently addressed in silos.

Opening Remarks

The session chair, Dr Muhammad Ashraf, framed

water as a critical non-traditional security threat, linking it to climate change and migration. He noted that Pakistan started experiencing water scarcity in the 2000s and is projected to reach absolute scarcity by 2025. Persistent waterborne diseases, driven by poor water quality, were cited as evidence of the interconnected water and public health crises.

The reactive nature of disaster responses was highlighted by Dr Jai Das, citing the 2022 and 2025 floods, and stressed the long-term impacts on women, children, and mental health; surveys conducted in Dadu showed that 25 per cent of the population experienced post-flood depression, pointing to incomplete recovery.



Left to right: Dr Yasmeen Qazi, Dr Zulfiqar Ali Umrani, and Dr Muhammad Ashraf

Panel Discussion

Dr Zulfiqar Umrani observed that while Sindh has developed water and climate policies, weak implementation continues to limit their impact, while Dr Farrah Naz spoke on the need for small-scale, climate-smart storage solutions, stronger local governance, and improved coordination across the water, food, health, and agriculture sectors. She noted that flood irrigation accounts for nearly 90% of freshwater use, underscoring the need to improve water efficiency in agriculture.

Mr Mahmood Nawaz Shah noted that medium- and large-scale farmers can adopt climate-smart crops, including water-intensive but resilient varieties such as paddy, provided appropriate economic incentives are in place. He stressed the importance of sustained government follow-up and donor engagement.

Mr Bashir Anjum's comments highlighted administrative and social accountability, noting that smaller farmers often receive disproportionately less water than larger landholders. He cautioned that climate-smart technologies, such as solar-powered tube wells, must

be accompanied by farmer education to avoid unintended long-term impacts.

Adding to Mr Anjum's observations, Dr Farrah Naz cautioned that while private-sector initiatives can support smallholders through capacity building and sustainable rice programs, large-scale interventions must be led by the public sector. She also highlighted crop diversification, including millets, as a pathway to improved nutrition and resilience.



The discussion underscored persistent policy implementation gaps and the predominance of reactive, disaster-driven responses over preventive planning. Inefficient water use in agriculture, continued reliance on water-intensive crops, contamination of drinking water sources, and inadequate soil regeneration practices were identified as key structural challenges. Participants emphasized the need to break governance silos and foster coordinated action across water, agri-

culture, health, and climate sectors.

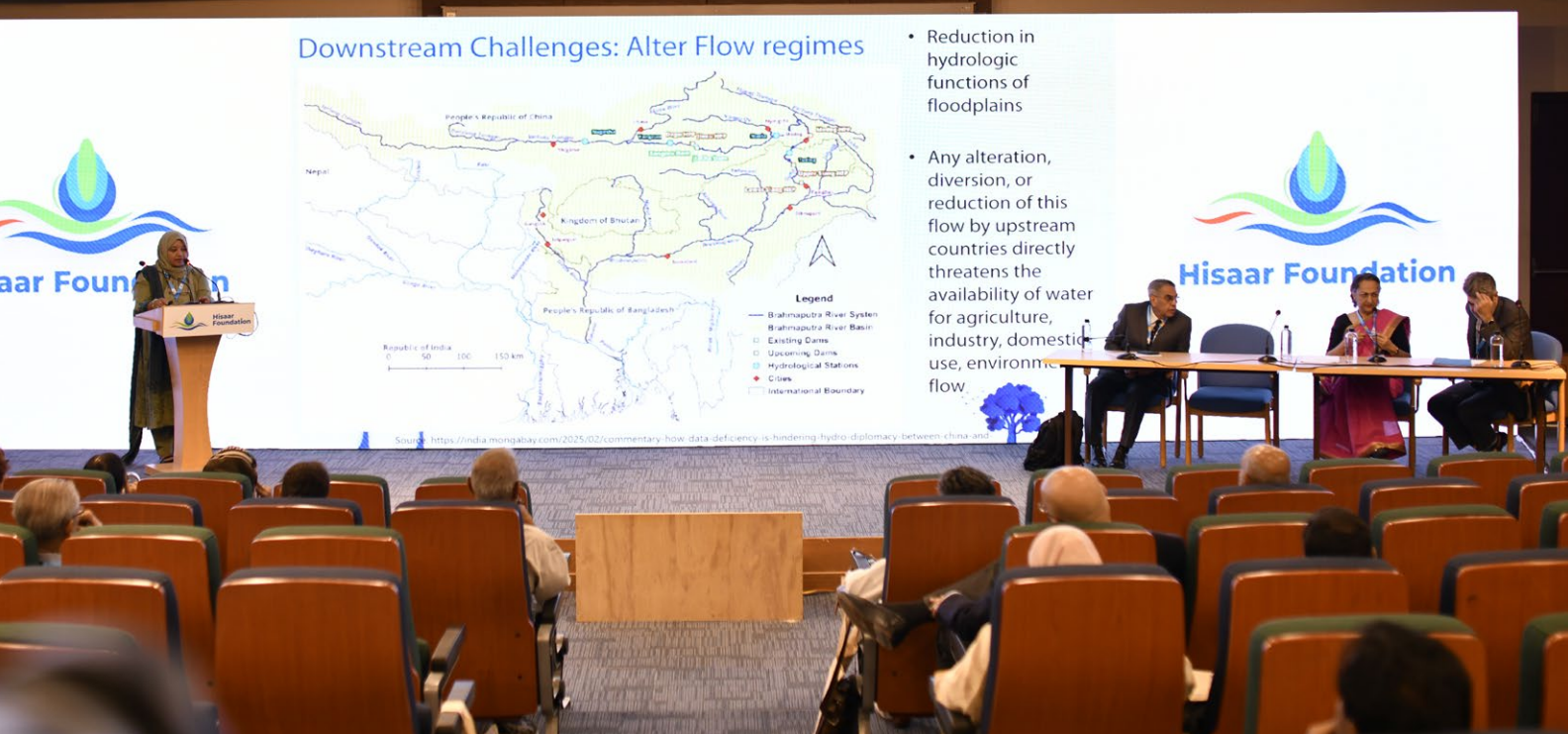
Proposed solutions focused on actionable roadmaps at federal and provincial levels with clear timelines, accountability mechanisms, and cross-ministerial coordination. Preventive approaches were prioritized, including strengthening primary healthcare systems, integrating health impact assessments into water and agricultural planning, and scaling point-of-use water treatment to reduce contamination. The importance of climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification (including millets and other less water-intensive alternatives), soil micronutrient management, and farmer education—supported by economic incentives—was strongly emphasized.

Questions and Answers

Audience questions in the session covered soil micronutrient depletion, drinking water contamination, the viability of water-intensive crops, and the dissemination of research findings. Replying to questions, the panelists spoke on the importance of public-private partnerships, preventive health approaches, and the economic viability of interventions to support adoption.

Concluding Remarks

The session concluded with broad agreement that Pakistan's strong policy framework is hamstrung by key challenges, such as weak implementation and accountability, and that preventive health, climate-smart agriculture, cross-sectoral coordination, and economic feasibility are essential for sustainable water, food, and health outcomes. The session further called for a national cross-sectoral framework integrating joint budgeting and policy alignment, alongside enhanced private sector engagement in sustainable agricultural value chains. Increased budgetary allocations for research dissemination, improved monitoring of key indicators (such as water poverty and soil quality), and transparent public reporting were recommended to strengthen evidence-based decision-making.



Session 3C

WATER JUSTICE - GLOBAL COMPACTS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS AND INDUS WATER TREATY

Moderator Ms Simi Kamal, Chairperson and CEO, Hisaar Foundation

Keynote Dr Sonia Binte Murshed, Associate Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Speaker Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation

Speaker Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Independent Consultant

This session was sponsored by Pathfinder International and Hisaar Foundation.

Opening Remarks

Ms Simi Kamal opened the session by outlining the purpose and scope of the discussion: to familiarize participants with global frameworks governing transboundary waters, including relevant UN conventions and emerging international compacts. The session also assessed the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960 against contemporary standards of transboundary water governance, while examining current geopolitical debates surrounding and identifying action-

able pathways for equitable and cooperative water management.

Ms Kamal observed that rivers are inherently shared resources and underscored the importance of transboundary data sharing, legal frameworks, and cooperation. Geography, she continued, has historically played a defining role in the success of nations and empires, making collaboration over shared waters essential rather than optional.

Keynote

Dr Sonia Binte Murshed spoke on downstream challenges in transboundary river basins, drawing attention to the impacts of upstream dams on water flows, sediment transport, and delta dynamics, and that land subsidence and increased flood risks are exacerbated by the lack of continuous, year-round data sharing.

Referring to examples such as the Ganges Water Treaty, Dr Murshed explained that while treaties can mitigate harm, their effectiveness depends on proper implementation, and the need for basin-wide, flexible

ture development, he argued that climate change and glacier melt pose challenges that go beyond the original scope of the Treaty, making supplementary legal and cooperative frameworks increasingly necessary.

Turning to broader regional and geopolitical impacts, Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said that while the IWT is less than perfect, it remains preferable to the absence of any formal agreement. He highlighted emerging trends in South Asia and beyond, where water diversion and control are a source of increasing tensions. Water has increasingly been used as a political instru-



Left to right: Dr Sonia Binte Murshed, Ahmad Rafay Alam, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, and Simi Kamal

treaty arrangements that adapt to climate change, while accounting for political and geopolitical constraints. From a global perspective, including the Nile Basin Initiative, she noted that recent developments concerning the IWT have highlighted vulnerabilities in existing arrangements.

Papers & Presentations

Mr Rafay Alam outlined the legal dimensions of the IWT and assessed it against global legal instruments such as the UN Watercourses Convention. He explained that ratified treaties carry the force of law and cannot be unilaterally abandoned without legal consequences, as obligations to maintain river flows remain binding. While noting legal constraints on infrastruc-

ture development, he continued, limiting negotiation space, but all is not lost: recent developments could also reopen opportunities for dialogue and renegotiation under updated frameworks.

In response to concerns raised by the audience regarding upstream developments in Afghanistan, Mr Rafay Alam said that while Afghanistan has the right to develop its water resources, sustainable outcomes would require cooperation and reasonable engagement among all riparian states; shared water resources require shared responsibility and careful negotiations. The arbitrary suspension of IWT led to a near-war situation between two nuclear-armed neighbors, a deeply alarming situation which must be avoided at all costs in the future.



Left to right: Imran Aslam, Amir Masood, Ayesha Aziz, and Shahrukh Nadeem

Session 4A

WATER FOR PEOPLE: ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN WATER RISK MANAGEMENT, CHALLENGES, INITIATIVES AND WAY FORWARD

Facilitator **Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer**, Director External Relations & Conference Director, Hisaar Foundation

Moderators **Ms Nazish Shekha**, Head of Initiative, Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB)
Ms Sameen Akhund, Senior Manager, Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB)

Chair **Mr Favad Soomro**, CEO, The Dawood Foundation & Head, Engro Foundation

Speaker **Ms Ayesha Aziz**, Group Manager Sustainability, Packages Limited

Speaker **Mr Imran Aslam**, General Manager HSE, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC)

Speaker **Mr Shahrukh Nadeem**, CEO, MyWater

Speaker **Mr Amir Masood**, Chief Investment Officer, InfraZamin

This session was sponsored by Center of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB) and Bank Al Falah.

Opening Remarks

Ms Nazish Shekha and Ms Sameen Akhund opened the proceedings by setting the session context, underscoring the dual risks of insufficient and excessive water, and the need for collective engagement to address Pakistan's growing water challenges and the increasing role of the private sector.

Panel Discussion

Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer commenced the panel discussion by framing the discussion and providing a brief overview on water as a business risk. She outlined four main areas of risk for the corporate sector: physical, regulatory, reputational and financial.

In Mr Amir Masood's view, private sector financing was crucial if Pakistan's water challenges were to be addressed, and proposed the formation of a working group to advance sustainable water initiatives.

Ms Ayesha Aziz spoke about purpose-driven investments her organization aligns with social and environmental outcomes critical for long-term, sustainable growth.

behavior, designed to provide sustainable water solutions at household, community, and industrial scales.

Concluding Remarks

Mr Favad Soomro concluded the session by reflecting on key takeaways: the need to address the political and systemic dimensions of water, demonstrate tangible



Left to right: Dur-e-Sameen Akhund, Nazish Shekha, Favad Soomro, and Sanaa Zulfikar Causer

Mr Imran Aslam shared perspectives from the mining sector, focusing on water-management challenges in Tharparkar's coal operations. He outlined efforts to store and optimize water use, collaboration with industry partners, and community initiatives, including the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in 28 schools and 600 locations. The main theme of his talk was that the shift from regulatory compliance to active stewardship was essential for sustainable water resource management.

Mr Shahrukh Nadeem also offered an entrepreneurial perspective; over 60 per cent of the population lacks access to clean water, and sustainable policies are urgently required, aimed at changing water-use

impacts of interventions, and deepen private-sector engagement. He underscored the growing urgency of informed decision-making, noting that seven of the nine planetary boundaries have already been crossed, and urged participants to "take action and start thinking about the planet in your boardrooms".

A clear consensus emerged from the discussion: that proactive private-sector action—supported by shared data and clear regulatory frameworks—is essential to strengthening long-term water resilience, with the importance of coalition-building, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, and flood mitigation through green infrastructure playing an equally important role.



Session 4B

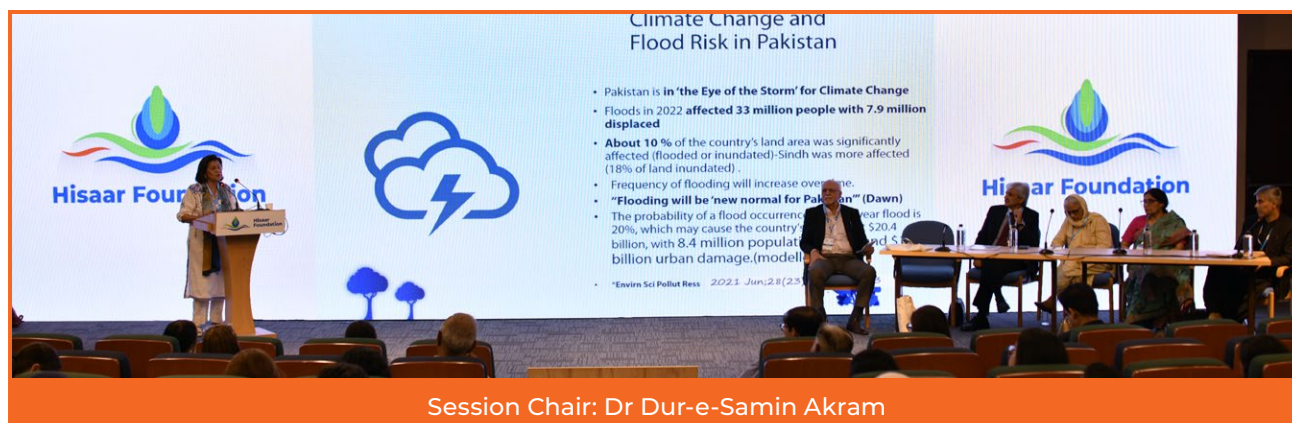
WATER FOR HEALTH: WATER-BORNE DISEASES IN FLOOD TIMES

Facilitator	Dr Yasmeen Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst
Moderator	Ms Shazina Masud, Public Health Specialist
Chair	Dr Dur-e-Samin Akram, CEO, Health Education and Literacy Program
Panelist	Dr Afia Zafar, Consultant Microbiologist, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Aga Khan University
Panelist	Dr Xaheer Gul, Public Health Physician
Panelist	Dr Abid Aman Burki, CNM Department of Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences
Panelist	Dr Lubna Naz, Director, Center for Business and Economic Research IBA, Karachi
Panelist	Dr Syed Aziz ur Rab, CEO, Greenstar Social Marketing Pakistan

This session was sponsored by Pathfinder International and QZ Catalyst.

Session 4B examined the drivers and impacts of water-borne diseases during floods in Pakistan, highlighting contaminated drinking water, fragile urban-rural infrastructure, weak disease surveillance, and recurring climate-induced disasters as central challenges. The

session underscored the disproportionate burden on children under five, pregnant women, and marginalized communities, noting alarming indicators such as approximately 53,000 annual child deaths linked to unsafe water; a doubling of diarrheal mortality during



floods, rising antimicrobial resistance, and economic productivity losses exceeding PKR 265 billion annually.

Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Session Chair, Dr Dur-e-Sameen Akram noted that water and health outcomes are closely related and highlighted the nationwide impact of water-borne diseases on children and high contamination levels from pesticides, chemicals, and sewage intrusion. She highlighted that approximately 68 per cent of childhood diseases and an estimated 53,000 deaths of children under five annually are linked to unsafe water. Dr D.S. Akram described the situation as a crisis and stressed that preventive and adaptive measures were urgent, as floods exacerbate hygiene and mental health challenges, doubling diarrheal deaths during extreme events, particularly in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She concluded her remarks by requesting the panelists to focus on solutions that could make a difference.

Panel Discussion

The discussion highlighted the scale of losses caused by unsafe water, with annual productivity losses estimated at around PKR 265 billion due to water-borne diseases, largely driven by poor sanitation and weak preventive systems. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 was estimated to require approximately USD 160 billion annually, with community willingness to pay identified as a potential pathway for sustainable financing.

Panelists emphasized the need to strengthen epidemic surveillance, particularly during floods, to identify specific contaminants and enable targeted interventions. Strengthening frontline health services through training of GPs, LHVs, and chemists—including improved access to oral rehydration salts (ORS) with zinc—was identified as a practical, high-impact measure. Enhancing Basic Health Units for real-time disease surveillance and integrating early warning systems were also highlighted as key priorities.

Speakers identified major systemic gaps in sanitation planning, including unsafe proximity between sewage and freshwater pipelines, poorly designed septic tanks, inadequate maintenance, and reactive emergency responses that prioritize short-term relief over preventive action. Weak documentation and limited use of early warning mechanisms further compound risks, particularly during flood events.

The session called for a shift toward preventive, community-centered approaches, emphasizing multi-sectoral coordination, behavior change, and community-led resilience. The importance of women and youth—often first responders at the household level—was highlighted, along with the need for their formal inclusion in disaster management and WASH governance. Promoting hand hygiene at both household and school levels, as well as addressing maternal psychological stress during disasters, were also identified as important considerations.

Participants recommended infrastructure reforms, including enforcement of safe pipeline separation standards, scientifically designed septic systems, ret-

rofitting contamination hotspots, and constructing flood-resilient water and sanitation facilities. Investment in national pathogen mapping and phased deployment of technologies such as IoT-based detection systems were proposed to support evidence-based decision-making.

The session also stressed the importance of sustainable financing mechanisms, including subsidized household water treatment solutions, pay-for-service sanitation pilots, and expanded public-private partnerships to help bridge the rural WASH financing gap. Behavioral change campaigns, school-based hygiene education, and community accountability mechanisms were identified as essential for long-term impact.

Questions and Answers

During the Q&A, the role of Effluent Treatment Plants and the use of modern technologies like IoT sensors to monitor and reduce contamination were discussed, noting that pathogen identification must precede effective technological interventions. Engagement with the private sector was paramount in data sharing, groundwater recharge, and flood mitigation through green infrastructure. Regular community meetings - every 2 to 3 months - were proposed to bridge gaps between experts and locals and develop practical, context-specific solutions.

The Q&A reinforced concerns about implementation gaps, antimicrobial resistance, household affordability, and the disconnect between policy commitments and on-ground realities. Overall, Session 4B called for coordinated federal-provincial action, preventive health investments, resilient infrastructure, inclusive governance, and transparent accountability to reduce the recurrent toll of water-borne diseases during floods.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, Ms Shazina Masud emphasized the need for stronger collaboration among public, private, and academic sectors, drawing on successful institutional models such as water authorities in Bangladesh

and Punjab. She stressed that long-term sustainability depends on economic viability, including leveraging communities' willingness to pay for reliable water and health services. Above all, she underscored the importance of strong governance and sustained investment—areas where Pakistan has historically faced persistent challenges.

She noted that the key message of the session was that sustainable water and health solutions require integrated planning, preventive approaches, and meaningful community engagement to reduce the recurring risks of floods and water-borne diseases. Priority actions include shifting from reactive emergency responses to preventive health measures, strengthening primary healthcare systems, expanding hygiene education at household and school levels, and building the capacity of healthcare workers, chemists, and local practitioners.

In her remarks, the importance of actively engaging women and youth in disaster preparedness and water management decision-making was strongly highlighted. The use of technology—such as IoT-enabled and automated detection systems—was recommended where guided by scientific identification of contaminants and local risk patterns.

Ms Masud noted that the participants also stressed the need for sustained engagement between professionals, local communities, and affected populations through regular consultations to develop practical, locally grounded solutions. Preventing contamination of drinking water will require significant investment in resilient infrastructure, including properly designed septic systems, improved waste management, and effective separation of sewage from freshwater networks.

She concluded by emphasizing that the recent flood events, including the floods of 2025, displaced millions and reinforced the urgency of investing in flood-resilient housing, early warning systems, and climate-smart agricultural practices to reduce long-term vulnerability.



Left to right: Dr Fazilda Nabeel, Rashida Dohad, Ehsan Leghari, and Nasir Panhwar

Session 4C

WATER JUSTICE: EVERYONE IS DOWNSTREAM – PAKISTAN'S WATER APPORTIONMENT ACCORD

Facilitator	Mr Shaikh Soaleh, Senior Manager Operations, Hisaar Foundation
Moderator	Mr Ehsan Leghari, Member Sindh, Indus River System Authority (IRSA)
Chair	Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Keynote	Mr Hammad Naqi Khan, Director-General, WWF Pakistan
Panelist	Dr Fazilda Nabeel, Adjunct Faculty, Climate and Water Governance WIT-LUMS
Panelist	Mr Nasir Panhwar, Development Professional & Council Member, Hisaar Foundation
Panelist	Ms Rashida Dohad, Executive Director, Omar Asghar Khan Foundation
Panelist	Dr Neelofer Jamil, Environmental Scientist, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University

This session was sponsored by National Foods Limited and Hisaar Foundation.

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, the Chair Mr Ehsan Leghari, highlighted that the theme of water justice was a cornerstone of the conference on both days. He explained that Session 4C would examine Sindh's precarious position as a downstream province under Pakistan's water allocation framework, focusing on equity concerns, local vulnerabilities in the Indus Delta and coastal communities, and the role of ecological restoration through natural river flows.

Panel Discussion

Downstream impacts were discussed by the panel-

ists - how their severity is shaped by both governance gaps and changing climatic realities. They urged meaningful progress, which is not possible unless upstream regions recognize their dependence on downstream systems. The 1991 Water Apportionment Accord served as the baseline for provincial allocations, despite persistent disputes between Sindh and Punjab and longstanding implementation challenges. However, water governance debates must extend beyond volumetric allocations to encompass sediment flows, institutional responsibilities, and climate variability, all of which have a direct impact on downstream sustainability.

With climate change a compounding risk, Pakistan remained vulnerable, yet inadequately prepared for recurring floods and water stress. While large-scale recharge and restoration initiatives were cited as positive steps, panelists also suggested that water justice must remain aligned with ecological integrity, with a strengthened institutional capacity, including climate-focused units within political structures, a key priority.

scarcity and excess. She underscored the need for adaptive planning that addresses floods as well as shortages, while noting that women bear a disproportionate share of these impacts. Dr Neelofar Jamil illuminated the Balochistan perspective and focused on severe groundwater depletion, driven by heavy reliance on tube wells, rapid urbanization, and limited access to surface water.



Hammad Naqi Khan



Dr Neelofar Jamil



Ahmad Rafay Alam

Provincial perspectives from Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan pointed to diverse but interconnected challenges. Mr Nasir Panhwar shed light on Sindh's perspective and highlighted reduced freshwater flows to the Indus Delta, increasing seawater intrusion, ecological degradation, and mounting pressures on agriculture, livelihoods, and urban water demand. He described the Indus as the province's sole lifeline, with concerns that additional infrastructure could further undermine downstream survival.

Dr Fazilda Nabeel, the representative from Punjab, long seen as the villain in the water debate, acknowledged intra-provincial inequities and raised concerns over large-scale land and greening initiatives, warning that ecological consequences are often overlooked in the pursuit of development. Ms Rashida Dahod, representing the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa perspective highlighted how climate change is driving both water

Questions and Answers

In response to questions regarding minimum environmental flows, panelists were unanimous in their opinion that technical assessments exist, but they have not been formally adopted or implemented. Key provisions related to downstream flows remain unfulfilled, with serious implications for Karachi's water supply and the ecological health of areas below major barrages.

Concluding Remarks

Mr Ehsan Leghari concluded that water apportionment, climate adaptation, and ecological restoration cannot be addressed in isolation, and sustainable solutions require interprovincial trust, recognition of downstream rights, climate-informed planning, and inclusive governance - centered on vulnerable communities and healthy river systems.



Left to right: Umer Karim, Seema Taher Khan, Alia Shahid, Nazeer Ahmed Memon, and Faheem uz Zaman

Session 5A

WATER FOR PEOPLE: URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOODS

Facilitator	Ms Afia Salam, Communications Consultant & Advisor Hisaar Foundation
Moderator	Dr Noman Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor, NED University
Chair	Dr Sarosh Lodi, Chairman CIEC, Patron PHWI NED University
Speaker	Mr Umer Karim, Senior Agriculture and Water Resources Management Specialist, FAO
Speaker	Ms Seema Taher Khan, Documentary Producer, CEO, STK Media & Member, Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Ms Alia Shahid, Director General, Port & Shipping
Speaker	Mr Nazeer Ahmed Memon, Project coordinator, Directorate of Sindh Water Sector & Bar-rages Improvement
Speaker	Mr Faheem uz Zaman, former Mayor of Karachi

This session was sponsored by NED University and Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute.

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Dr Sarosh Lodi identified Pakistan's urban and drainage challenges, national water management policies and Karachi's recurring flood crises as the focus of Session 5A, highlighting the gap between policy intent and on-ground realities.

Panel Discussion

Panelists identified weak planning, ageing infrastruc-

ture, and fragmented institutional coordination as the main drivers of urban flooding in Karachi. Although national and provincial water policies exist, implementation remains inconsistent. The city's low-lying topography, combined with rivers flowing above surrounding land levels in Sindh, increases vulnerability, while stormwater drains are frequently clogged with sewage, solid waste, and sediment. Continued discharge

of untreated wastewater into rivers and the sea has led to marine pollution, ecosystem degradation, and livelihood losses, further compounded by limited treatment capacity and institutional silos.

Restoring the Lyari River and Malir River as functional natural drainage systems was identified as critical for Karachi's long-term resilience. Historically, these rivers served as natural flood buffers, but encroachments, pollution, and poor maintenance have reduced their

Preventive planning was strongly recommended, including protection of natural drainage corridors, enforcement of land-use regulations to prevent encroachments, incorporation of flood-risk assessments into urban development, and regular maintenance of drainage networks. Improved solid waste management was identified as one of the most immediate and practical measures to reduce flood risks.

Long-term resilience will require sustained investment



Dr Sarosh Lodi (Session Chair), Dr Noman Ahmed (Moderator) and Afia Salam (Facilitator) with panelists and audience

effectiveness. With urban floods becoming more frequent, participants stressed the need to treat flooding as a predictable outcome of climate variability and urban mismanagement. Nature-based solutions—including river restoration, green buffers, improved waste management, and upgraded drainage infrastructure—were highlighted as practical pathways forward.

Reflecting on the floods of 2025, panelists noted that major drainage channels, particularly the Lyari and Malir rivers, were unable to function effectively, underscoring the need for realistic and evidence-based responses that combine engineering improvements with environmental restoration.

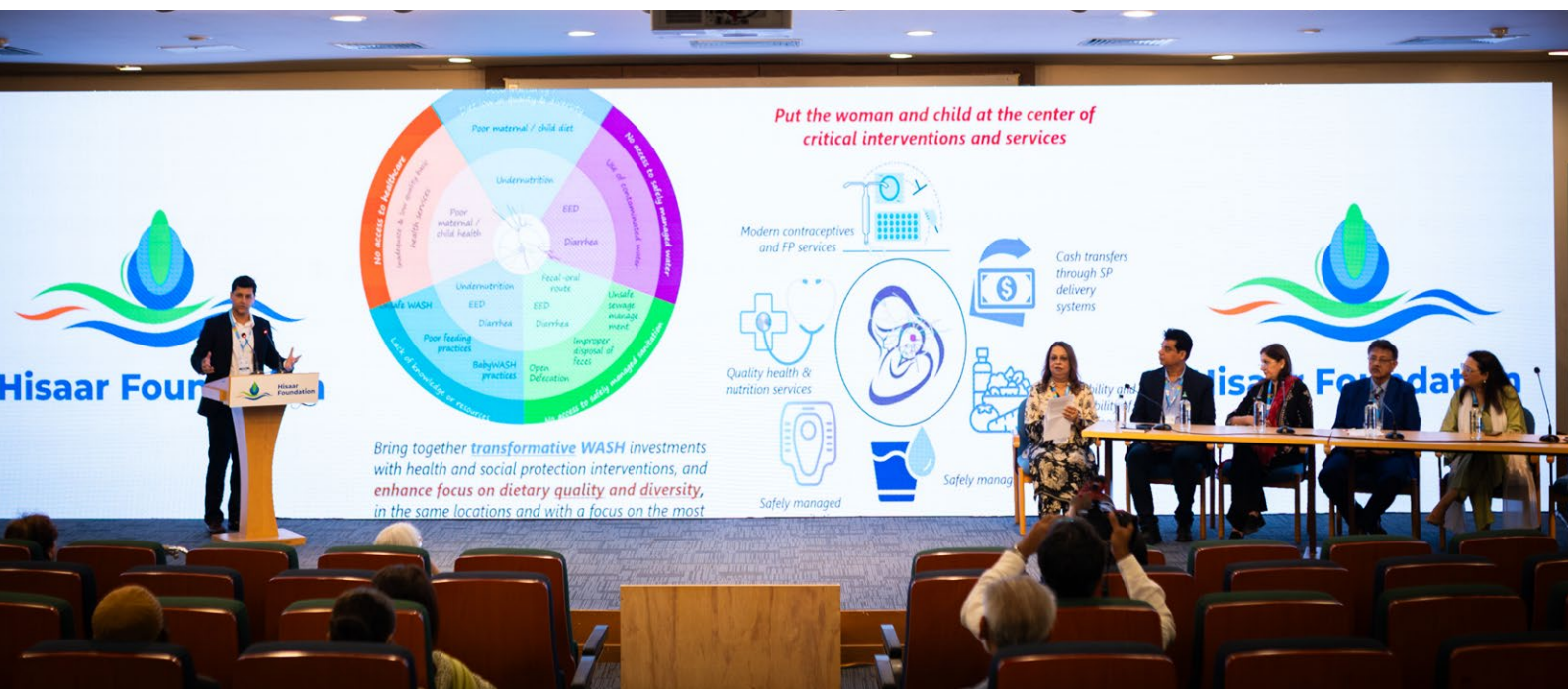
Participants emphasized the importance of integrated urban water management that links land-use planning, drainage systems, solid waste management, and wastewater treatment within a coordinated framework. Strengthening institutional coordination and clarifying agency mandates were seen as essential to improving implementation.

in both grey and green infrastructure, including modern drainage systems, wastewater treatment facilities, restored river corridors, and protected urban green spaces. Without such investments, urban flooding will continue to impose increasing social, economic, and environmental costs.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The session concluded that urban flooding is not only an engineering challenge but also a governance and social issue requiring sustained political commitment, institutional accountability, and coordinated action across municipal, provincial, and national levels.

Community engagement was identified as essential to improving resilience. Public awareness initiatives and local participation in monitoring drainage systems and reporting blockages can support more responsive governance. Participants also emphasized the importance of transparent data sharing and accessible flood-risk information to enable better planning and informed decision-making.



Session 5B

WATER & HEALTH – CHILD STUNTING – WHY IS IT NOT ADDRESSED?

Facilitator	Dr Yasmeen Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst
Chair	Dr Qaisar Sajjad, Assistant Professor, ENT Department, Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences for Girls
Keynote-Online	Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, Founding Director Institute for Global Health and Development & the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, AKU
Panelist	Dr Naveed Bhutto, Maternal Adolescent Child health Nutrition Expert, Government of Sindh
Panelist	Dr Fauzia Waqar, Public Health, Nutrition and Policy Specialist
Panelist	Mr Basharat Ahmed Saeed, Senior Water Specialist, World Bank
Panelist	Dr Farhana Shahid, Public Health Professional, Associate Professor at the College of Public Health Ziauddin University

This session was sponsored by World Bank

Opening Remarks

Dr Qaisar Sajjad opened Session 5B by emphasizing that clean water is a fundamental nutrient—no less essential than food—and warned that its neglect has contributed to an invisible national crisis of water-related stunting. He noted that despite decades of

national programmes, serious challenges persist. Nearly 40 percent of Pakistani children under the age of five remain stunted—a condition driven not by genetics but by systemic failures. These include limited access to maternal and child healthcare, food insecurity, inadequate sanitation, weak policy implementation, and poor coordination across sectors.

These deeply interconnected challenges formed the cornerstone of the session.

Keynote

Dr Zulfikar Bhutta, joining online, addressed the integration of water, sanitation, and maternal and child health into a unified public health agenda. Drawing on global and national evidence, he drew on the strong link between poor WASH conditions and child stunting in Pakistan, which is further exacerbated by environmental enteric dysfunction, a condition caused by chronic exposure to unsafe water and poor hygiene that damages intestinal function and prevents proper nutrient absorption.

These conditions, he noted, significantly affect children's height and long-term development. He cited studies showing higher stunting rates in unsanitary environments in regions such as South Punjab and Sindh, compounded by widespread maternal under-nutrition. While improved sanitation shows a stronger correlation with reduced stunting than water access alone, Pakistan lacks granular and longitudinal data to guide targeted interventions.

Dr Bhutta stressed that stunting prevention measures should focus on household-level hygiene, sanitation, and maternal care rather than post-illness treatment.

He referenced successful international studies and noted that in Pakistan, reductions in stunting in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were linked to economic empowerment, family planning, sanitation improvements, and community mobilization.

Panel Discussion

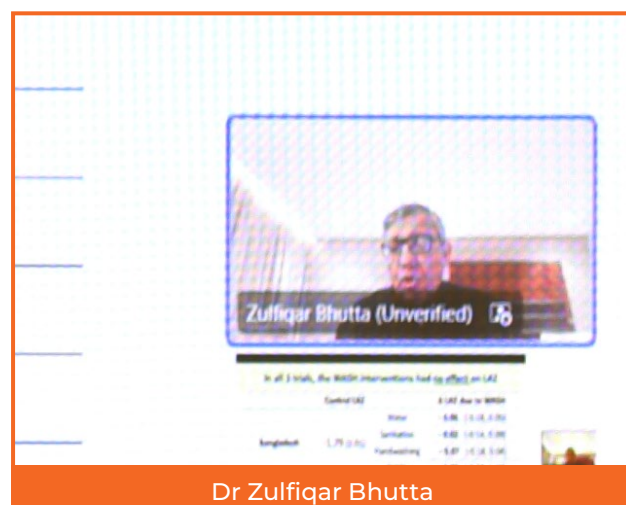
Dr Qaisar Sajjad, from the Pakistan Medical Association, emphasized that stunting is irreversible, unlike wasting, making prevention critical. He stressed that maternal health is the starting point for preventing stunting and highlighted the importance of breastfeeding, iron supplementation, and early detection of child malnutrition. He underscored the role of general practitioners, lady health workers, and chemists in community-level awareness and prevention, noting that trusted health professionals can significantly influence household behavior. He also pointed to the lack of coordination across government departments, which undermines public health efforts.

Dr Fauzia Waqar highlighted major policy and governance gaps, noting that despite multiple national nutrition strategies, implementation has remained weak. Although commitments were made to allocate higher percentages of GDP to nutrition, actual spending remains minimal. She indicated that while access to



Left to right: Dr Naveed Bhutto, Dr Qaisar Sajjad, Dr Yasmeen Qazi, Dr Fauzia Waqar, Dr Farhana Shahid, and Basharat Ahmed Saeed

improved water sources appears high on paper, a significant proportion of the water is unsafe, contributing directly to stunting. She also identified the absence of institutional coordination, weak monitoring, and low public awareness as key reasons for political inaction. Dr Waqar ended her talk by identifying greater community awareness essential for better health and nutrition services delivery from policymakers.



Dr Farhana Shahid addressed the role of research and academia, noting that much of Pakistan's stunting data is outdated and disconnected from local realities, and the need for universities and research institutions to generate localized, context-specific evidence and to evaluate real-world interventions such as water treatment, storage, and hygiene practices. She stressed that research findings must be translated into accessible formats for policymakers and discussed jointly across health, water, environment, and education sectors to inform effective action.

Dr Naveed Bhutto highlighted that stunting begins before birth and stressed the importance of maternal health and early growth monitoring. He linked poor nutrition and unsafe water to long-term cognitive and educational outcomes, noting that Pakistan's human development challenges are closely tied to early childhood undernutrition. He emphasized that contaminated water affects not only drinking supplies but also agriculture and food quality, thereby worsening

nutritional deficiencies. He called for nutrition to be declared a national emergency and stressed the need for integrated policies that link water, sanitation, and nutrition rather than addressing them in silos.

Mr Basharat Saeed, from the World Bank, cited ongoing efforts to eliminate child stunting through coordinated interventions focusing on water access, sanitation, healthcare, nutrition, and setting a joint target with the Government to significantly reduce stunting within the next decade, with Punjab showing early progress through convergence programs. He also spoke on the importance of integrating agri-food systems with WASH initiatives and highlighted the need to rebalance budgets so that community-level access and behavior change receive adequate investment alongside infrastructure development.

Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta observed that many countries achieved progress through community mobilization, family planning, maternal care, and hygiene improvements rather than relying solely on financial resources. He highlighted the central role of women as caregivers and agents of change, noting that much of the global improvement in child health has come through their engagement. The other panelists agreed with Dr Bhutta's assessment regarding the importance of culturally appropriate, community-based interventions, particularly in remote regions such as Balochistan, where distance and limited education require localized and empathetic approaches.

Concluding Remarks

The session concluded with a shared perspective that child stunting in Pakistan requires urgent, coordinated action across water, sanitation, nutrition, and maternal health sectors. Participants agreed that awareness, prevention, and early intervention must be prioritized, with women and communities at the center of any solution.

Stronger collaboration among government, academia, the private sector, and civil society was also identified as essential in translating policy into action to address stunting as a national development and public health emergency rather than a marginal issue.



Session 5C

WATER JUSTICE: LIVING ON THE EDGE WITH FLOODS: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

Facilitator	Ms Simi Kamal, Chairperson and CEO, Hisaar Foundation
Moderator	Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Panelist	Dr Lubna Ghazal, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Karachi
Panelist	Dr Shehla Batool, Founder & CEO, Water Stewards Pakistan Pvt Ltd
Panelist	Mr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Independent Consultant
Panelist	Mr Farrukh Ahmad, Deputy General Manager, ESG, Pakistan State Oil

This session was sponsored by Infra Zamin Pakistan and Pakistan State Oil.

Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Ms Simi Kamal outlined Session 5C's focus on examining the financial, economic, and social consequences of recurrent floods in Pakistan, with particular emphasis on inclusive recovery and long-term resilience.

Panel Discussion

Opening the discussion, Mr Rafay Alam framed floods as a systemic failure of governance and planning, drawing on his visits to flood-affected areas in Sindh during the 2022 floods, where he observed that many communities continue to bear the impacts of climate change without adequate awareness or prepared-

ness. Speakers noted that repeated flooding disrupts livelihoods, damages infrastructure, undermines food security, and places sustained financial pressure on both communities and the state, while disproportionately affecting low-income and marginalized populations.

Ms Simi Kamal outlined a broad range of financing options for climate resilience, including angel funds, fixed-period impact investments, social and infrastructure-linked funds such as Intralaminar, climate finance, grants, emergency funding, and blended instruments offered below market rates.

Commenting on the severe impacts of floods on marginalized communities, Dr Lubna Naz highlighted crop losses, food insecurity, and national-level economic

consequences, including pressures on the balance of payments. She described the 2025 floods as a national emergency driven by intense rainfall, geography, and hill torrents, compounded by deforestation; she also called for nature-based solutions such as wetland restoration, improved forecasting, stronger water governance, and targeted deployment of climate resilience finance.

Drawing on her work in Islamabad, Dr Batool focused on domestic water governance and pricing. She

els are clearly resolved.

Floods are becoming more extreme and cannot be addressed through ad hoc or purely private responses, according to Mr Farrukh Ahmad. He called for a coordinated, multi-pronged strategy to identify climate-disaster-prone areas, strengthen public-private trust, and support long-term adaptation. He and other speakers pointed to weak implementation, elite capture of resources, and fragmented institutional coordination as persistent barriers.



Left to right: Ahmad Rafay Alam, Dr Lubna Ghazal, Dr Shehla Batool, Farrukh Ahmad, and Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

argued that unreliable public water services erode public trust and force households to rely on groundwater extraction, private vendors, or informal utilities. Dr Batool identified water pricing reform as a critical turning point for Pakistan, stressing that recreational water use should be priced appropriately, sewage must be integrated into water governance, and willingness-to-pay studies show that users are prepared to pay when services are reliable.

Linking floods, freshwater flows, and coastal degradation to broader economic and climate mechanisms, Mr Ali Tauqeer Shaikh highlighted reduced freshwater flows to the coast and declining mangroves, and argued that mangrove restoration could strengthen climate resilience while supporting carbon markets, provided transparency is improved, and ownership issues across federal, provincial, and community lev-

Concluding Remarks

The session concluded with the shared vision that floods in Pakistan represent a deep social, economic, and governance crisis. Speakers agreed that effective responses require improved water management and drainage infrastructure, enforcement of existing laws, community education, transparent financing, nature-based solutions, and sustained political will. Repeated flooding disrupts livelihoods, damages infrastructure, undermines food security, and places sustained financial pressure on both communities and the state, while disproportionately affecting low-income and marginalized populations.

Mr Rafay Alam closed the session on an optimistic note, expressing confidence that reporting, accountability, and public engagement can still drive meaningful change.



Session 6

CAFÉ OF THE UNHEARD

Moderator	Simi Kamal , Chairperson & CEO, Hisaar Foundation
Expert	Mr Ahmad Rafay Alam , Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Expert	Ms Shazina Masud , Public Health Specialist
Expert	Dr Nuzhat Khan , CEO, Bluenet+
Expert	Mr Talha Jatoi , Journalist, Anchorperson, 365 News/Awaz TV
Expert	Mr Jamal Ansari , CEO, Akbar Associates Group & Member, Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Expert	Ms Afia Salam , Communications Consultant & Advisor, Hisaar Foundation
Expert	Mr Ashraf Kapadia , Council Member, Hisaar Foundation

This session was sponsored by AASA Consulting.

The Café of the Unheard was a distinctive and engaging session format in which a single expert leads a table-based discussion with multiple participants, creating an open and interactive space for thoughtful exchange on a timely and relevant topic.

The discussions involved students, professionals, experts and even curious onlookers, who worked toward developing a broad agreement on these pressing issues.

Legal Persona of Rivers and Water Bodies — Expert: Ahmad Rafay Alam

Legal Persona of Rivers and Water Bodies – Mr Rafay Alam, the legal expert on the table, answered multiple participants' questions on the legal status of water. The table spoke about how Pakistan is based on the English legal system. This system leads to atomization, commodification and resource-intensive practices.



**Legal Persona of Rivers and Water Bodies —
Expert: Ahmad Rafay Alam**

The legal system is deficient, and cases drag on for years. The group suggested new legal systems, which draw on cultural understanding of water bodies, e.g. 'Sindhu is Angry' in reference to a river's 'persona'.

Additionally, asserting community rights would be a step toward this change. The limit is data, valuable in developing the 'persona' of the water body. Additional considerations identified by the group: who would represent the water bodies, inclusion of the delta in the Indus River and evolving the persona of the river in the case of Pakistan.

Boom or Bust – Pakistan's Exploding Population – Expert Ms Shazina Masud

The table discussion on Pakistan's population was led by Ms Shazina Masud; participants examined population dynamics through the lens of water availability and equity. After an engaging discussion, the group agreed that Pakistan's water challenges are driven less by population size and more by weak water management. Agriculture is an area that needs reform; it accounts for nearly 90 per cent of water use, a significant share of which disproportionately benefits elite groups, leaving much of the population water-stressed.

The group also discussed the central role of women in the water equity debate, highlighting that women's inclusion in decision-making leads to positive outcomes across water governance, household manage-



**Boom or Bust — Pakistan's Exploding Population
— Expert: Shazina Masud**

ment, and community resilience. This reinforced the broader conference theme that women's leadership is essential to effective water stewardship.

From a population perspective, family planning is key to healthy population growth, easing long-term pressure on limited resources.

Overall, the group concluded that improved management, governance reforms, and long-term solutions would be far more effective than policies focused solely on population control.

From Source to Sea – Expert Dr Nuzhat Khan

The table session, led by Dr Nuzhat Khan, underscored the critical link between water and oceans, highlighting how human activity, pollution, and mismanagement threaten both freshwater and marine ecosystems.



From Source to Sea — Expert: Dr Nuzhat Khan

Participants discussed impacts on health, biodiversity, and climate change, such as nature-based approaches, sustainable water management, data-driven monitoring, and integrated source-to-sea planning, highlighting collective responsibility for safeguarding water resources.



**Media & Responsible Reporting on Water —
Expert: Talha Jatoi**

Media & Responsible Reporting on Water - Expert Talha Jatoi

The table led by Mr Talha Jatoi acknowledged that the media has not fulfilled its role of responsible reporting due to political and institutional control. Table participants agreed that more public education and awareness are urgently needed and proposed that environmental coverage be made compulsory, with every channel required to air a minimum number of environment-related stories daily. He further emphasized that in today's age of social media, individuals also bear responsibility to use their personal platforms to raise awareness rather than waiting for mainstream media to act. The expert encouraged collaboration with advocates such as Simi Kamal to strengthen awareness campaigns and stressed the need to report on positive initiatives and to discuss water issues year-round, not just during floods.

The “Trump Effect” – Dismantling environmental and social

development - Expert Mr Jamal Ansari

The table, led by Mr Jamal Ansari, discussed the implications of the Trump Administration cutting development funding across the board. Participants examined how shifts toward reduced external funding and less US-centered policies could prompt a strategic reorientation for Pakistan. The table agreed that these changes may encourage Pakistan to look inward and build the institutional and technical capacities it requires, rather than relying heavily on donor support.

Participants noted that Pakistan's long-standing challenges—such as soil degradation, water contamination, and deeper systemic governance issues—have received insufficient attention. The policy signals from the Trump Administration were therefore seen as a paradigm shift in funding, and an opportunity for Pakistan to expedite internal reform, strengthen domestic systems, and address structural problems through self-reliance rather than external assistance.



The Trump Effect: Dismantling Environmental and Social Development — Expert: Jamal Ansari

Why is the GoP Blindsided to the Water Expertise available outside the Government? - Expert Ms Afia Salam

The table, led by Ms Afia Salam, focused on systemic challenges within government departments, particularly the difficulty technical experts face in being heard amid frequent transfers, weak governance structures,



Why Is the GoP Blindsided to the Water Expertise Available Outside the Govt? — Expert: Afia Salam

and limited technical capacity, leading to skilled professionals leaving the public sector.

The table noted that distorted approaches to governance hinder meaningful stakeholder engagement, while public-private partnerships struggle due to poor information flow and a lack of institutional ownership. Furthermore, the government's role should be that of a regulator rather than an implementer.

Ms Salam shared her experience with the National Climate Change Council, noting that delays in extending its mandate have effectively stalled its operations.

The discussion also highlighted broader structural issues, including overlapping institutional mandates, limited transparency, inefficient use of project budgets, and an internal reluctance to relinquish control over technical expertise, all of which continue to undermine effective governance.

Technology – Trick or Treat – Expert Mr Ashraf Kapadia

The table discussion, led by Mr Ashraf Kapadia, examined the role of technology in addressing water and environmental challenges. Participants agreed that effective solutions must be local or indigenous in



Technology: Trick or Treat? — Expert: Ashraf Kapadia

nature, including approaches to water and waste treatment, and that community involvement is essential for the success of any technological intervention. This was particularly important given the limited access to technology in many rural areas.



Zohair Ashir

The discussion focused on communities taking ownership of projects, so interventions are more likely to be durable and sustainable. This contrasts with donor-driven models, where projects often lose momentum or are abandoned once external support ends.

Overall, the table highlighted indigenous solutions and community empowerment as the key principles for deploying technology in a sustainable and impactful manner.



Session 7A

WATER FOR PEOPLE: PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – INDIGENOUS WATER WISDOM

Facilitator **Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer**, Director External Relations & Conference Director, Hisaar Foundation

Chair **Dr Akissa Bahri**, Board of Governors, International Water Management Institute

Panelist **Mr Faiz Kakar**, Environmentalist and Development Expert, Area Manager, MM Pakistan

Panelist **Mr Askari Hasan**, Senior Project Manager, Pathfinder International

Panelist **Ms Kausar Saeed Khan**, Visiting Faculty, Aga Khan University

Panelist **Mr Shaikh Soaleh**, Senior Manager Operations, Hisaar Foundation

Panelist **Mr Sohail Naqvi**, Director Freshwater Programme, WWF-Pakistan

Panelist **Mr Siraj ul Haq Ghor**i, Sector Specialist-Social Sector Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Panelist **Ms Afia Salam**, Communications Consultant & Advisor, Hisaar Foundation

This session was sponsored by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Opening Remarks

The challenge of the Session 7A, according to Dr Akissa Bahri, was to find the means to encourage traditional and indigenous knowledge, community-driven water practices across Pakistan, and how such practices can complement modern science in addressing water scarcity and climate challenges.

Panel Discussion

Dr Akissa Bahri spoke first on the importance of indigenous knowledge systems and community-led

water solutions in the Bangladeshi context. This was followed by Mr Faiz Kakar's assessment of severe water challenges in Balochistan, noting that despite covering 62 per cent of Pakistan's land area, the province faces deep socio-economic hardships due to water scarcity, weak governance, and limited private sector engagement.

Panelists then presented their thoughts on the role of women in the water sector and the burden they bear. Ms Kausar S. Khan shared her experiences from Malir, where women bear primary responsibility for water

use and collection, and that communities already possess valuable local knowledge that must be strengthened through partnerships, social accountability, and participation.

In a similar vein, Ms Afia Salam focused on the hardships faced by women in arid areas such as Thatta, describing long journeys to collect poor-quality water and sharing examples of solutions including bio-sand filters, greywater harvesting, social media engagement, and public-private partnerships.

highlights the importance of community participation, green infrastructure, and collaborative governance for sustainable water management. Mr Shaikh Soaleh of Hisaar Foundation urged reviving traditional water heritage and outlined national initiatives such as Hisaar Foundation's Million Ponds Project, alongside the broader mission of the Hisaar Foundation in promoting equitable and sustainable water management.

During a lively question-and-answer session, participants and the audience reflected on why successful



Left to right: Askari Hasan, Siraj ul Haq Ghor, Kausar S Khan, Dr Akissa Bahri, Sanaa Zulfikar Causer, Sohail Naqvi, Afia Salam, Dr Faiz Kakar, and Shaikh Soaleh

Mr Siraj ul Haq Ghor highlighted the link between unsafe water and disease in Balochistan, with projects succeeding when communities take ownership through local contributions and active involvement; Mr Sohail Naqvi underscored the need for local monitoring systems to capture climate change impacts, and communities should be recognized as owners of indigenous knowledge and science.

Mr Askari Hassan shared examples of innovative community-led and gender-responsive approaches, highlighting effective district-level collaboration while noting the need for structured coordination with the government for long-term impact.

Mr Sohail Naqvi highlighted that community-centered water management plays a vital role in strengthening climate resilience in water-stressed areas. He shared that WWF-Pakistan's freshwater programme integrates indigenous knowledge with nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions to improve water conservation and recharge. He added that the programme

initiatives often fail to scale, pointing to the need for stronger links between community innovation and government systems, inclusive community-based organizations with women's participation, and the identification of government champions to support long-term sustainability.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, Dr Akissa Bahri described the session as deeply reflective and called for greater attention to community narratives, financial incentives for grassroots solutions, and recognition that local communities hold the most meaningful answers to water challenges.

All present agreed that such initiatives could only succeed by integrating local voices into water policy so that communities remain central to decision-making, while fostering dialogue among knowledge holders, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to bridge traditional and scientific approaches to sustainable water management.



Left to right: Professor Zafar Fatmi, Dr Tasneem Fatima, Dr Bisma Imran, Dr Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed, and Kamran Naeem

Session 7B

WATER & HEALTH – SANITATION – THE FORGOTTEN PART OF WASH

Facilitator	Dr Yasmeen Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst
Moderator	Ms Rahal Saeed, Global Health & Development Professional
Chair	Mr Kamran Naeem, Vice Chairperson, UNICEF Global Staff Association
Panelist	Dr Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed, Chairman, HANDS
Panelist	Dr Qurat ul Ain Bakhteari, Founding Director, Institute for Development Studies and Practice (IDSP)
Panelist	Dr Bisma Imran, Public Health and WASH Specialist, WaterAid
Panelist	Dr Tasneem Fatima, Director Health Services and MSS Project ECHO, Marie Stops
Panelist	Professor Zafar Fatmi, Professor & Section Head, Environmental-Occupational Health & Climate Change, AKU

This session was sponsored by UNICEF.

Opening Remarks

Mr Kamran Naeem opened Session 7B by addressing the systemic neglect of sanitation within Pakistan's WASH framework and outlining ways to strengthen its role within national health and water security agen-

das. He spoke further on barriers to implementing the Sanitation Policy 2023 and noted that sanitation remains marginal in water discourse, with disproportionate impacts on women and residents of urban informal settlements.

Panel Discussion

The panelists outlined ideas on community-led monitoring, cross-sectoral collaboration among government, private sector, and civil society, and the potential to shift from waste to wealth through circular sanitation approaches such as waste-to-energy and nutrient recovery, using locally scalable solutions.



Dr Qurat ul Ain Bakhtari

WASH practices are not new, and Dr Tanveer Ahmed traced the historical roots of sanitation to the Indus Valley Civilization, noting that early societies understood the importance of separating human waste from human contact through advanced urban planning. He argued that this collective knowledge was gradually lost, leading to unsafe practices.

Drawing global comparisons, Dr Ahmed explained how progress elsewhere was achieved by integrating sanitation, health, and development under unified governance structures. While sanitation coverage had improved since the 1990s, he noted that population growth and fragmented institutional responsibilities continue to limit progress. In his view, sanitation is a human right rather than a luxury; what was required was for consolidating responsibilities currently spread across multiple departments under a single authority, with greater focus on subsidized, community-based

programs and long-term management, not just infrastructure improvements.

Ms Rahal Saeed added to Dr Ahmed's observations by highlighting that provincial sanitation cost targets must be reassessed based on actual need rather than administrative boundaries in light of climate change. Adding to the discussion, Dr Zafar Fatmi highlighted



Session moderator Rahal Saeed

that many sanitation initiatives fail because they are treated as short-term projects, and stressed the need for lifetime systems with sustained funding for operations and maintenance.

Discussions on cultural and religious taboos underscored the gendered dimensions of sanitation, particularly menstrual hygiene. Participants pointed to limited access to biodegradable sanitary products, inadequate facilities for adolescent girls, and heightened risks faced by women during floods and displacement. Early education and open dialogue were identified as normalizing menstrual health and building community ownership.

On community empowerment, Dr Tasneem Fatima covered sustainable sanitation outcomes, dependent on local ownership, leadership, and behavior change. Dr Qurat ul Ain Bakhtari shared lessons from community-led sanitation initiatives in Baldia Town, noting

that simple, well-understood solutions such as double-pit latrines gained acceptance through participation and iterative learning. She cautioned that elite, large-scale solutions often fail in low-income settlements and advocated for small-scale, onsite treatment systems supported by community education.

At the end of the session, all present agreed that scal-

Concluding Remarks

In closing, the Session Chair Mr Kamran Naeem observed that while small communities can initiate localized sanitation efforts, large urban centres require empowered local governments and stronger municipal institutions. Increased investment in public awareness, local governance capacity, and public-private partnerships was



Session audience

ing sanitation solutions requires behavior change at household, service-provider, and institutional levels, along with gender-inclusive teams and stronger links between research and practice. For circular sanitation models, it was noted that effective multisectoral collaboration must be driven by high-level policy directives, with incentives linked to green and carbon financing mechanisms.

Questions and Answers

In the Q&A session, participants agreed that scaling sanitation solutions requires behaviour change at household, service-provider, and institutional levels, alongside gender-inclusive teams and stronger links between research and practice. It was further noted that for circular sanitation models, effective multisectoral collaboration must be driven by high-level policy directives, with incentives aligned to green and carbon financing mechanisms.

emphasized, along with the need to integrate WASH and stunting into political priorities and promote school-based education on women's rights and menstrual hygiene to ensure dignified sanitation services.

The session reaffirmed sanitation as a fundamental human right and a key determinant of public health and environmental sustainability. Participants highlighted persistent challenges arising from fragmented institutional responsibilities, weak coordination, and inadequate funding, particularly affecting low-income and flood-prone communities.

Discussions emphasized community-led approaches, gender-inclusive facilities, and behavior change as essential to sustainable sanitation systems, alongside stronger collaboration among government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. The need to strengthen municipal capacity and integrate sanitation into broader development planning was identified as critical for long-term progress.



Left to right: Muneezeh Khan, Kausar Hashmi, Mumtaz Begum, Prof Dr Abida Farooq, Farzana Yaqoob, and Prof Dr Rubina Farooq

Session 7C

WATER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROSPERITY – BUILDING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

Facilitator Ms Kausar Hashmi, Manager, Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute, NED University

Moderator Ms Muneezeh Khan, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation

Chair Ms Madiha Latif, Vice President, Strategic Engagement & Innovation, Pathfinder International

Panelist – Online Ms Uzma Nomani, Manager, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Panelist Ms Farzana Yaqoob, CEO, Mantaq Center for Research, AJK

Panelist Mrs Mumtaz Begum, Board of Director, TRDP

Panelist Prof Dr Rubina Farooq, Former Vice Chancellor, GC Women University, Faisalabad

Panelist Prof Dr Abida Farooqui, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Environmental Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University

This session was sponsored by Pathfinder International and World Bank Pakistan.

Opening Remarks

The moderator, Ms Muneezeh Khan outlined the objective of Session 7C as follows: charting a practical pathway for elevating women's leadership in the water sector by firmly embedding women's rights as human rights within water governance frameworks.

She stated that there was a need to move beyond symbolic participation, and continued, that meaningful leadership is inseparable from economic empowerment and water governance. She stressed that it enables women to participate in decision-making, influence policy, and benefit directly from water-related investments.

Keynote

Ms Madiha Latif from Pathfinder began by highlighting the exclusion of women from policy and decision-making spaces, disproportionately affected by water insecurity. Drawing on global evidence, she noted that women's involvement leads to more reliable and sustainable water services, as women bring lived experience, accountability, and long-term stewardship to governance processes.

exist, women there face fewer cultural or faith-based obstacles to education and economic participation. She supported the concept of mandatory inclusion of women in decision-making bodies, interest-free loans combined with financial literacy, and the importance of engaging men to ensure women are not isolated within unsupportive household environments.

Ms Mumtaz Begum reflected on her upbringing in



Session audience

Ms Latif shared Pathfinder's initiatives, such as WOMEN & CO, which builds women's leadership networks, mentorship opportunities, and access to finance, and the SURMI Project, which links rural women to national platforms while strengthening local economies. She illustrated the impact of these initiatives through the story of Hamida, who, after receiving embroidery training, now earns a stable livelihood and trains other women, multiplying economic and social benefits within her community.

Panel Discussion

The panelists were invited to share their diverse regional and professional perspectives. Ms Farzana Yaqoob spoke about her experiences in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, noting that while structural barriers

Tharparkar, where limited infrastructure, long distances, and basic school facilities are challenges. She detailed how women-led groups have created mutual support systems, accessed small loans, improved sanitation facilities, and sustained livelihoods even in areas where camels remain the primary mode of transport due to the absence of roads.

Professor Dr Robina Farooq shared her academic journey, citing inspirations such as Quaid-e-Azam, Fatima Jinnah, and Marie Curie. She referred to her research on wastewater treatment, resulting in two patents, and her work after the 2005 earthquake on community-based drinking water solutions and low-cost water testing kits, stressing that locally grounded solutions are essential in times of crisis.

Women face impediments not only in the water sector but also in other vital areas. This was highlighted by Dr Abida Farooqui, who spoke candidly about early career discouragement despite her strong academic credentials and how it shaped her commitment to mentoring young women by creating inclusive academic environments where women are encouraged to test ideas, build confidence, and become problem solvers within their own communities.

Questions and Answers

During the question-and-answer session, Ms Madiha Latif outlined Pathfinder's programs to integrate women's awareness and indigenous knowledge of local ecosystems. She also addressed questions about scaling women-led enterprises for international markets, collaboration with chambers of commerce, product development, digital marketing, and the need to meet international standards.



Left to right: Madiha Latif, Muneezeh Khan, Uzma Nomani

Ms Kausar Hashmi spoke on the role of civil society, particularly the Hisaar Foundation, in bringing women into water policy spaces through initiatives such as the Women and Water Network, the Karachi Water Partnership, community training programs, school initiatives, and kitchen gardening projects in both urban and rural areas.

Ms Uzma Nomani shared the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund's approach to women-centric issues, noting that making women's leadership mandatory within institutional structures, including a requirement that at least 40 per cent of members be women, has increased visibility and participation, although barriers persist at senior levels. She stressed that leadership must be intentionally designed into programs rather than hoping for gradual change.

Responding to suggestions to diversify women's livelihoods beyond traditional sectors, Ms Latif floated the concept that communities should define their own pathways, citing examples such as kitchen gardening, business training, literacy programs, and emerging initiatives like women electricians supported by Karachi Electric.

Concluding Remarks

In her closing remarks, Ms Madiha Latif reiterated that cultural barriers remain a reality and must be addressed through literacy, strengthened institutional mechanisms, and guaranteed spaces for women in decision-making processes that affect their lives, the clear message being that a clear message that women's leadership in water governance is both a rights issue and a strategic necessity for sustainable and inclusive development.



Session 8

CLOSING PLENARY - LIVING CHARTER FOR WATER AND PEOPLE

Moderator	Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer , Director External Relations & Conference Director, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Mr Jam Khan Shoro , Minister for Irrigation and Planning, Sindh
Speaker	Mr Tofiq Pasha Mooraj , Youth Advisor, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Ms Shabina Ayaz , Resident Director, Aurat Foundation
Speaker	Mr Aijaz Haq , Head of Growth and External Linkages, KSBL
Speaker	Prof Dr Muhammad Tufail , Vice Chancellor, NED University
Speaker	Prof Dr Muhammad Mukhtar , Vice Chancellor, University of Southern Punjab
Speaker	Dr Akissa Bahri , Board of Governors, International Water Management Institute
Speaker	Ms Simi Kamal , Chairperson, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Ahmad Rafay Alam , Environmental Lawyer and Member Think Tank, Hisaar Foundation
Speaker	Mr Ashraf Kapadia , Council Member, Hisaar Foundation

This session was sponsored by the Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL) and Hisaar Foundation.

After an intensive two days, the Closing Plenary brought together reflections, commitments, and forward-looking perspectives that marked the conclusion of the 7th Karachi International Water Conference and laid the groundwork for future actions.

The Closing Plenary session highlighted outcomes of the pre-conference events with women and youth, witnessed the onboarding of a new university to the Universities for Water Network, and highlighted commitments from the government and other stakehold-



ers. The session also showcased cross-sector collaborations, greater scaling of community-led solutions, and culminated in the presentation of the Living Charter for Water and People.

Opening Remarks

Ms Sanaa Zulfikar Causer shared that over two days, the conference hosted 16 thematic sessions with more than 100 speakers, including international experts from Bangladesh and Tunisia. She reminded the participants that the conference commenced with a powerful live rendition of the National Anthem and the convening of a Citizens' Commission on Floods, that set the tone for out-of-the-box solutions to one of the world's wicked problems.

She highlighted that discussions throughout the conference explored water access for communities, the

critical linkages between water and health, and issues of water justice in the context of recurring floods. Concluding her remarks, she welcomed participants to the Closing Plenary and invited Mr Tofiq Pasha Mooraj to speak on youth engagement initiatives linked to the conference.

Pre-Conference Events: Focus on Community, Youth and Women

Mr Tofiq Pasha Mooraj reflected on his long association with Hisaar Foundation and his recent engagement with youth initiatives. Emphasizing that the future belongs to the youth, he noted that while older generations share responsibility for today's environmental and social crises, young people are being tasked with fixing them without being adequately prepared.

He highlighted the disconnect between urban privilege and rural suffering, particularly in the context of floods, stressing that both urban and rural flooding are largely the result of human actions.

Appreciating the Foundation's efforts to involve youth, he called for stronger and more sustained engagement to equip young people with the awareness and capacity needed to become effective agents of change.

Ms Shabina Ayaz presented findings from seven Focus Group Discussions across multiple provinces on the women-water-health nexus. Drawing from cases in



Sanaa Zulfikar Causer



Tofiq Pasha Mooraj and Shabina Ayaz

flood-affected Swat, drought-hit Quetta, and water-scarce Karachi, she highlighted how water insecurity in Pakistan is deeply gendered.

Women reported increased disease, physical exhaustion, financial strain, and psychological stress due to floods, drought, and chronic shortages. In urban areas, reliance on informal tanker systems further intensified inequality and health risks. Across all contexts, women's unpaid care burden increased significantly.

She emphasized that while women bear the brunt of water crises, they are also active agents of resilience. Key recommendations included ensuring women's representation in water governance, improving institutional coordination, building women's leadership capacity, and adopting gender-sensitive flood preparedness strategies.

Institutional Partnership

Mr Aijaz Haq of the Karachi School of Business and Leadership Aijaz Haq emphasized that water is not merely a resource but a matter of survival, equity, and life. Reflecting on the role of business schools, he stressed the importance of developing character-driven leaders who combine competence with ethical purpose, noting that leadership without character can lead to crisis.



Aijaz Haq

He highlighted KSBL's commitment to market-relevant education and research, including its Case Research Center, which develops local case studies, and its Center for Circular Economy, focused on circular plastics and sustainability. Through its partnership with Hisaar Foundation, KSBL aims to conduct research on water governance frameworks, develop curriculum for water-resilient leadership, and convene dialogue among academia, industry, and policymakers.

He underscored the need to bridge the gap between academia and industry, positioning research as a foundation for sustainable and unbiased problem-solving. Concluding, he reaffirmed the institution's commitment to sustainability and expressed interest in advancing joint initiatives, including a leadership program focused on water governance.

Building the Universities for Water Network

Prof Dr Mohammad Tufail congratulated Hisaar Foundation for organizing the conference and emphasized that water remains a lifeline for Pakistan, which is transitioning from a water-abundant to a water-stressed nation, with the risk of becoming water-scarce. He noted that regional developments and transboundary water issues further heighten the urgency of collective action.

He stressed the importance of engaging youth to confront future water challenges and highlighted initiatives at NED University, including the establishment of the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute in partnership with Hisaar Foundation and Panjwani Charitable Foundation. The institute promotes multidisciplinary research, specialized laboratories, and postgraduate programmes focused on water issues.

He concluded by calling for collaboration among academia, government, and other stakeholders to move from discussion to action in addressing Pakistan's water crisis.

MoU Signing Ceremony

The Conference Director invited Professor Tufail to take his seat at the desk and announced the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute at NED University and the University of Southern Punjab, marking another important institutional partnership.

Following the MoU signing ceremony, Prof Dr Muhammad Mukhtar expressed his appreciation for the conference and highlighted the symbolic importance of water through the example of oxygen—essential for life in different forms depending on its context. He emphasized that, like oxygen, water must be managed wisely and placed in the right balance to sustain life.



Professor Dr Muhammad Mukhtar and Professor Dr Muhammad Tufail

Reflecting on his upbringing in Cholistan, he recalled drinking untreated pond water and contrasted it with today's growing dependence on processed water, underscoring how environmental conditions and human practices have changed over time. He cautioned that environmental degradation, including water pollution and mismanagement, is pushing society in a dangerous direction.

Speaking on behalf of the University of Southern Punjab, he reiterated the university's commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability. He stressed the importance of education, global learning, and informed leadership in addressing water challenges. Concluding with a lesson on resilience, he shared an example illustrating the need to adapt to recurring floods, emphasizing that communities must learn to live with environmental realities rather than ignore them.

The Living Charter for Water and People

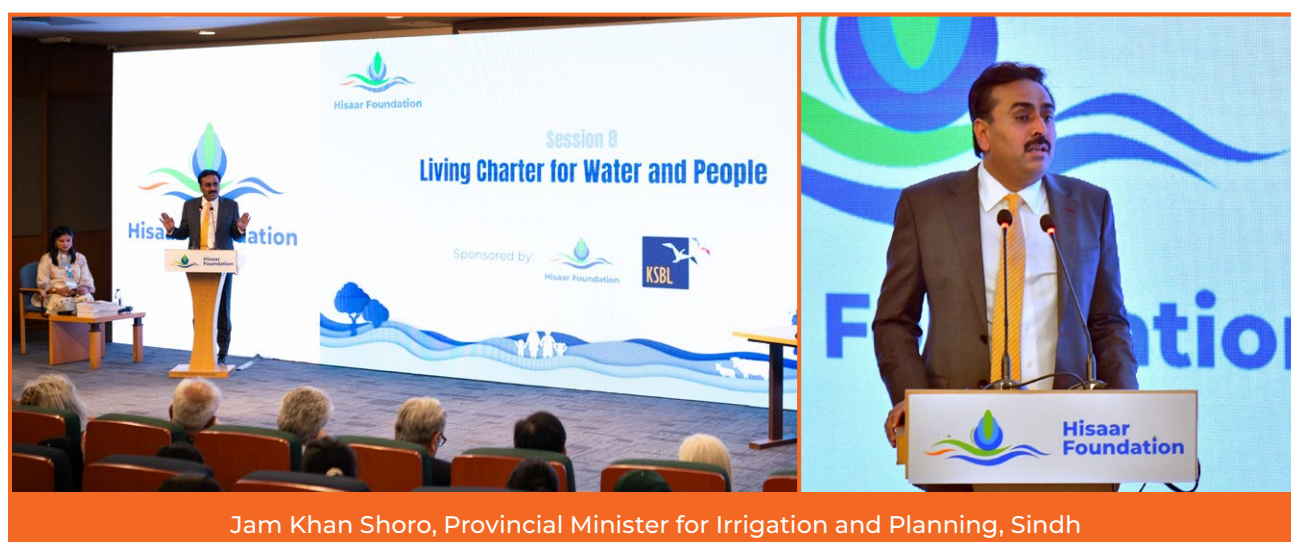
One of the key outputs of the conference, the Living Charter for Water and People, was introduced by Mr Rafay Alam, following introductory remarks by Ms Simi Kamal. Ms Kamal shared the journey behind the development of the Living Charter for Water and People. She explained that while preparing for the conference, the team found limited literature linking water, health, people, and justice. This led to the creation of a background paper and the realization that Pakistan does not lack policies, but rather a citizen-owned People's Charter. She emphasized that the Charter is a living document, open to public input and continuous refinement.

Mr Rafay Alam presented the draft Charter, outlining its core principles and ten broad elements. He framed the discussion within the global ecological crisis, rising water, energy, and food demands, and increasing climate injustice. In Pakistan's context, he highlighted deep-rooted inequities in water governance, particularly affecting landless farmers, women, urban poor, and marginalized communities.

The Charter calls for recognizing water as a human right, strengthening local government, promoting community-led water management, improving infrastructure efficiency, protecting the Indus Basin and traditional water systems, advancing a circular water economy, and integrating water with health, nutrition, and climate resilience. It also stresses education, youth and women's leadership, science-based policy, and accountability.

structural roots of Pakistan's current water crisis, emphasizing that the need for a Living Charter for Water and People arises from decades of ecological disruption and overregulation of natural river systems.

Reflecting on Sindh's historical irrigation practices, he described how traditional inundation canals once allowed the Indus River to irrigate lands naturally, drain floodwaters, and sustain a thriving delta ecosystem. He noted that the construction of barrages, embankments,



Jam Khan Shoro, Provincial Minister for Irrigation and Planning, Sindh

Mr Alam explained that the Charter is a living document, that articulates principles for a just and humane water future, grounded in planetary limits, social equity, and intergenerational justice, and called for rethinking growth-driven economic models and addressing the structural roots of water injustice.

He concluded by urging collective ownership of the Charter, emphasizing that water is everyone's business and requires coordinated action among government, academia, industry, and civil society.

Remarks from the Minister of Irrigation – the Sindh Perspective

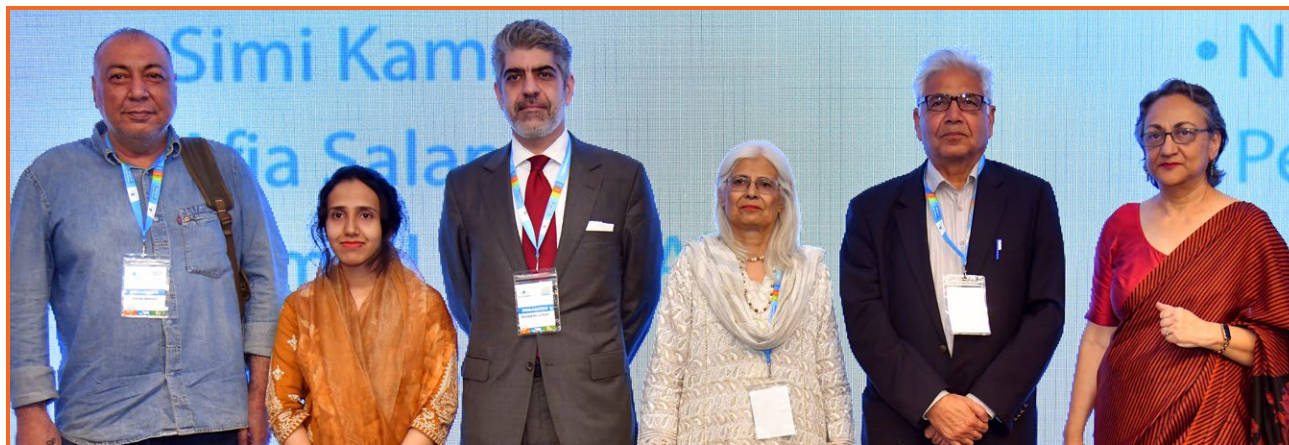
The presence of Mr Jam Khan Shoro, Minister, Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh, added a provincial viewpoint to the plenary session.

Mr Jam Khan Shoro underscored the historical and

and controlled irrigation systems during and after the colonial period replaced these self-sustaining systems, ultimately contributing to environmental imbalance, shrinking of the Indus Delta, loss of creeks and ports, and degradation of forests and drainage networks.

He highlighted that Pakistan's water challenges are compounded by the Indus Waters Treaty, which allocated three eastern rivers to India, and by internal overcommitment under the 1991 Water Accord, where water allocations exceed average availability. With most water consumed by agriculture and limited storage capacity, the Indus Basin is now overregulated and overstressed.

Concluding, he stressed that excessive human interference in natural systems has led to today's crisis and welcomed the Living Charter as a timely and necessary step toward rethinking water governance and restoring ecological balance.



Members of the Academic Committee

Closing Keynote – Conclusions of the Conference

In her remarks at the Closing Plenary Session, Dr Akissa Bahri reflected on the evolution of KIWC since its inception in 2013 and highlighted its growing influence on national and global water discourse. She noted that while the 2023 conference emphasized repositioning water at the center of climate discussions, the 2025 edition marks a significant shift toward community-led adaptation and inclusive water governance.

She underscored the urgency of Pakistan's water crisis, citing declining per capita water availability and increasing pressure on the Indus River system due to climate change and mismanagement. This year's conference theme, Water, People, Health – Coping with Floods, broadened the agenda by integrating water with public health, sanitation, gender equity, artificial intelligence, and the inclusion of marginalized voices.

Dr Bahri commended the leadership of Simi Kamal and recognized the pivotal role of Pakistani women in advancing water justice. She emphasized that KIWC has moved from top-down expertise toward valuing indigenous and local knowledge as central to sustainable solutions.

She highlighted key institutional contributions by Hisaar Foundation, including the Think Tank, the Universities for Water Network, and the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute, while noting that the most transfor-

mative shift lies in centering communities as architects of change.

The anticipated outcome of the conference — the Living Charter for Water and People — was described as a co-created roadmap aimed at ensuring that sustainability and equity remain inseparable in Pakistan's water future.



Dr Akissa Bahri and Ashraf Kapadia

Acknowledgements

The session concluded with acknowledgements by Mr Ashraf Kapadia, who thanked partners, sponsors, speakers, delegates, and organizing teams, and invited participants to continue the collective journey toward inclusive, forward-looking water governance at future conferences.



District Badin



District Dadu



Karachi



Quetta



Karachi



Swat

Youth Engagement Pre Event at Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University

Date: September 16, 2025

Venue: Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University, Karachi

As part of the series of conference pre events designed to engage students and young professionals, a dedicated youth session was organized on September 16, 2025, at the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University. The objective of this session was to enhance youth awareness and highlight youth led action in driving climate adaptation and environmental sustainability.

The event commenced with an introductory briefing on PHWI and the 7th Karachi International Water Conference (KIWC) 2025, delivered by Mr Haris Akram Bhatti. Following the introduction, participants viewed a documentary emphasizing the importance of understanding the real needs of communities being served, encouraging a people centered approach to development and humanitarian efforts.

Dr Areba Syed, Assistant Professor at PHWI, delivered a presentation titled “Water for People – Why It Mat-

ters.” In her address, she underscored that ensuring reliable access to water involves more than constructing wells; it requires a comprehensive systems approach that integrates engineering, public health, economics, governance, and community participation.

A second documentary was screened to illustrate the severe impacts of untreated industrial wastewater entering domestic water systems. The film highlighted the resulting public health crisis—including high child mortality rates—exacerbated by rapid urban expansion and the pressures of the fast fashion industry.

The session concluded with an interactive question and answer segment, allowing students to reflect on the presentations, share observations, and discuss their potential roles in advancing sustainable water and climate solutions.

Youth Engagement Pre Event Session II at Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University

Date: September 30, 2025

Venue: Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University, Karachi

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

As part of the ongoing series of pre conference activities aimed at engaging students and youth in dialogue on water security, climate resilience, and sustainable urban development, the second youth session was held on September 30, 2025 at the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI), NED University.

The session began with an introductory briefing on PHWI and the 7th Karachi International Water Conference (KIWC) 2025, delivered by Mr Ashraf Kapadia. He highlighted the Institute's mission, ongoing research initiatives, and the objectives of the upcoming conference.



This was followed by a keynote presentation by Dr Areba Syed, Assistant Professor at PHWI, titled “Karachi Drainage Disaster and Urban Flooding.” Dr Syed emphasized that Karachi’s recurrent urban flooding is not solely a result of extreme weather events, but primarily a consequence of long-standing governance challenges, unplanned urban expansion, encroachment on natural drainage channels, and inadequate infrastructure. She underscored that climate change further intensifies these vulnerabilities. Dr Syed stressed that with integrated planning, effective drainage system restoration, and the adoption of nature based solutions, the city could significantly reduce its

flood risk and enhance resilience.

Two documentaries were screened during the session to broaden participants’ understanding of global and local flood management challenges. The first showcased China’s innovative approaches to designing flood resistant and sponge cities, while the second—an updated DW news feature—examined the impacts and underlying causes of Pakistan’s recent flooding events.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion in which students shared their views on Karachi’s rapid urbanization, ongoing development projects, deficiencies within the drainage system, and the need for improved institutional capacity within relevant industries. Their engagement reflected a strong interest in contributing to sustainable urban transformation and climate resilient planning.

Women’s and Community Colloquiums

Seven colloquiums with women and rural communities were hosted by partners of Hisaar Foundation as a part of a series of events prior to the 7th Karachi International Water Conference. These events were held in various parts of the country with a diverse group of women and communities to raise awareness and highlight the linkages between Water, People and Health. The outcomes that emerged from the discussions were then brought to the conference and became a part of the mainstream proceedings. The women’s events that were held across the country were as follows:

1. Women event organized by Aurat Foundation in Swat on Oct 22, 2025
2. Women event organized by Aurat Foundation in Lahore (through Zoom) on Oct 22, 2025
3. Women event organized by Aurat Foundation in Quetta on Oct 15, 2025
4. Women event organized by Rural Development Foundation (RDF) at District Jamshoro on Oct 1, 2025
5. Women event organized by Sujag Sansar Organi-

zation (SSO) at District Dadu on Oct 3, 2025

6. Women event organized by Women Development Association (WDA) at District Badin on Oct 14, 2025
7. Women event organized by Aurat Foundation in Karachi on Oct 15, 2025

We are grateful to our community partners, Aurat Foundation, Sujag Sansar Organization, Women Development Association and Rural Development Foundation for conducting these events.

Meeting of Universities for Water Network (UWN)

The ninth meeting of the Universities for Water Network (UWN) was held at Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI) at NED University, on October 30, 2025. The meeting was attended by 10 universities/research centers across Pakistan, including two universities from Bangladesh. The list of academic institutes that participated in the 8th meeting are as follows:

1. Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Sindh
4. University of Southern Punjab, Multan, Punjab
5. Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Sindh
6. USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Sindh
7. Sardar Bhadrur Khan Women University, Quetta, Balochistan
8. Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
9. University of Karachi, Sindh
10. Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Islamabad

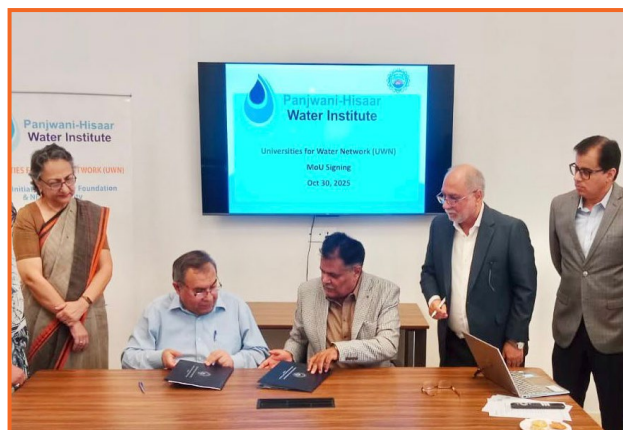
Two new universities were added to the UWN network:

1. University of Southern Punjab, Multan, Punjab
2. Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, Sindh.

In addition, key areas of collaboration were identified for joint research with the Institute of Water Modelling and the Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology,

including transboundary issues, flood management and water quality. Support was requested from COM-STECH to facilitate visits by PHWI faculty members to the Institute of Water Modelling and the Institute of Water and Flood Management at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka.

The next two meetings, along with seminars, will be hosted by the University of Southern Punjab in Multan and the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology in Jamshoro.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Report Preparation

- Sanaa Zulfikar Causer (Conference Director)
- Sabeen Rizvi
- Wasif Rashid
- Faryal Azam (Conference Secretary/Coordinator)

Academic Committee

- Simi Kamal (Chair)
- Afia Salam (Co-Chair)
- Dr Yasmeen Qazi
- Dr Iftikhar Soomro
- Dr Noman Ahmed
- Rafay Alam
- Zoha Tunio
- Kausar S Khan
- Kausar Hashmi
- Dr Pervaiz Amir
- Duaa Sohail
- Shaikh Soaleh
- Dr Zulfiqar Ali Umrani
- Sanaa Zulfikar Causer (Conference Director)
- Faryal Azam (Conference Secretary/Coordinator)

Rapporteurs

- Sabeen Rizvi
- Dr Mariam Sohail
- Sharmeen Bukhari

Management Committee

- Ashraf Kapadia (Chair)
- Sanaa Zulfikar Causer (Conference Director)
- Faryal Azam (Conference Secretary/Coordinator)
- Askari Hasan
- Shaikh Soaleh
- Kausar Hashmi
- Wasif Rashid
- Syed Aatir Jilani
- Ahmed Palwa
- Muhammad Hassan
- Muhammad Jamil
- Nadeem Siddiqui
- Sirajuddin Khan
- Muhammad Aqib

Media Committee

- Zohair Ashir (Chair)
- Afia Salam
- Mina Ramzi
- Zahra Hussain
- Sabeen Rizvi
- Junaid Shahid
- Wasif Rashid

Volunteers

- Aaisha Zulfiqar
- Aamnah
- Abbas Ali
- Abdul Samad
- Abeerah Haq
- Aisha Aziz
- Aisha Khalid
- Areeba Khan
- Areekah Haq
- Fabiha Khan
- Farah Khalid
- Fatima Khalid
- Hafsa Maryam
- Ibad Ali
- Maaz Bin Mairaj
- Mohammad Arham Ahmed
- Muhammad Hanzalah
- Nabiha Yameen
- Salman Akbar
- Saman
- Samia Shahid
- Sana Fatima
- Seerat Fatima
- Syed Muhammad Sulaiman Mehdi
- Syeda Fatima Aijaz
- Syeda Nabiha Hasan
- Tabish Khan
- Tayyab Mirza

Day 1 | Tuesday, 28th October 2025

TIME	SESSION & TOPIC		
0900-1000	Registration & Networking		
1000 - 1100	Session 1 Opening Plenary: The Hisaar Foundation Story: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow		
1100-1130	Tea Break		
1130-1300	Session 2 Second Plenary: Citizens' Commission on Floods: Impact on Water, People and Health		
1300-1400	Lunch Break		
1400-1530	Session 3A Water for People: Advancing South-South Cooperation	Session 3B Water for Health and Food Security: Framing the Debate	Session 3C Water Justice: Global Compacts on Transboundary Waters and Indus Waters Treaty
1530-1700	Session 4A Water for People: The Private Sector Agenda on Water and Floods	Session 4B Water for Health: Water Borne Diseases in Flood Times	Session 4C Water Justice: Everyone is Downstream - Case Studies from the World

Day 2 | Wednesday, 29th October 2025

TIME	SESSION & TOPIC		
0900-1000	Networking Tea		
1000-1130	Session 5A Water for People: Urban Drainage and Floods	Session 5B Water for Health: Child Stunting - Why is it not Being Addressed?	Session 5C Water Justice: Living on the Edge with Floods
1130-1300	Session 6 Café of the Unheard		
1300-1400	Lunch Break		
1400-1530	Session 7A Water for People: Putting People First - Indigenous Water Wisdom	Session 7B Water for Health: Sanitation – The Forgotten Part of WASH	Session 7C Water Justice: Water for Human Rights and Prosperity - Building Women's Leadership
1530-1700	Session 8 Closing Plenary: Living Charter for Water and People		
1700-1800	Close of Conference and Hi-Tea		

CHAIRS, SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND OTHER FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

Name	Designation	Organization
Abid Aman Burki	CNM Department of Economics	Lahore University of Management Sciences
Abida Farooqui	Professor and Chairperson Department of Environmental Sciences	Quaid-i-Azam University
Afia Salam	Communications Consultant & Advisor	Hisaar Foundation
Afia Zafar	Consultant Microbiologist	Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Aga Khan University
Ahmad Rafay Alam	Environmental Lawyer & Member Think Tank	Hisaar Foundation
Aijaz Haq	Head of Growth and External Linkages	KSBL
Akissa Bahri	Board of Governors	International Water Management Institute
Ali Tauqeer Sheikh	Member	Pakistan Climate Change Council
Alia Shahid	DG	Port & Shipping
Amir Masood	Chief Investment Officer	InfraZamin Pakistan
Ashraf Kapadia	Council Member	Hisaar Foundation
Askari Hasan	Senior Project Manager	Pathfinder International
Ayesha Aziz	Group Manager Sustainability	Packages Limited
Basharat Ahmed Saeed	Senior Water Specialist	World Bank
Bashir Anjum	Chief Operating Officer	The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)
Bisma Imran	Public Health and WASH Specialist	WaterAid
DS Akram	CEO	Health Education and Literacy Program
Faheem uz Zaman	Former Mayor Karachi	
Faiz Kakar	Environmental and Development Expert Area Manager	MM Pakistan
Farhana Shahid	Public Health Professional	Associate Professor at the College of Public Health Ziauddin University
Farrah Naz	Country Director	GAIN, Pakistan
Farrukh Ahmad	Deputy General Manager, ESG	Pakistan State Oil

Name	Designation	Organization
Farzana Yaqoob	CEO	Mantaq Center for Research, AJK
Fauzia Waqar	Public Health	Nutrition and Policy Specialist
Favard Soomro	CEO	The Dawood Foundation
Fazilda Nabeel	Adjunct Faculty	Climate and Water Governance WITS-LUMS
Hammad Naqi Khan	Director-General	WWF Pakistan
Imran Aslam	General Manager HSE	Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC)
Jai Das	Associate Director	Institute for Global Health and Development Aga Khan University
Jam Khan Shoro	Minister	Irrigation and Planning, Sindh
Jamal Ansari	CEO	Akbar Associates Group
Johan Gely	Asia Director for Research Impact	International Water Management Institute
Kamran Naeem	Vice Chairperson	UNICEF Global Staff Association
Kausar Hashmi	Manager	Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute, NED University
Kausar S Khan	Visiting Faculty	The Aga Khan University
Lubna Ghazal	Assistant Professor, Department of Geography	University of Karachi
Lubna Naz	Director	Center for Business and Economic Research IBA, Karachi
Madiha Latif	Vice President	Strategic Engagement & Innovation
Mahmood Nawaz Shah	President	Sindh Abadgaar Board
Mohammad Ehsan ul Haq Leghari	Member Sindh	Indus River System Authority (IRSA)
Mollah Md Awlad Hossain	Director	ICT-GIS Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) Dhaka, Bangladesh
Muhammad Ashraf	Country Representative - Senior Fellow	International Water Management Insti- tute (IWMI), Pakistan
Muhammad Mukhtar	Founding Vice Chancellor	National Skills University
Muhammad Tufail	Vice Chancellor	NED University
Mumtaz Begum	Board of Director	TRDP
Muneezeh Khan	Resident Director	Aurat Foundation
Nadira Panjwani	Chairperson	Panjwani Charitable Foundation

APPENDIX B

Name	Designation	Organization
Nasir Panhwar	Development Professional & Council Member	Hisaar Foundation
Naveed Bhutto	Maternal Adolescent Child health Nutrition Expert	Government of Sindh
Nazeer Ahmed Memon	Project coordinator	Directorate of Sindh Water Sector & Barrages Improvement
Nazish Shekha	Head of Initiative	Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB)
Neelofer Jamil	Environmental Scientist	Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University
Noman Ahmed	Pro Vice Chancellor	NED University
Nuzhat Khan	CEO	Bluenet +
Pervaiz Amir	Senior Economist Board Member	GWP (South Asia Chapter)
Qaisar Sajjad	Assistant Professor, ENT Department	Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences for Girls
Qurat ul Ain Bakhteari	Founding Director	Institute for Development Studies and Practice (IDSP)
Rahal Saeed	CEO	Karwan-e-Hayat
Rashida Dahod	Executive Director	Omar Asghar Khan Foundation
Rubina Farooq	Former VC	GC Women University Faisalabad
Sameen Akhund	Senior Manager	Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB)
Sanaa Zulfikar Causer	Director External Relations	Hisaar Foundation
Sarosh Lodi	Chairman CIEC	Patron PHWI NED University
Seema Taher Khan	Documentary Producer	
Senator Javed Jabbar	Senator (r)	
Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed	Senator (r), Journalist, Former Federal Minister	
Shabina Ayaz	Resident Director	Aurat Foundation
Shahrukh Nadeem	CEO	MyWater
Shaikh Soaleh	Senior Manager Operations	Hisaar Foundation
Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed	Chairman	HANDS
Shazina Masud	Public Health Specialist	
Shehla Batool	Founder & CEO	Water Stewards Pakistan Pvt Ltd
Simi Kamal	Chairperson	Hisaar Foundation

Name	Designation	Organization
Siraj ul Haq Ghorl	Sector Specialist-Social Sector	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
Sohail Naqvi	Director Freshwater Programme	WWF-Pakistan
Sonia Binte Murshed	Associate Professor	Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Syed Aziz ur Rab	CEO	Greenstar Social Marketing Pakistan
Syeda Malaika Zehra	Trainee Engineer	K-Electric
Talha Jatol	Journalist, Anchorperson	365 News/Awaz TV/OGz
Tasneem Fatima	Director Health Services and MSS Project ECHO	Marie Stopes
Tofiq Pasha Mooraj	Youth Advisor	Hisaar Foundation
Umer Karim	Senior Agriculture and Water Resources Management Specialist	FAO
Uzma Nomani	Manager	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
Wasif Rashid	Islamabad Coordinator	Hisaar Foundation
Xaher Gul	Public Health Physician	
Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi	CEO	QZ Catalyst
Zafar Fatmi	Professor & Section Head, Environmental-Occupational Health & Climate Change	The Aga Khan University Hospital
Zulfiqar Ali Umrani	Director	ORIC
Zulfiqar Bhutta	Founding Director	Institute for Global Health and Development & the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, AKU

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Presentation on Conference Goals and Objectives by Simi Kamal

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Presentation on Women and Water by Afia Salam

TORs for the Commission by Simi Kamal

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Water for People: Advancing South-South Cooperation

Presentation on South-South Cooperation for Water, Food, and Development by Dr Akissa Bahri

Presentation on Bangladesh Experiences and Innovations in Water Sector – Scopes for Strengthening Partnership by Dr Mollah Md Awlad Hossain

Presentation on Advancing South-South Cooperation by Mr Johan Gely

Presentation on The Role of Track II Diplomacy in South-South Cooperation by Dr Fazilda Nabeel

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Water Justice: Global Compacts on Transboundary Waters and Indus Water Treaty

Presentation on Global Framework on Transboundary Waters in the Context of Geography by Simi Kamal

Presentation on Global Downstream Context: Shared transboundary challenges (Indus/Brahmaputra basins) and lessons for Pakistan by Dr Sonia Binte Murshed

Presentation on Legal Aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty & Assessment Against Global Compacts by Ahmad Rafay Alam

Presentation on Rehabilitating the Indus Waters Treaty: Strategic Analysis and Policy Framework by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

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Water for People: Role of Private Sector in Water Risk Management, Challenges, Initiatives and Way Forward

Presentation on Pakistan's Water Risks by Sanaa Zulfikar Causer

Presentation on Role of Private Sector in Water Risk Management Challenges, Initiatives and Way Forward by Amir Masood

Presentation on Clean Water Access and Quality in Pakistan by Shahrukh Nadeem

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Water for Health: Water Borne Diseases in Flood Times

Presentation on Water Borne Diseases in Flood Times by Prof D S Akram

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Presentation on Water Justice: Everyone is Downstream- Pakistan’s Water Apportionment Accord by Moham-mad Ehsan Leghari

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Presentation on Recent Flooding in Malir & Lyari Rivers and Its Impact on Karachi (2025) by Nazeer Ahmed Memon

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Presentation on Pre Conference Events with Community and Women by Shabina Ayaz

Presentation on Living Charter for Water & People: A Call for Action by Ahmad Rafay Alam & Simi Kamal

Presentation on Acknowledgements by Ashraf Kapadia

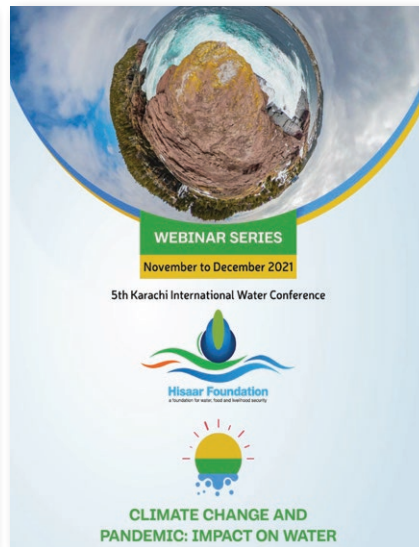
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AJK	Azad Jammu & Kashmir	MSS	Marie Stopes Society
AKU	Aga Khan University	NED	NED University of Engineering and Technology
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CERB	Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business	OAKDF	Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation
CIEC	Centre for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Commercialization	OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
CNM	Chaudhry Nazir Muhammad (Department of Economics, LUMS)	ORIC	Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization
COMS-TECH	OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation	ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
DG	Director General	PCP	Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
DHA	Defence Housing Authority	PHWI	Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance	PKR	Pakistani Rupee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PR	Public Relations
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition	Q&A	Question and Answer
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	RDF	Rural Development Foundation
GIS	Geographic Information System	RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
GoP	Government of Pakistan	SECMC	Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company
GPs	General Practitioners	SSO	Sujag Sansar Organization
GWP	Global Water Partnership	TORs	Terms of Reference
HANDS	Health and Nutrition Development Society	TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment	UN	United Nations
IBA	Institute of Business Administration	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	USD	United States Dollar
ICT-GIS	Information and Communication Technology & Geographic Information System	USPCAS-WU.S.-Pakistan	Center for Advanced Studies in Water
IDSP	Institute for Development Studies and Practice	UWN	Universities for Water Network
IoT	Internet of Things	VC	Vice Chancellor
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
IRSA	Indus River System Authority	WDA	Women Development Association
IWM	Institute of Water Modelling	WIT-LUMS	Water Informatics & Technology, Lahore University of Management Sciences
IWMI	International Water Management Institute	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
IWT	Indus Waters Treaty		
KIWC	Karachi International Water Conference		
KSBL	Karachi School of Business and Leadership		
LHVs	Lady Health Visitors		
LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences		

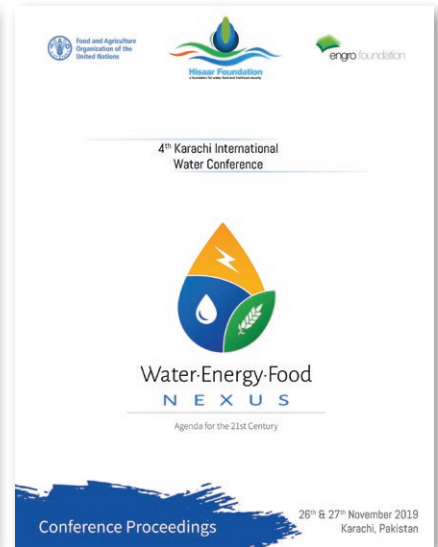
KIWC OVER THE YEARS



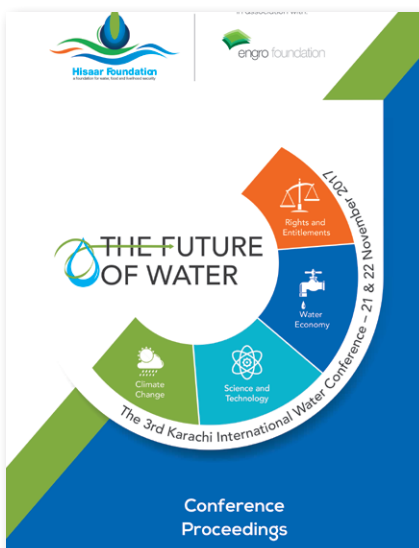
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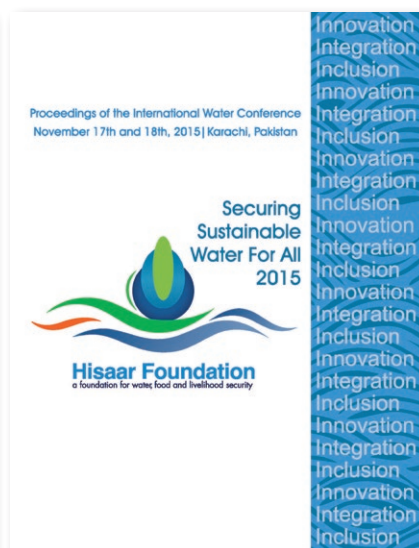
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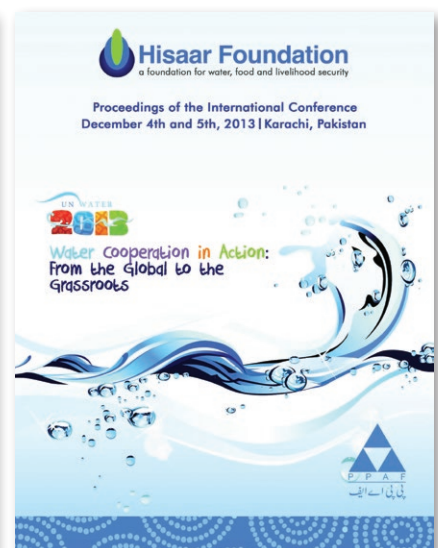
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2015



2013

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