

**PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY: THE WAY FORWARD**

**CONCEPT NOTE/CALL FOR PAPERS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Economic growth is essential for human development. Growth can generate virtuous circles of prosperity and opportunity thereby improving the living standard of the population. Industrial development has played a key role in achieving higher economic growth rate in China, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. Recently, Pakistan has made significant progress in regaining macroeconomic stability and economic growth. With improved security conditions, energy supply, and China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related infrastructure investment, country's growth prospects are promising. However, there remain challenges in agriculture, industry and external sectors. Against this setting, the objective of the 3-day 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference is to evaluate the prospects of the economy and suggests the viable solutions and the way forward which would be helpful in setting policy direction to achieve a higher growth trajectory of 6 to 7 percent in the coming years. Sub-themes of the Conference are:

- Revitalizing Agriculture Sector
- Revitalizing Industrial Base
- Realizing Exports Potential
- Financial Sector Development
- Fiscal & Monetary Policies and Debt Management
- Poverty, Inequality and Human Development
- Climate Change and Water Security
- Labour Market Dynamics & Women Empowerment
- Regional Connectivity under CPEC
- The Role of Media in Policy Agenda Setting

**BACKGROUND**

Expanding on some of the above sub-themes, agriculture is the lifeline of the economy employing the largest proportion of country's workforce and providing raw material for several value-added industries. Revitalization of Agriculture can play a central role in national development, food security, employment generation, and human development. The industry is the backbone of the economy but remained vulnerable to factors such as government policy changes, trade agreements, finance and infrastructural limitations, foreign direct investment, un-skilled workforce, lack of research and innovations, and energy supply. Strategically, a prosperous industrialized Pakistan can be created through building infrastructure, creating an incentive structure designed to achieve a competitive, dynamic, and export-driven industrial sector capable of providing decent employment to the growing labor force.

Pakistan also faces the challenges of declining water availability and its quality, growing water pollution, and environmental insecurity. A combination of factors, including global climate change, local waste and water mismanagement has led to a rapid depletion of water supply. The

supply demand gap is persistently increasing with compounded effects of climate change on snowmelt, reducing flows into the Indus River, the primary fresh-water source for the country. In a country where economic growth is largely driven by agriculture, scarcity of water will have serious consequences for the employment, poverty, inequality and living standards of the population.

Regional connectivity through China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides a great opportunity with the \$62 billion of financing equivalent to 20% of country's GDP which augurs well for growth, industrial development and human development for both China and Pakistan. In this regard Trade Prospects and Opportunities and Challenges for Freight Transportation can be explored.

In this age of fast communication technological advancement, the media can play an important role in reshaping preferences and social norms within societies. By publicizing information that is reliable and relevant for citizens, the media can contribute effectively towards government policies, project and programs.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Against the above background, this year the 34th AGM of PSDE will bring together national and international academic and policy researchers, policy practitioners and stakeholders to discuss and debate what is the way forward for Pakistan's economy.

PSDE secretariat/PIDE cordially invites you to be the part of this epic event deliberations by submitting a paper, register for the conference as participant, virtual participation, stall establishment or be a proud sponsor. Abstracts for the papers should be submitted to the PSDE Secretariat, on the prescribed format, latest by **July 23, 2018**. The last date for the receipt of full paper is **September 17, 2018**. Incomplete papers or those submitted after the due date would not be entertained by the PSDE Technical Committee. Authors of accepted papers would be notified by **October 29, 2018**. All papers presented in the conference will be published in Conference Papers Proceeding Volume and will also be considered for publication in the regular Pakistan Development Review.

A maximum of two submissions are permissible per author/co-author. Each submission should clearly identify the Conference theme/sub-theme/non-theme.

Papers should be mailed to PSDE at [psde@pide.org.pk](mailto:psde@pide.org.pk). Conference Registration is on first come first serve basis. More details of the conference and how to participate are available from our website [www.pide.org.pk/psde](http://www.pide.org.pk/psde).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Deadline for submission of abstracts	<b>July 23, 2018</b>
Deadline for submission of full papers	<b>September 17, 2018</b>
Notification of accepted papers	<b>October 29, 2018</b>
34 <sup>th</sup> AGM & Conference	<b>December 12-13-14, 2018</b>

All relevant information about the Conference is available from the PSDE Secretariat and the PSDE's website ([www.pide.org.pk/psde](http://www.pide.org.pk/psde)). Updates will be continually posted on the website.