IBA SESS School of Economics and Social Sciences
Leadership • Excellence • Impact

IBA CBER Center for Business & Economic Research

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

SIXTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a Sustainable Economic Future

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

05–06 NOVEMBER 2026 · IBA KARACHI



Two days of keynotes, panels and dialogue on climate, jobs, institutions, technology and trade

Prof. Adil Najam | Prof. Iwi Ugiagbe-Green | Senator Musadik Malik | Senator Sherry Rehman

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

WORLD BANK GROUP · nowpdp A PART. NOT APART. · DM DawnMedia · DAWN NEWS ENGLISH · AVARI TOWERS KARACHI

Conference Overview



The Sixth Annual International Conference, **"Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a Sustainable Economic Future"**, was organised by the Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER) and the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) at IBA Karachi. Over two days it brought together scholars, policymakers and practitioners.

TWO DAYS · IBA KARACHI

5–6

NOVEMBER 2026

Organised by CBER and SESS

What the sessions explored

01 Climate adaptation and loss and damage

02 Job creation

03 Governance and institutional reform

04 Populism

05 AI and the future of work

06 Disability inclusion

07 Trade and tariff reform

08 Universities and evidence-based policy

Day 1 - Thursday, 05 November 2026

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash

Dean, School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS), IBA Karachi



Dr. Bangash welcomed guests, speakers and students to two days of dialogue on the conference theme. Pakistan is well used to "polycrisis", he said, and its resilience is real, but survival is not progress: the question is how to move *beyond* crisis, not only through it.

He stressed that the conference was organised above all for students, urging them to engage with scholars and policymakers, and invited participants to help create what comes next. He thanked Dr. Lubna Naz and the CBER team, the SESS faculty on the organising committee, and Dr. Zaidi for his leadership and support.

In their words

The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.

— **Antonio Gramsci, quoted by Dr. Bangash**

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi

Executive Director, IBA Karachi

Dr. Zaidi described Pakistan's economic, climate, population and political problems as connected crises, and questioned whether the country is achieving sustainable growth in any meaningful sense. Sustainability, he said, is "something we talk a lot about, but do nothing about."

He pointed to a report that day projecting a 5°C rise in Swat by the end of the century, and to a population of about 250 million heading for 270 million by 2030, and urged participants to press visiting policymakers on what sustainability means in practice.

He added that the concentration of political power, dependence on the IMF and the influence of an unelected institution over policy are further strands of the polycrisis, and that population growth and climate change alone would be enough to begin the conversation.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Climate Change and the Age of Adaptation

Prof. Adil Najam · Dean Emeritus and Professor of International Relations and Earth & Environment, Boston University



Speaking as a scholar rather than for WWF, Prof. Najam argued that climate impacts are no longer a future prospect but a present reality. That makes climate a human problem, so economists and social scientists must help lead the response.

> **In their words**
>
> Climate is too important to be left to climate people alone.
>
> — **Prof. Adil Najam**

WHAT THE CLIMATE IS TELLING US

117°F

Parts of Pakistan in the April 2022 heatwave, when over a billion South Asians faced 100°F+

US$30bn+

Damages and losses from Pakistan's 2022 floods, against the US$100bn global climate-finance goal

Most impacts now arrive through water: **"Water is to adaptation what carbon was to mitigation."** Adaptation is humanity's "superpower", but its costs fall unevenly; where it fails, countries such as Pakistan enter the realm of loss and damage.

FOUR SHIFTS FOR POLICY

1. Every sector: from energy to every sector: climate belongs in trade, water, health, education and infrastructure policy.

2. Insecurity: from maximizing security to minimizing insecurity.

3. Species thinking: from national interest to species thinking.

4. Existing spending: from new money to rethinking existing spending: "Do health better. Do education better."

PERFORMANCE

Theatre Performance on Sustainability

Kaifiyat Collective



Through movement, projected imagery and light, the collective showed how closely people are bound to the natural world, and invited the audience to feel what is at stake when that bond breaks.

Part of nature: performers reached upward and branched outward before projected forests, like trees in the wind.

Interdependence: they leaned on, supported and pulled at one another: the survival of each depends on all.

Change and loss: projections moved from dense forest to open sky and, at times, an empty screen.

Immersion: green light spread across the hall, placing the audience inside a forest canopy.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

There Is No Wealth for Anyone on a Dead Planet for All

Prof. Iwi Ugiagbe-Green · Manchester Metropolitan University



Returning to Keynes's 1930 essay *Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren*, the keynote asked why greater productive capacity has not delivered shared prosperity or shorter working hours, and argued that prosperity should be judged by well-being within the planet's limits.

15 hours

the working week Keynes thought productivity gains could make possible; instead many face overwork, burnout and pressure to consume

WHERE THE GAP COMES FROM

Colonial legacies: some economies supply cheap labour and raw materials while the rewards accumulate elsewhere. Nigeria's reliance on imported refined petroleum shows how resource wealth can coexist with dependence.

Debt: debt distress, commodity dependence and limited industrialisation restrict development choices across Africa.

Digital platforms: data colonialism and techno-feudalism extend dependency: whoever owns the platforms sets the rules for everyone who uses them.

RETHINKING WEALTH

The triple bottom line and doughnut economics frame prosperity as meeting people's needs within the planet's limits: healthcare, education, water, affordable transport, security in later life and recognition of unpaid care.

PROPOSED RESPONSES

Finance: debt relief and tax justice, with stronger oversight of public borrowing.

Services: investment in public services.

Participation: greater democratic participation in production, including co-operatives and social enterprises.

UBUNTU AND EDUCATION

Drawing on Ubuntu and bell hooks' love ethic, she called on universities to help students question accepted economic assumptions and investigate alternatives.

Key takeaway: Prosperity should be judged by people's well-being and the planet's capacity to sustain life, not by output alone.

PANEL SESSION

Prosperity Under Pressure: What Is Holding Back Job Creation in Pakistan?

Panelists Maria Qazi (World Bank), Muhammad Nasir (SESS, IBA), Yasmin Haider (World Concepts) **Moderator** Saad Rajput (World Bank)



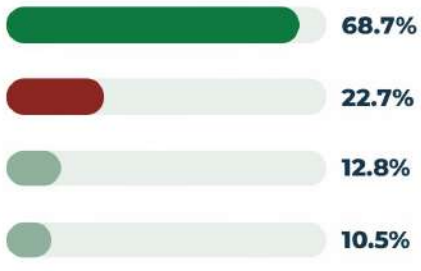
A World Bank update to the Pakistan Poverty, Equity and Resilience Assessment showed real consumption **falling among the bottom 70%** even as GDP rose. Workers leaving agriculture had not moved into more productive jobs, and **96% of establishments employ fewer than ten people** (Economic Census 2023).

Firm growth: a prerequisite for job growth.

Informality: often a rational response to inconsistent policy and the cost of formalising.

Energy and finance: unreliable energy and limited access to finance hold firms back.

Who is in Pakistan's labour market, and who is left out



67% of the population is under 30

Key takeaway: Moving workers between sectors is not enough if productivity stays weak and households keep losing purchasing power.

PANEL SESSION

The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Advancing Evidence-Based Policymaking in Pakistan

Panelists Irshad Shodar (Sindh Social Protection Authority), Tehmina Mangan (Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University), Dr. Lubna Naz (CBER, IBA) **Moderator** Dr. Shakeel Khoja (SMCS, IBA)



Universities produce research and government needs evidence, but the two seldom meet: institutional links are weak, there is no data-sharing mechanism, and academic incentives reward the **number** of publications over their **impact**. As a working example, IBA's Department of Economics, with GIZ support, drafted a new social protection policy for the Sindh Social Protection Authority (SSPA).

1.4m

households: the data held by SSPA alone

RECOMMENDATIONS

Data governance: a secure framework so government data can reach researchers.

Promotions: based on the quality and policy relevance of research, not publication counts.

In their words

> Academia and government often seem to "live on different planets."
>
> — Dr. Shakeel Khoja

Platforms: a government-led research–policy platform and a consortium of urban and remote universities.

LEADERSHIP SESSION

Leading Beyond Crisis: Resilience, Reform and Renewal

Speaker Zafar Masud, President and CEO, Bank of Punjab **Moderator** Maleeha Sattar, ITU Lahore



Reflecting on surviving the 2020 plane crash, Masud said authority matters through its effect on other people's lives, and urged leaders to give people the benefit of the doubt and to practise sincerity and accountability to oneself. He described resilience as an **ecosystem** of family, colleagues and institutions.

> **In their words**
>
> Start with yourself.
>
> — Zafar Masud

The Bank of Punjab's Madadgar flood-rehabilitation work, he said, made staff more empathetic towards customers and colleagues.

PARALLEL SESSION

Gender, Water Conflicts and Local Livelihoods

Panelists Danish Mustafa (King's College London), Aliya Amirali (Quaid-e-Azam University) **Moderator** Arsalan Waheed (SSLA, IBA)

Water was treated as a social and political relationship, not just a technical resource, and called to be "demasculinised" and "demystified". Using Islamabad as the central case, panelists showed how **class decides who gets water**, and how the daily burden of securing it keeps women at home and out of paid work.

Women were also presented as active political agents who negotiate and resist for access.



Key takeaway: Water scarcity as such does not exist; it is produced by how water is used, and everything comes down to who controls it.

CONVERSATION

Pakistan Beyond Polycrisis: An Economist and a Technologist in Conversation

Speakers Umar Saif (Former Federal Minister, Science and Technology and IT), Miftah Ismail (Former Federal Minister for Finance) **Moderator** Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash (Dean, SESS, IBA)



Ismail named three connected problems: fiscal constraints, weak governance and a crisis of democratic legitimacy, and argued that reform meets resistance from those who benefit from the status quo (taxation, energy, federal–provincial arrangements).

Saif separated long-term structural constraints from preventable failures in education, health and administration, pointing to Punjab's digitised property transactions and monitoring of school learning outcomes.

Key takeaway: Pakistan's young population becomes a source of prosperity only if education, infrastructure and employment develop together.

Day 2 - Friday, 06 November 2026

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND PROGRAM

Dr. Lubna Naz

Director, Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER), IBA Karachi



Dr. Naz opened Day 2 by recalling the highlights of Day 1: the climate-action session presented in an artistic way, and Prof. Iwi Ugiagbe-Green's keynote on inequality and the colonial and capitalist roots of exploitation, which pushed the debate beyond inequality and encouraged participants to think differently, even to bring the idea of love into it. She also noted the candid panel on how universities can inform evidence-based policy, and the technical sessions that deliberately featured young researchers, particularly women.

After briefly taking guests through the day's programme, she stressed the impact session with NOWPDP as a step towards making the conference more inclusive, and urged participants to support the young researchers leading sessions. She closed by thanking Dr. Zaidi and Dean Bangash for their unwavering support and intellectual contributions, especially to the concept note that drew experts from around the world, and the conference committee for its support through the difficult stretches.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Climate Change, Development and Inequalities

Senator Musadik Malik



Using the image of a **kite running out of string**, Malik argued that Pakistan's growth repeatedly stalls when foreign exchange runs short: expansion raises import demand while export earnings lag, and when the string runs out the brakes go on through higher interest rates and development cuts, leading back to the IMF.

He described Pakistan as exposed to decisions made elsewhere (wars, interest rates, pandemics, climate disasters) and said policy capture rewards seeking privileges over competing in export markets.

Automation and AI add further uncertainty to established routes to employment. His hopeful example was a farmer near Muridke who sold livestock to install solar panels, alongside collaboration between government, universities and communities. He presented reform as a political and institutional task, with choices about whose interests policy serves, and argued that lasting progress depends on expanding Pakistan's productive capacity.

Imports have outrun exports since FY2004

Imports		
FY04		$17.7bn
FY25		$59bn
Exports		
FY04		$15.1bn
FY25		$32.3bn

25 IMF programmes in 67 years, the most in South Asia

Pakistan	25
Sri Lanka	16
Bangladesh	12
India	7

PANEL SESSION

Populism, Democratic Institutions, and Political Stability

Panelists Evren Balta (Özyeğin University), Adeel Malik (Oxford), Ajay Gudavarthy (JNU), Nafisa Shah (National Assembly) **Moderator** Prof. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi (SSLA, IBA)



The panel asked whether populism strengthens or weakens democracy, and concluded that it does **neither inherently**: the outcome depends on context, on how "the people" and "the elite" are defined, and on whether a movement is in opposition or in government.

Definition: claims to speak for "the people" against "the elite", a "thin ideology" that can attach to left- or right-wing projects.

Two edges: it can bring excluded groups into politics, as Nafisa Shah argued of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, but can weaken parties, courts and pluralism the longer it stays in power.

Triggers: it tends to rise when established parties converge on similar policies; panelists questioned whether populists deliver real redistribution.

Key takeaway: Populism is not inherently democratic or authoritarian; it can both challenge exclusion and concentrate power.

PANEL SESSION

Artificial Intelligence in Economic Research, Policy and Planning

Panelists Muhammad Ali (Sky47), Muhammad Imaduddin (SBP) , Rizwan Ahmed Khan (SMCS, IBA) **Moderator** Sahar Arshad Mahmood (SESS, IBA)



Work: routine digital and freelance work is under pressure; reskilling and judging AI output are essential.

Infrastructure: domestic cloud can serve sensitive national datasets, with clear standards on consent.

Data: payments data could track activity faster than surveys, if descriptions are meaningful.

Risks: biased data, opaque models and unclear responsibility call for strong governance.

Access: benefits may stay concentrated unless access, skills and governance develop alongside the technology.

Foundations: universities should teach mathematics, computational thinking and critical judgement; AI summaries should not replace reading and original argument.

Key takeaway: AI's opportunity is substantial but conditional on the quality of data, infrastructure and human judgement.

IMPACT SESSION

From Policy to People: Demonstrating Impact Through Experience

Presented by Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities, Pakistan (NOWPDP)

9.64%
disability prevalence in the 2023 census, against below 0.5% in 2017

1 : 4,721
one special school for every 4,721 children with disabilities

0.96%
of teachers trained in special or inclusive education

10.7%
of persons with disabilities are employed

Disability in Pakistan is shaped as much by stigma, exclusion and inaccessible environments as by impairment. The core problem, the presenter said, is weak enforcement of existing law, such as the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, which reserves five percent of jobs.

Key takeaway: A shift from charity to rights, built on accurate data, inclusive schools, enforced employment quotas and a state that takes responsibility for every citizen.

PANEL SESSION

Loss and Damage from Floods in South Asia: Regional Perspectives and Lessons for Pakistan

Panelists K. Enam Ul Haq (BIDS, online), Nazim Ud din (Aga Khan University) **Moderator** Ghamze Ali Siyal (SESS, IBA)



Loss and damage covers **economic** losses (infrastructure, property, supply chains) and **non-economic** losses (lives, cultures, ways of living) from extreme events and slow-onset change. Vanuatu first proposed it in 1991; it was rejected then. The Fund was established at COP27 and operationalised at COP28.

There is a substantial gap between the finance available and the needs of vulnerable countries.

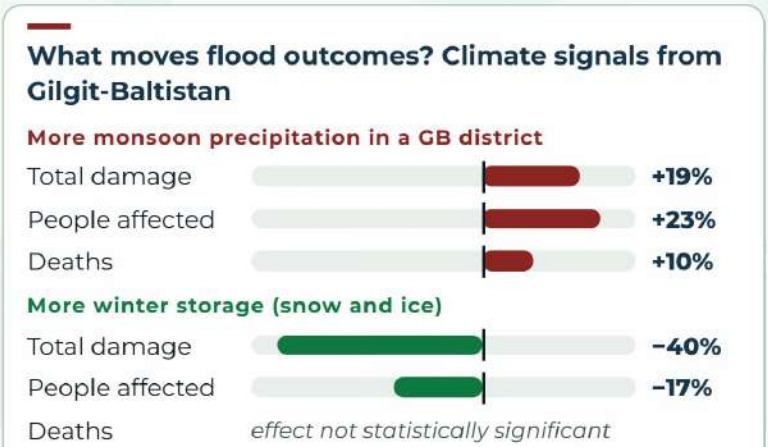
US$342m
initial window for 2025–26, raised from US$250m

176
requests from 119 countries, for about US$2.8bn

US$58m
requested by Pakistan; Pakistan, India and Bangladesh had received nothing

COP31
next opportunity, 9–20 November 2026

What moves flood outcomes? Climate signals from Gilgit-Baltistan



Change in nationwide flood outcome per one-unit rise in the GB indicator; associations from district-level models, not forecasts.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Sun, the Self and Power in the Age of Disruption: Navigating Change in the Next Axial Age

Senator Sherry Rehman · Chair, Standing Committee on Climate Change; former Federal Minister



In a period of rapid change, individuals and nations must make deliberate choices about energy, geopolitics, technology and climate, and keep human judgement in charge rather than surrender it to algorithms.

In their words

If you are not on the table, you are on the menu.

— Senator Sherry Rehman

US$12bn

Pakistan is on the front line of the **solar shift**: Rehman estimated it avoided about US$12 billion in fossil-fuel and LNG imports between 2018 and 2026, and said continued adoption could avoid a further US$6.3 billion by the end of 2026.

Rooftop systems make up 5,900 of 6,680 MW of on-grid solar

Rooftop	**5,900**
Utility-scale	**780**

Installed on-grid capacity in MW as of 30 June 2025. Total: **6,680 MW**.

HER KEY THEMES

A changing order: a weakening Pax Americana and a multipolar world, in which Pakistan was described as a middle power with credibility among competing adversaries, its position the result of deliberate choices rather than drift.

AI and judgement: frontier AI depends on chips, minerals and data centres that consume energy and water, so human judgement should remain final, especially where decisions involve violence and human lives.

Climate and nature: technology and nature are parts of a circular relationship; she urged people to help "regrow the future", separating what individuals can influence, such as pollution and air quality, from what needs collective action.

Equity and voice: scarcity will fall hardest on those at the bottom of the social pyramid and in the Global South, and she urged people, especially women, to develop a public voice.

Key takeaway: Pakistan's solar shift shows what deliberate energy choices can achieve, and in a period of rapid change such choices must keep human judgement in charge.

GRAND DIALOGUE

Trade and Tariff Reforms for a Competitive Economy

Moderator Aadil Nakhoda (SESS, IBA) **Panel** Manzoor Ahmed, Louie Dane, Naveed Abbas Memon, Mukarram Ansari, Javed Kureishi, Aamir Allawala, Vaqar Ahmed, Aisha Moriani, Dr. Adeel Malik



Lowering tariffs is **necessary but not sufficient**: success depends on institutions, the credibility of the policy process and the conditions firms operate in.

Schedule: a predictable, pre-announced five-year tariff-reduction schedule.

Revenue: tariff cuts weighed against revenue, since much tax is collected at import.

Costs: high electricity, gas, financing and freight costs limit exports regardless of tariffs.

Facilitation: the Pakistan Single Window is building integrated digital trade infrastructure across customs, ports, payments and risk management to cut delays and costs.

Exports: growth needs exports to pay for machinery and technology imports, backed by a competitive exchange rate, standards and certification.

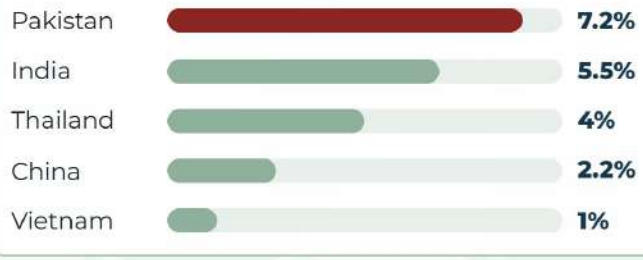
Comparisons: regional tariff comparisons must account for the additional duties and para-tariffs imposed elsewhere.

Climate and consumers: align reform with carbon-related trade rules and SME compliance capacity, and weigh consumer welfare, not only producers' interests.

Process: stakeholder engagement, harmonised regulation and sunset clauses.

Coalitions: export-oriented coalitions, and compensation for those who lose.

Pakistan has the highest average import tariff of five Asian economies (2023)



Key takeaway: A competitive economy depends on predictable and credible policy, supportive conditions for firms, attention to fiscal consequences and a political settlement that can sustain reform.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Relive #CBERCON26

Keynotes, panels, the theatre performance and moments from both days, in one highlights reel.

▶ Watch the highlights

lnkd.in/p/dntY3gDQ

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Research Presentations

Seven papers presented in the parallel technical sessions

01

Ayesha Javed

Research and Development Solutions, Islamabad

"High-Resolution District-Level Contraceptive Prevalence in Pakistan: A Bayesian Small Area Estimation Approach."

02

Dr. Aniqa Memon

Assistant Professor, CESD, IoBM

"Structural Drivers, ESG Compliance Pressures, and Multi-Tier Subcontracting Dynamics: A Cross-Regional Empirical Analysis of Pakistan's Textile Industry."

03

Demetrio Panarello

Link Campus University, Rome, Italy

"Unequal Treatment in the Hiring Process in Italy."

04

Dr. Muhammad Faisal Ali

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)

"Localizing Climate Change Adaptation Planning in a Mountainous Region: Evidence from Haveli District, AJK."

05

Romaza Khanum, PhD

Department of Agricultural Economics and Policy, Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh

"Does Fish Farming Reduce Multidimensional Poverty? Causal Evidence from Rural Bangladesh."

06

Fasih Zulfiqar

Princeton University (PhD student, Political Economy)

"Distorted Signals: The Unintended Consequences of Repression."

07

Dr. Ghamz e Ali Siyal

Assistant Professor, SESS, IBA Karachi

"Economic Development and Patriotic Songs: A Case Study of Pakistan."

Conference in Media

DAWN

IBA Conference Focuses on Pakistan's Economic and Climate Challenges | Dawn News English

Published November 6, 2026



DAWN · 6 NOV 2026 ↗

THE NEWS

Monday November 23, 2026

Today's Paper

HOME JUST IN PAKISTAN OPINION WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS TECH LIFE & ST

Climate 'too important to be left to climate people alone', IBA moot told

Karachi | By News Desk | November 07, 2026



l Conference on "Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a BA Karachi on November 6, 2026. — Facebook@ibakhiofficial

THE NEWS · 7 NOV 2026 ↗

BUSINESS RECORDER

اردو

IBA Karachi organizes sixth Annual International Cbercon 2026

Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a Sustainable Economic Future



BUSINESS RECORDER · 7 NOV 2026 ↗

Pakistan ECONOMY

IBA Karachi Hosts CBERCON 2026 on Pakistan's Sustainable Economic Future

Saturday, 07 November 2026 · 12:56 AM PKT · PakGold News Desk · 125

KEY POINT

IBA Karachi's CBERCON 2026 convened experts to discuss pathways beyond Pakistan's polycrisis towards a sustainable economic future.

The two-day conference, organized by IBA CBER in partnership with the World Bank Group, addressed Pakistan's interconnected economic, climate, and governance challenges. Speakers, including Dr. S Akbar Zaidi and former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, highlighted issues like population growth, climate change, and the need for research-driven solutions. Discussions covered job creation, trade reforms, and AI's role in economic policy, aiming to prepare the next generation to lead Pakistan beyond crisis. While offering insights into Pakistan's long-term economic trajectory, this event provides general economic context rather than immediate market-moving signals for gold

PAKGOLD · 7 NOV 2026 ↗

GEO NEWS · VIDEO



SACH NEWS · VIDEO



NEWS

IBA conference calls for climate action, inclusive growth



AAJ NEWS · 6 NOV 2026 ↗

YouTube ↗ · Facebook ↗

Conference in Media

Press and online coverage of CBERCON26 in leading national outlets, November 2026.


THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE

HOME LATEST PAKISTAN BUSINESS WORLD SPORTS OPINION LIFE & STYLE T-MAGAZI

Tariff cuts spark duty burden debate

Experts differ on calculations as border costs, energy prices weigh on exports

SHUT DOWN DUE TO TARIFFS

KARACHI: Pakistan's tariff policy has exposed a sharp divide over how the country's import duties should be measured and whether reducing them will make local industry more competitive.

The debate came into focus at a three-hour dialogue at the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS), IBA Karachi on Friday, where speakers also questioned whether high tariffs were the main constraint on exports or whether energy costs, border procedures and limited access to foreign markets mattered more.

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE · 7 NOV 2026 ↗


APP

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN

Climate disasters, technological disruption deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities: Musadik Malik

Nov 06, 2026 · By Abdul Samad Tariq

Federal Minister Dr Musadik Malik's keynote at IBA Karachi on the human cost of climate disasters and technological disruption.

APP


LEADPakistan

Climate disasters, technological disruption deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities: Musadik Malik

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Friday that climate disasters, technological disruption and an increasingly unequal global economic order are converging to deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities, warning that their combined impact could reverse decades of progress made by vulnerable communities. Addressing a keynote session at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi University Campus, the minister argued that Pakistan's economic difficulties could not be

LEAD PAKISTAN


THE NATION

Climate risks threaten Pakistan's economic stability: Musadik Malik

Newspaper, Regional, Karachi

KARACHI - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Friday that climate disasters, technological disruption and an increasingly unequal global economic order are converging to deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities, warning that their combined impact could reverse decades of progress made by vulnerable communities. Addressing a keynote session at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi University Campus, the minister argued that Pakistan's economic difficulties could not be understood solely through domestic policy failures, as global commodity cycles, interest rates, geopolitical conflicts and technological changes also shaped the country's economic prospects. But it was the human cost of climate disasters that formed one of the central themes of his address. Referring to flood-hit communities in Gilgit-Baltistan, Dr Musadik Malik said some families had taken three generations to escape poverty, only to lose their homes, livestock, schools, clinics and other as-sets in a single devastating flood. He described how communities that had gradually were pushed back into pov-erty after floods

THE NATION


THE Pakistani News

IBA Karachi Conference Asks How Pakistan Can Move Beyond "Polycrisis" Toward a Sustainable Economy

Commerce Desk

Karachi: IBA hosted its Sixth Annual International Conference, "Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards [illegible]76. Organized by the IBA Center for Business & [illegible] and other partners, it brought together

THE PAKISTANI NEWS


AAJ NEWS

aaj.tv · urdu

آئی بی اے کراچی کی عالمی کانفرنس، پاکستان کی پائیدار معاشی مستقبل پر ماہرین کا تبادلہ خیال

AAJ NEWS · URDU


ENERGY UPDATE MAGAZINE

IBA Karachi Hosts Sixth International CBERCON 2026 Conference on Sustainable Economic Future

ENERGY UPDATE


TheGreenPost

Climate Disasters and AI Disruption Pose Growing Risks to Pakistan's Economy: Musadik Malik

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik has warned that climate-related disasters, rapid technological change and global economic inequalities are increasing pressure on Pakistan's economy and threatening the livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

Speaking at a keynote session at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi University Campus, Malik said Pakistan's economic challenges were shaped not only by

THE GREEN POST


اردو پوائنٹ

URDU POINT

Conference in Media


PAKISTAN TODAY

IBA Karachi organizes 6th annual international CBERCON 2026 on 'beyond polycrisis: pathways towards a sustainable economic future'

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

IBA proudly hosted the Sixth Annual International Conference on "Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a Sustainable Economic Future", which was organized by IBA's Center for Business & Economic Research (CBER), in partnership with the World Bank Group, Sindh Higher Education Commission, SCRVPDP, Dawn Media and Avant Towers. The two-day conference brought together scholars, policymakers, industry leaders and students to examine how Pakistan can move beyond its overlapping economic, climate and governance crises.

Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, set the opening remarks, described Pakistan's economic, climate, population and political challenges as interconnected crises, noting that growth has for years remained only slightly above the rate of population growth. He added that climate change and population are two crises that need far greater attention, with Pakistan's population of about 250 million projected to reach 270 million by 2030.

Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Professor & Dean, SZABIST, noted in his welcome address, that Pakistan has shown real resilience through repeated crises, but cautioned that survival should not be mistaken for progress. He said the question

PAKISTAN TODAY


INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS
PAKISTAN

Climate 'too important to be left to climate people alone', IBA moot told

Dr S Akbar Zaidi describes Pakistan's economic, climate, population and political challenges as interconnected crises; Prof Adil Najam calls climate impacts a present reality; Senator Sherry Rehman warns against leaving human decisions to algorithms; Senator Musadik Malik says climate disasters must be measured in lost lives and livelihoods, not just GDP

News Desk

The two-day conference brought together scholars, policymakers and industry leaders.

THE NEWS · PRINT


نئی بات

دنیا انسانی تشکیل نو کے دور سے گزر رہی ہے، شیری رحمان

پاکستان کا ایران امریکا کشیدگی کم کرنے میں اہم سفارتی کردار رہا، آئی پی اے کانفرنس سے خطاب

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) سینیٹر شیری رحمان نے کہا ہے کہ دنیا اس وقت محض سیاسی، معاشی اور تکنیکی تبدیلی سے نہیں بلکہ انسانیت کی تشکیل نو کے ایک گہرے مرحلے سے گزر رہی ہے۔ متعدد عالمی بحرانوں کے نمٹنے کے لیے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچ اپنانا ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان نے ایران اور امریکا کے درمیان کشیدگی کم کرنے کے لیے سفارتی سطح پر انتہائی اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ آئی پی اے کی چھٹی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارمز اور اگلو تھموز نے انسانوں کے درمیان روایتی تعلقات تبدیل کر دیے ہیں۔ طاقت اب روایتی اداروں سے نکل کر ڈیجیٹل انفراسٹرکچر اور مالی نظاموں کے پاس منتقل ہو رہی ہے، جبکہ ٹیکنالوجی نے انسانی محنت اور کام کرنے کے طریقوں کو بھی یکسر بدل دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کارل مارکس کے نظریات کی روشنی میں موجودہ بحران ایسے معاشی نظام کا نتیجہ ہے جو چیز کو منافع اور تجارت کی نظر سے دیکھتا ہے۔ مصنوعی ذہانت اور ٹیکنالوجی کی افادیت اسی صورت برقرار رہ سکتی ہے جب انہیں محض معاون ذرائع کے طور پر استعمال کیا جائے، تاہم اب مصنوعی ذہانت فیصلے کرنی، دکھائی دے رہی ہے اور ہر چیز تیز رفتار اور آسان ہوگئی ہے۔ موسمیاتی تبدیلی پر بات کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے گلیشیئرز تیزی سے پگھل رہے ہیں، جبکہ قراقرم اور ہمالیہ کے پہاڑی سلسلے دنیا کے تیسرے اور چوتھے بڑے برفانی ذخائر ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی تبدیلی میں عالمی سطح پر کاربن کے اخراج کا حصہ صرف 0.8 فیصد ہے، تاہم موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات سے پاکستان کے 80 ملین افراد براہ راست متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔

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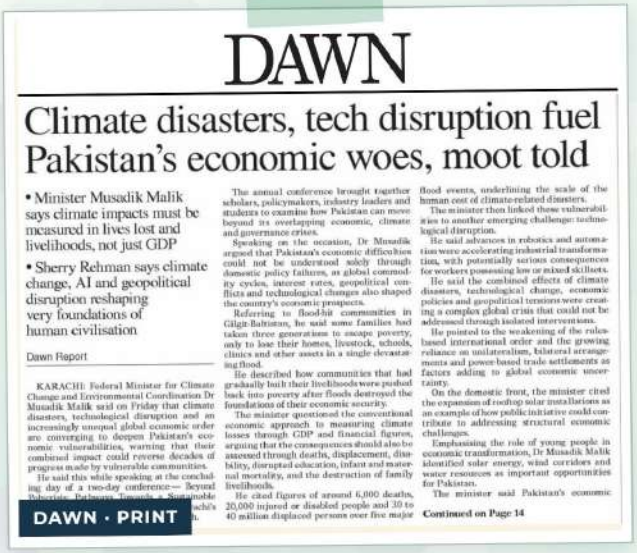
DAWN

Climate disasters, tech disruption fuel Pakistan's economic woes, moot told

- Minister Musadik Malik says climate impacts must be measured in lives lost and livelihoods, not just GDP
- Sherry Rehman says climate change, AI and geopolitical disruption reshaping very foundations of human civilisation

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Friday that climate disasters, technological disruption and an increasingly unequal global economic order are converging to deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities, warning that their combined impact could reverse decades of progress made by vulnerable communities.

He said this while speaking at the concluding day of a two-day conference — Beyond Polycrisis: Pathways Towards a Sustainable [illegible] Karachi's [illegible]

The annual conference brought together scholars, policymakers, industry leaders and students to examine how Pakistan can move beyond its overlapping economic, climate and governance crises.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Musadik argued that Pakistan's economic difficulties could not be understood solely through domestic policy failures, as global commodity cycles, interest rates, geopolitical conflicts and technological changes also shaped the country's economic prospects.

Referring to flood-hit communities in Gilgit-Baltistan, he said some families had taken three generations to escape poverty, only to lose their homes, livestock, schools, clinics and other assets in a single devastating flood.

He described how communities that had gradually built their livelihoods were pushed back into poverty after floods destroyed the foundations of their economic security.

The minister questioned the conventional economic approach to measuring climate losses through GDP and financial figures, arguing that the consequences should also be assessed through deaths, displacement, disability, disrupted education, infant and maternal mortality, and the destruction of family livelihoods.

He cited figures of around 6,000 deaths, 20,000 injured or disabled people and 30 to 40 million displaced persons over five major flood events, underlining the scale of the human cost of climate-related disasters.

The minister then linked these vulnerabilities to another emerging challenge: technological disruption.

He said advances in robotics and automation were accelerating industrial transformation, with potentially serious consequences for workers possessing low or mixed skillsets.

He said the combined effects of climate disasters, technological change, economic policies and geopolitical tensions were creating a complex global crisis that could not be addressed through isolated interventions.

He pointed to the weakening of the rules-based international order and the growing reliance on unilateralism, bilateral arrangements and power-based trade settlements as factors adding to global economic uncertainty.

On the domestic front, the minister cited the expansion of rooftop solar installations as an example of how public initiative could contribute to addressing structural economic challenges.

Emphasising the role of young people in economic transformation, Dr Musadik Malik identified solar energy, wind corridors and water resources as important opportunities for Pakistan.

The minister said Pakistan's economic

Continued on Page 14

DAWN · PRINT


THE NATION

Climate risks threaten Pakistan's economic stability: Musadik Malik

OUR STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

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THE NATION · PRINT


نوائے وقت

بوٹی کرا کمو سے نمٹنے کیلئے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچنا ہوگا، شیری رحمان

ایران امریکا تنازع ختم ہونے پر ایٹمی تنصیبات میں خلیائی کی بحالت اثرات پوری دنیا پر مرتب ہوں گے

یورپی ممالک کو کمی مہنگائی کے باعث مظاہرے کا سامنا ہے، آئی پی اے کی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) سینیٹر شیری رحمان نے کہا ہے کہ دنیا اس وقت محض سیاسی، معاشی اور تکنیکی تبدیلی سے نہیں بلکہ انسانیت کی تشکیل نو کے ایک گہرے مرحلے سے گزر رہی ہے۔ متعدد عالمی بحرانوں کے نمٹنے کے لیے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچ اپنانا ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان نے ایران اور امریکا کے درمیان کشیدگی کم کرنے کے لیے سفارتی سطح پر انتہائی اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ آئی پی اے کی چھٹی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارمز اور اگلو تھموز نے انسانوں کے درمیان روایتی تعلقات تبدیل کر دیے ہیں۔ طاقت اب روایتی اداروں سے نکل کر ڈیجیٹل انفراسٹرکچر اور مالی نظاموں کے پاس منتقل ہو رہی ہے، جبکہ ٹیکنالوجی نے انسانی محنت اور کام کرنے کے طریقوں کو بھی یکسر بدل دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کارل مارکس کے نظریات کی روشنی میں موجودہ بحران ایسے معاشی نظام کا نتیجہ ہے جو چیز کو منافع اور تجارت کی نظر سے دیکھتا ہے۔ مصنوعی ذہانت اور ٹیکنالوجی کی افادیت اسی صورت برقرار رہ سکتی ہے جب انہیں محض معاون ذرائع کے طور پر استعمال کیا جائے، تاہم اب مصنوعی ذہانت فیصلے کرنی، دکھائی دے رہی ہے اور ہر چیز تیز رفتار اور آسان ہوگئی ہے۔ موسمیاتی تبدیلی پر بات کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے گلیشیئرز تیزی سے پگھل رہے ہیں، جبکہ قراقرم اور ہمالیہ کے پہاڑی سلسلے دنیا کے تیسرے اور چوتھے بڑے برفانی ذخائر ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی تبدیلی میں عالمی سطح پر کاربن کے اخراج کا حصہ صرف 0.8 فیصد ہے، تاہم موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات سے پاکستان کے 80 ملین افراد براہ راست متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔

بقیہ 40	شیری رحمان

NAWA-I-WAQT


Daily Times
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Climate disasters, tech disruption deepen economic vulnerabilities: Malik

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Friday that climate disasters, technological disruption and an increasingly unequal global economic order are converging to deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities, warning that their combined impact could reverse decades of progress made by vulnerable communities.

Addressing a keynote session at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi University Campus, the minister argued that Pakistan's economic difficulties could not be understood solely through domestic policy failures, as global commodity cycles, interest rates, geopolitical conflicts and technological changes also shaped the country's economic prospects.

Recalling the experiences of farmers in Sindh and along the Sindh-Balochistan border, he said some families had returned to their land after repeated floods, driven by their attachment to their ancestral homes, but were eventually forced to abandon farming after successive losses.

The minister also highlighted the dangers faced by workers in Jacobabad, where extreme temperatures had made outdoor and industrial labour particularly hazardous. Referring to a worker employed at a furnace, he said the man continued working in intense heat because he feared his children would go hungry if he [illegible] earning.

Dr Musadik Malik questioned the conventional economic approach to measuring climate losses through GDP and financial figures, arguing that the consequences should also be assessed through deaths, displacement, disability, disrupted education, infant and maternal mortality, and the destruction of family livelihoods.

He cited figures of around 6,000 deaths, 20,000 injured or disabled people and 30 to 40 million displaced persons over five major flood events, underlining the scale of the human cost of climate-related disasters.

The minister then linked these vulnerabilities to another emerging challenge: technological disruption. He said advances in robotics and automation were accelerating industrial transformation, with potentially serious consequences for workers possessing low or mixed skill sets.

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence could also disrupt the livelihoods of freelancers, he said, adding that workers would have to acquire new skills at an increasingly rapid pace to remain relevant in a changing employment market.

Dr Musadik Malik said the combined effects of climate disasters, technological change, economic policies and geopolitical tensions were creating a complex global crisis that could not be addressed through isolated interventions. He pointed to the weakening of the rules-based international order and the growing reliance on unilateralism, bilateral arrangements and power-based trade settlements as factors adding to global economic uncertainty.

He said the adoption of solar energy by households had helped reduce demand for imported liquefied natural gas and conventional energy, demonstrating the potential of alternative energy solutions.

Emphasising the role of young people in economic transformation, Dr Musadik Malik identified solar energy, wind corridors and water resources as important opportunities for Pakistan.

He said improving agricultural productivity through modern seeds and technology, expanding exports and strengthening research and innovation were essential for sustainable economic growth.

Universities, he added, could play a critical role in developing solutions through research, innovation and collaboration with the government and the wider public.

The minister said Pakistan's economic challenges required a collective response involving the government, academia and citizens, urging students to examine interconnected problems patiently and critically rather than seek simplistic solutions. ■■■

DAILY TIMES


روزنامہ
ایکسپریس

ہم انسانیت کی تشکیل نو کے مرحلے سے گزر رہے ہیں، شیری رحمن

پاکستان کا ایران امریکا کشیدگی روکنے کے لیے سفارتی تاریخ اہم کردار رہا ہے

درآمد شدہ فیول ٹیرف پر بھاری، آئی پی اے کی چھٹی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان ڈیفنس پارٹی کی مرکزی رہنما سینیٹر شیری رحمن نے کہا ہے کہ ہم سیاسی، معاشی اور تکنیکی تبدیلی کے عام دور سے نہیں گزر رہے، ہم انسانیت کی تشکیل نو کے گہرے مرحلے سے گزر رہے ہیں، پولی کرائسز کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچ اپنانا ضروری ہے، پاکستان کا ایران اور امریکا کے درمیان کشیدگی کو روکنے کیلئے سفارتی سطح پر انتہائی اہم کردار رہا ہے، عالمی تجارتی تحفیز کی عالمی منڈی میں ایجاد حسن کی تجویز میں ٹیلوں کی کمی کا سامنا ہے۔ آئی پی اے کی چھٹی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے سینیٹر شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارمز اور اگلو تھموز نے انسانوں کے درمیان روایتی تعلقات تبدیل کر دیے ہیں۔ طاقت اب روایتی اداروں سے نکل کر ڈیجیٹل انفراسٹرکچر اور مالی نظاموں کے پاس منتقل ہو رہی ہے، جبکہ ٹیکنالوجی نے انسانی محنت اور کام کرنے کے طریقوں کو بھی یکسر بدل دیا ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ کارل مارکس کے نظریات کی روشنی میں موجودہ بحران ایسے معاشی نظام کا نتیجہ ہے جو چیز کو منافع اور تجارت کی نظر سے دیکھتا ہے، مصنوعی ذہانت اور ٹیکنالوجی کی افادیت اسی صورت برقرار رہ سکتی ہے جب انہیں محض معاون ذرائع کے طور پر استعمال کیا جائے، تاہم اب مصنوعی ذہانت فیصلے کرنی، دکھائی دے رہی ہے اور ہر چیز تیز رفتار اور آسان ہوگئی ہے، موسمیاتی تبدیلی پر بات کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے گلیشیئرز تیزی سے پگھل رہے ہیں، جبکہ قراقرم اور ہمالیہ کے پہاڑی سلسلے دنیا کے تیسرے اور چوتھے بڑے برفانی ذخائر ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی تبدیلی میں عالمی سطح پر کاربن کے اخراج کا حصہ صرف 0.8 فیصد ہے، تاہم موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات سے پاکستان کے 80 ملین افراد براہ راست متاثر ہوئے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔

شیری رحمن

EXPRESS


جہان پاکستان

دنیا انسانی تشکیل نو کے دور سے گزر رہی ہے، شیری رحمان

متعدد عالمی بحرانوں سے نمٹنے کے لیے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچنا ہوگا، ضروری ہے

پولی کرائسز سے نمٹنے کیلئے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچنا ہوگا، کانفرنس سے خطاب

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) سینیٹر شیری رحمان نے کہا ہے کہ دنیا اس وقت محض سیاسی، معاشی اور تکنیکی تبدیلی سے نہیں بلکہ انسانیت کی تشکیل نو کے ایک گہرے مرحلے سے گزر رہی ہے۔ متعدد عالمی بحرانوں کے نمٹنے کے لیے روایتی پالیسیوں سے ہٹ کر سوچ اپنانا ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان نے ایران اور امریکا کے درمیان کشیدگی کم کرنے کے لیے سفارتی سطح پر انتہائی اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ آئی پی اے کی چھٹی سالانہ عالمی کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارمز اور اگلو تھموز نے انسانوں کے درمیان روایتی تعلقات تبدیل کر دیے ہیں۔ طاقت اب روایتی اداروں سے نکل کر ڈیجیٹل انفراسٹرکچر اور مالی نظاموں کے پاس منتقل ہو رہی ہے، جبکہ ٹیکنالوجی نے انسانی محنت اور کام کرنے کے طریقوں کو بھی یکسر بدل دیا ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ کارل مارکس کے نظریات کی روشنی میں موجودہ بحران ایسے معاشی نظام کا نتیجہ ہے جو چیز کو منافع اور تجارت کی نظر سے دیکھتا ہے۔ مصنوعی ذہانت اور ٹیکنالوجی کی افادیت اسی صورت برقرار رہ سکتی ہے جب انہیں محض معاون ذرائع کے طور پر استعمال کیا جائے، تاہم اب مصنوعی ذہانت فیصلے کرنی، دکھائی دے رہی ہے اور ہر چیز تیز رفتار اور آسان ہوگئی ہے۔ موسمیاتی تبدیلی پر بات کرتے ہوئے شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے گلیشیئرز تیزی سے پگھل رہے ہیں، جبکہ قراقرم اور ہمالیہ کے پہاڑی سلسلے دنیا کے تیسرے اور چوتھے بڑے برفانی ذخائر ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی تبدیلی میں عالمی سطح پر کاربن کے اخراج کا حصہ صرف 0.8 فیصد ہے، تاہم موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات سے پاکستان کے 80 ملین افراد براہ راست متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس 2030 تک 60 گیگا واٹ شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، جبکہ 2035 تک 30 گیگا واٹ ہوا سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔

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