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# CLIMATE CHANGE A GLOBAL EMERGING ISSUE

“All across the world, in every kind of environment and region known to man, increasingly dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms are abruptly putting an end to the long-running debate over whether or not climate change is real. Not only is it real, it's here, and its effects are giving rise to a frighteningly new global phenomenon: the man-made natural disaster”

Barack Obama, April. 3, 2006



## Editorial

The changing climate pattern around the globe poses a formidable threat to the countries of the world and Pakistan is no exception. Developing countries like Pakistan are the worst sufferers in view of their inability to cope with the weather-related disasters emanating from the global warming and anthropogenic activities contributing to climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) for the Asia region notes that sensitivity to climate change threats, in agriculture-dependent economies (such as Pakistan), arises from their distinct geography, demographic trends, socioeconomic factors, and lack of adaptive capacity that when taken together, determine the vulnerability profile by perpetuating a vicious cycle of poverty. The climate change projections of the AR5 for South Asia as a whole show that warming is likely to be above the global mean and climate change will impact the glaciers' melting rate and precipitation patterns, particularly affecting the timing and strength of monsoon rainfall. Consequently, this will significantly impact the productivity and efficiency of water-dependent sectors such as agriculture and energy.

Additionally, climate change is resulting in sea-level rise, floods, droughts, land and soil erosion, water shortage resulting in reduced crop yield, food security, wild fires, cold waves, heat waves, irregular precipitation, loss of biodiversity and species, loss of forest cover and other natural resources, ocean acidification, water pollution, air pollution resulting in negative impacts on human health. Increased glacial melting is resulting in loss of clean water and Glacial Lake outburst Floods bringing large scale damages to human life and property.

All these facts require a concerted efforts at the global and local levels to create awareness about this formidable threat and mitigate the impacts through various interventions. It is encouraging to note that the government of Pakistan is also taking this challenge very seriously and a full-fledged ministry of climate change has been established to deal with the issue. HRDN on its part has also realized the importance of the issue and is trying serious efforts to create awareness among the masses.

We are pleased to announce that we are revising our tradition of publishing ILLUME on quarterly basis. In this very edition of Illume, keeping in view the importance of above mentioned issue, we have tried our level best to focus on the theme of Climate Change. It includes Interview with the Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and regular activities of HRDN.

Happy reading ☺

We will be waiting for your feedback and suggestion at [info@hrdn.net](mailto:info@hrdn.net)

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## CLIMATE CHANGE- A THREAT TO PAKISTAN

### What measures Pakistan is taking

Analysis of past depicts that our climate is changing. The rate of change and the nature of the resulting impacts will vary over time and across the country, affecting all aspects of our life. Pakistan potentially faces a major climate change challenge. Its vulnerability to climate change impacts is well documented and acknowledged. In the past decade, recurrent spells of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, glacial lake outbursts, cyclones, and heat waves have taken a heavy toll on both life and property and adversely affected the country's economic growth. The super flood of 2010 alone, for instance, killed 1,600 people, inundated an area of 38,600 square kilometers and caused damage worth around \$10 billion. Similarly, the Karachi heat wave (June 2015) led to the death of more than 1,200 people. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) for the Asia region notes that sensitivity to climate change threats, in agriculture- dependent economies (such as Pakistan), arises from their distinct geography, demographic trends, socioeconomic factors, and lack of adaptive capacity that when taken together, determine the vulnerability profile by perpetuating a vicious cycle of poverty. The climate change projections of the AR5 for South Asia as a whole show that warming is likely to be above the global mean and climate change will impact the glaciers' melting rate and precipitation patterns, particularly affecting the timing and strength of monsoon rainfall. Consequently, this will significantly impact the productivity and efficiency of water-dependent sectors such as agriculture and energy. Likely impacts of climate change on Pakistan will include, but not limited to: political instability, drought, famine, sea level rise, water scarcity, climate refugees, storm damage, floods and mudslides, infectious disease, wildfires, melting glaciers, dying coral, ecosystem loss, species extinction, infrastructure, and our way of life.<sup>1</sup>

Pakistan is one of those countries where impacts of climate change are likely to be felt most severely because of resource and infrastructure constraints. It therefore needs to develop and implement incremental adaptation strategies and policies to exploit non-regret measures and stressing the importance of considering climate change in planning, designing and implementing development activities. The Government of Pakistan is already signatory to all major international agreements and protocols and has established a number of policies and actions to frame its overall objectives toward climate change adaptation and mitigation. The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of 2013 is the guiding policy document for the country on climate change, acknowledging the growing risk of future extreme natural hazards due to climate change and providing a detailed picture of vulnerabilities faced by individual sectors, ecoregions and socioeconomic classes<sup>2</sup>. The NCCP sets out the clear goal of achieving climate resilient development for the country through mainstreaming climate change in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors of the country. The NCCP document identifies the vulnerability to climate change risk with a focus on different sectors and recommends policy measures on mitigation, adaptation, technology, capacity building, and forest-related actions.

Continued monitoring and analysis of variability and trends in key climatic elements is the need of hour. Weather forecasting systems in the region must be improved and implement reforms on land-use planning. New techniques for confident projection of regional climate change and its variability, including extreme events must be applied. Coordination of climate change adaptation activities among countries in the region may be enhanced and non-governmental organization (NGO), community and the public must be kept aware of developments on risks of climate change and involve them in planning, adaptation, and mitigation strategies

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) for the Asia region

<sup>2</sup> Framework for implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014-2030) Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan

## ILLUME'S INTERVIEW CORNER

### Interview with Mr. Khizar Hayat, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change



**ILLUME:** What do you think about Climate Change is it better to say it's Climate disruption now?

**MR. HAYAT:** I think nowadays Climate Change is the most important issue faced by the international community along with the concept of terrorism. Almost all the countries are effected by this issue, although there is difference of degree. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of the most adversely effected countries. As mentioned in the report by a German NGO 'Global Climate Risk Index (GCRI)' in 2016, Pakistan is the 7th most vulnerable country as far as climate change is concerned. Although we are at CL # 185 as far as Global emissions are concerned. Our contribution in Greenhouse gases and Global emission is less than 1 percent. It is a strange phenomenon that the cause of climate change happens in one country and other countries are directly or indirectly effected by it. For example, if Coal is burnt by China, America and Europe; we are effected by it. We can call it Climate injustice. Now, there are some countries which are thought to not be effected by Climate Change, my perspective is that the countries whose economy is not dependant on Agriculture and who are industrialized, are not effected that much. But recently in the last one month, some very alarming incidents happened, for example last month 56 people died in Japan due to heat wave. We were only aware of heat wave in the context of Karachi as there is less plantation, but now if we see Japan the situation is totally opposite. You hardly see any area which is not densely forested even than its facing the climate change situation. Currently in UK and Germany there is severe drought situation because of less rainfall. As you know, Capetown South Africa is also suffering from severe drought situation since many years. The situation is so worst that they get water in gallons per person and per day. It shows the level of threat which international community is facing these days.

**ILLUME:** According to your research, how percent Pakistan is affecting through climatic condition?

**MR. HAYAT:** As I told you earlier, Pakistan is 7th most vulnerable country effecting through climate change and there are certain reasons for that. First of all, area wise and population wise Pakistan is a very big country and its dependent on Agriculture. We have glaciers, deserts and most of areas of

Pakistan are situated on the fault-line. Therefore, these areas are earth-quake prone. We have also water scarcity issue. Because of all these factors, Pakistan is very much affected by climate change issues.

**ILLUME:** You are in climate change Ministry, what are the most pressing objectives of this Ministry?

**MR. HAYAT:** This Ministry is basically trying to sensitize the people regarding the threat of climate change. We have taken certain measures to face this issue. For example, the climate change policy has been approved by the Government, the National Forest Policy has also been approved because forestry is the first line of defence to deal with this issue. We got a large scale project of 37 million dollars from Green Climate Fund for Northern areas, five districts of KPK and also within the areas where there are glaciers like Sawat, Chitral and Manshera. Because when there is global warming, the glaciers melt rapidly and there are chances of heavy flooding local community is effected by these floods. Recently, a month back, there was a same situation in Ghizar Valley.

We are getting another project of FAO regarding adaptation of green climate in Pakistan. One more step which Government is taking that Land-Mark Climate Change Act has been passed in 2017 under which a climate change council will be established headed by the Prime Minister, all the provincial chief Minister will be the members of this council. Climate Change Authority will also be established under this act. These are some of the policies and decisions which Federal Government is taking. It is also good news for our country that the party which has now taken lead in Pakistan is quit sensitive regarding this issue as they have already done wonderful job in KPK. If there is no political ownership you can not have climate change redressal in Pakistan.

**ILLUME:** Do you have specific budget to mainstream the climate change?

**MR. HAYAT:** Federal Government mainly deals with the issues of policies. The implementation is to be done by the provinces. Agriculture and Forestry are the main things to get affected by the climate change and it has to be improved by the provincial government. Hopefully, the Government will be sensitizing the chief ministers and the Government ministries to do something about the climate change issues. To be very honest with you, up till now there was no any political ownership at provincial level regarding this issue. Mostly our governments were concerned about infrastructure and highways and less interest was shown towards this matter. Hopefully, the new government will look after this matter with strong commitment.

**ILLUME:** Is there any trend in Pakistan for having an Environment Impact Assessment before commencement of any project related to infrastructure?

**MR. HAYAT:** To be realistic if there is no pressure of civil society on Government to do the Impact Assessment, it is not religiously followed by the Government. As you see internationally, the civil society and Government work in collaboration but In Pakistan the case is different. At provincial level more budget is allocated to built infrastructure like hospitals, schools, highways etc. So that at the end of governmental tenure they can tell their progress in numbers but the steps taken for the betterment of climate change cannot be measured. Poor people are concerned about their immediate issues like food, education and health. Because of ignorance and illiteracy they are not aware about the threats related to this matter. Politicians are also realistic in this way to deal with their immediate issues. It will definately take time to get into the importance of this issue.

**ILLUME:** In our country, more efforts are made for the post disaster managment instead of taking any preventive measures. What is your take on it?

**MR. HAYAT:** Yes, it is very important question. Recently, a fund has been developed by the Government which is named as National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF). I am among the board of directors of this fund. It is funded by Asian Development Bank. They have total fund of 2-3 billion dollars which will be totally spend on disaster preparedness. NDMA is working on the post disaster senario. It is very good news for Pakistan that we have develop these types of authorities and funds in collaboration with various international donors.

**ILLUME:** How we as a civil society can play our role for betterment of climate chang?

**MR. HAYAT:** I think, civil society can play very important role. They can create awareness among the communities regarding the sensivity of the issue. If the people are not properly aware about the seriousness of this matter they cannot force the politicians or Government to take initiatives. There is a convention named UNAFCCC, this is the only international convention which is held at various countries every year, where 150 head of states take part, that shows the level of importance in international community related to climatic change.

**ILLUME:** How can we enhance the parthnership between civil society and public sector to deal with issue?

**MR. HAYAT:** We can do parthnership in different aspects like if you want to conduct a workshop on climate change I will be happy to be the part of it and if you have other ideas we can discuss it in later meetings. If HRDN specifically wants to do collaboartion with our Ministry for orgnziaing events and seminars regarding this matter me and my team will be the part of it.

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## HRDN NETWORKING EVENTS:

### Seminar on Climate Change- A global emerging issue and its implications in Pakistan

HRD Network in collaboration with BRAC Pakistan organized a seminar on “Climate Change, A Global Emerging Issue and its Implications for Pakistan” at AQS Gallery on Thursday, 9th August, 2018. In total 56 participants, from civil society, academia, national and international NGOs and media took part in the session.



### Seminar on Access to Safe Drinking Water

HRDN in collaboration with HANDS organized a seminar on August 31st, 2018 at Marriot Hotel Karachi to bring together network members of Karachi Chapter and other stakeholders to discuss current policies and programs implemented by the government of Sindh and non-government organizations for the provision of potable and clean drinking water. And also briefly touch upon the prevalence of different diseases due to unsafe drinking water and reduce the high cost which is being spent on water related diseases.



HRDN is for green

Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), in collaboration with Forest department Pakistan took a great initiative to organize a tree plantation campaign with the theme of “HRDN is for Green” on August 17, 2018. The tree plantation activity was carried out at schools in the poor neighborhood of Islamabad. Students took part in the activity with great enthusiasm. In total, around 20 students of different age groups along with their teachers planted 100 trees. The students themselves along with teachers took the responsibility to take care of the plants in future.



## WEB WATCH

### Member Organizations Working on area of Climate Change

#### 1. [IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature](#)

*IUCN assesses the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. Through its work on ecosystem-based mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, it also highlights the important role of nature-based solutions to climate change. It also works to ensure that climate policy and action are gender-responsive, socially inclusive and take into account to the needs of the most vulnerable.*

#### 2. [Hashoo Foundation](#)

*HF is working on the area of Climate Change. The aim of this area is to create awareness and strengthen institutional capacities for the promotion and protection of our environment and to reduce the negative effects of climate change. HF seeks green solutions and environment friendly practices in all aspects of its work.*

#### 3. [Sustainable Development Policy Institute \(SDPI\)](#)

*Pakistan Youth Climate Network (PYCN) is an environmental advocacy group that seeks to inspire, motivate and engage the youth to act against climate change to ensure a sustainable future. PYCN has been established with the aim to provide a platform to the youth to take action NOW to save their future TOMORROW.*

#### 4. [Sungi Development Foundation](#)

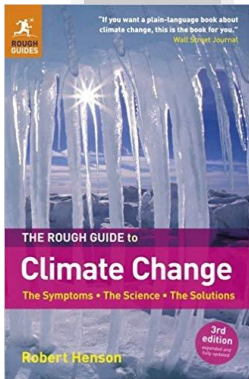
*Disaster Management Program of Sungi Foundation ensures effective coordination with NDMA/PDMA/DDMA for better response through using the plat form of National Humanitarian Network. Program supports/guides and monitors humanitarian assistance in implementing international humanitarian standards and ensures quality and accountability.*

#### 5. [Agha Khan Development Network](#)

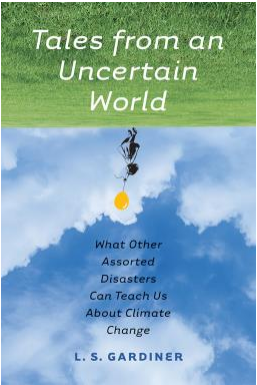
*AKDN takes an integrated approach to climate threats. It works with farmers and communities to adapt agriculture to new climatic conditions, create alternative livelihood opportunities, improve governance of natural resources and reduce risk to natural hazards. It also works to strengthen health and education systems in order to build overall community resilience.*

**Book Reviews:**

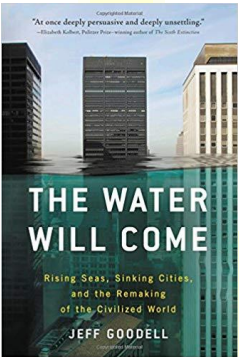
Books are like heavenly presented inspirations which awakens your minds and souls to new dimensions and also positions your personality about the rusty old concepts, books are indeed food for thought and soul and cherishes its existence in the hands and eyes of the reader. Few recommended books on the topic of this edition are:



**A rough Guide to Climate Change:** written by Robert Henson, staff writer at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, provides facts and assesses the options, both personal and global, for dealing with the threat of global warming through an examination of the evolution of the earth's atmosphere over the past 4.5 billion years



**Tales From an Uncertain World:** *What Other Assorted Disasters Can Teach Us About Climate Change* by L. S. Gardiner — looking to past environmental crises and disruptions to better understand how individuals can deal with climate change.



**The Water will Come by Jeff Goodell:** is the definitive account of the coming water, why and how this will happen, and what it will all mean. "An immersive, mildly gonzo and depressingly well-timed book about the drenching effects of global warming, and a powerful reminder that we can bury our heads in the sand about climate change for only so long before the sand itself disappears." (Jennifer Senior, New York Times)

## Quotable Quotes

1. 'Climate Change increasingly poses one of the biggest long-term threats to investments' –**Christiana Figueres (Secretary-UNFCCC)**
2. 'We have to wake up for the fierce urgency of the now' . **Jim Yong Kim (President World Bank)**
3. 'This is not a partisan debate; it is a human one. Clean air and water, and a livable climate are inalienable human rights. And solving this crisis is not a question of politics. It is our moral obligation' **Leonardo DiCaprio (Hollywood Actor-201 Oscar acceptance speech)**
4. 'By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it, there is no planet B.' – **Emmanuel Macron (President of France-April 2018)**
5. The sustainability train has left the station. Get on board or get left behind... Those who fail to bet on the green economy will be living in a grey future." – **(UN secretary general António Guterres)**

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## HRDN Upcoming Event

### October 2018:

1. All Member' s Meeting on 'State of Human Resource Development in Pakistan' - 13th October 2018

### November 2018:

2. International JAM Conference Morocco on ' Climate Change' - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018
3. Thematic Forum on 'Access to Safe Drinking Water' in Quetta- Date yet to be confirmed
4. Thematic Forum on 'Drought Crises' in District Tharparker -Date Yet to be confirmed

### December 2018

5. Women Gaucuses with parliamentarians on 'Issues faced by Women in Pakistan' -Date yet to be decided
6. Thematic forum on 'Climate Change' in Lahore- Date yet to be decided

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