

August 18th 2016

Brief Report

AIPS Lecture Series:

It gives me great pleasure to submit these few lines as part of my short but very engaging and professionally rewarding lectures and interactive sessions. The program was designed rather hurriedly on the initiative of Professor Charles Kennedy at Wake Forest University and Mr. Nadeem Akbar, Director AIPS, in Pakistan. I am indebted to both for organizing such an intense and involving program in the month of August (7th to 11th August) 2016 at a time, when most of the universities and research organizations are on vacation. I am particularly indebted to Professor Kennedy for creating three stimulating engagements at his university and with the community at Winston-Salem.

August 8th 2016,

I was invited by Professor Kennedy to have an informal exchange of views with his students on *Pakistan and Middle East*, there were 12 students; the session lasted one hour and thirty minutes, with a Q/A session of 30 minutes.

In the evening (4 to 6PM) I had a presentation at the Wake Forest University entitled *A Pakistani Scholar's Perspective on American Elections 2016*. This topic evoked considerable interest and was attended by more than 15 faculty members and students.

August 9th

I was invited to speak at the Life Long Learning Center 200 Brooks town Ave, Winston-Salem; the AIPS & Middle Eastern and South Asia Studies Program, Wake Forest, sponsored the event (4:30- 6:30 PM). It was a community event and was very well attended (there were 35-40 participants). The topic of my presentation was *A Pakistani Scholar's Perspective on American Elections 2016*. It was followed by an engrossing Q/A session.

August 10th

Professor Kennedy drove me to Chapel Hill where the Carolina Asia Center had arranged my talk at the FedEx Global Education Center 4th Floor UNC-Chapel Hill (3- 4:35 PM). I presented my views on the *Perceptions, Realities, and the Changing Dynamics of US- Pakistan Relations*. There were around 10 participants, of which some of the most prominent faculty members were; Professors David Gilmartin, Charles Kennedy, Mathew Cooke and Director Asia Center. It turned

out to be a very lively and informative session where several perspectives were conveyed and discussed.

August 11th

I was invited to speak at the Middle Eastern Institute (MEI) at Washington DC from 12 to 1:30 PM. I discussed my ideas on the theme of *Terrorism, Democratic Transition and Transformation of Pakistan Military*. Professor Marvin Weinbaum organized this session. My audience was of about 10 individuals, and some who were prominent among them were, the former ambassador of Pakistan to US, Mr. Hussain Haqqani, Professor Paula Newberg, Alex Vatanka, Senior Fellow, MEI, Ms. Aparna Pande, Research Fellow and Director, Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia, Hudson Institute, DC. After my short presentation the exchange of ideas was in free flow, in an informal but extremely insightful conversation. This was perhaps most interesting exercise, encouraging a style of discussion that is the hallmark of DC' s Think Tanks.

Finally, I want to gratefully acknowledge the support of AIPS and in particular Professor Kamran Ali Asdar, President, Mr. Nadeem Akbar and Professor Charles Kennedy for all his hospitality and arranging and organizing the events and driving me all the way to Chapel Hill. I am also indebted to Ms. Laura Hammond and Mr. John Burmaster for facilitating and organizing my logistical arrangements. Most of all I am thankful to Dr. James Tebbe, Rector, FCC for allowing me to travel to US and participate in this AIPs sponsored initiative.

Saeed Shafqat,
Professor & Founding Director, Centre For Public Policy and
Governance (CPPG) Forman Christian College (A Chartered
University), Lahore