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AMAN
2023
Multinational Naval Exercise



*TOGETHER
FOR
PEACE*

8
MULTINATIONAL
EXERCISE

Pakistan Navy has been hosting Multinational
Maritime Exercise AMAN since 2007 & now
8th Exercise of AMAN Series is scheduled in February
2023 at Karachi



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





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AMAN
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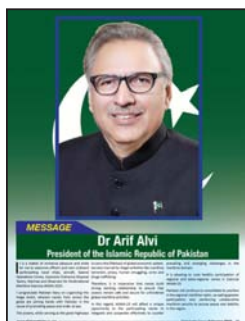
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Exercise AMAN is a humble effort for enhancing cooperation between navies against prevalent trans-national threats

20 Inauguration of Maiden Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference

Oceans are a vital component of our planet, containing countless marine species and vast seabed resources. Besides being the cheapest medium for transportation of goods, Oceans contribute towards world's economy through tourism, fishing, renewable energy production, aqua culture and seabed resources.

38 AMAN: Need to Revisit Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is a vital region for global commerce and energy security. Over 60% of the world's oil supplies and more than 80% of the world's seaborne trade in petroleum products transit through the Indian Ocean. Given its strategic importance, ensuring the security of the Indian Ocean is crucial for regional stability and global peace. Indian Ocean, for most of its recent history has depended significantly on extra-regional forces for ensuring maritime security.

58 Message: H.E. Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama on 75th Independence Day of Sri Lanka

Nicknamed the pearl of the Indian Ocean, known for scenic natural landscape, wealth of biodiversity and rich cultural heritage, Sri Lanka celebrates its 75th anniversary of its independence on the 4th of February 1948, after being a British crown colony for over a century. Since then, Sri Lanka has enjoyed a stable democracy and steady economic growth.

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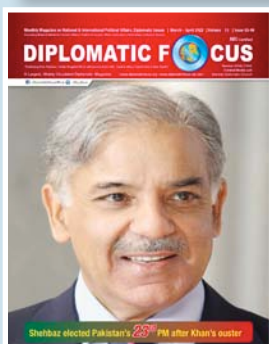
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Mian Fazal Elahi

The Pakistan Navy has played a role in peacekeeping efforts through the deployment of its personnel as part of United Nations peacekeeping missions. These missions have included the UN Transition Assistance Group in Namibia, the UN Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the UN Operation in Somalia II.

The Pakistan Navy has also been active in regional peacekeeping efforts, such as the Combined Task Force 150 and 151 in the Gulf of Aden, which are aimed at combating piracy and terrorism. Additionally, Pakistan Navy also participates in various bilateral and multilateral exercises with other countries to enhance cooperation and interoperability in maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The AMAN exercises organized by the Pakistan Navy are considered important for several reasons: Regional cooperation, Maritime security, Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, Counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations, Environmental protection, Public diplomacy, Strategic messaging and other maritime-related activities, as well as for enhancing the capabilities and readiness of the participating countries to respond to various maritime challenges.

The Pakistan Navy's vision for the Blue Economy is to contribute to the sustainable development of the maritime sector in Pakistan through the protection and preservation of the country's maritime resources, while also promoting economic growth and regional cooperation. This includes the development of the fisheries, shipping, and offshore energy sectors, as well as the protection of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and maritime borders.

The Pakistan navy's vision for the Blue economy is to develop a comprehensive maritime strategy that will contribute to the sustainable development of Pakistan's maritime sector and the protection of its maritime resources, while also promoting economic growth and regional cooperation. In this regard, PIMEC is an important step by the Pakistan Navy. This international conference will provide opportunities for the maritime industry to exhibit products and interact directly with the international maritime industry; invite international maritime and defence manufacturers for joint ventures, technology transfer, and research to provide impetus to Pakistan's industrial setups; and highlight Pakistan's vast potential for the blue economy and reinforce efforts in the realm of maritime diplomacy.

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MESSAGE

Dr Arif Alvi

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride for me to welcome officers and men onboard participating naval ships, aircraft, Special Operations Forces, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, Marines and Observers for Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 2023.

I congratulate Pakistan Navy on organizing this mega event, wherein navies from across the globe are joining hands with Pakistan in the cause of promoting peace and order at sea.

The oceans, while serving as the great highways

to carry the lifeblood of global economic system, are also marred by illegal activities like maritime terrorism, piracy, human smuggling, arms and drugs trafficking.

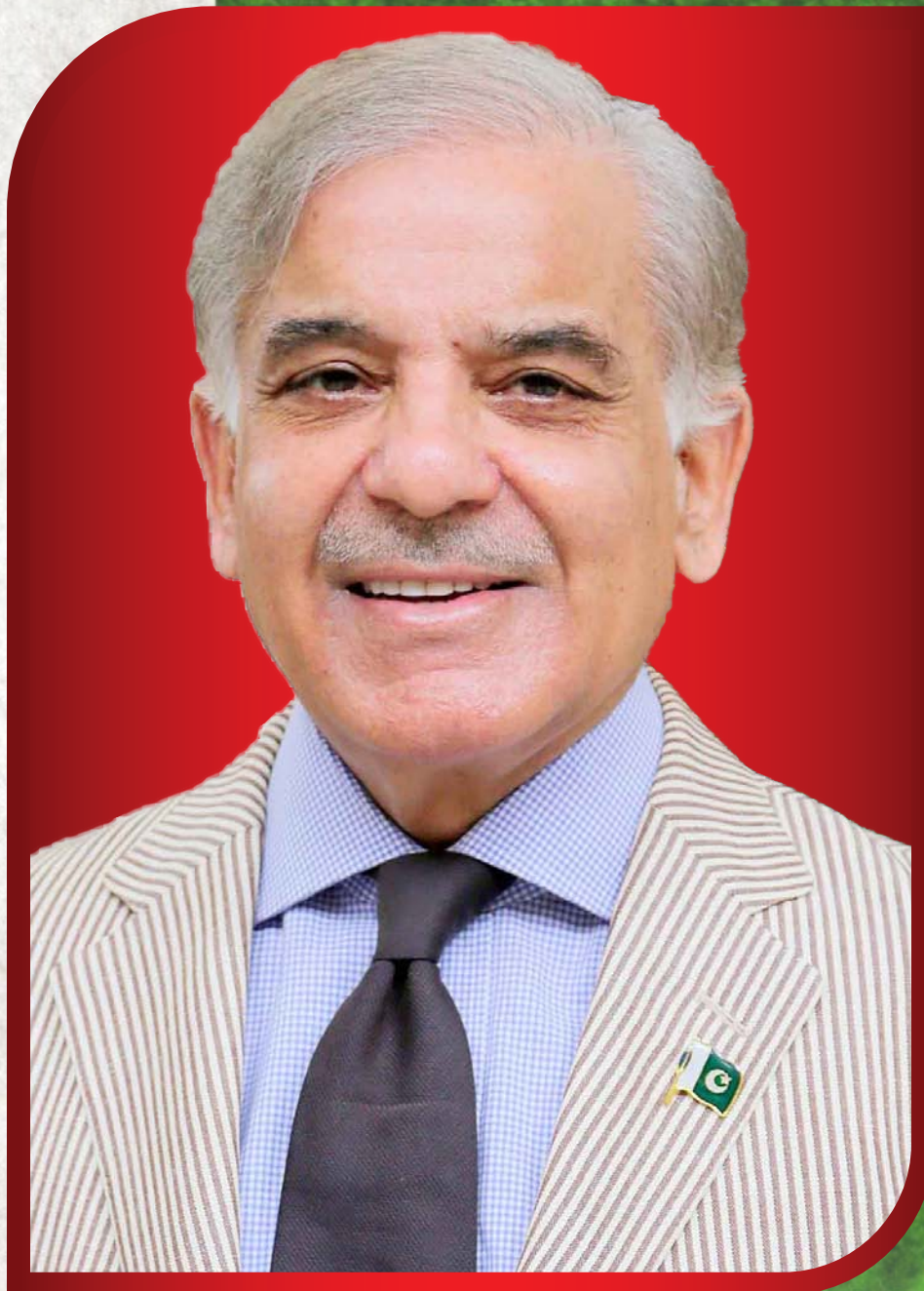
Therefore, it is imperative that navies build strong working relationship to ensure that oceans remain safe and secure for unhindered global maritime activities.

In this regard, AMAN-23 will afford a unique opportunity to the participating navies to integrate and cooperate effectively to counter

prevailing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

It is pleasing to note healthy participation of regional and extra-regional navies in Exercise AMAN-23.

Pakistan will continue to consolidate its position in the regional maritime realm, co-opting greater participation and reinforcing collaborative maritime security to pursue peace and stability in the region.



MESSAGE

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all the participants who have travelled from across the globe to participate in Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 23.

I am glad that through AMAN Series of exercises, Pakistan Navy has led the way to bridge distances in the maritime domain by bringing together the navies of the East and the West, on a common platform.

Maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean are multifaceted; wherein, threats like maritime

terrorism, arms & drugs trafficking and piracy have drawn increasing attention.

Cooperation between international navies is therefore, imperative to counter these threats and challenges.

Pakistan being a major stakeholder in maritime security of vital maritime highways is fully committed to ensuring freedom of navigation and maintenance of maritime order.

In this regard, hosting of AMAN-23 by Pakistan

Navy is a remarkable step in this direction. I extend my profound felicitations to all the participants for joining us at AMAN-23 in such large numbers.

This unifying commitment of the world navies towards safe and secure maritime environment is praiseworthy.

I thank all participants for joining us in this endeavour for advancing peace and stability. I wish you all, a rewarding and pleasant stay in Pakistan.



MESSAGE

Khawaja Muhammad Asif

Defence Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I extend my deepest appreciation to Pakistan Navy for conducting Exercise AMAN-23 in which participants from across the seas have gathered to join hands in support of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

AMAN Series of exercises are aimed at blending navies at different levels of technological prowess to operate together in fulfillment of their shared objective of secure maritime arena.

It is a vivid example of contemporary maritime order which premises on formation of 'collaborative maritime security' constructs.

While the road to regional and global economic

prosperity is linked through the maritime highways of Indian Ocean, a multitude of challenges afflict the region. This makes mutual cooperation between navies all the more important to counter these challenges.

Pakistan Navy has consistently pursued policy of cooperation and Exercise AMAN is an effort in bringing peace loving nations on a common platform to pursue the singular objective of unimpaired maritime security.

Since its inception in 2007, each Exercise AMAN has steadily brought together more and more navies from around the world under the

emblem of 'Together for Peace'. The Exercise is a manifestation of Pakistan Navy's commitment along with the international community, to share responsibility for the exacting task of combating maritime threats.

I thank all the participating navies for their presence here and reinforcing collaborative approach to deal with asymmetric maritime challenges.

I am confident that the interaction and interoperability developed during AMAN-23 will strengthen our resolve in ensuring safe, secure and stable order at sea.



MESSAGE

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC)

I extend my warm and sincere welcome to participants from friendly navies who have arrived in Pakistan for Exercise AMAN-2023.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Pakistan Navy for organizing an exercise of this magnitude which aims to promote maritime security and project our united resolve against unlawful uses of the sea.

Armed Forces of Pakistan are engaged in maintaining and coalescing efforts to improve security and stability in our region. The global maritime environment remains fraught with dangers of violent extremists and a glut of criminal activities. Formulating strategies to

secure sea routes, ensure stability and preserve a lawful maritime order is indeed an onerous and demanding task. I am convinced that curbing the multifarious maritime security challenges require collaborative approach at regional as well as international level.

Pakistan Navy is conscious of the emerging maritime challenges and remains committed to engage with global community for maintaining peace in the region. Exercise AMAN, is an endeavour to depict our national efforts towards this noble cause.

Pakistan would continue to promote regional cooperation, enhance interoperability between

participating naval forces and demonstrate collective response against organized crimes in the maritime domain.

I am sure the Exercise will provide an excellent forum to synergize efforts of participating navies and build understanding and interoperability.

I hope the bon-homie generated therein will be cherished by personnel who are part of this venture and thank the participants for giving us the opportunity to extend traditional Pakistani hospitality.

I wish AMAN-23, all the success in achieving its set and stated objectives.



MESSAGE

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi NI(M) S Bt

It is my profound privilege to welcome the participants of Exercise AMAN-23, the 8th edition of AMAN Initiative being held from 10-14 February 2023. This Exercise has become a regular feature involving regional and extra-regional navies to create a secure and favourable maritime environment for smooth and unhindered maritime activities in the region.

Today, threats to maritime security emanate from contemporary asymmetric challenges and adverse effects of climate change that are casting a deep impact on the maritime environment.

There is a strong realization that given the vast expanse of oceans and an array of maritime threats and challenges, preserving maritime order in the global commons, necessitates collaborative efforts as a matter of compulsion rather than choice.

Pakistan Navy has been a forerunner in its quest for promoting collaborative maritime security in the region which is evident from AMAN series of exercises. It is a matter of pride to see Flags and Ensigns of Nations representing all major regions of the world, fluttering together as an

embodiment of Exercise motto, 'Together for Peace'. I am certain that camaraderie generated herein will continue to grow and bring us even closer to the cherished goal of realizing regional peace and shared prosperity.

I am confident that AMAN-23 would prove to be a key and constructive effort in this regard. I look forward to a rewarding and mutually beneficial outcome of the Exercise. I thank all participants who have travelled long distances to congregate for AMAN-23, in pursuit of peace, harmony and stability at sea.

Exclusive Interview
by Mian Fazal Elahi

*Exercise AMAN
is a humble effort
for enhancing
cooperation between
navies against
prevalent
trans-national
threats*

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi NI(M) S Bt

Chief of the Naval Staff of Pakistan Navy



Q-1 What is the vision behind Pakistan's initiative of organizing a unique kind of Multinational Exercise 'AMAN' in the region?

Ans. In line with Govt's policy of making utmost contributions towards peace and stability in the region and beyond, PN has always remained at the forefront and actively participated in collaborative maritime security initiatives against prevailing non-traditional threats in the maritime domain such as terrorism, piracy, drugs trafficking and arms/ human smuggling.

This spirit of collaboration is the vision behind PN's initiative of hosting Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN. The world AMAN means 'peace' and motto of the exercise is 'Together for Peace'.

The exercise is conducted with an aim to develop synergy between participating navies to tackle common maritime security challenges and enhance interoperability between regional and extra regional navies at different level of technological prowess. Growing participation of

friendly navies in Ex AMAN since 2007 reflects growing trust in the value of the Exercise and acknowledgment of efforts of Pakistan Navy in promoting collaboration between regional and

PIMEC is also likely to play an important role in exploring alternate options for Pakistan's sustainable economic growth.

extra regional navies against non-traditional threats. The vision behind International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) in tandem with Exercise AMAN 23 is to showcase

the potential of Pakistan's maritime sector to the visiting delegations and draw attention towards the contribution that industry can make for the development of Blue Economy in the country.

PIMEC is going to be the first maritime related expo in the country and will provide a platform for joint ventures and investments in Pakistan's maritime sector through B2G and B2B interactions and explore viable options for developing countries especially Pakistan to promote Blue Economy. Significant boost to Pakistan's maritime sector development is expected with conduct of these two mega events simultaneously.

Q-2 What is the importance and relevance of Exercise AMAN for other countries in the region and international partners?

Ans. Exercise AMAN is a humble effort for enhancing cooperation between navies against prevalent trans-national threats. The steadily growing participation in Ex AMAN reinforces



our belief that many navies in our region and beyond share our vision to foster regional cooperation for maintenance of good order at sea, improve interoperability, share experiences and exhibit collective resolve against terrorism and other organized crimes in the maritime domain.

Ex AMAN has now become one of the major multinational events in our region and it is PN's endeavour that the exercise continues to expand further and participation of navies continues to increase.

7th series of Exercise AMAN was conducted in February 2021, in which 43 countries participated despite prevalent COVID-19 challenge, which was indeed a national success.

8th series of Ex AMAN is scheduled at Karachi from 10-14 Feb 23 in which we are expecting participation from all regions of the world.

Conduct of PIMEC alongside Ex AMAN-23 is a conscientious effort to promote development of Pakistan's maritime sector.

It will flourish importance of the maritime domain within the policy makers as well as avenues of cooperation among the delegates from different countries.

PIMEC is also likely to play an important role



in exploring alternate options for Pakistan's sustainable economic growth.

Q-3 Could you tell us more about the level of cooperation between the Navy and the naval forces of the world and of the Indian Ocean region?

Ans. Safety and security of international Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) is vital for economic prosperity of every country. These are regarded as arteries of global economic system. In today's operating environment, these SLOCs are threatened by the risk of piracy, maritime terrorism and other asymmetric threats.

Furthermore, sea is being used as medium for drugs trafficking and arms/ human smuggling. This necessitates cooperation between navies to share information, show resolve and coordinate efforts against these asymmetric threats. In cognizance to these realities, PN continues to promote regional peace, fostered partnerships and contribute to the nation's foreign policy objectives through Key Leadership Engagements, Navy to Navy Expert Level Talks, Overseas Deployments and participation in bilateral/ multilateral maritime exercises as well as various maritime forums. We also remain steadfast to undertake Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief missions as well as Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations of stranded affectees from conflict zones on short notice.

We have formally established Navy to Navy Expert Level Staff Talks mechanism with 21 Navies across the world to pursue bilateral collaboration in a structured manner covering operational, training and technical cooperation aspects.

PN Ships also regularly undertake port calls to Asia Pacific, Arabian Gulf, Africa, Mediterranean and Europe. Furthermore, in line with Pakistan's 'Engage Africa' policy, PN Ships undertake Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Ops for provisioning of food aid as well as establishment of medical camps in different African countries.

We are part of Combined Task Force 150 since 2004 and Combined Task Force 151 since 2009 under the ambit of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and our contributions are recognized at the international level.

PN is also actively participating in multilateral forums; whereby, Pakistan Navy is member of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and observer in the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).

PN also regularly participates in International Seapower Symposium (ISS) at USA and Trans Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS) at Italy.

These opportunities have also enhanced our interoperability with regional as well as international navies and helped us foster lasting



partnerships.

Pakistan Navy has always been on the fore front for undertaking Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Ops in the region and beyond.

Q-4 Pakistan Navy has passed the Diamond jubilee. How do you see the development of the naval force so far in terms of modernization of equipment and systems?

Ans. Progressive capability development is an important pillar of my vision for Pakistan Navy. Accordingly, our developmental strategy hinges upon induction of cost effective modern platforms, force multipliers, indigenization and maintaining diversified options to mitigate external dependencies.

At the same time, we believe in making best use of available resources. A number of new acquisitions are progressing with support of

friendly countries.

In this regard, 4 Type 054 A/P Frigates are being acquired from China out of which 2 ships have already been inducted while the remaining 2 ships are likely to join PN Fleet by 2023.

Two YARMOOK Class OPVs have already been inducted, while two larger and more capable OPVs are under construction in Romania. PN is also procuring four MILGEM Class Corvettes, which are at various stages of construction in Türkiye and Pakistan. These ships are equipped with latest weapons and sensors which will enable them to operate in contemporary operating environment.

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) has gained substantial experience in ship building and PN Fast Attacks Craft (Missile) are being constructed locally at KS&EW. Furthermore, construction of follow on version of MILGEM class corvette, i.e., JINNAH Class Frigate (JCF), will soon be commencing at KS&EW in collaboration with Türkiye. It will be our first ever indigenously designed and built frigate sized warship. Moreover, HANGOR Class S/MS project is progressing well and S/MS are under various stages of construction in Pakistan and China.

Pakistan Navy has also acquired Jet LRMPAs for high speed surveillance and deep sea strike



capability which are currently being upgraded. We have also inducted CH-4 MALE UCAVs from China. In short, in the next few years, Pakistan Fleet would be transformed into a modern fleet, equipped with latest frigates, corvettes, OPVs, modern submarines, LRMPAs and UCAVs.

Q-5 Admiral, over the years, the Pakistan Navy has acquired a number of surface vessels, made in collaboration with the Turkish and Chinese shipyards. Would the Navy consider ships of other designs, perhaps that of the Western shipyards?

Ans. Naval forces especially in developing countries are compelled to look for economical and cost-effective solutions for their security

we are focusing on indigenous capability enhancement in collaboration with friendly countries wherein we have built F-22P frigate at KS&EW in collaboration with China as well as a Fleet Tanker in collaboration with Turkiye. We are continuing this trend by building MILGEM Class Corvettes at KS&EW as well.

In terms of Western shipyards, I would like to highlight that two YARMOOK Class OPVs from DAMEN have already been inducted, while two larger and more capable OPVs are also under construction in Romania.

Therefore, we are modernizing our fleet by diversifying foreign OEMs including Western countries as well as strengthening our indigenous capabilities to mitigate external dependencies.

Q-6 How about the long-range maritime patrol aircraft programme? How do you view the mission capability of the Embraer Lineage 1000? Could you tell us when will two more of the aircraft be delivered to the Navy?

Ans. Embraer Lineage 1000 Jet Aircraft have been acquired with an aim to boost PN maritime Air Ops capabilities in PN area of interest and replace aging P3C Orion aircraft in PN Fleet. Conversion of a commercial jet into Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also reduce the overall operating cost of PN air arm.

These aircraft are currently under upgradation and are being equipped with weapons and sensors suite for maritime patrol, anti-surface and anti-submarine roles. The project is proceeding as per timeline and we are expecting first modified aircraft to join PN by 2024 followed by delivery of subsequent aircraft.

Q-7 Could you share with us the latest development of the collaboration between the Pakistan Navy and the Pakistan defence industry especially that of the naval industry?

Ans. Over a period of time, Pakistan's defence industry has seen steady growth and significant progress has been made in terms of ship building and naval systems.

These achievements have contributed in mitigating foreign dependencies and enabled upgradation of our local systems.

It is satisfying to state that continued efforts in the field of shipbuilding has enabled us to commission PNS HAIBAT, a Fast Attack Craft

PN has tailored its developmental strategy and procurements while directing R&D efforts towards induction of smarter future technologies.

needs due to restrictions and high cost of modern military technology. PN is no exception. Therefore, remaining within the confines of our budgetary allocations, we endeavour to find 'good enough' yet 'affordable' solutions for our operational requirements.

As we have modest in-country facilities to build modern naval platforms and systems,

Over a period of time, Pakistan's defence industry has seen steady growth and significant progress has been made in terms of ship building and naval systems.

(Missile) which has been designed indigenously and constructed at KS&EW. It is also equipped with locally developed HARBAH Anti-Ship Missile which also has Land Attack capabilities. Currently, PN platforms under construction at KS&EW include MILGEM class corvette, Hangor class submarines and indigenously designed Gun Boat.

It is also pertinent to mention that PN platforms are equipped with a number of locally developed weapons and sensors which is a major feat in strengthening our local industry. Organizing of PIMEC concurrent to Ex AMAN in Feb 23 is also likely to play a major role in exploring avenues where Pakistan's local

Our developmental strategy hinges upon induction of cost effective modern platforms, force multipliers, indigenization and maintaining diversified options to mitigate external dependencies.

industry along with international companies renders its valuable contributions towards Pakistan's maritime sector as strong maritime sector is inevitable for bolstering naval capabilities of the country.

Q-8 What new and emerging technologies do you consider vital for the Navy to acquire in order to maintain its effectiveness?

Ans. The character of war has transformed with the use of smarter technologies such as drones, unmanned vehicles, Artificial Intelligence, supersonic/ hypersonic missiles, glide vehicles and loitering munitions etc.

To keep up with rapidly evolving technological domain, PN has tailored its developmental strategy and procurements while directing R&D efforts towards induction of smarter future technologies.

Pakistan has made significant headway in terms of various locally developed missiles. For unmanned systems, we are following an incremental approach to increase reliance on unmanned systems in which PN is operating tactical UAVs (Scan Eagle and LUNA NG) and has recently acquired Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UCAVs (CH-4).

The available Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) are also being evaluated for their utility in Oceanographic Surveys, Harbour Defence, Maritime Security and MCM Ops. At the same time, we are undertaking indigenous efforts at our Naval Research and Development Institute (NRDI) to develop remotely operated/ autonomous surface and underwater vehicles for meeting PN requirements.

Q-9 How is Pakistan's economic situation impacting acquisition/ modernization and operational plans?

Ans. Inflation has been a global phenomenon that has affected every Navy in the world and Pakistan Navy is no exception. Unfortunately, severe floods in the country last year after the unprecedented closure of global economic activities in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic have further compounded the economic challenges.

As you are aware that naval forces, especially in the developing countries, operate in a resource constrained environment and have to look for economical solutions to meet their security needs. In our case, our modest domestic industrial base is constrained to meet hi-tech defence needs.

Therefore, a viable way forward for us has been to follow a cost effective developmental strategy through a mix of indigenization as well as diverse sources of supply to mitigate specific external dependencies and fulfill our operational needs. This is affording us flexibility to navigate through these challenging economic times.

Q-10 How is the Pakistan Navy involved in the relief efforts to assist the various government agencies in the recent floods and other related calamities?

Ans. Pakistan Navy has always been on the forefront for undertaking Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Ops in the region and beyond.

Domestically, PN has been regularly providing assistance to local population, especially of the coastal areas, during floods and natural calamities.

Devastating floods in the country last year not only caused high financial loss, but more than 33 million people were affected and crops on 18000 sq kms agricultural land were destroyed.

PN in response to the floods in the country immediately deployed 23 x Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), 13 x diving teams and 13 x medical teams to affected parts of Sindh and Balochistan.

Furthermore, helicopters and hovercraft were employed to rescue more than 15,500 people from inundated areas. In addition, 179 medical camps were established in affected areas and 2,700 tons of food aid was distributed.

At present, PN is assisting civil administration in rehabilitation efforts in affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan.





Inauguration of Maiden Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference

Introduction

Oceans are a vital component of our planet, containing countless marine species and vast seabed resources. Besides being the cheapest medium for transportation of goods, Oceans contribute towards world's economy through tourism, fishing, renewable energy production, aqua culture and seabed resources.

Economic activities in the Oceans are expanding rapidly, driven primarily by growing population and globalization. Reliance on oceans has led to diverse economic interactions clubbed under the term 'Blue Economy' which covers industries focused on sustainable utilization of Ocean based resources.

Geographical location of Pakistan offers shortest route to Indian Ocean for Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan and western parts of China through Karachi and Gwadar Ports, presenting great potential for development at national and regional levels.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a manifestation of Pakistan's commitment towards utilizing the potential of Blue Economy through enhanced regional connectivity.

PN CONTRIBUTION IN MARITIME DEVELOPMENT

Blue Economy is increasingly adopted by developed nations for sustainable growth. Being cognizant of the importance of Blue economy, Pakistan Navy has adopted a comprehensive Maritime Awareness Campaign plan to sensitize relevant segments of society and policy makers.



Across the globe, Maritime exhibitions provide an ideal platform to showcase various products, systems and services leading to beneficial business partnerships. On the same lines, Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) is an initiative of Pakistan Navy being organized under the patronage of Ministry of Maritime Affairs from 10 - 12 Feb 2023 in order to jump start development of maritime sector in Pakistan and spur Blue Economy.

PIMEC will focus on investment and collaboration in the fields of Port Operations, Maritime Logistics, Sea transportation, Shipbuilding & Repair, Ship Breaking, Fisheries and Aquaculture, sea bed resource exploration, Maritime Training and Education, Coastal Tourism, Renewable Energy Generation, Environmental Protection, Marine Engineering Equipment and Real estate development along coast.

Objectives of PIMEC

The objectives set forth for PIMEC are to:

- Provide opportunities to maritime industry to display products at one forum and interact directly with International Maritime Industry.
- Invite International Maritime and Defence Manufacturers for joint ventures, transfer of technology and research to provide impetus to Pakistan's Industrial setup.
- Highlight Pakistan's vast potential for Blue Economy.
- Reinforce efforts in the realm of Maritime Diplomacy.

In order to achieve the objectives of this national level event, support of relevant Ministries, Departments and Business community will be essential during planning



and execution stages.

B2B/G2B Prospects

PIMEC will provide an ideal opportunity for interactions between the target customers and maritime industry representatives.

A large number of trade & industry participants from local and international maritime sector are therefore being invited to attend the event.

Maritime Conference

During PIMEC, an exclusive International Maritime Conference will also be held under the auspices of National of Maritime Affairs

(NIMA).

Eminent speakers will exchange views on latest trends and scientific approach to various challenges related to maritime industry.

Conclusion

PIMEC is a distinct event, which will InshaAllah help in establishing sustainable, economically viable and mutually beneficial business relationships between maritime stake holders across the globe.

It is expected that the B2B/B2G dialogues during PIMEC 2023 will also help to bridge the existing gaps and facilitate ease of doing business.





PIMEC-23:

PROSPECTS OF BLUE ECONOMY FOR PAKISTAN

By Mansoor Bhatti

Covering more than 70% of the planet's surface, 95% of the biosphere, serving as home to many complex ecosystems, and producing half of the planet's oxygen, the ocean and its well-being are crucial to our own well-being. Besides being the cheapest medium for transportation of goods, oceans contribute towards world's economy through tourism, fishing, renewable energy production, aqua culture and seabed resources. Economic activities in the oceans are expanding rapidly, driven primarily by growing population and globalization. Reliance on oceans has led to diverse economic interactions clubbed under the term 'Blue Economy' which covers industries focused on sustainable utilization of ocean based resources.

Individuals and nation-states now are resorting to the oceans as earthbound reserves become depleted. But this precious resource (Ocean) is also suffering the effects of human activities, including climate change, acidification, overfishing, pollution and much more. The blue economy has diverse components, further bolstering the fact that a blue future has to embrace innovative technology and skills to achieve economic, environmental and social

sustainability.

Though the phenomenon of the blue economy is quite nascent globally but still the height of incongruity over it is that the policymakers

Pakistan also provides the shortest sea access to Afghanistan, Central Asian States and China. This adds not only to the importance of Maritime Economy potential of Pakistan but also highlights its geo-strategic significance.

along with the populace in Pakistan are yet sea blind undermining the potentials that could be tapped from the oceans and seas.

The people and the decision making elite thus need to understand that the oceans are not limitless carrying bounties of resources and also the oceans those are not healthy and resilient are not able to support economic growth. Pakistan's coastal region is brimming with innumerable marine resources. The

coastal and marine areas have great potential of sustainable development of both living and non-living resources.

The marine resources such as ocean energy, minerals, water, petroleum hydrocarbons and fisheries; recreational and tourism potential stands largely untapped. The appraisal and investigation of these assets is fundamental for the economic growth of the nation. Pakistan's prospects for sustained economic growth can only come to fruition if viable policy measures are crafted and implemented.

Pakistan's coast is over 1000 km long extending from Sir Creek to Jiwani. Pakistan also utilizes its 290,000 sq km of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for numerous purposes including fishing, mining, exploration and marine research.

Over 15 million barrels of crude oil is shipped right across the Pakistani coast from the Gulf States daily through the Persian Gulf. Pakistan also provides the shortest sea access to Afghanistan, Central Asian States and China. This adds not only to the importance of Maritime Economy potential of Pakistan but also highlights its geo-strategic significance.

Pakistan's coastal areas have significant potential for the energy/ fuel generation from marine plants or other organic materials, hydrogen generated from a variety of ocean renewables and marine geothermal power.

There are additionally open doors for hybrid projects, such as combination of offshore wind and wave or even wind and natural gas. Likewise, coastal tourism is a major global industry.

Being cognizant of the maritime potential of Pakistan, Pakistan Navy has taken various





initiatives such as maritime security workshops, maritime conferences, visits and briefing to policy makers, engagements with media house and business community, inclusion of maritime related curriculum, maritime awareness and publicity campaigns, and observing world ocean and environment days, to harness benefits of Blue Economy.

Across the globe, maritime exhibitions provide an ideal platform to showcase various marine related products, systems and services, leading to beneficial business partnerships.

On the same lines, Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) is an initiative of Pakistan Navy being organized under the patronage of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in order to jump-start development of maritime sector in Pakistan and spur Blue Economy. PIMEC is scheduled from 10 to 12 Feb, 2023 at Karachi Expo Centre.

The exhibition will bring together stakeholders and companies from diverse maritime fields to exploit and explore the potential of Blue Economy.

It is actually to venture new chapter where we explore the true potential of much more that is to follow. Not only will it give us livelihood and vibrancy to our economy but also provide opportunities to mitigate climate change effects.

PIMEC will focus on investment and collaboration in the fields of port operations, maritime logistics, sea transportation, ship building and repair, ship-breaking, fisheries and aqua culture, sea-bed resource exploration, maritime training and education, coastal tourism, renewable energy, environmental

protection, marine engineering equipment, and real estate development along the coast.

The objectives set forth for PIMEC are; to provide opportunities to maritime industry to display products at single forum and interact directly with international maritime industry; to invite international maritime and defence manufacturers for joint ventures, transfer of technology, and research to provide impetus to Pakistan's industrial setups; and to highlight Pakistan's vast potential for Blue Economy, reinforce efforts in the realm of maritime diplomacy.

In order to achieve the objectives of this national level event, support of relevant ministries, departments and business community will be essential during planning as well as execution stages. PIMEC will provide an ideal opportunity for interactions between the target customers

and maritime industry representatives. A large number of trade and industry participants from local and international maritime sector are therefore being invited to attend the event.

During PIMEC, an exclusive international maritime conference will also be held under the auspices of National Institute of Maritime Affairs. Eminent speakers will exchange views on latest trends and scientific approach to various challenges related to maritime industry.

To sum up, PIMEC is a distinct event which will help in promoting sustainable, economically viable and mutually beneficial business relationships between maritime stakeholders across the globe.

In addition, it will highlight the potential of maritime sector in Pakistan and help in capitalizing the benefits of Blue Economy.





PIMEC 2023 - UPLINK BLUE ECONOMY:

AN EFFORT FOR BLUE ACCELERATION



By Dr Sehrish Qayyum

Economic activity in ocean is expanding rapidly, driven primarily by changes in global demography, economic growth, trade, rising income levels, climate changes, environment index and technology.

Looking to 2030, many ocean-based industries have the potential to outperform the growth of the global economy, both in terms of value-added services, employment, as well as opportunities they offer.

These industries include offshore wind, tidal and wave energy; offshore aquaculture; cruise tourism; maritime surveillance and marine biotechnology.

The projections suggest that between 2010 and 2030 on a “business -as-usual” scenario basis, the ocean economy could more than double its contribution to global value-added services and products, reaching over US\$3 trillion by the end of the decade.

Increased pace of marine activities and development is titled as ‘Blue Acceleration’ by marine business experts. Strong growth is



expected in marine aquaculture, offshore wind energy, fish processing, shipbuilding, and repair within a decade. Investing in an ocean economy clearly makes economic sense as it will employ approximately 40 million full-time equivalent jobs in business-as-usual scenario.

Pioneering efforts by Pakistan Navy – PIMEC 2023 will bring together governments and business representatives to seek solutions for current challenges i.e., financing and technology constraints in expanding the ocean economy.

Even Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) control some 30% of all oceans and seas. For



example, Saint Lucia has a marine reserve the size of Germany, while Tuvalu has an EEZ 27,000 times of its land mass. The combined EEZs of Mauritius and the Seychelles represent an area bigger than India.

Purpose of referring to these facets is prospect options for economic growth and investment under collaborative joint ventures among littoral and far of states.

Joint ventures may serve in climate actions by utilizing vast volatile spaces for business as per targets set in COP26.

Pakistan being important littoral state of western Indian ocean is following global trends of blue acceleration.

Country is blessed with 1000 Km long coastline from Sir Creek to Jiwani and EEZ & continental shelf covering area of 290,000 sq km i.e., larger than combined area of two provinces i.e., Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

Pakistan’s coastal belt and extended maritime zone is replete with living and non-living oceanic resources such as hydrocarbons, minerals, renewable energy, and biotechnology options.

Pakistan is continuously seeking international collaborations to create perfect blend of indigenous and foreign technologies to expand and strengthen its own activities.

For the purpose, the first Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) in February 2023 offers an ideal platform to uplink with major industrial and business sectors for economic transformation.

PIMEC 2023 is premier maritime exhibition in the Asian subcontinent focusing on maritime sector and industry.

It assures sustainable growth and prosperity as platform aims to gather stakeholders from diverse maritime industries for hydrocarbon extraction, coastal development, shipping and port infrastructure, fisheries, marine tourism, offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed mining and marine biotechnology etc.

This exhibition will showcase Pakistan's complete maritime potential with aim to focus on human wellbeing, social equity, and economic growth.

With run-away climate change and a global economy still reeling from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the investments by littoral nations in their ocean economies also strengthens their resilience to external shocks. But with limited resources they cannot do it alone.

The business community, both local and international are critical partners. National economic growth is intimately tied to the success of ocean economy strategies by governments.

Reformed maritime business strategies will impact related business sectors such as tourism, airlines, fisheries, shipping and emerging sectors such as biotechnology and ocean energy.

Pioneering efforts by Pakistan Navy – PIMEC 2023 will bring together governments and business representatives to seek solutions for current challenges i.e., financing and technology constraints in expanding the ocean economy.

Furthermore, the forum will spur a new

generation of ocean economy partnerships between the global business community and governments ahead of the fourth United Nations Conference in 2024.

PIMEC 2023 is not about business as usual but demonstrates that significance of ocean resources is not a zero-sum game.

Conserving the ocean protects marine life and generates economic growth for maritime states and business communities alike.

Exhibition is a market appeal to expand existing market with face-to-face interactions and sharing token of interests.

Focusing on maximum impact by highlighting unique facts of each project, resources and untapped areas will open potential door for investment in Pakistan.

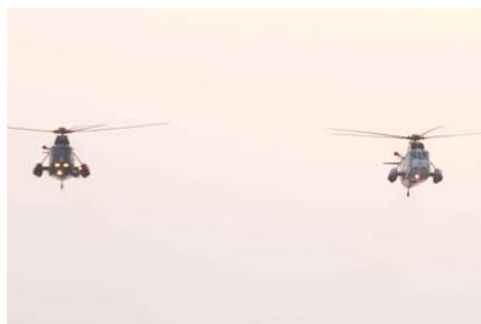
In term of PIMEC 2023 outcomes, development of specialized 'Maritime Business and Technology Zones' (MBTZs) along the coastline will increase employment options, reserving investments and will materialize idea of economic uplink with regional and international



business sectors.

Businessmen attached to marine resources and industry are welcomed to make this up to the minute step of Pakistan Navy successful.

They can attract their links and relations from



the industry and filed to host stall of their best product i.e., marine gemstones, sea shells, food items, and industrial products along with oil and resource extractors from deep sea areas.

It is PN initiative to win by joining hearts and



hands in all conducive environment.

Author is Assistant Professor at Maritime Center of Excellence, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. She is member of International Studies Association (ISA), USA.





Introduction

Pakistan has always been an avid supporter of regional peace and stability. Pakistan's commitment to the principle of 'peaceful coexistence' and desire for greater regional harmony and cooperation is also reflected through Pakistan's armed forces participation in UN Peacekeeping missions, UN mandated Combined Maritime Task Forces 150 & 151, participation in regional and extra-regional joint bilateral and multilateral exercises.

To demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to peace, contribute towards regional maritime security and enhance cooperation and interoperability between regional and extra regional navies, Pakistan Navy took an initiative of holding Multinational exercise AMAN in 2007, which is being conducted biennially. Till to date seven exercises have been conducted and 8th exercise is planned in Feb 23 for which over 110 countries have been invited.

Since then this Exercise has become a major International Naval event which is evident from growing number of participation. This is also reflective of Pakistan's growing positive image and success of Ex AMAN.

Highlight of AMAN-23 is its concurrent conduct with maiden Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC). The aim of PIMEC is to showcase our country's maritime potential.

History

The main objective/ theme of AMAN series of multinational exercises are to promote regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability and to display a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain including piracy. The overview of exercises of AMAN series is as under:

a. 1st AMAN Exercise. First Exercise of AMAN series was held in March 2007. During AMAN-07, 14 x ships from Bangladesh, China, France, Italy, Malaysia, UK and USA navies participated.



SOF/ EOD teams from Bangladesh and Turkey also participated in SOF exercises. Overall 28 countries participated in the exercise with the said assets and 29 observers.

b. 2nd AMAN Exercise. Second Exercise, AMAN-09 was held in March 2009. During the exercise, 14 warships, 02 aircraft and 9 SOF teams of Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, Japan, Malaysia, UK, Nigeria, Turkey and USA participated. Overall 24 countries participated in the exercise with the said assets and 29 observers.

c. 3rd AMAN Exercise. Third Exercise AMAN-11 was conducted in March 2011. During the exercise, total 28 countries participated with naval assets and observers. Total of 11 ships from Australia, China, France, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Saudi Arab and USA participated. Three aircrafts from Australia and Japan and 03 SOF/ EOD/ Marines teams from China, Turkey and USA also participated during the exercise AMAN-11. Overall 28 countries participated in the exercise with the said assets and 43 observers.

d. 4th AMAN Exercise. Fourth Exercise AMAN-13 was hold in March 2013. Navies of 29 countries participated in the said exercise with

12 ships, 02 aircraft, 06 x SOF/ FOD teams and 36 observers.

e. 5th AMAN Exercise. Fifth Exercise AMAN-17 conducted in North Arabian Sea from 10 - 14 Feb 2017. 12 ships from Australia, China, Indonesia, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK and USA participated. In addition, SOF/ EOD/ Marines teams from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and UK also participated in the exercise. A total of 34 countries including Pakistan participated in the exercise with the said assets and 67 observers.

f. 6th AMAN Exercise. 611) Exercise AMAN-19 conducted in North Arabian Sea from 08-12 February 2019. 11 x Ships from Australia, China, Italy, Malaysia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK and USA participated. Whereas, Japan participated with 01 x Ships and 2 x P3Cs as Pre-AMAN. Moreover, 15 x SOF/EOD/ Marines teams from China, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK and USA also participated in the exercise. A total of 46 countries participated in the exercise with the said assets and 113 observers.

g. 7th AMAN Exercise. 7th Exercise AMAN-21 conducted in North Arabian Sea from 11-16 February 2021. 11 x Ships from 7 nations, 01



Turkish MPA, 04 x SOF teams/ Observers, 03 x EOD teams/Observer, 11 Senior officers and 117 x Observers along with PN Ships, aircraft, SSG (N) teams and PAK Marines assets.

CONCEPT

The Exercise is to be designed to provide a common forum for:

- a. Information sharing, mutual understanding and identifying areas of common interests for group analysis and dialogues through International Maritime Conference.
- b. Developing and practicing response tactics, techniques and procedures against asymmetric and traditional threats during sea phase of the exercise.
- c. Intermingling of multinationals with depiction of their respective cultures during cultural shows/food galas.

EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

The Exercise is to be planned with focused objectives, which are as under:

- a. Project positive image of Pakistan as a country contributing towards regional peace and stability.
- b. Consolidate PN's position in the regional maritime arena.
- c. Enhance interoperability with regional and extra regional navies thereby acting as a bridge between the regions.

MAJOR EVENTS OF HARBOUR AND SEA PHASE

Exercise will be divided into Harbour and Sea Phases. Details of the phases are as under:

Harbour Activities

- a. Arrival of Participating Units. b. Opening Ceremony at PN Dockyard.
- c. Wreath Laying.



d. Friendly Sport Matches.

e. Maritime Counter Terrorism Demo by SSG (N)/ Pak Marines.

f. Table Top Discussions (TTDs) on professional topics.

g. Calls and visits including ship visits.

h. International Band Display.

J. International Cultural Display and Food Gala.

h. Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference at Expo Centre Karachi.

SEA ACTIVITIES

a. International Fleet Review (IFR)

An International Fleet Review (IFR) is scheduled at sea on 14 February 2023. During IFR, various operational activities/ serial listed below will be conducted:

(1) RAS (L) Token

(2) Counter Piracy Demo by PN MSW Team

(3) Rocket Depth Charge (RDC) firing

(4) Surface Firing on Killer Tomato

(5) Fly Past by Air Units (PN, PAF and Foreign participating Aircraft)

(6) Man and Cheer Ship in honour of the Chief Guest.

b. In addition to IFR, Other sea activities including various exercises to practice response against maritime security threats in a multinational environment.

SOF/EOD/Marines Teams

Special Operation Forces (SOF), Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Marines teams will also participate in the exercise. The SOF/ EOD/Marine personnel have the frontline role against the threat of maritime terrorism and other crimes. Therefore, a number of exercises to develop Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for combined action by multinational forces against asymmetric threats are also planned.





EXERCISE AMAN – 2023: “Together for Peace and Security”

By Anoshka Johum

The oceans are ‘shared global commons’ and the ‘lifeline’ of international trade. Oceans hold the key to the present and future economic development, prosperity, and foremost, security for all nations. It is estimated that more than three billion people worldwide, mainly in developing countries, depend on the ocean for their livelihood and well-being. However, in the era of globalization and increased non-traditional security challenges, the dynamics of international maritime security have changed. Today the security of the maritime sector is being undermined by unprecedented threats and challenges such as contested navigation routes, depletion of natural resources, piracy and armed robbery, terrorism, trafficking (human, drugs, arms, and nuclear materials), smuggling of migrants, illegal activities in the fisheries sector, and intentional and unlawful damage to the marine environment. All these issues represent acute challenges to global efforts in maintaining international peace and security. Furthermore, maritime disputes between several countries, climate change, and natural disasters also pose a great challenge while keeping the world’s oceans accessible and safe for economic and developmental purposes.

With these growing challenges and changing threat dynamics of the maritime sector, the emphasis on maintaining strong naval power has increased manifold. Naval power plays a pivotal role in enhancing the influence of

coastal states. Very often, the fact that naval power especially maintaining blue water navies might play an important part in conventional as well as non-conventional deterrence is either overlooked or ignored. Navies perform important and diverse tasks in peacetime and operations short of war. Therefore, many states are increasing their naval presence around the maritime economic hubs and strategically significant choke points to guard their economic, political, and strategic interests.

Geographically located at the cusp of the Arabian Sea, close to the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan is fortunate to hold great geo-strategic significance in the Indian Ocean, which has been the hub of great economic and strategic activities for the past several decades. Indian Ocean region (IOR) is one of the most important and the busiest global trade route. Approximately 80% of global oil shipments and one-third of bulk cargo transit via the Sea Line of Communication in the Indian Ocean. It is home to more than 2.7 billion people. IOR is rich in natural resources & is very significant due to its geological, political, economic, and strategic features. Owing to the increased geostrategic significance of the Indian Ocean for not only littoral but non-littoral states, there is an upsurge in the number of countries maintaining their naval presence in the IOR.

The unprecedented increase in the levels of insecurity in the Indian Ocean region particularly around the Persian Gulf, West Africa, Strait of Malacca, and the Arabian Sea

is concerning for many littoral states. As a result, there was a clear understanding that no one country could handle the magnitude of this current danger alone. To enhance security at sea, strong international cooperation was needed which would not only address these challenges but would also focus on eliminating their root causes such as poverty, a lack of alternative livelihoods, insecurity, and weak governance structures. The growing and interlinked maritime security threats called for a truly global and integrated response because making a coordinated maritime policy was a must. As a result, maritime states turned to the formation of marine alliances and the conduct of naval exercises to improve interoperability among world navies and mitigate maritime security challenges together.

Being a major stakeholder in the IOR, maintaining peace and security in the region is the foremost priority of Pakistan. In view, the Pakistan Navy is going to organize its Multi-national Naval "EXERCISE AMAN" in February 2023. The Exercise will be the 8th of the series and over 110 countries from various parts of the world have been invited to attend this edition. With the slogan of “Together for Peace” AMAN Exercise, as the name indicates is primarily focused on maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan Navy holds this mega event biennially to signify Pakistan's commitment to making seas safer for positive human activities while inviting regional and extra-regional navies. AMAN represents a 'bridge' that allows several countries to



meet and operate through their naval forces with each other. AMAN is a manifestation of securitization through cooperation, which emphasizes collectivism rather than states competing for the maximization of their own security irrespective of others.

Since its inaugural session in 2007, the number of countries participating in AMAN Exercises steadily grew from 28 in the first year to 43 in 2021 and the figure is expected to increase further this year. AMAN Exercises had made their landmark in the Indian Ocean region as a symbol of sustainable peace and security. The rising trajectory of participation signals an acceptance of Pakistan's message of peace and security. The frequent conduct of AMAN Exercises demonstrates Pakistan's resolve to combat crimes and terrorism in the maritime domain and also showcases the professional excellence of the Pakistan Navy. AMAN Exercise validates Pakistan's commitment, will, and expertise to promote international cooperation in maritime affairs to promote peace, security, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

The "AMAN – 2023" exercise aims to strengthen and developing military cooperation between the countries participating in the maneuvers in the interests of security and stability at sea, as well as sharing experience in countering the threats of maritime piracy in areas of heavy shipping and conducting search and rescue operations at sea.

The event will help participating countries explore new avenues of mutual interest, naval cooperation, regional maritime security, and bilateral collaboration. The objective of AMAN 2023 is to enhance interoperability between regional and other navies. It serves as a global platform for strengthening communication amongst participating naval fleets. In the Arabian Sea and the wider Indian Ocean,

AMAN promotes a shared vision for enhancing maritime security. The exercise is designed to ensure unhindered and safe trade through the Indian Ocean region. The exercise aimed to consolidate the process of collaborative maritime security among countries across the globe; demonstrate joint resolve against the threats emanating from the maritime domain; enhance interoperability among the participating nations; and achieve a shared understanding of maritime security operations, counter-terrorism operations, and Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations (HADR).

To achieve these objectives, the exercise has been designed in such a way that it is divided into two phases; Harbor and Sea. In the harbor phase activities, such as Friendly Sports Matches, and International Cultural Displays, are being conducted. Whereas in the sea phase, International Fleet Review is carried out along with other various exercises to practice response against maritime security threats in a multinational environment. Moreover, Special Forces teams of the participating nations take part in the counter-piracy operations to develop Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) for combined action against asymmetric threats at sea.

Apart from ensuring peace and security, AMAN EXERCISE provides an opportunity to observe the varied cultures of participating countries, Exercise AMAN-2023 will promote regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability, and a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain, Exercise AMAN is evidence of Pakistan's military multilateralism.

A large number of observers, foreign diplomats, personnel from the participating navies, and senior officials of the armed forces of Pakistan

are expected to attend the event and witness the captivating demonstrations put on display.

AMAN Exercise is going to be conducted simultaneously with the maiden Pakistan International Maritime Expo and conference (PIMEC) planned in February 2023. PIMEC aims to showcase our country's maritime potential and explore new avenues for cooperation and the blue economy.

Pakistan has always been a responsible state, and its commitment to 'peaceful existence' and desire for regional stability is evident through its participation in various international peacekeeping missions, Combined Task Forces 150 and 151, various indigenous initiatives, and multilateral exercises like Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and AMAN exercises.

Pakistan strongly favors collaboration as a tactical option when it comes to handling circumstances that endanger common human interests. According to its doctrine, the Pakistan Navy accepts the presence of a "cooperative continuum" that enables fleets to cooperate through regional and extra-regional coalitions and respond to both conventional and novel maritime threats. In search of maritime security, the Pakistan Navy is keen to operate through its own started and sustained multilateral agreements.

Based on the tenet of "proactive engagement," the Pakistan Navy views maritime outreach as a chance to establish and strengthen alliances that go beyond the conventional interest-based strategy. AMAN is a reflection of Pakistan's desire for engagement over alienation, ties over barriers, and cooperation over competitiveness rather than a response to any regional maritime infrastructure. Therefore, AMAN is appropriately referred to as an operational expression of Pakistan's foreign policy.





AMAN SERIES OF EXERCISES: PAKISTAN'S NAVAL DIPLOMACY TOOL

By Ambreen Liaquat

Pakistan, as opposed to its neighboring rival's yearning and evil schemes, has been successful to showcase its preparedness, interoperability, and connectedness with the international community through a series of multinational military exercises. AMAN exercise, which is conducted biennially, is one of such examples. The initiative was taken by Pakistan Navy in 2007 and is considered an inherent component of signaling of Pakistan's Naval Diplomacy Strategy. It not only enhances Pakistan's soft image in term of being proponent of peace and mutual cooperation but also provides conventional equilibrium against enemy activities such as Milan and Malabar Exercises. Pakistan has a coastal line of around 1000 km and has a crucial role as a main stakeholder in Indian Ocean Region. Being a nuclear power and having an important strategic location has given the opportunity to Pakistan Navy to pursue the diplo-economic goals in terms of peace, stability, and security of Indian Ocean Region.

Every penny spent to enhance the connectivity and cooperation through naval exercises like AMAN; expos, and international conferences like PIMEC (2023); articulation, and configuration is worth it. It is not just a question of national

security but national prestige also revolves around it. Pakistan's objective is to make the adversary consider the status quo in peacetime to be a reasonably acceptable choice, while any potential inclination towards an adventurous alternative is a bad choice. Recently, Pakistan has been successful in establishing a strategic environment that goes in her favor through AMAN exercises. For example, by providing a

Pakistan, as opposed to its neighboring rival's yearning and evil schemes, has been successful to showcase its preparedness, interoperability, and connectedness with the international community through a series of multinational military exercises.

common platform for (otherwise) traditional rival states for engagement under a neutral

banner, Pakistan's importance has been highlighted in the international community for playing its part in bringing those rivals to the table. Such an apolitical environment not only gives the opportunity to staunch competitors (like Russia and NATO; China and USA etc.) to share a friendly platform but also portrays Pakistan's resolve to bring peace and faith in multinational mutual cooperation.

This flagship multilateral maritime maneuver exercise includes the cultural taste, food gala, and sports fixture, consequently uplifting Pakistan's soft image. In the previous exercise, AMAN 21, more than 40 countries participated. This year, the number of participating countries is expected to surpass 50 mark. For the enemy, the message is clear that Pakistan is not isolated as they used to wish in past, but in fact, can match or even increase the number of participant states in her maritime maneuvers against activities of the same nature taking place in its eastern neighborhood.

This provides at least strategic equilibrium or strategic null, if not a definite upper hand in the Naval Diplomacy Strategy of Pakistan against India. Importance of Indian Ocean Region is also strengthened by the fact that almost 70% hydrocarbon trade is done using this route. Hence, the dynamic initiative for peace also



shows Pakistan's resolve to fight against terrorism and maritime crimes like drug smuggling, human trafficking, piracy, etc. by enhancing its maritime potential.

Naval Diplomacy, sometimes called Blue Diplomacy plays a significant role in deterrence strategy as diplomatic signaling is used to indicate the risk of retaliation to the adversary. It means that Pakistan is using this available option effectively by portraying that almost all big power centers participate in its invitation.

Hence, India should wake up from the dream of overconfidence and a state of denial because Pakistan is capable enough not only to defend itself but to formulate, implement, and demonstrate an effective strategy to bring sustainable peace in Indian Ocean Region.

Naval diplomacy is working as an effective international cooperation tool for Pakistan. Credibility is being enhanced, the capability is being effectively demonstrated and communication is clear. Yet, there is always room to do better. For example, Pakistan have engaged a couple of members of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Indonesia from Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

in AMAN Exercises. Such small number of participants from two crucial Asian organizations does not give much needed regional influence in deterring the enemy from taking unilateral and unfavorable decisions in the region.

Pakistan's membership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is also being hindered because of India's Veto, limiting Pakistan's role in policy-making of the crucial Indian Ocean Region (IOR) which is pivotal to the country's economic and strategic future.

For this reason, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries should also be engaged as much as possible to enhance the weightage of Pakistan's opinion in these regional organizations and increase the moral burden on India.

So, Pakistan needs to develop a greater understanding of the complexity of the stability-instability paradox being faced, and more effective forms or tools of connectivity, cooperation, partnership and collaboration need to be employed in Indian Ocean Region.



AMAN 23: COMMON GOAL TO SECURE SEAS



By Ijlal Khan

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which is bordered by 30 states, is one of the busiest maritime zones and is known for being the centre of economic, political, and strategic activities that have a significant impact on the geopolitics and maritime security of the region. Nearly 80% of global energy resource commerce is permitted under the IOR. This region is filled with crucial SLOCs, competing and conflicting regional and extra regional state interests, emerging patterns of state interest convergence and divergence, and tapping and exploring marine resources both living and non-living, all of which create a number of vulnerabilities for this region's littorals in terms of maritime security.

In fact, the maritime sector has very distinct, intricate, and intense realities; as a result, comprehensive approaches and methods are required to address these security risks and problems. The states face a variety of non-traditional security risks as well as traditional ones along their maritime borders, which adds to the environment's vulnerability, difficulty, and complexity. These threats are quite varied and include external aggression and trespassing, illegal passage of prohibited vessels/warships, damage to non-living marine resources, theft and smuggling of marine





resources, including sand and gravel among others, gun running, kidnapping for ransom, high jacking of boats and ships, piracy, narco-terrorism, and strategic maritime terrorism. Similarly, issues in the maritime sector become serious when state involvement increases and the geopolitical landscape of the maritime regions undergoes paradigm adjustments.

Pakistan is the country which is not only rimming the Indian Ocean but due to its geo-strategic location, it has been quite significant in the regional geopolitics as well as vulnerable due to number of reason including its immense maritime potential, both on-shore and off the shore as well as its vast maritime territory as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Continental Shelf; the busiest SLOCs passing through its EEZ and the Continental Shelf; closer proximity with the three main choke points, Strait of Hormuz, Bab-ul-Mandeb, and Mozambique Channel; strategic concerns due to increased role of regional, sub-regional and extra regional actors in the IOR like India-Iran strategic deal, Indo-US strategic deal, the US-Naval presence at Bahrain, establishment of QUAD, intercontinental organized criminal networks and illicit cartels, and piracy.

Due to such vulnerabilities, the collaborative maritime security mechanisms are the most appropriate defense for Pakistan constructed upon the fundamental elements of region as area of interest, common security goals, cooperative security and collective arrangements. Pakistan has always been an avid supporter of regional peace and stability. Pakistan's commitment to the principle of 'peaceful coexistence' and desire for greater regional harmony and cooperation is also reflected through Pakistan's armed forces participation in UN Peacekeeping missions, UN mandated Combined Maritime Task Forces 150 and 151, participation in regional and extra-regional joint bilateral and multilateral exercises. To demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to peace, contribute towards regional maritime security and enhance cooperation and interoperability between regional and extra regional navies,

Pakistan Navy took an initiative of holding Multinational exercise AMAN in 2007, which is being conducted biennially. Till to date seven exercises have been conducted and 8th exercise is planned in Feb 23 in which more than 50 countries are expected to participate.

The maritime sector has very distinct, intricate, and intense realities; as a result, comprehensive approaches and methods are required to address these security risks and problems.

The main objective of AMAN series of multinational exercises is to promote regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability and to display a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain including piracy. Whereas in sea phase, the participating navies attend the military drills with their surface and air assets, special

operation forces, and maritime teams. They are involved in various activities, including maneuvers, weapon firing drills, maritime interdiction operations, flying operations, search and rescue exercises, and international fleet review-- all of this improves Pakistan Navy's capability to combat nontraditional threats and improve the country's soft image in the international community.

Moreover, this time alongside AMAN-23, an important maritime conference is going to be held for the first time at Karachi expo center. Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) is an initiative of Pakistan Navy which is being organized under the patronage of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in order to jump start development of maritime sector in Pakistan and spur Blue Economy.

PIMEC is scheduled from 10 to 12 Feb, 2023 and the exhibition will bring together stakeholders and companies from diverse maritime fields to exploit and explore the potential of Blue Economy. It is actually to venture new chapter where we explore the true potential of much more that is to follow. Not only it will give us livelihood and vibrancy to our economy but also provide endeavors to mitigate climate change effects.



IMPORTANCE OF AMAN SERIES OF EXERCISE

By Hassan Zeb

Indian Ocean today is arguably the most important water space on the globe. From Mahan to Kaplan all strategists have acknowledged the political as well as economic significance of this ocean. The ocean remains unique in the sense that it has not produced an indigenous maritime power in the modern history; at least not since Oman was defeated by the Portuguese in the 16th century.

This ocean is home to some of the world's most disparate nations; which differ widely in their socio-cultural and economic demeanor. This diversity has often helped the Extra-Regional Forces to maintain their stranglehold on the region by exploiting the differences and weaknesses of the littorals.

Presence of large amounts of hydrocarbons and minerals in the Arabian Gulf and Central Asia has given a special status to this ocean,

particularly the North Arabian Sea which has become a conduit of energy for the world. The tremendous resources provided by nature also attract greed and intrigue and have their own share of challenges.

These challenges arise from unstable geopolitical situation and diverse economic, political, social environment; resulting into traditional, non-traditional, symmetrical and asymmetrical threats. These threats in return require attention and cooperation of all stake holders- regional and extra-regional.

Pakistan occupies a strategic position at the crown of the Indian Ocean. 95 % of Pakistan's trade by volume and 100% of its oil imports are routed through the North Arabian Sea. With such an envious geographical location astride the energy jugular of the world and its complete dependence on these waters, Pakistan is an important stake-holder in the Indian Ocean

security framework.

Thus, Pakistan has always been a vocal proponent of peace and freedom of navigation, particularly in the Indian Ocean and the country has played its due role in promoting harmony and cooperation in the region.

While aligning with the foreign policy and other regional and international obligations of Pakistan, Pakistan Navy over the decades had undertaken certain very bold and far reaching initiatives. Exercise AMAN is one such example. Pakistan Navy launched this initiative in 2007 and upon the success of the first exercise, it decided to make it a biennial event.

The slogan for the exercise is "Together for Peace" and depicts the true spirit behind the endeavour. All the navies participating in the exercise have a common objective of ensuring peace and stability in the maritime arena to provide freedom of navigation and



uninterrupted flow of trade. The exercise at sea is aimed to enhance tactical proficiency, develop common tactics against asymmetric threats and promote interoperability amongst the participating units.

Seven exercises of the AMAN series have been conducted so far which have enhanced not only Pakistan Navy's professional abilities but also added to the national prestige. The concept of AMAN revolves around information sharing, mutual understanding and identifying areas of common interest for participating navies with emphasis on maritime security operations, anti-terrorists operations, and humanitarian assistance operations.

Based on this concept, the exercise seeks to develop and improve Response Tactics Techniques and Procedures (RTTP) for protection of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) and maritime infrastructure, assets and forces against non-traditional threats.

The 8th AMAN exercise is planned in Feb 23 which is expected to be participated by more than 50 countries. The "AMAN – 2023" exercise aims to strengthen and developing military cooperation between the countries participating in the maneuvers in the interests of security and stability at sea, as well as sharing experience in countering the threats of maritime piracy in areas of heavy shipping and conducting search and rescue operations at sea.

The event will help participating countries explore new avenues of mutual interest, naval cooperation, regional maritime security, and bilateral collaboration. The objective of AMAN 2023 is to enhance interoperability between regional and other navies. It serves as a global platform for strengthening communication amongst participating naval fleets.



In the Arabian Sea and the wider Indian Ocean, AMAN promotes a shared vision for enhancing maritime security. The exercise is designed to ensure unhindered and safe trade through the Indian Ocean region. The exercise aimed to consolidate the process of collaborative maritime security among countries across the globe; demonstrate joint resolve against the threats emanating from the maritime domain; enhance interoperability among the participating nations; and achieve a shared understanding of maritime security operations, counter-terrorism operations, and Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations (HADR).

To achieve these objectives, the exercise has been designed in such a way that it is divided into two phases; Harbor and Sea. In the harbor phase activities, such as Friendly Sports Matches, and International Cultural Displays, are being conducted.

Whereas in the sea phase, International Fleet Review is carried out along with other various exercises to practice response against maritime security threats in a multinational environment. Moreover, Special Forces teams of the participating nations take part in the counter-piracy operations to develop Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) for combined action against asymmetric threats at sea.

Apart from ensuring peace and security, AMAN EXERCISE provides an opportunity to observe the varied cultures of participating countries, Exercise AMAN-2023 will promote regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability, and a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain, Exercise AMAN is evidence of Pakistan's military multilateralism.



ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION AMONG INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES

by Ali Basit

There is no doubt that Indian Ocean is one of the busiest and important Ocean of the world trade. The geo-economic and geo-significance of the Indian ocean littorals are interconnected to each other due to large scale of population, trade and cultural roots, sea-based economy, cultural tourism and other interests of leading global powers. IOR has tremendous potential of geo-economic activities, which are not only important to the Asian countries but also equally important for the entire world. The addition of BRI has provided new avenues to harness the true potential and alleviate the poverty by improving existing socio-economic ties in the Indian Ocean littoral countries. There is a growing concern observed in the level of relevant international stakeholders that the geo-political and geo-economic aspects have diverse dimensions in the region where the philosophy of enhance cooperation of maritime security, peace and stability would be highly needed in order to promote socio-economic uplift and ensure prosperity in the region and beyond. The new economic initiative by the Chinese government is promising for the entire region, where Pakistan and Iran would be the



major beneficiaries of overall development. The role of major global powers needs to promote peace and cooperation.

For which China, Pakistan and Iran need to make extra effort on diplomatic fronts. From Pakistan's perspective, it is important to ally itself with forces of regional progress and for that it has to alter the region and turn itself in mega corridor. For this purpose, Pakistan increasingly realized that its future lies in pursuing the common future of this region including Afghanistan, CARs, Russia, Iran and China. Furthermore, it also realizes that perpetual hostility with India is not going to serve any purpose and the only way to solving the dispute in this region is through shared vision of prosperity for huge population deprives form the opportunities. It deserves to materialize its potential but India has a very typical mind-set with its hegemonic designs in the Indian Ocean region and is trying to pose itself as a maritime regional power. It

is interested in holding way over the choke points in the IOR thus, causing turbulence in the existing security of the regions. However, it is not possible going to the magnitude of the China's military and economic competence.

The biggest and the most important player to carve out this constructive picture out of this troubled region is undoubtedly China. China's emerging strategy for the maritime affairs in the IOR has two interconnected building blocks that is the philosophy of two oceans navy initiative of the maritime Silk Road. For which an aggressive work is being done by the China over the last 10 years or so in order to achieve these two milestones in an influencing manner. The strategic significance of Gwadar will certainly help China in addressing its current vulnerability of the Malacca dilemma. The geo-economics of the maritime silk route, present China with interest to acquire, maintain and defend if needed and these interests can only



be safeguarded through a strong level.

Pakistani ports and Harbours, especially, Karachi Port Qasim have tremendous significance not only for Pakistan but also for landlocked Afghanistan, CARs, Russia and now very much increasingly China in view of the CPEC project. Long coastlines and significant harbours provide Pakistan with a strategic location which is ideal for the sea trade and other commercial activities conducted in mostly foreign ships. The role of Pakistan in international navigation, the Gwadar port and EEZ is very important for development. However, the rise of non-conventional threats near the coastal areas of Pakistan hampers its economic and security interests ignoring all these impacts will intentionally place Pakistan in an adverse position in with landlocked countries to which Pakistan wants to offer a pathway to the IOR. Until or unless these non-traditional threats are resolved, Pakistan will not be able to its national security. It is important to stabilize the economy for acquiring the defence modernization and to deal with NTS threats.

Pakistan needs to focus more on the naval empowerment of its naval forces for ensuring security as its sea lanes, and international maritime interest in the IOR. The uninterrupted threats of terrorism have transnational apprehensions of diplomatic interests of Pakistan in IOR. Possible assaults by radical military factions with the assistance of regional powers opposing CPEC, a sea ports and coastline along with the danger of weaponization, human trafficking and smuggling could obstruct global trade activities on the coastline of Pakistan. The serious maritime security threats not only marginalize national security of Pakistan but other coastal states of the IOR.

For collective efforts and comprehensive maritime security strategy to safeguard national and regional interests, Pakistan Navy started off multinational naval exercise 'AMAN' in North Arabian Sea in 2007. This was marked as a blue diplomacy move by the Pakistan Navy bringing together Maritime Nations in the IOR and calling for galvanizing efforts to maintain strong correlations at sea. The exercise has been aptly named "AMAN", which is the Urdu term for "PEACE". It signifies Pakistan's endeavor for peace while remaining fully prepared to ensure peace in the region.

Pakistan Navy till to date had conducted seven AMAN exercises. This year's exercise is the 8th in number, which have been held biennially since 2007. All previous naval exercises of the AMAN series have been highly successful and not only were participated wholeheartedly by navies of friendly countries, ushering goodwill to Pakistan, but have also resulted in all participants including the host Pakistan Navy, gaining tremendous professional experience.

The main objective of AMAN series of



multinational exercises is to promote regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability and to display a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain including piracy.

Whereas in sea phase, the participating navies attend the military drills with their surface and air assets, special operation forces, and maritime teams. They are involved in various activities, including maneuvers, weapon firing drills, maritime interdiction operations, flying operations, search and rescue exercises, and international fleet review-- all of this improves Pakistan Navy's capability to combat nontraditional threats and improve the country's soft image in the international community. Moreover, this time alongside AMAN-23, an important maritime conference

is going to be held for the first time at Karachi expo center. Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) is an initiative of Pakistan Navy which is being organized under the patronage of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in order to jump start development of maritime sector in Pakistan and spur Blue Economy.

PIMEC is scheduled from 10 to 12 Feb, 2023 and the exhibition will bring together stakeholders and companies from diverse maritime fields to exploit and explore the potential of Blue Economy.

It is actually to venture new chapter where we explore the true potential of much more that is to follow. Not only it will give us livelihood and vibrancy to our economy but also provide endeavors to mitigate climate change effects.





AMAN: Need to Revisit Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean

By Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie

The Indian Ocean is a vital region for global commerce and energy security. Over 60% of the world's oil supplies and more than 80% of the world's seaborne trade in petroleum products transit through the Indian Ocean. Given its strategic importance, ensuring the security of the Indian Ocean is crucial for regional stability and global peace. Indian Ocean, for most of its recent history has depended significantly on extra-regional forces for ensuring maritime security. In this regard, the AMAN exercise, held in the waters of the Indian Ocean region, is an important initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security in the region, which argues for both regional and extra-regional nations to come closer and operate together to realize and own maritime security in this important ocean of the world.

We now are very familiar with the phrase



'AMAN', which is an Urdu word meaning peace. The exercise is organized by the Pakistan Navy and has been held biennially since 2007. The exercise aims to promote regional peace and stability by fostering a common understanding and approach to maritime security issues. The exercise involves participation from more than 40 countries, including the United States, China, Russia, Iran, and India, among others. The exercise involves a variety of activities, including search and rescue operations, anti-piracy operations, and coordinated patrols, aimed at enhancing cooperation and interoperability among participating countries. AMAN assures participating nations that learning from each other and enhancing maritime capacity is possible, which would ultimately help in making seas secure for economic benefits.

The Indian Ocean region faces a number of maritime security challenges, including piracy, terrorism, illegal fishing, human trafficking, and drug smuggling, among others. These challenges threaten the stability and security of the region and have a direct impact on the global economy. For example, piracy off the coast of Somalia had resulted in increased insurance costs, rerouting of shipping lanes, and a decline in trade and investment. Though the piracy in this particular part has receded,

A framework like AMAN can help reduce the dependence on extra-regional forces in addressing security challenges in the Indian Ocean. The exercise provides a platform for regional littorals to work together and develop a common understanding and approach to maritime security issues.

but its occurrence in near future cannot be entirely ruled out. Drugs continue to pour in despite numerous catches in recent past through Pakistan maritime forces' ships and other vessels operating in the region.

As regard to extra-regional constructs, the CTF-150 and CTF-151 are two naval task forces operating in the Indian Ocean region. CTF-150 is part of the US-led Combined Maritime Forces and is based in Bahrain. CTF-151 is a multinational task force established by the Combined Maritime Forces to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast





of Somalia. Both of these task forces have substantial number of foreign ships, which may not be entirely familiar with the region and regional sensitivities. While both task forces play an important role in ensuring the security of the Indian Ocean, they also highlight the dependence on extra-regional forces in addressing security challenges in the region.

A framework like AMAN can help reduce the dependence on extra-regional forces in addressing security challenges in the Indian Ocean. The exercise provides a platform for regional littorals to work together and develop a common understanding and approach to maritime security issues. By fostering a culture of cooperation and collaboration, a framework like AMAN can help build the capacity of regional littorals to effectively address security challenges in the region. AMAN is not suggestive of a 'military alliance' type architecture that we once had during the Cold War, but it asks for voluntarily participation based on regional interests, while working with extra-regional countries. It is attempting to reinvigorate the spirit of 'region-owned and region-led' approach that could best answer the myriad



issues that the Indian Ocean finds itself in.

AMAN exercise provides an important initiative for enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. The Indian Ocean is a vital region for global commerce and energy security, and ensuring its security is crucial for regional stability and global peace. A region-centric maritime framework, based on cooperation,

collaboration, and information sharing among participating countries, is crucial for addressing the security challenges in the region. By fostering a culture of cooperation and collaboration, a framework like AMAN can help build the capacity of regional littorals to effectively address security challenges in the region and reduce dependence on extra-regional forces.





PM Shehbaz lauds historic “loss and damage fund” as “first pivotal step” to climate justice

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

While welcoming the establishment of damage and loss fund to compensate the losses of poor countries affected by climate change in the COP 27 conference, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stated that it is first step towards environmental justice.

The PM's Office in a statement said prime minister described it great news for the poor countries suffering from climate catastrophe.

He added that the COP -27' has written a new history following an importance role played by the world leaders including the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The establishment of the 'damage and Loss' fund is a practical step towards climate justice because through the fund, financial assistance would be provided to countries suffering from floods and other climatic related losses.

The prime minister said it would help rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood victims in Pakistan. Unlike Paris accord and green marshal plan, COP-27 has taken a practical step thereby making a history.

The prime minister, speaking at the COP27 summit, said: "In Pakistan, more than 30 million people have been severely affected; floods caused widespread destruction due to unusual rains; 8-thousand-km-long roads, 3-thousand-km-long railway tracks were affected."

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan has suffered losses worth \$30 billion despite its carbon emissions being one of the lowest in the world.

PM Shehbaz said the world has time and again discussed climate change, but no substantial results have come out of those discussions.

He noted that in Pakistan, wheat, edible oil,



and other goods have to be imported now after the floods destroyed agricultural crops. "On the one hand there's such a huge disaster and lack of resources and on the other hand import costs are major challenges."

The prime minister said Pakistan requires billions of dollars for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people and called upon the international community to aid the country.



During his visit, the PM attended the “Middle East Green Initiative Summit” hosted by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Muhammad bin Salman and participated in a high-level breakfast event on “Scaling up action and support on losses and damages-the Global Shield Against Climate Risks” which was co-hosted by the Chancellor of Germany and President of Ghana.

The prime minister, at the summit, called for establishing a dedicated financing facility to address climate-induced ‘loss and damage’ and welcomed the agreement to formally discuss funding arrangements for loss and damage under the COP27 Agenda.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif became the center of attention for the global climate change conference in Egypt, flood in Pakistan and efforts to help the victims. World leaders described the Prime Minister's continued presence in the flood-affected areas as an extraordinary gesture.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif met with important world leaders at the Sharm El-Sheikh International Congress Center on the occasion of the COP 27 summit.

President of Iraq Abdul Latif Rashid, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Indonesia Joko Widodo met the Prime Minister separately.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also met with Prime Minister of Lebanon Najib Makati.

The Prime Minister thanked the Indonesia President for prompt delivery of edible oil to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's conveyed message of good wishes to the government and people of Indonesia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif discussed the devastating effects of climate change with the President of Tajikistan.

Foreign leaders expressed their grief over the destruction and loss of lives caused by floods in Pakistan

The whole world is affected by climate change, collective efforts are necessary: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said while talking to the world leaders.

The Prime Minister thanked the international community for helping flood victims: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the world leaders also discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met on the sidelines of the COP 27 summit in Egypt.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the



UAE leadership and people for their generous assistance to the flood victims.

The Prime Minister termed the commitment of COP 27 as a good omen to combat the effects of climate change. Dealing with the effects of climate change is not for developing countries alone, he said. The international community must come together to create a common charter for the survival of the planet, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister welcomed the commitment of the international community, especially the Islamic world, to the goals and objectives of the COP 27 conference.

The two leaders agreed to work together for common goals of mutual interest.

Earlier, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with the UN Secretary-General on the sidelines of the COP-27 Summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Appreciating the Secretary-General for his solidarity with, and call for massive support to Pakistan in the wake of the devastating floods in the country, the Prime Minister reiterated that the unprecedented flood disaster in Pakistan was a clear manifestation of the challenge posed by climate change.

The Prime Minister also endorsed the Secretary-General's call for climate justice and climate





solidarity.

The Prime Minister highlighted that according to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the total estimated damage caused by the floods was over \$32 billion i.e. around 10% of Pakistan's GDP.

The enormous task of rehabilitation and reconstruction would require substantial international support for Pakistan to build back greener, based on the model of sustainable development.

Referring to the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution, last month, expressing solidarity with Pakistan, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan was looking forward to convening an international

'pledging conference' bringing together all development partners. The Prime Minister also expressed appreciation for creation of a UN inter agency team, led by the Deputy Secretary General, to help Pakistan prepare a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction Plan to be presented to the Conference.

With reference to COP-27, the Prime Minister stated that Climate Conference was a timely opportunity for the international community to catalyse concerted international action to mitigate the impact of climate change, and

promote climate justice, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The Prime Minister emphasized that addressing "loss and damage" would be a key "deliverable" at COP-27. At the request of Pakistan — in its capacity as the Chair of the G77 and China — the COP-27 has agreed, by consensus, to proposed inclusion of an agenda item on loss and damage finance.

The bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and the Secretary-General was followed by a joint press stake-out at the "Pakistan Pavilion".

At the summit — alongside Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre — the premier co-chaired a high-level roundtable discussion on "Climate Change and the sustainability of vulnerable communities".

World leaders, policymakers and delegates from nearly 200 countries were in Egypt at the COP27 UN climate summit, which delegates kicked off with a deal to discuss compensating poor nations for mounting damage linked to global warming.

An often fraught UN climate summit wrapped up with a sweeping agreement on how to tackle global warming and a "historic" deal to create a special fund to cover the damages suffered by

vulnerable nations.

Following the agreement on the establishment of the fund, Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman said: "It has been a long 30-year journey from demand to the formation of the Loss & Damage Fund for 134 countries" and called it an important first step in reaffirming the core principles of climate justice.

"This is not about accepting charity," she said. "This is a down payment on investment in our futures, and in climate justice."

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the UN climate talks had "taken an important step towards justice" with the loss and damage fund.

"Clearly, this won't be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust. The voices of those on the frontline of the climate crisis must be heard," he said in a recorded message.

A final COP27 statement covering the broad array of the world's efforts to grapple with a warming planet held the line on the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

It also included language on renewable energy for the first time, while reiterating previous calls to accelerate "efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies".





PM Shehbaz seeks to quintuple trade with Türkiye in 3 years

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif exhorted Türkiye business community to do everything it can to enhance the meager trade of \$1 billion to \$5 billion in three years as per an agreement signed with the Türkiye government.

Addressing a meeting of the Pakistan-Türkiye Business Council in Istanbul, PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan currently has a meager trade volume of \$1 billion. He added that they had signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance this trade volume to \$5 billion in the next three years. "It is not a big task at all," he said, adding, "Let us resolve that we will do everything to achieve this target in three years, rather double it."

He added that beautiful summaries and feasibilities made all would be of no consequence at all unless it is converted into action through hard work and untiring efforts.

He recalled having broad talks with Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on expanding and deepening ties between the two nations. In the launch of the third MILGEM Corvette Class ship, PNS Khaibar on Friday, Shehbaz said that this was an opportunity to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries.

Later in a tweet, the prime minister said in addition to reviewing the whole spectrum of bilateral relations, President Erdogan and he



discussed ways and means to achieve the target of increasing trade volume to 5-billion dollars in 3-years.

He wrote on his tweet handle: "we vowed to ensure effective implementation of Trade in Goods Agreement in this regard."

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with management of Zorlu in Istanbul on Saturday. CEO of Zorlu Holding Ömer Yüngül, CEO of Zorlu Energy, Ibrahim Sinan Ak and Director Overseas Projects, Evren Evcit

participated in the meeting.

The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also held separate meetings with President Albayrak Group, Ahmet Albayrak and President DEIK and CEO of Pak Group, Nail Olpak in Istanbul.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked ECO Trade & Development Bank for a loan of Euro 150 million on soft terms to the Government of Pakistan. The loan will contribute to flood relief efforts, as well as be used as a financial support for the import of fuel.



Rice import from Pakistan; outcome of meetings with PM Shehbaz: Azerbaijan President

By Saeed Yousafzai

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev has said that the decision to import rice from Pakistan with tax exemption of five years was the outcome of his meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held in the last couple of months.

Addressing at an international conference "Along the Middle Corridor: Geopolitics, Security and the Economy" held at ADA University, Baku, the other day, the president said during these meetings, they discussed the agenda of their bilateral relations.

The president of Azerbaijan was responding to questions raised by Executive Director of Center for Global and Strategic Studies of Pakistan Khalid Taimur Akram, as a participant.

The president said he discussed with Pakistan's Prime Minister, the prospects of further intensifying the bilateral economic and trade cooperation and the decision over special regulations for rice from Pakistan, was a reflection of that.

He said they had decided to take this step in

order to stimulate the growth of mutual trade between the two countries. He had discussed with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif what kind

We are very grateful to Pakistan for continuous support which the country demonstrates with respect to Azerbaijan-Armenia relations: President Aliyev

of goods they could provide to each other, he added. "Why should we buy rice from some

other place if we have high quality rice in the brotherly country. So, that decision was clearly based on our brotherly relations," the Azeri media quoted the president as saying.

Commenting further, the Azerbaijan president said that his country enjoyed excellent relations with Pakistan.

President Aliyev further said, "We are very grateful to Pakistan for continuous support which the country demonstrates with respect to Azerbaijan-Armenia relations.

During the times of occupation, during the war, and after liberation of our territories, Pakistan was always with us. And this political and moral support is highly appreciated by the people of Azerbaijan."

He said that he knew that the Gwadar Port of Pakistan was transforming into a big international hub.

And to connect it with their infrastructure was not a difficult thing, as they had to properly address the issue of tariffs, legal framework, coordination on regulation and to have a teamwork.



International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan held in Geneva Donors pledge over \$10.5bn for Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations, the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan took place in Geneva, in the backdrop of the devastating floods in 2022.

The conference brought together the international community to reaffirm solidarity with Pakistan, to review the recovery needs of the affected population, and to identify support required to reconstruct and rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure in a resilient manner.

Since June 2022, a combination of heavy rains and riverine, urban, and flash flooding has led to an unprecedented natural disaster in Pakistan. Floods have affected 33 million people, with more than 1,730 lives lost as well as 2 million housing units impacted, and several thousands of schools and hospitals damaged or destroyed. Estimates suggest that the national poverty rate may increase, pushing an additional 9.1 million people below the poverty line. Existing health and food insecurities are exacerbated by the disaster, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable.

The Government of Pakistan led a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which was prepared with the support of a Core Group of partners comprising the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, United Nations Agencies, and the World Bank Group. The PDNA estimates recovery needs at over USD 16 billion. Housing, agriculture and livestock, as well as transport and communication sectors were most impacted. Sindh was the province worst-affected by the disaster, followed by Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab. Based on the PDNA, the Core Group has supported the Government of Pakistan in developing a Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation





and Reconstruction Framework (4RF). The 4RF provides an overarching framework for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring Pakistan's resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The conference provided an opportunity to present the 4RF, secure international support, and forge long-term partnerships for building Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation.

Announcements

During the conference, delegations recalled their assistance to the immediate relief efforts and affirmed their support to the people of Pakistan for a resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Delegations expressed their solidarity and announced commitments of financial support to the realization of the objectives and priority areas outlined in the 4RF, as well as to ongoing humanitarian efforts. Taken as a whole these commitments totaled more than USD 9 billion, from both bilateral and multilateral partners. Further announcements for in-kind support were made by a number of delegations.

Action Plan

The conference marked the beginning of a structured process of support for Pakistan's recovery, aligning humanitarian relief, early recovery with broader long-term sustainable development in a resilient manner.

The conference identified the principles / action plan for Pakistan's resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The structured process of support for Pakistan's resilient recovery will be based on the following elements:

a. Developing and agreeing detailed plans for specific recovery interventions. Based



on the PDNA, and following priorities and implementation arrangements outlined in the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF), concrete recovery interventions will be designed and finalized. This will include interventions across the four strategic recovery objectives: SRO1: Enhance governance and the capacities of the state institutions to restore lives and livelihoods

Delegations expressed their solidarity and announced commitments of financial support to the realization of the objectives and priority areas

of the affected people, especially the most vulnerable; SRO2: Restore livelihoods and economic opportunities; SRO3: Ensure social inclusion and participation; SRO4: Restore and improve basic services and physical infrastructure in a resilient and sustainable manner.

b. Working from the immediate to long-term. The recovery process will range from immediate to long-term recovery needs. As the country transitions into long-term reconstruction, priorities should include financing the most immediate and time critical components of the 4RF, including urgent social expenditures aimed at preventing health crisis, mitigating the impact of winter as well as the rains in the next monsoon season and restoring livelihoods.

c. Long term Resilience Framework. Beyond the recovery needs identified by the PDNA



and 4RF, a long-term Resilience Framework is needed, which will guide building resilience and Pakistan's capacity to withstand future shocks.

d. Promoting inclusiveness. The recovery process is rooted in an inclusive whole-of-Pakistan approach, recognizing the role of national and provincial stakeholders, supporting all segments of the society.

e. Developing a financing strategy. A credible and detailed financing plan, which includes fostering public-private partnerships will be developed.

f. Project Preparation. A Facility will be established, or the UNDP supported Project Preparation Facility already established within Pakistan's Ministry of Finance will be reinforced, with a dedicated fund to finance the professional development by qualified consultants of viable projects, selected from the 4RF framework, for official, private and public-private financing and/or investment.

g. Monitoring and Evaluation. Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to ensure transparency in funding allocation and spending combined with public communications on recovery progress.

h. Establishing an International Partners Support Group. An "International Partners' Support Group to Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction" will be established under the leadership of the Government. The Group will assist Pakistan develop concrete plans and projects and help secure financial and other commitments of support for the implementation of these plans and projects over the coming years.

i. Other Support. Pakistan welcomes any other support from other partners based on their existing international aid/support frameworks or other arrangements or protocols.



UAE, Pakistani leaders discuss bilateral relations

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrives in Pakistan on private visit



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, arrived in Pakistan's northeastern city of Rahim Yar Khan on a private visit on Wednesday, January 25.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the UAE's president at Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Airport, said a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

"During their meeting at the airport, both the leaders expressed their resolve to further enhance brotherly relations between the two countries," the statement added.

Recalling his recent tour of the oil-rich Gulf state, Sharif emphasized that both countries would work on the understandings reached between the two leaders in various fields during his visit.

Al Nahyan, for his part, said that the "brotherly" relations between the two countries went back many decades and his father, who had immense love for Pakistan and its people, laid the foundation of their bilateral ties.

He further stated that he considered Pakistan as his second home and assured Sharif that the UAE would always stand by Pakistan, the statement concluded.

Earlier on January 12, 2023, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif was accompanied by a high-level delegation including ministers, businessmen and senior government officials. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed welcomed Sharif to





Abu Dhabi and wished progress and prosperity for Pakistan. He praised the historical relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the UAE.

The two leaders discussed the fraternal relations existing between Pakistan and the UAE; and explored ways and means to further strengthen these ties, especially in the fields of trade, investment and energy.

The two leaders also had an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Both sides agreed to deepen the investment cooperation, stimulate partnerships and enable investment integration opportunities between the two countries.

They also expressed satisfaction over the pace of steady progress in bilateral relations. They agreed on the importance of enhanced bilateral exchanges and regular dialogue at all levels to further solidify and provide momentum to the relationship.



Pakistan and Russia “finalised consultations” to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interests



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

A delegation led by Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here wherein the two sides discussed the supply of oil and gas from Russia to Pakistan on a long term basis.

During the meeting, both the sides agreed on the importance of energy sector for the development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

The two sides also reviewed the matters related to gas pipelines, a PM Office statement said.

Welcoming the delegation the prime minister highlighted the importance Pakistan attached to its relations with the Russian Federation.

He recalled his meeting with President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand in September 2022 and said that the meeting had reached important decisions to further strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations.

He also noted with satisfaction the keen desire on both the sides to upgrade the bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and economic matters.

The Russian energy minister reciprocated the prime minister's sentiments and delivered a special message of Russian President Vladimir Putin to the prime minister.

In his message, President Putin referring to Pakistan as Russia's important partner in South Asia and the Islamic World reiterated Russia's strong interest to deepen the bilateral relationship. The prime minister provided guidance for the work of 8th Round of Pakistan-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission meeting scheduled to be held in Islamabad on January 20, 2023.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for State for



Petroleum Musadik Malik and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi were also present in the meeting.

Eighth session of the Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission held in Islamabad, which was co-chaired by Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Russia's Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov.

According to Reuters Pakistan will pay for energy purchases from Russia — when they start in late March — in “currencies of friendly countries”, a top Russian energy ministry official said on Friday during a press briefing.

Shulginov also said that the two countries have agreed on late March as the timeline for crude oil export to Pakistan.

In a joint statement released, both countries agreed the “oil and gas trade transaction will be structured in a way it has [a] mutual economic benefit for both countries”, adding that the process would be completed within March 2023.

The countries signed an agreement on custom matters, a protocol on the exchange of

documents and data on the customs value of goods transported between the countries, and a working agreement on aeronautical products.

The statement further said, “Both sides have agreed to work on a ‘Comprehensive Plan for Energy Cooperation’, which would form the foundation for future work and is to be finalized in 2023.”

Regarding the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project (PSGPP), both sides agreed to consider it in terms of a “comprehensive infrastructure, which is economically viable for sustainable gas infrastructure development ensuring affordable gas supplies”.

The joint statement stated both countries discussed “innovative ways of doing business, including through barter” and agreed to explore the option further.

They also agreed to share information towards developing and improving rail and road infrastructure while nominating focal persons from both sides to discuss issues concerning connectivity and logistics in Central and South Asia.

Serena Hotels & Margalla Greens host Invitational Golf Tournament 2023

Serena Hotels hosted its annual Invitational Golf Tournament in collaboration with Margalla Greens Golf Club, under the Sports Diplomacy Initiative, on the 4th of February 2023. The categories included Diplomatic, Government & Armed Forces, Corporate and Women.

The weather was ideal for the golfers who thoroughly enjoyed the game under sunny weather. The event started with a lavish breakfast followed by the tee off. The players displayed amazing skill and technique in all categories, a total of 120 golfers participated, including 12 seasoned women golfers.



Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, graced the occasion as the guest of honor and also participated in the tournament along with the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi NI(M) S Bt prominent members of the community including ambassadors, the business sector, honorable members of the armed forces, bureaucrats and corporate sector.

The golfers competed on the golf course under four different categories. Serena Hotels honored the winners of the competition with

prizes that included stays in the Heritage properties and other Serena Hotels properties across Pakistan.

The President Dr. Arif Alvi lauded Serena Hotels management, on organizing the successful tournament and their continuous effort in promoting tourism and a softer image of Pakistan via engaging national and international communities.

The event culminated with a glorious prize distribution ceremony followed by an exquisite spread for guests and participants.

Serena Hotels continues flood relief effort, by joining hands with NDMA

Serena Hotels strongly believes in helping vulnerable communities through its various initiatives under the ambit of its corporate social responsibility; known as Jazba-e-khidmat.

Monsoon 2022 brought an unprecedented onslaught of floods known as Super flood that had a catastrophic impact on millions, submerging the 1/3rd of Pakistan.

The floods affected all four provinces and approximately 15% of its population. At the beginning of 2023, an estimated 5 million people remained exposed to or living close to flooded areas. In the Sindh Province, an

estimated 89,000 people remain displaced with limited access to food sources and shelter.

Not all floodwaters have receded, combined with the onset of severe winter cold that brought a new set of problems for the people living in the flood affected areas. Hence, the importance of meeting critical needs while investing in recovery to prevent additional disaster impacts and help people rebuild their lives is imperative and the need of the hour.

Funds were raised with the help of the guests and associates along with different diplomatic missions, where fundraising galas were hosted with the Czech, Turkish, Italian, and Thai

Embassies. Serena Hotels matched the amount raised with their monetary contribution to double the donated funds.

With instrumental efforts of Quetta, Swat and Peshawar Serena Hotels, and the regional team; ration bags and tents were dispersed to the affectees of the said cities and their adjoining areas.

Serena Hotels collected a substantial amount which was handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority for aid to the affectees in a ceremony held on 26th of January, so that they could be utilised for rehabilitation of the affectees.



Liberal International Order: Can It Be Saved in Today's Non-Hegemonic World?



By VLADIMIR MAKEI
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

It is commonly known that the Liberal International Order (LIO) emerged after World War II and reached its pinnacle in the 1990s when its key proponent—the United States—enjoyed a hegemonic position on the global scene. However, the LIO's true roots should be traced to much earlier times, to the late 18th century, when two distinct tracks, economic and political, emerged in European politics. Observers tend to overlook the LIO's dual nature formed by these two tracks, thereby missing its key inherent problem. While the LIO's economic track may be acceptable to all, its political track, embodied in the Democratic Peace concept, serves only to polarize the world. Importantly, the current discourse on the LIO is taking place at a post-hegemonic time. So, those who keep insisting on the possibility of saving the LIO, which was relevant for a short liberal hegemonic era, miss the point that the current diverse world requires a new kind of international order. The past decade has seen a gradually increasing interest in the topic of the so-called Liberal International Order, especially in the Western academic community. The primary driver behind this general trend appears to be China's ineluctable rise and the United States' increasingly evident decline. Many pundits argue that China's ascendance poses a long-term existential threat to the LIO, which was built after World War II on the values and interests of the United States—the dominant power of that time. According to this line of argument, as China becomes a dominant power on the world stage it is destined to replace the liberal order with an international order that would better fit its

domestic political and economic system. So, an "authoritarian" international order is in the making. Consequently, the Western academia has generally been rather pessimistic about the LIO's prospects.

The debate on the LIO became particularly poignant in 2016-2017 against the background of Donald Trump's election as President of the United States, Britain's Brexit from the European Union, the mass migration to Europe from the Middle East, and the rising populism and right-wing nationalism in some Western European countries. Very indicative of this trend was the title of the January-February 2017 issue of *Foreign Affairs*—"Out of Order: The Future of the International System," which contained very enlightening pieces by acclaimed Western experts.

Also, a most interesting intellectual debate on the LIO's future took place between two renowned Western political pundits—Niall Ferguson of Britain and Fareed Zakaria of the United States (*The Bridgehead*, 2017). For nearly two hours, they contested in a TV program, trying to answer the question: "Is the Liberal International Order Over?", with Ferguson arguing in favor of its close end and Zakaria against it. Most of the audience voted in support of Ferguson's pessimistic view about the LIO's future. The latest interest in the LIO emerged in the context of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine launched on February 24, 2022. Once again, the debate appeared to be stronger in the Western media. The general narrative by the West is that Russia's action in Ukraine has actually dealt a mortal blow to the LIO that has already been damaged by China's economic rise and its increasingly assertive foreign policy, as well as by some persistent transnational challenges, such as climate change, public health, and many others. According to this line of thought, there is no hope for reviving the LIO.

Non-Western policymakers and political scientists have also been involved in the debate on the LIO for nearly a decade now, although seemingly on a smaller scale. For example, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke his mind on the issue in an interview with *The Financial Times* in June 2019, arguing that the liberal idea had outlived its purpose, and that the LIO had become obsolete as it had come into conflict with the interests of the overwhelming majority of people [in the world] (*Financial Times*, 2019). Also, Russia in *Global Affairs* has contributed to the debate on a regular basis. The debate on the LIO has pitted the

so-called "democracies" against "autocracies" insofar as the LIO is associated with the former while the threat to it purportedly comes from the latter. One would never find universally agreed definitions for these terms. Nonetheless, we all well understand what they stand for. In broad strokes, under 'democracy' we understand a form of governance in which power is decentralized and shared more or less equally among its various branches, whereas 'autocracy' is a form of governance in which power is centralized and where the role of the executive is rather pronounced. For instance, an autocrat in power would never concur with United States President Ronald Reagan's famous saying, "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem" (Reagan, 1981). Any "autocrat" would surely vouch for the opposite.

This article is an attempt to make a humble contribution to the debate on the LIO from the perspective of an "autocratic" state—Belarus, as it has been assigned to this category by the West and as the author of this article happens to be Belarusian Foreign Minister. In this attempt I certainly do not claim to present the view of all "autocracies"; rather I offer my own vision based on the long experience of service as a senior public official in an "autocratic" country. Importantly, I do not attach any pejorative meaning to the terms 'democracy' and 'autocracy'; they are used in this paper for convenience, simply to follow their wide use in foreign policy discourse. *Emergence, Substance, Challenges*

What is an international order and why is the current order considered to be liberal?

An international order may generally be viewed as a dominant pattern of engagement in global politics on the part of its actors. As has been the case throughout history, the key role in establishing an international order has been played by a leading or a hegemonic country. This country invariably tries to establish certain rules of behavior on the international stage that others willingly or unwillingly agree to follow. So, an international order is rather an informal mechanism that may be viewed as playing the role of a world government in the actual absence of such a government. When did the current LIO emerge? The conventional wisdom holds that this order incrementally came into life after World War II, as the United States, supported by other Western countries, sponsored a set of institutions, rules, and norms designed to avoid the repetition of mistakes of the 1930s and promote instead peace, prosperity, and

democracy. So, the LIO came eventually to be predicated on such international organizations as the United Nations; international financial institutions like the IMF, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization; security alliances like NATO; informal groupings like the G7 and the G20; multiple international treaties and conventions; and many other formal and informal arrangements and instruments. Taken together, these structures influence almost every aspect of life in the world.

Thus, the LIO has come to be based on the following key elements: free trade, free movement of capital, democratic form of governance predicated on the separation and balance of various branches of power, commitment to human rights, including various individual civil and political rights, and the right of ownership. Incidentally, those proponents called themselves “democracies” apparently with a view to convincing their own people that the latter had a real opportunity to elect authorities and to govern through elected representatives.

The LIO emerged in the context of the Cold War. Therefore, it was naturally challenged by the Soviet Union and its allies. Indeed, the Soviet bloc, with its alternative versions of political and economic internal organization, represented a kind of temporary alternative to the Western-led order. However, the collapse of the bloc by the early 1990s and the embrace by its former members of “liberal” values prompted one very famous political analyst to proclaim the “end of history.” According to his logic, with the victory of liberalism over communism there could no longer be an alternative to the LIO and, consequently, history as we had known it, that is, the history of wars, rivalry, and confrontation, was at last over.

Another ideological challenge to the LIO, although short-lived, came from developing nations amid the Cold War, in the early 1970s. The decolonization of the 1960s brought onto the world stage many new developing nations, which found themselves at a disadvantage in the LIO, and in particular, in free trade with Western developed states.

So, the developing countries came up with a collective challenge. Their initiative, called the New International Economic Order, was formalized in the final document of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in 1973, and adopted as a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly under the same title in 1974. The program provided for measures aimed at revising existing international economic relations in ways that would be more advantageous to the Third World. However, the implementation of the initiative depended on the goodwill of the West, which rejected it.

Thus, by the 1990s the LIO had apparently weathered all temporary challenges and

emerged as strong and resilient as it could be. But what went wrong just a few decades later (a fleeting moment from the historical perspective, indeed)? What made the global discourse about the LIO turn from bright optimism into sour pessimism? To answer these questions, it seems reasonable to take a closer look at the LIO per se and see whether it contains some inherent flaws that predetermined its inevitable failure.

Hallmark and Overriding Principle

When political scientists say that the LIO was born after 1945, they are both right and wrong. They are right in identifying that date as the start of practical work on erecting structures associated with the LIO. They are wrong in not looking further into the past for events and developments that made possible the LIO's emergence in the mid-20th century.

In his book *World Order* (2014) former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger contends that no truly global “world order” has ever existed and what passes for order in our own time was devised in Western Europe nearly four centuries ago. So, according to Kissinger, the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, which relied on a system of independent states refraining from interference in each other's domestic affairs and checking each other's ambitions through a general balance of power, became the hallmark of a new system of international order (Kissinger, 2014, p. 3).

Another crucial insight into the origin of the LIO was provided by British critical historian Eric Hobsbawm in his seminal book *The Age of Revolution* (1962), which was the first in a trilogy of his books about the “long 19th century.” Eric Hobsbawm came up with the concept of Dual Revolution by which he meant the British Industrial Revolution that occurred at the end of the 18th century and the French Revolution of 1789.

According to Hobsbawm, the Industrial Revolution took off around 1780 and lasted twenty years, with the revolutionary pace of change in economic development becoming a norm since then. The French Revolution, inspired by the ideals of Enlightenment philosophy, set in motion the spread of such ideas as democracy, nationalism, and liberalism. In fact, liberalism became a dominant movement in the post-French Revolution period. Liberals believed in the freedom of the press, the freedom of speech, civil rights, fair elections, the freedom of religion, and private property. So, Hobsbawm identified the Industrial Revolution as an economic revolution, whereas the French Revolution was pinned as a political revolution. Taken together, they constitute the “Dual Revolution.” It is not hard to see that the key elements of today's LIO—liberalism, free trade, and democracy—were produced by the Dual Revolution at the turn of the 18th and the 19th

centuries. So, if the 1648 Peace of Westphalia was the LIO's hallmark, the Dual Revolution can certainly be viewed as its overriding principle and its precursor.

The Dual Revolution has eventually grown into the LIO. But the former's path towards the latter's destination has not been even and easy. While the economic track of the Dual Revolution was welcomed by the then leading states' elites, its political track came under assault from the conservatism associated with the Holy Alliance forged in 1815 by Austria, Prussia, and Russia in order to fight the ideas of liberalism, nationalism, and democracy in the European continent.

On the political track, the Dual Revolution had a chance to succeed only in the aftermath of World War I, when U.S. President Woodrow Wilson tried to realize his promise “to make the world safe for democracy,” which he had made to justify America's entry into the war. But the effort miscarried, not least because Wilson failed to enlist support for his postwar global “democratic” agenda from his own country.

On the economic track, the Dual Revolution's track record for much of the time until some decades ago was rather mixed. On the one hand, the industrial revolution certainly facilitated human progress because due to free trade and an accelerated pace of domestic economic development it helped humanity break out of the so-called Malthusian trap. On the other hand, it produced two negative developments. Internationally, it generated a free trade regime that favored industrial nations over backward societies, while domestically it caused great social discontent as the rich tried to take as much as possible from the poor in order to invest into further economic expansion. It is fair to say that the Communist ideology emerged in Europe exactly in response to the latter trend.

It is puzzling why political experts scrutinizing the LIO issue fail to see this distinct dual nature, especially as the problem with the LIO, as will be shown below, lies precisely in its dual nature.

Evolution

As was pointed out above, in the 20th century, the LIO was able to withstand two ideological challenges posed by the socialist camp and the Third World, respectively. Yet the LIO did not remain intact, it has undergone its own evolution. One major development occurred on its economic front and another one took place on its political track. Both transformed the LIO in ways that made it simultaneously more “humane” and more “aggressive.” The major development that began in the 1970s on the economic front was of a positive nature as it made the LIO more “humane.” This development was the so-called “outsourcing”—transfer of production from the West to the developing world. The economic logic here

is obvious: by “moving” their production abroad transnational corporations (TNCs) reduce production costs due to cheaper labor in the developing world and increase their profits, whereas foreign direct investment in the receiving developing countries empowers them to build export-oriented economies and thus make a leap in their own development. China stands here as the biggest success story. Indeed, due to its economic openness and embrace of free trade, China has been able to draw in foreign direct investment and through its export-led growth achieved unprecedented economic development which has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and made the country second largest economy in the world. Experts concur in their assessments that China will soon regain the title of the world’s largest economy, which it boasted for centuries before the Industrial Revolution. Many other developing nations, especially in East Asia, follow in China’s footsteps.

This positive development does not mean that the LIO has become totally “humane” in economic terms. There remains a sizeable “non-integrated gap” for least developed countries that are “disconnected” from globalization (Barnett and Gaffney, 2003). For various reasons, such countries still greatly rely on official development assistance and other forms of international aid. So, how do “autocracies” fare in this changed global economic environment? It can be reasonably argued that they generally benefit from the LIO’s economic arm. Indeed, this is borne out by the fact that they all want the West to remove its economic sanctions if such are imposed against “autocracies,” because sanctions limit the opportunities for benefits resulting from free trade and free movement of capital. Moreover, all “autocracies” benefit from access to consumer markets in the countries of “democracy” and from the transfer of technology from “democracies,” which is largely done by Western-based TNCs in the process of outsourcing. Furthermore, all “autocracies” seek membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a bid to take full advantage of free trade. So, in general, “autocracies” appear to be strongly integrated in the LIO’s economic processes and structures and seek even greater integration.

These facts prompt the conclusion that “autocracies” have no serious problems with the LIO on the economic track, that is, with free trade and free movement of capital. Therefore, at present “autocracies” do not appear to be interested in changing the “economic” status quo by creating a new economic order; at least unity on such an initiative among them would be unlikely now. Yet “autocracies” have one “reservation” in this economic realm. Such state of affairs in the economy is acceptable for “autocracies” at the

international level, provided that domestically they are free to pursue their own economic policies under a greater governmental control. This phenomenon, called “state-led capitalism,” is successfully practiced in many “autocratic” countries. Indeed, “autocracies” have good reason to adopt such a stance since they well remember that the absence of such controls and subordination to the Western-led Washington Consensus precipitated a very acute financial and economic crisis in Southeast Asia in 1997-1998 and in Russia in 1998. However, “autocracies” do have a problem with the LIO on the political track as the West seeks to impose its specific political form of governance, that is, “democracy,” on the rest of the world. Why is this happening? This trend is most convincingly explained by the liberal school of international relations theories through the Democratic Peace concept.

The liberal theoretical school proceeds from the premise that it is states’ intentions rather than their capabilities that determine international relations. In other words, if some countries have good intentions towards other countries, there is no need for them to build their military capabilities and wage wars. But how to achieve a situation in which all countries would have only benign intentions towards each other? Obviously, it can be done by making them all alike. This belief gave rise to the theory of Democratic Peace—a view that “democracies” do not wage wars against each other, because “democratic” governments, in contrast to “autocratic” ones, are accountable to their populations and hence cannot harbor hostile intentions against other fellow democracies.

This concept is rooted in the idea of Immanuel Kant, who in his work *Perpetual Peace* (1797) argued that states with a republican form of government were more conducive to peace with each other than with other countries. Accordingly, the recipe for overcoming the constraints of international anarchy was to make all countries in the system similar in their domestic structure, that is, make them all republican. Realizing this objective would make the accumulation of power domestically and balancing internationally irrelevant and unnecessary in a world inhabited by like-minded countries. Thus, perpetual peace in the world would ultimately set in. At the time of Kant’s writing, the republican form of government was associated with social progress as opposed to “reactionary” monarchies, which allegedly held humanity’s progress back. As today the republican form of government prevails and embraces both “liberal” and “autocratic” states alike, the liberals have replaced the word “republican” in Kant’s theory with “democratic,” and thus come up with a modified guidance for policy action for Western policymakers. The most important point in the Democratic Peace theory is that “democracies do not wage wars

against fellow ‘democracies,’ but they are free to fight ‘despots,’ ‘tyrants’ and ‘autocrats.’” That is exactly how the theory explains the wars of revolutionary France against European monarchies in the late 18th century—as wars waged by a “republican” (“democratic”) country against “evil” powers. For much of the time since its emergence, Democratic Peace was contained by other global forces, for example, by European conservatism in the 19th century and by the Soviet Union in the 20th century. It had no chance to become a dominant global trend until the 1990s because there was no hegemonic “republican” or “democratic” state in the world that would stand firmly behind it.

“Hegemony” in this context is used in the sense elaborated by Italian political thinker Antonio Gramsci in the 1920-1930s: it does not mean the military or economic dominance of one country over others, but rather reflects the fact that all participants in the system willingly accept someone’s leadership, authority and associated power structures and regard them as established, natural and legitimate (see Cox, 2010). In the early 1990s, the U.S. became a hegemonic power. As such, it could have used its status and power more wisely to shape and strengthen the LIO in ways that would have benefited all participants in the system of international relations, whereby ensuring the LIO’s durability and sustainability.

Indeed, what was the enlargement of NATO driven by the United States if not the proof of the Democratic Peace theory’s viability? After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact there was no point in its continued existence. Yet, despite the absence of any threats, the alliance began to expand under various far-fetched pretexts, incorporating new “democracies” into its ranks and forcibly—in violation of international law—imposing this form of government on other countries in the world. What were the so-called “color revolutions” inspired and backed by the West with a view to establishing “democracy” in other countries, primarily in former Soviet republics, if not the practical implementation of the Democratic Peace theory? Furthermore, illegitimate unilateral coercive measures, taken consistently by the world’s “democracies” against “autocracies” in a bid to limit the latter’s benefits from the LIO’s economic component, is also part of their efforts to promote the Democratic Peace idea. Naturally, “autocracies” resist attempts to impose “Democratic Peace” on them for the simple reason that an internal form of government in a country cannot be imposed from the outside. The internal form of each and every state is a complex “historical construct”: its evolution was influenced by a set of ultimate and proximate factors like geography, religion, culture, and the history of relations with neighboring countries. These factors historically predetermine the nature

of either centralization or decentralization of power in each state and the extent to which the executive engages with other branches of power. "Autocracies," to their great credit, understand this complex historical process and do not seek to impose their centralized and "autocratic" ways of life on Western societies which, moving along the evolutionary path of internal development, have come to the decentralized form of government and the system of checks and balances in government. It is not surprising that the imposition of forms of government alien to a certain state leads to internal chaos and practically destroys this state while setting in motion an adverse "spill-over effect" throughout the region. Developments of this kind happened in the context of the so-called Arab Spring in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus, the LIO's political track serves to undermine and discredit the LIO itself, triggering ideas about creating a new global order.

A New Order?

One cannot but share the general pessimism about the LIO's prospects. Yet the cause of this pessimism has not been identified correctly in the ongoing global discourse. The problem with the LIO is not that some events like Brexit, Trump's election or Russia's military operation in Ukraine "undermine" the LIO. These are all transient events, they come and go. The problem with the LIO is rather structural. History shows that world orders (or rather regional orders if viewed in the historical perspective) thrived when they were underpinned by hegemonic states. The modern world has been in its hegemonic phase roughly from "the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 to the fall of Lehman Brothers in 2007," as the American economist Joseph Stiglitz put it (2010).

Indeed, it was an era of U.S. triumphalism, the "unipolar moment." This moment came to an end politically with the United States' imperial overstrain in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, whereas economically it was brought to a halt by the global economic and financial crisis sparked by "market fundamentalism" that reigned supreme in the United States of America. History shows that non-hegemonic periods were dominated by regional or, more rarely, ideological orders. Is regionalism (or ideology) an option for today's world? It is surely a very viable option. First and foremost, it is much easier to achieve effective cooperation at the regional level than at the global one because regions stand as more coherent political, economic and cultural units than a global polity. There are clearly some hegemons in the Gramscian sense within each region capable of shaping regional orders. Moreover, the political mainstreams in all regions appear to be supportive of such an evolution. By way of example, Russian President Vladimir Putin came some years ago with the idea of building

a Big Eurasian Partnership that seeks to bolster greater cooperation and integration of this part of the world. So, it is quite possible to develop a world order that would be represented and realized by means of regional orders related to each other through effective cooperation. The debate in the West, however, mostly speaks in favor of saving the current LIO. Very instructive in this respect was a piece entitled "Last Best Hope: The West's Final Chance to Build a Better World Order" that appeared recently in *Foreign Affairs* (Daadler and Lindsay, 2022).

Drawing on U.S. President Biden's speech in March 2022, in which he said that "the West now faces a battle between democracy and autocracy, between liberty and repression, between a rules-based order and one governed by brute force," the authors came up with idea of establishing a G12 in order to consolidate the West. They argue that the new group should not be a loose ad-hoc organization like the G7 but rather an effective mechanism in order "to foil Russian revanchism and compete with China." They see their idea as the last hope to save the LIO. What these authors suggest is not what they actually have in mind; in fact, they propose strengthening a regional Euro-Atlantic or, as it may alternatively be dubbed, an ideological "democratic" order. The remedy they prescribe—more of "democracy" for the world—would surely not succeed in saving the LIO as an international arrangement, which they have put as the objective. On the contrary, if realized, the idea would effectively drive the last nail in the LIO's coffin, because the West's consolidation would only force others to accelerate the pace of their own regional or ideological consolidation.

As a result, the existing divide between the "democratic" and the "autocratic" camps would only widen. The regional or ideological orders to emerge under this scenario would be involved more in rivalry than in cooperation with each other. The LIO as a whole phenomenon cannot be saved for the simple reason that it does not reflect the fact of the world's diversity. "Liberalism" and "democracy" have indeed been long-established governing practices in many countries. Yet they are not universally accepted forms of government everywhere, but just some among others. Notwithstanding, it is possible to save its useful components and to incorporate them into a new order. As has been shown in this article, the economic component of the LIO, while not perfect, has been broadly advantageous to the vast majority of countries in the world. Its key elements of free trade and free movement of capital still generally benefit most countries that embrace them. Is it possible to build a new truly global world order at all? Hypothetically, it is. Practically, the outcome cannot be preordained because such an order would have to be built in the absence of a global hegemon who could "steer" the process. Thus,

this effort would require all parties to work in agreement, which is an uphill task.

A starting point for reflecting on this possibility could be the position expressed by Henry Kissinger in his *World Order*: "[World] order must be cultivated, it cannot be imposed. This is particularly so in an age of instantaneous communication and revolutionary political flux. Any system of world order, to be sustainable, must be accepted as just, not only by leaders, but also by citizens." (Kissinger, 2014, p. 8). Indeed, a new world order must be cultivated. Are all countries in the world and their ordinary people ready today to build a new order by embracing this "cultivating" approach? It is very doubtful. For that to happen, a revolution should occur in the minds of the West's political mainstream. First and foremost, the "democratic" zealots in the West should ask themselves the following question: If the hegemon was not able to fully get its way even during the period of its nearly two-decades-long generally accepted global supremacy, how can it hope to succeed in getting its way now that the global conjuncture is much worse for the post-hegemon? If they answer honestly that it cannot and should not even hope to succeed, the next logical step would be to abandon the practices associated with the Democratic Peace theory. Indeed, no single country has ever had the power, leadership, resilience, faith, and dynamism to impose its will enduringly throughout the world. No one ever will, especially in the context of global non-hegemony. The world is a very diverse place; therefore an international order must reflect this diversity, if it is to be accepted by everyone.

With this in mind, I would like to propose one practical step, specifically, for the United Nations to draft a Charter for the World's Diversity in the 21st Century, whereby all member states in a concerted manner would be able to set out some key principles for governing international life in a non-hegemonic and very diverse world. Commitment to this idea would demonstrate that we all prefer to build a new international order on the basis of the existing realities rather than wishful thinking. It looks worth concluding this article with the words of Immanuel Kant, whose intellectual insight gave rise to the liberal Democratic Peace theory as a path towards perpetual peace, in the hope that his admirers in the West will also find inspiring his other truly instructive words: "Perpetual peace will eventually come to the world in one of two ways: by human insight or by conflicts and catastrophes of a magnitude that left humanity no other choice" (cited by Kissinger, 2011, p. 530). It is not late yet to demonstrate human insight. The article originally published at <https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/articles/liberal-international-order/>



Bilawal visit to Russia: Two countries agree to boost cooperation in diverse sectors

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held delegation level talks with Foreign Minister of Russia, Mr. Sergey Lavrov in Moscow. Foreign Minister is on his maiden visit to Moscow at the invitation of his Russian counterpart.

The talks covered the entire range of bilateral relations with a special focus on trade and economic relations, energy cooperation as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. Noting the multidimensional cooperation

between Pakistan and Russia, the two Foreign Ministers agreed to further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of trade, energy, education, culture, security and counter-terrorism. They also agreed on the importance of regular high-level exchanges for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the regional situation, especially in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari apprised

the Foreign Minister Lavrov on Pakistan's efforts for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. He briefed the Russian delegation on Pakistan's perspective on stability and security in South Asia and gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The two sides also reviewed cooperation within various multilateral institutions including United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Glimpse of the visits of FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to Washington, Switzerland and 26th meeting of ECO-COM in Tashkent







MESSAGE BY

VICE ADMIRAL MOHAN WIJEWICKRAMA

THE SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN

**ON THE
OCCASION OF**

***75th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF
SRI LANKA***

Nicknamed the pearl of the Indian Ocean, known for scenic natural landscape, wealth of biodiversity and rich cultural heritage, Sri Lanka celebrates its 75th anniversary of its independence on the 4th of February 1948, after being a British crown colony for over a century. Since then, Sri Lanka has enjoyed a stable democracy and steady economic growth. Sri Lanka was admitted to the United Nations in 1955, seven years after independence and is a member of number of multilateral organizations.

75th Independence Day is celebrated at a juncture when the nation is quietly making an economic recovery, after undergoing its worst political and economic setbacks since independence that was mostly attributed to the intolerable economic losses the country and the people experienced during the two years that Covid plagued the world.

The Independence Day of Sri Lanka is a great national event celebrated by Sri Lankans all over the country with parades and cultural pageants combined with the spirit of patriotism

and national pride. Independence Day holds much significance for the people of Sri Lanka as it reflects the history of great sacrifices made by Sri Lankans in the realisation of its freedom at various stages under the colonial rule and also to remember and pay tribute to all who made the supreme sacrifice to ensure the independence, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

Today, Sri Lanka boasts of being a modern industrial economy, famous as a much sought out tourist destination, owing to its natural splendour, in the form of tropical forests, inland lakes, picturesque beaches and mesmerizing scenery. Sri Lanka is known for its famous orthodox tea that is grown mainly in the mountainous terrain and for the brand of cricket that is famous in the subcontinent.

Sri Lankan President Excellency Rand Wickremasinghe has emphasized that the top most priority of his government is to ensure economic revival from the situation the country experienced in 2022. Sri Lanka has chosen a neutral foreign policy with its principle of

friendship towards all and enmity towards none.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have always been trusted-partners with brotherly relations having historical linkages dating back to the period of Gandharan civilization. Since achieving independence both Pakistan and Sri Lanka have extended cooperation to each other in different sectors and share similar perceptions in various international and regional fora. Both countries have maintained excellent social, political and defence relations whilst trade has seen a gradual increase. There had been frequent high-level visits by the leaders of both nations and the scheduled visit by Hon. Ms Hina Rabbani the state minister for Foreign Affairs in Pakistan, to participate at the forthcoming Independence Day Ceremonies in Colombo as an honoured guest, further complement our friendship.

I take this opportunity to wish the peoples of both countries a very prosperous, bright and a peaceful future.



Sri Lanka Tourism

to celebrate the

75th Independence Day

in Grandeur and Style

Sri Lanka is preparing to celebrate the milestone 75th Independence Day highlighting the unique attributes and natural wonders to visitors from across the world on the 4th of February 2023. The paradise island of Sri Lanka is recognized as a teardrop in the Indian Ocean, offering a myriad of authentic travel and holiday opportunities encompassing the island's diversity, cultural and natural resources. Sri Lanka's spectacular beaches have captured the attention of millions of travelers for decades, and remain one of the hotspots for holiday seekers to date. Sri Lanka offers everything which the modern

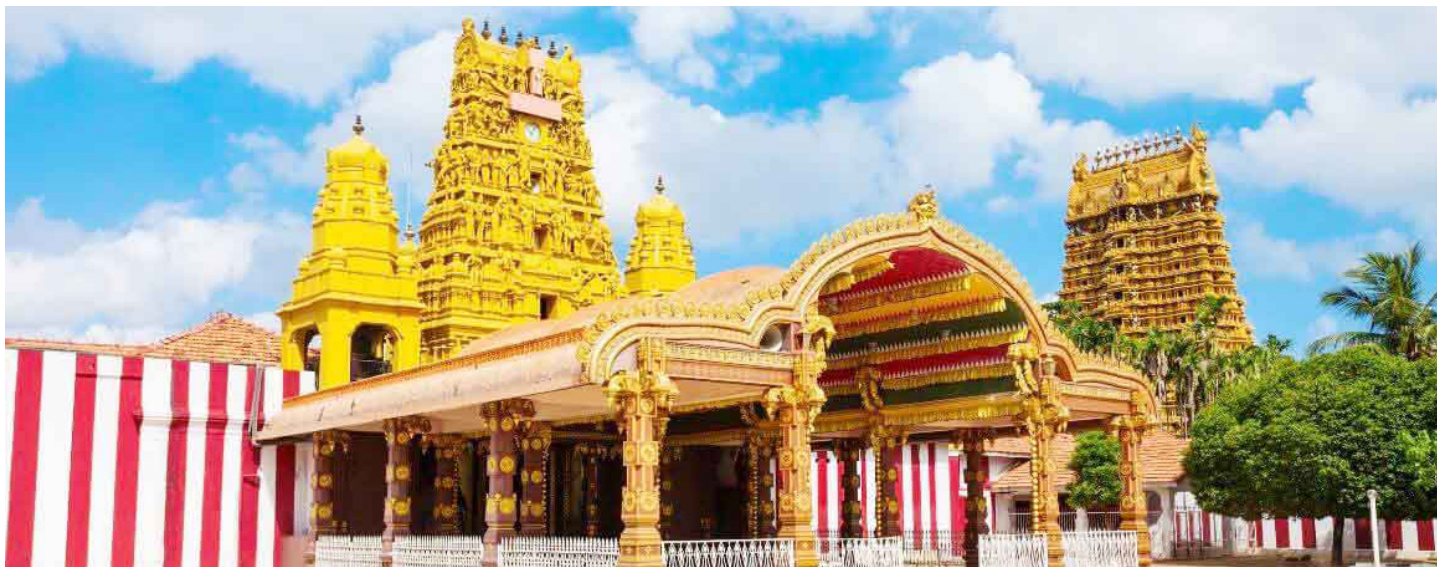
traveler needs to experience from golden beaches and basking in the sun to numerous picturesque locations. This is an island which is compact and houses some of the world more sought after natural resources, cultural wonders and heritage sites dating back to 2500 years. The destinations exotic wildlife coupled with adventurous side of life and a dash of spicy cuisine is sure to liven up the experience of any holiday seeker which is 'So Sri Lanka'. One can have all these experiences within one day, making it a 365-day destination, providing the best of experiences all year round. With easy accessibility thanks to the improved

infrastructure system, it is ideal for a round trip experience.

The four natural harbors give visitors the ability to host their event giving it in a super sophisticated touch as a cruise tourism destination.

Sri Lanka Tourism, as the apex body of the country, does a yeoman service to promote the destination globally and enhance the tourism offering which is also the third highest foreign exchange earner since its establishment in 1966. The administration has done everything in its capacity to bring Economic stability and revenue generation to the destination, in the



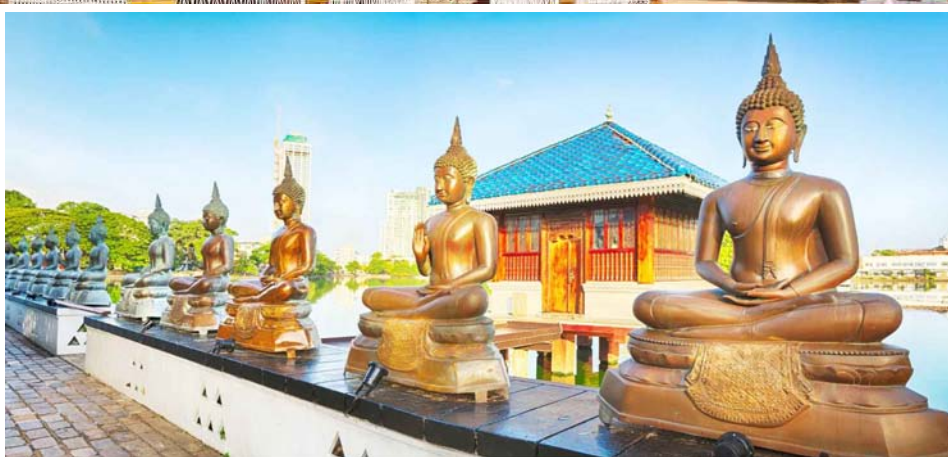


journey towards progress. As the National Tourism Organization in the country, it has contributed in many ways to promote Sri Lanka as one of the best tourist hotspots in the world, by conducting global campaigns, participating in overseas travel and trade fairs, hosting international journalists and initiating new projects to attract global travelers.

The past several decades have posed many challenges. Sri Lanka has gone through numerous social, cultural and political changes, and amidst the worst crisis situations; Sri Lanka Tourism has forged ahead with plans and promotions to ensure the industry is sustained. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka Tourism took the risk of getting its Tourism back to normalcy, changing the negative mindsets of global travelers, encouraging them to visit Sri Lanka and assuring visitors that Sri Lanka is safe and secure since May 2022. It had been a difficult journey but as a result of the relentless promotional efforts, Sri Lanka Tourism together with the industry stake holders have achieved its target of bringing the maximum number of tourists to Sri Lanka, reaching the 720,000 mark in 2022. Sri Lanka Tourism hopes to double these numbers this year (2023) and highlight Sri Lanka as one of the world's top tourist destinations. Gradually, Sri Lanka Tourism is enjoying the results of its hard work towards bringing back Tourism.

Sri Lanka went through a turbulent period during the second quarter of 2022, and with the fuel and gas shortages, Social unrest and the Economic crisis, posed a new set of challenges for the country which was on the brink of recovery post Covid-19 pandemic and the Easter Sunday attacks. The Tourism industry faced a temporary setback, gradually got back on track with the support and commitment from Sri Lanka Tourism and the private sector stakeholders, despite the travel advisories issued by several countries to avoid travelling to Sri Lanka due to its prevailing crisis.

For an interested traveler, Sri Lanka offers some of the best attractions in the world. Not only it





has mesmerized travelers all across the world with its natural and cultural resources, exotic wildlife, amazing heritage, but also its resources for adventure, Sports and Film Tourism, with some of the best picturesque locations in the world, plus it's delectable, authentic cuisine. Here are a few of the attractions which might be useful on a future visit, and be amazed by their magnificent splendor.

Sri Lanka is an exclusive haven for indigenous ayurveda treatments which is world famous. From across the globe, a large number of tourists visit specially to experience the soothing and healing senses of Ayurvedic Medicine, known to relax the mind, body and soul. There are a large number of wellness resorts, hotels specially dedicated to Ayurveda located across the country and this indigenous practice is knowledge based, natural environment and cultural repertory.

The delectable Sri Lankan cuisine is another attraction which is world renowned. Tourists from all across the globe love to taste the mouthwatering dishes prepared with traditional spices and herbs. Throughout the years, Sri Lankan cuisine has been enhanced with delectable cuisine from other cultures as well. For example, during the Dutch era, the iconic rice dish –Lamprais was introduced to the locals and this specific combination of rice boiled in stock accompanied by frikkadels (frikadeller meatballs), a mixed meat curry, blachan, aubergine curry, and seeni sambol are all wrapped in a banana leaf and baked

in an oven. The Dutch also introduced traditional sweetmeats such as Breudher and Kokis, whereas Biryani and Watalappam are introduced from the Muslim culture. Food items such as Ulunduwadai, Dosai, Parippuwadai, sambar, are introduced from the Tamil culture. The Sri Lankan rice & Curry is the most famous of Sri Lankan dishes, while others such as Kiribath, Kottu, hoppers, string hoppers and Pittu are also firm favourites,

Sri Lanka's spectacular beaches have captured the attention of millions of travelers for decades, and remain one of the hotspots for holiday seekers to date.

Adventure Tourism has been making waves in the destination, as one of the key products of the Tourism sector. Sri Lanka is renowned as an Adventure Tourism destination among foreign travelers. Sri Lanka offers a myriad of Adventure activities such as a hike or trek in the Horton plains, surrounded by expanding mountains, lush green forests, paddy fields, parks and sleepy villages. Some of the best hiking areas in Sri Lanka include the Knuckles Mountain range, Pidurangala and Sigiriya, Ella rock & Little Adams peak, Sinharaja forest for

an ideal trek, (while enjoying the view of exotic Fauna & Flora, and wildlife), and canoeing in the Mahaweli river. Other adventure activities include White Water rafting in Kitulgala, Hot Air Ballooning, diving in the deep Blue Ocean, and experience great dive sites in Kalpitiya, Ampara and Trincomalee, offering rare chances of wreck diving, skin diving and diving with Dolphins.

Whale watching in Mirissa and watching Dolphins at Kalpitiya can be an interesting regardless of time. The ever smiling, mischievous dolphins will put on a show while some of the oldest and the largest sea creatures, the humpback and the blue whales, will nonchalantly glide past you, when you embark on a whale/ dolphin watching excursion off the Southern, Eastern or the West coast of Sri Lanka. The ideal locations for whale watching would be Dondra Point (accessible from Galle, Hikkaduwa and Mirissa) and Trincomalee.

Wedding & Film Tourism is also another key factor which has made a difference in destination promotion. With a range of romantic locations and story book settings, Sri Lanka is sought after as a preferred destination for holding wedding ceremonies. Sri Lanka is a paradise island blessed with scenic views and picturesque locations, which would provide an ideal choice for film makers to shoot their films. Throughout the past few years, Sri Lanka Tourism has been promoting both wedding & Film Tourism, by hosting FAM tours to Sri Lanka and participating in Film Festivals and





promoting the destination and the various travel and holiday opportunities it has to offer, as well as its potential towards providing spectacular locations for film shoots. Sri Lanka earned its reputation as a film tourism destination as early as the 1950s where David Leans famous war film " Bridge on the River Kwai "(1957) was filmed in Kitulgala, Sri Lanka . Others include " Indiana Jones and the temple of the doom " (1984) , Tarzan the Ape man (1981) , Mother Theresa (1997) and Bombay Velvet (2015) . Film Tourism & Wedding Tourism are both niche markets and has potential to attract It has everything in store, from spectacular landscapes to sun kissed beaches in the Southern coastal area. The same applies to Wedding tourism, which offers some of the best hotels, locations and Wedding packages in store, for those who are interested in their matrimony in Sri Lanka. Rest is assured that it will be a memory of a lifetime, and worth cherishing.

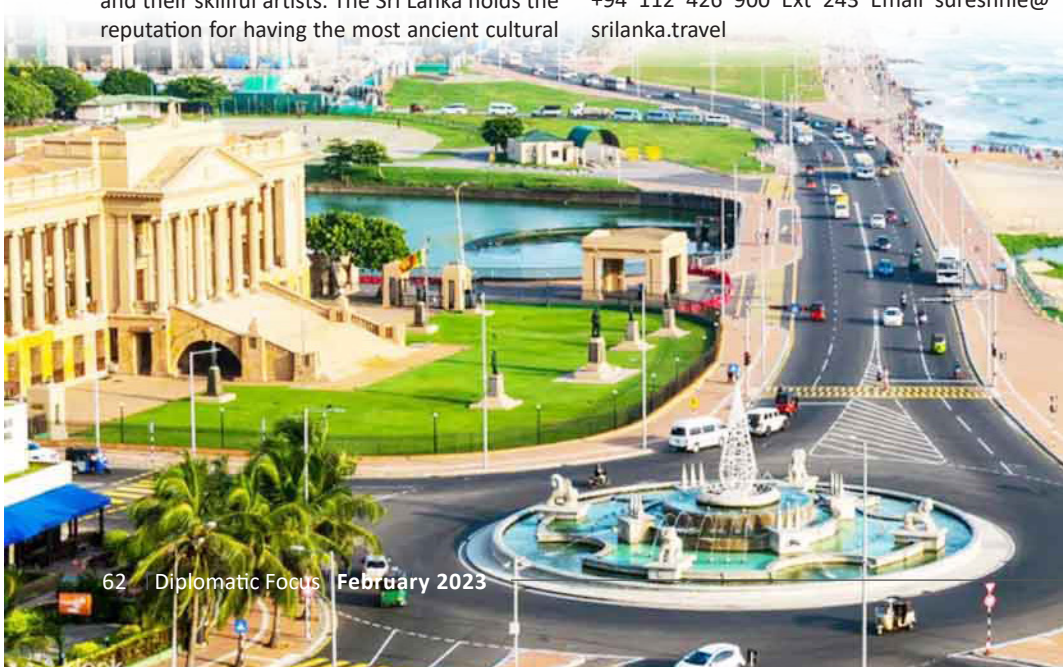
Sri Lanka is also blessed with cultural and UNESCO world heritage sites, which has brought fame and prestige to Sri Lanka. These eight UNESCO heritage sites include, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Kandy, the Galle Fort , Sinharaja forest , and the Dambulla Temple and Central Highlands . These sites date back to thousands of years and up to date, it has ancient ruins which have been preserved for so many years, and the mastery and the architectural splendor of the ancient monarchs, and their skillful artists. The Sri Lanka holds the reputation for having the most ancient cultural

pageant in the world, which is none other else than the Spectacular Kandy Esala Perahera. This pageant which is full of color and glamour is annually organized by the Sri Dalada Maligawa, in order to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relics of the Buddha. It parades the streets for 10 days in the month of August, and consists of beautifully clad elephants, dancers, fire cracker performers and acrobats. This is one of the must see events of the season for tourists, both locals and foreigners alike.

The capital city Colombo is in itself a wonder. The city is majestically situated on the coast of the Indian Ocean, and while it has the bustling vibe of a vibrant, emerging metropolis, the ambience is one of relative calm and composure when compared to other capital cities of the region. The iconic Lotus Tower is the tallest in South Asia. Scattered with Buddhist temples, churches, Hindu temples and mosques, it sets an example for religious and cultural diversity.

As Sri Lanka celebrates its 75th Independence Day with pride, we look forward to bring back Sri Lanka to its former glory, enhancing its Tourism sector along with the support of its tourism stakeholders for a better future for Sri Lanka with a positive outlook.

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Nuwara Eliya *Delicately Fragrant*

As Nuwara Eliya is unique, so is its tea. Recognized by tea connoisseurs, it has been said that Nuwara Eliya, at 6,240 feet above sea level, is to Ceylon tea what Champagne is to French wine. Brewed light it makes for a very smooth cup of tea that can also be iced for a refreshing difference.



Uda Pussellawa *Exquisitely Tangy*

The tea grown on the Uda Pussellawa mountain range experiences two periods of superior quality. The traditional eastern quality season from July to September is the peak but the dry, cold conditions of the first quarter of the year yield a range of rosy teas. Of medium body and subtle character, these teas produce a majestic flavor.



Dimbula *Refreshingly Mellow*

Dimbula is, perhaps, the most famous name associated with Ceylon Tea. The plantations located at 3,500 to 5,500 feet above sea level, cover the western slopes of the district. The monsoon rains and the cold dry weather produce a range of teas, from full bodied to light and delicate.



Uva *Exotically Aromatic*

Grown at an elevation between 3,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level, on the eastern slopes of Sri Lanka's central mountains, the Uva teas have a truly unique flavor. These teas are commonly used in many different blends but, with their different characteristics, they can also be enjoyed on their own.



Kandy *Intensely Fullbodied*

Mid country teas grown on plantations at 2,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level, produce a full bodied tea. Ideal for those who like their tea strong and bursting with flavor. Best served with milk.



Sabaragamuwa *Exceptionally Stylish*

Sabaragamuwa agro-climatic region ranging from sea level to about 2,500 feet is also referred as low grown tea and typically known for their stylish leaf appearance and larger particle size. The blackness of the dry leaf is a distinctive feature, as are the deep red colour of the infused brew of its Black Tea and its smooth and full-bodied liquors.



Ruhuna *Distinctively Unique*

The Southern part of Sri Lanka, though not traditionally known for its tea growing, does produce an exceptional tea. Grown from sea level to about 2,000 feet, the particular condition of the soil gives the leaves blackness and imparts in the brew a strong and distinctive taste. A perfect cup for those who like their tea thick and sweet, with or without milk.

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