



Post Event Report

Eurasia Chapter Launch Ceremony

Exploring New Horizons in Nontraditional Security Domains

Event Date: October 16, 2025

Venue: Ramada Hotel, Islamabad

Time: 10:30-13:30

CAPS has launched its Eurasia chapter and has transformed itself from Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS) to Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES) to expand its horizon from the Asia Pacific region to Eurasia. In this regard, CAPES hosted an international seminar, titled, “Exploring New Horizons in Nontraditional Security Domains”, bringing together ambassadors, diplomats, scholars, and practitioners to foster mutual understanding and explore areas of cooperation.

The event was attended by H.E. Albert P. Khorev, ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Mr. Andreis, first Secretary Belarus, Mr. Ali, Third secretary Azerbaijan, other diplomats and a wide array of Pakistani and Russian academics, policy experts, and researchers, to explore collaborative frameworks for non-traditional security issues.

The esteemed speakers included Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev; President of CAPES, Dr. Khuram Iqbal; Senior Vice President of CAPES, Dr. Faisal Javed; Research Associate from Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Taimur Fahad; Director of the CARS Area Study Centre at the University of Peshawar, Dr. Shabbir Ahmed; founder of the Diplomatic School Russia, Dr. Roxolana Zigon; a member of European societies for Central Asia studies, Professor Dr. Najam Abbas; and chairperson of the Diplomatic Insight Group, Dr. Farhat Asif.

President of CAPES, Dr. Khuram Iqbal offering welcome remarks, emphasized on the successful development of CAPS and its evolution into CAPES, the Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian

Studies. He pointed out the importance of Eurasia, situated at the crossroads of global connectivity. He also discussed that the challenges faced by Eurasian countries in non-traditional ways cannot be solved alone and require cross-border partnerships.

Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E, Albert P. Khorev emphasized the importance and timeliness of the Eurasia Chapter by CAPES, highlighting Russia's pivotal role in shaping a new era of bilateral relations with Pakistan — focusing on science, culture, trade, and people-to-people ties.

Addressing to the audience, he discussed the formation of the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) and the 2015 Great Eurasia Partnership Initiative launched by President Vladimir Putin. Moreover, he pointed out the triad of regional organizations Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU), as sustained platforms for production and consumption. He stressed on inclusion of Pakistan in such forums and strengthening people-to-people ties with Pakistan. He also emphasized developing academic and scientific research expertise on Pakistan-Russia relations.

Dr. Faisal Javed, congratulated everyone on the milestone of launching the Eurasian Chapter. He emphasized Pakistan's role as a bridge to Eurasia. He noted that the ancient Silk Road was not only a trade route but also a hub of ideas, culture, and civilizations. He addressed the lagging trade volume between Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics, which needs to be boosted through P2P, B2B, and G2G engagement.

Taimur Fahad, underlined the urgency of addressing non-traditional security challenges — from pandemics to infrastructure resilience — through enhanced Russia-Pakistan connectivity. He suggested several policy ideas, including emphasizing institutional dialogues, creating non-traditional working groups, Eurasia fellowships, and an annual food and climate security forum.

Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, participating online, discussed the potential for connecting Eurasia's heartland, island, and Rimland not as battle zones but as centers of trade, transport, logistics, and economic corridors. This will shape the future of the Eurasian continent as a mutually beneficial situation. He suggested that bilateral, trilateral and multilateral sector and project specific cooperation shall be developed to fill the infrastructure gap linking trans-continental trade.

Dr. Roxolana Zigon, joining virtually from Russia, challenged the myth that Russian relationships are driven solely by strategic interests rather than mutual respect and reliance. She highlighted this

in educational programs, such as language courses, IT technologies, and soft power initiatives. She proposed a special presidential program between Russia and Pakistan for academic and youth exchanges.

Professor Dr. Najam Abbas, also speaking online, highlighted that any nation's soft power is driven by cultural experts and educational outreach. It is important that linkages are converted into lasting leverage, which is extended, enhanced, and enriched through ever-expanding connectivity.

Dr. Farhat Asif, Chairperson of the Diplomatic Insight Group, discussed the TAPI initiative and electricity projects between Pakistan and Central Asia. She highlighted the importance of traveling and meeting people to better understand them, both locally and regionally. She suggested that trade chambers should update their data to develop more effective policies.

Moderated by Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti, Eurasia Chapter Coordinator, the session concluded with a strong call to action for sustainable collaboration in education, energy, and culture — reinforcing people-centric and institutional partnerships.

Recommendation

- Formation of Russia-Pakistan non-Traditional Security working group.
- Launch Fellowship program for Russian scholars at CAPES to foster P2P linkages.
- Formation of annual Moscow-Islamabad food security and climate change forum.
- Knowledge Transfer: Facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills. This empowers the youth to engage in connectivity-driven commercial and economic ventures, ensuring local benefits.
- Diversification Strategies: Bolster capacities to devise strategies that counteract the "resource curse." This helps mitigate vulnerabilities and guarantee stability and growth.

