

Pakistani- German Media Dialogue

"Ten Years after 9/11 – In Search for Common Ground"

From 9th to 11.th October 2011 in Lahore/Pakistan

The Pakistani-German Media Dialogue, carried out jointly by Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and the German Embassy in Islamabad is a meeting of senior journalists from Pakistan and Germany that aims at enhancing mutual understanding. The target group are not foreign correspondents, who already know the country they are reporting about, but senior editors and decision makers from the industry in Germany and Pakistan.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the attacks in New York and Washington, Osama Bin Laden's killing in Pakistan and the new "Arab Spring", we would like to reflect on what happened in the last decade between the so called "Islamic World" and the "West". Is there still common ground? And how could the media contribute to a better understanding?

The Media Dialogue will be held in English. On the first day, we are offering a cultural program to some of the most important sights in Lahore for the guests from Germany and whoever wants to participate. The official program starts with a welcome dinner on Sunday evening.

Programme

Sunday, 9.10.2011

Visit program of Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital

10.00 Visit of Wazir Khan Mosque and tour through the Old city with Fatimah Khan from Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)

13.00 Guided tour through Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque (Snacks will be served in between)

16.00 Visit of the Sufi Shrine of Mian Mir with Sahibzada Asim Maharvi Chishti, Chairman of the "Chishtiya Ribbat Sufi Studies Centre"

20.00 Welcome reception and dinner with classical music at the lawns of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Monday, 10.10.2011

9.30 Introduction by **Dr. Thomas Ditt** (German Embassy, Islamabad) and **Britta Petersen** (Country Director, HBS)

10.30 1st panel **Death in Abbottabad**

Ten years after the terror attacks in the US: Osama Bin Laden is dead and the Arab world experiences its very own democratic spring. But the “West” and the “Islamic World” are still ways apart. Pakistan suffers from the ongoing “war on terror” and Anti-Americanism is rampant. In Germany and most other Western countries on the other hand, fear and hostility towards Islam are on the rise.

How does the world post 9/11 look from a Pakistani point of view? And how from a German? What’s the difference between the European and the American perspective? Where are the relations between the “Islamic World” and the “West” heading? And is it possible to find common ground at all?

Method: Two rounds of discussion with a tea break in between. Short presentations by a journalist from Pakistan and from Germany on the situation in their country followed by discussion. In the second round two other participants will suggest perspectives and future developments that will be discussed by the group.

13.00 Lunch at Polo Lounge, Lahore

14.30 2nd Panel **Tea** with **Senator Syeda Abida Hussain** (former Minister and Ambassador to the US, PPP) and **Hasham Baber** (Additional Secretary General ANP, Peshawar) at Polo Lounge

This afternoon aims at exploring Pakistan’s interior politics in conversation with two politicians who are close to the incumbent government. For the German participants, it will be an opportunity to learn more about politics in Pakistan. For participants from Pakistan it’s an opportunity to discuss controversial issues.

Possible topics: What is the status quo on minority rights in Pakistan? How is the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA? What do Pashtuns think about the Taliban? How can Europe help to support the liberal forces in Pakistan?

Method World Cafe: Two separate rounds of discussion with a facilitator. Change of tables after one hour.

20. 00 Dinner at Cocoo's Den, Old City

Tuesday, 11.10.2011

9.30 3. Panel Talking with the Taliban...

In December this year, Germany is hosting another conference on Afghanistan in Bonn. The main topic will be the “endgame” in Afghanistan. In the wake of the pull-out of NATO forces reconciliation with the Taliban is the most controversial issue. In this context, Pakistan plays an important role. How much influence does Pakistan yield over the Taliban? And what are its interests in Kabul? Did Pakistan’s army really did not know where Osama Bin Laden was hiding? And what role does Germany and its Federal Army play in Afghanistan?

Method: Presentations by a German and a Pakistani journalist followed by discussion with a tea-break in between.

12.30 Lunch at "Dynasty" restaurant, Avari Hotel

14.30 4. Panel "The most dangerous profession in the world?" (hosted by South Asian Free Media Association/SAFMA, Lahore)

Pakistan prides itself of its vibrant and critical media. However, according to Reporters without Borders, it is also the most dangerous country in the world for journalists. Nowhere else were so many journalists killed in the last three years. What are the reasons? How dangerous is it for foreign journalists to work in Pakistan? Is independent research in the conflict zones possible at all (catch word: embedded journalism). And are there ways to cooperate in order to minimise risks and to improve crisis reporting?

Method: Presentation about the situation of Pakistani media by Imtiaz Alam (Secretary General, SAFMA) followed by discussion. After that, three working groups will explore the possibility of cooperation and present suggestions

17:30 Background briefing (for German journalists) by **German Ambassador Dr. Michael Koch**

18.00 Presentation by **Prof. Ahsan Iqbal**, Deputy Secretary General PML-N

20.00 Dinner Debate with Chief Guest **Shah Mehmood Qureshi** (PPP), Avari Hotel Lahore, Indus Hall

Shah Mehmood Qureshi was Pakistan's Foreign Minister until February 2011. He will give an insider's view on Pakistan's position in the ongoing war on terror.