

MCE MOSAIC

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MCE TEAM



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Ms. Syeda Fizzah Shuja
Research Associate



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INLAND STUDY TOUR (IST) - SOUTH

Dr. Maira Afzazze and Ms. Safia Mansoor, MCE Research Faculty, accompanied the Pakistan Navy Staff Course (PNSC) on IST South from 05-15 Jan 25. They visited key naval installations in Karachi, including Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW), Pakistan Naval Academy, and the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JMICC) at Manora to gain insight into maritime collaborative efforts among the stakeholders. Additionally, the team conducted a focused visit to the Pakistan Hydrography Department, where they explored maritime charting and the significance of hydrographic surveys. They also visited the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Karachi to gain insights into marine conservation initiatives and efforts toward environmental sustainability. During their intercation with relevant experts they briefed about the MCE activities.



Onboard PNS Aslat



Visit to PNS Bahadur



Visit to National Hydrographic Office



Visit to Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC)

INTERNSHIP FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (IUS)

16 Dec 24 - 07 Feb 25

The Internship for University Students (IUS) was successfully conducted by MCE, marking the completion of the first-of-its-kind internship programme at PNWC. This inaugural course included 17 MS/MPhil students across Pakistan, selected from a highly competitive pool, including two bright students from Lasbela, Balochistan. The dedication and commitment demonstrated by the interns over the past eight weeks truly reflected their determination to learn and grow.



The course aimed to address the prevailing "maritime blindness" by equipping participants with in-depth knowledge of the maritime sector, including maritime security, the blue economy, and the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific. Participants gained insights into regional threats and challenges to Pakistan, along with the strategic role of the Pakistan Navy. This was achieved through formal academic studies, practical attachment programmes with various MCE Institutes and Centres, and rigorous assignments. The programme culminated with a comprehensive evaluation test for the award of internship certificates.

Additionally, the interns engaged in diverse academic activities, including writing book reviews, Op-eds, perspective papers, essays, and research articles on critical maritime issues. These assignments not only honed their research and analytical skills but also deepened their understanding of contemporary maritime challenges and opportunities. The internship programme was not solely about academic learning but aimed to equip participants with the tools and knowledge to become ambassadors of maritime awareness and security. It fostered a community of young professionals ready to promote maritime expertise in their respective careers, institutions, and future endeavors.





AMAN EXERCISE 2025

PAKISTAN

The Aman Exercise 2025 was the 9th edition of Pakistan Navy's multinational naval exercise, held from 7-11 Feb 25 in Karachi, Pakistan. This exercise, themed "Together for Peace," aimed to promote maritime security and cooperation, with the largest participation to date, involving over 60 countries.

KARACHI



Exercise was designed to provide firstly common forum for information sharing, mutual understanding and identifying areas of common interests. Secondly, developing and practicing in response tactics, techniques and procedures against asymmetric and traditional threats during sea phase of the exercise and finally interaction with other nationals to share multicultural opportunities including Cultural Display and Food Gala. Exercise focuses on objectives to enhance interoperability with regional and extra regional navies thereby acting as a bridge between the regions and display united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the Maritime Domain.



The exercise included a Harbor Phase and a Sea Phase, with activities ranging from conventions and cultural events to practical exercises like anti-piracy drills and a fleet review.



AMAN DIALOGUE 2025

The AMAN Dialogue, held as part of Aman Exercise 2025 on 09-10 Feb 25, convened key maritime stakeholders, including naval chiefs, coast guard leaders, academics, think tanks, and industry professionals. From MCE Research Faculty Rear Adm Jawad Ahmad HI(M) - President MCE, Cdr (R) Faisal Shabbir, Lt Cdr Dr Sufian Ullah PN, Dr Marriyam Siddique, Lt Abdullah Rehman Butt, and Ms Hamna Ghias Sheikh attended AMAN Dialogue and gained valuable insight on maritime cooperation and security challenges.



AMAN EXERCISE 2025 & AMAN DIALOGUE PODCASTS

To amplify the significance of Aman Exercise 2025, MCE Research Faculty participated in several media activities and projected how these activities reflect positive image of Pakistan Navy.

Cdr (R) Faisal Shabbir participated in Hum News program 'Khabar or Tajzia' on 24 Jan 25. He discussed the 9th edition of AMAN exercise, its major activities, and number of participating nations. He also explained the inaugural AMAN dialogue, its purpose, and key activities planned including summit of naval chiefs, academic seminar, and bilateral meetings to facilitate mutual deliberation and collective learning related to maritime domain.



Cdr (R) Faisal Shabbir appeared as guest in podcast by 'Coffee with Fariha' on 03 Feb 25. He explored the origin, purpose, and evolution of AMAN exercises. He also emphasized how these exercises are providing a common platform to regional and extra regional naval forces to enhance mutual collaboration, develop naval forces' interoperability, and project Pakistan's maritime interests.



Ms. Javaria Shaikh participated in a special podcast by 'Academia Magazine Podcast' on 01 Feb 25, to discuss the upcoming AMAN Exercise 2025. She highlighted the Pakistan Navy's commitment to regional peace through initiatives like the AMAN Exercise, which began in 2007 and till date eight exercises have been conducted.

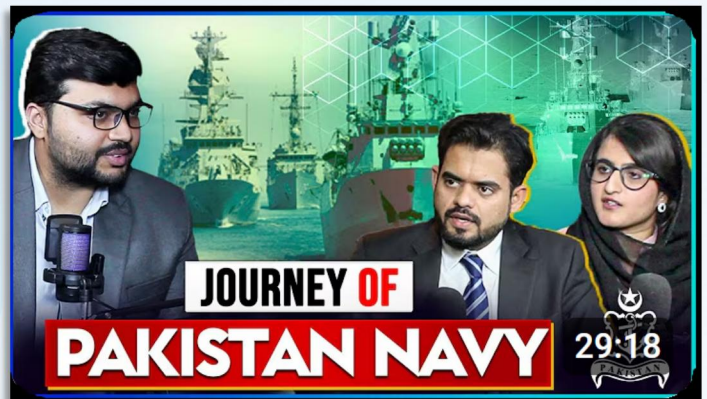




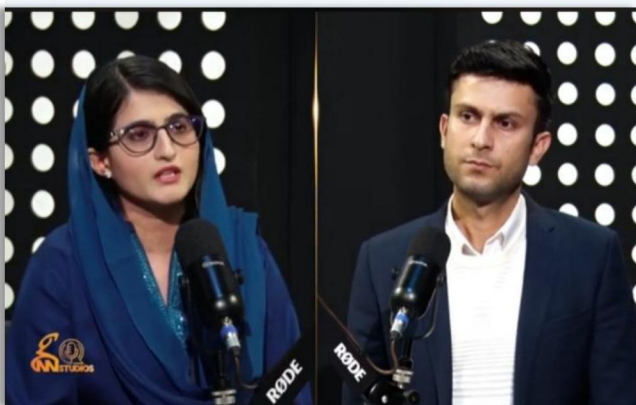
Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim appeared as guest in exclusive podcast by 'Udaan' on the occasion of Aman Exercise and inaugural Aman Dialogue. In podcast, aired on 10 Feb 25, he explored the key roles played by Pakistan Navy to safeguard national maritime interests of Pakistan. He argued that besides deterring conflicts and law enforcement at sea, PN also actively contributes in conduct of naval diplomacy. Initiatives, like multilateral Aman Exercise with motto "Together for Peace" and inaugural Aman dialogue are well known examples in this regard.

On 10 Feb 25, Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim and Ms. Safia Mansoor collectively participated in exclusive podcast organized by 'Udaan' to discuss the evolution and importance of Aman Exercises and Aman dialogue to demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to peace, contribution towards regional maritime security, and cooperation with regional nations.

Mr. Ahmad briefed about the fundamental purpose of Aman Exercise and how the exercise has evolved since 2007 with steady increment in participation of global navies. Whereas, Ms. Safia delineated upon key activities of Aman-2025 alongside significance of Aman Dialogue, notably with respect to harnessing Blue Economy.



Ms. Safia Mansoor appeared on a 'GNN podcast' on 12 Feb 25 and discussed different phases of the Aman Exercise, including the harbour phase, sea phase, and Aman Dialogue. She highlighted how this exercise strengthens Pakistan Navy's relations with regional and global powers, complements its contributions to international coalitions like CMF, and enhances interoperability and trust among diverse forces. Another key aspect of the discussion was the Aman Dialogue's with focus on the importance of the blue economy.





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “PEACE AND SECURITY: CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLITICS”

First International Conference on "Peace and Security: Contemporary Trends in Regional and Global Politics" was organized at Lahore College for Women (LCWU) from 12-14 Feb 25. Research faculty from MCE actively participated in conference and presented papers on topics related to regional and global contemporary security challenges. This participation served as a step towards materializing MoU between MCE and LCWU.



Cdre Ehsan Ahmed Khan SI (M) Deputy President MCE, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the changing concept of security which extends beyond military and territorial defense which calls for unified response to address non-traditional threats. He mentioned the expanding traditional VUCA framework (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) to VUCAII, adding "Immorality" and "Innovation" to reflect the erosion of moral values in international politics and the dual nature of technological advancements. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding its maritime interests, stressing that the Indian Ocean is not just India's Ocean and Pakistan will maintain this status quo.

Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim presented an insightful analysis of the Russia-Ukraine war, highlighting its geopolitical origins, battlefield dynamics, and Russia's military shortcomings. He discussed how Russia's invasion, aimed at installing a pro-Russian regime, was met with stiff Ukrainian resistance. Despite possessing superior firepower, Russia struggled due to outdated military hardware, poor command and control, and logistical inefficiencies. He emphasized the evolving nature of modern warfare, where precision weapons, network-centricity, ISR capabilities, and adaptive strategies now outweigh traditional war fighting practices.



Lt Cdr Dr Sufian Ullah PN chaired a session of conference that focused on ongoing conflicts and security dilemma. During his remarks, he emphasized that most of the contemporary conflicts in different regions reflect how accentuated security dilemma leads to conflict and competition among different states. He appreciated the analytical insights of presenters and encouraged them to focus on maritime related issues in future research endeavours.



Ms. Javaria Shaikh presented the paper titled "Evolving Role of Navies in the 21st Century: Focus on the Indian Ocean Region and Pakistan Navy's Strategic Response." The Pakistan Navy has adapted by countering piracy, terrorism and security trade routes, while participating in International coalitions like CTF-150 and CTF-151. She emphasized Pakistan Navy's adaptation to emerging maritime challenges through modernization and regional collaborations.

Ms. Safia Mansoor presented a paper on "Space Warfare: Comparative Analysis of Space Security Policy of US, China, and Russia". She discussed the first and second Space Ages, further explaining the securitization of space and differing approaches of the US, China and Russia contributing to intensifying competition in this dimension.



Ms. Fizzah Shuja presented a paper on "From Cyber to Culture: Expanding Frontiers of 5th Generation Warfare." She examined how contemporary conflicts have shifted beyond traditional battlefields, leveraging cyber operations, economic coercion, and cultural narratives as strategic tools of influence. Emphasizing the increasing fluidity of warfare, she highlighted the necessity for states to develop adaptive security frameworks to counter emerging hybrid threats in an evolving geopolitical landscape.



Ms Hamna Ghias Sheikh presented paper on "Power Dynamics and Competition between China, US and Russia". She elaborated how power dynamics are constantly shifting owing to the competition between economic giants. She analysed different facets of US-China rivalry particularly ongoing trade war and security situation in South China Sea and its implications on global politics.

3rd INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE (IMC) 2025



Ms. Syeda Fizzah Shuja and Ms. Hamna Ghias participated in the 3rd International Maritime Conference (IMC-25) organized by the Minhaj University Lahore on 27 Feb 25. Ms. Fizzah Shuja presented her research paper on "Seabed Mining in the Indian Ocean Region: Governance Insights for Pakistan," which highlighted the strategic significance, regulatory challenges, and potential impact on Pakistan's energy security. Ms. Hamna Ghias presented her paper on "Offshore Drilling," discussing its potential and geological aspects of Indus Basin offshore area. A stall showcasing MCE research work publications and activities was also set up which drew widespread attention and acknowledgement from the participants especially university students. The conference provided a valuable platform for intellectual discourse, policy-oriented discussions, and collaborative research aimed at advancing maritime governance, legal frameworks, and sustainable ocean management at both national and international levels. MCE and Minhaj University Lahore regularly collaborate in joint academic activities to pursue shared objective of generating maritime awareness in the country.



MARITIME ESSAY COMPETITION 2025

The Inter University Essay Competition (IUEC), now renamed as Maritime Essay Competition, is open to students, lecturers, researchers, and practitioners, broadening its scope to include all maritime enthusiasts.



THEME FOR ESSAY COMPETITION

Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is an established geopolitical battleground between great powers. With intensifying weaponization and nuclearization of its waters the region is vulnerable to unprecedented security risks. The evolving maritime security architecture, with permanent presence of extra regional forces and military modernization and rapid nuclearization by Indian Navy adds to strategic vulnerabilities and creating compounding challenges for Pakistan. Climate change further complicates the security landscape, exacerbating resource scarcity and threatening coastal infrastructure. Against this backdrop, this essay competition invites participants to visualize the future outlook of IOR by 2050 and analyze Pakistan's maritime security vulnerabilities and propose innovative military and non-military policy options to safeguard its national interests in the turbulent waters of the Indian Ocean.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

1. The Essay preferably be attempted individually or maximum by two authors.
2. Based on the given theme the author is to create 'title' of his/her essay.
3. The Essay must be research intensive with credible source citation.
4. The identity of the writer must remain concealed with name kept anonymous.
Each writer must adopt a "Pseudonym" which is to be written in bold letters at the beginning of the Essay.
5. Words limit (including references) 5000-6000 words (with 10% allowance).
6. 'Similarity Index' (with bibliography off) must not exceed 19%. (All Essays above 19% will be rejected).
7. Submissions must be original and independently crafted; use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
8. 'Arial' Style of Writing should be followed with font size '14' for headings and '12' for text.
9. Footnotes and references should be in accordance with the APA style (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition 2009)
10. The Winner and Runner ups will be required to present short version of respective papers in a Seminar as decided and intimated later on by PNWC (Lahore).

TIMELINE

Call for Essays: 30 March 2025
Submission of Essays: 30 June 2025
Announcement of Result: 25 August 2025
Presentation of Essay/World Maritime Day: 25 September 2025

CASH PRIZES FOR WINNER

First Prize	Rs.100,000/-
Second Prize	Rs.70,000/-
Third Prize	Rs.50,000/-
Consolation Prize	Rs.30,000/-