

## Profile of Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA)

Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA) the sole representative of Pakistani Geographers was established in 1948. It was founded and organized in the Department of Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore, under the chairmanship of Dr. Kazi Saeeduddin Ahmad, the then Professor and Chairman of the Department. The aim and objective of the association is to disseminate geographical knowledge and information by research, discussions, lectures, conference, exhibitions, fieldwork and publications. Every geographer in Pakistan is eligible to hold its membership. Members of the association are spread all over the world and country in the universities, colleges, and in the Department of Planning and Research.

### Geographical Conferences

Pakistan Geographical Association achieved notable successes in organizing All Pakistan Geographical Conferences. In all, 15 conferences have been held so far. The first All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at Karachi from 6 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 1964. It was inaugurated by Mr. A.T.M. Mustafa, Central Minister of Education who was also a geographer. Prof. Kazi Saeeduddin Ahmad of the University of Punjab was the general President and addressed the inaugural session on "Geography through the Ages". Two symposia, one on Geography and National Planning and other on "Teaching of Geography" were held. In all 14 Research Papers were presented on various geographical problems. A large Number of geographers and educationists, from Universities, colleges, other institutions and government organizations all over the country were present. It was organized jointly by Pakistan Geographical Association and Karachi Geographers Association.

The Second All Pakistan Conference was held at Lahore from 26 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1968. Prof. Nafees Ahmed, head of the Department of Geography, Dhaka University was the General President of the Conference and his presidential address was "Some aspects of Economic Development in Pakistan with spatial reference to industrialization 1947-1968". A large number of papers on a wide variety of subjects ranging from the teaching and methodology of geography to apply aspects of the subject were presented and in all 23 papers were read. A large number of delegates representing all the universities and colleges, of Pakistan and a good number of eminent geographers from all the continents, with the sole exception of African countries, attended the conference. A very interesting and instructive excursion was led by Mr. Anis Abbasi.

The 3rd and 4th All Pakistan Geographical Conferences were held at Pakistan Study Centre, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad in 1976 and 1983 respectively. The 3rd conference was inaugurated by Ch. FazleElahi, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan while 4th one was opened by Dr. Muhammad Afzal, the then Federal Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. K.U. Kureshy, who was president of PGA on both the occasions, acted as General President in the two conferences. The 3rd All Pakistan Geographical Conference attracted a good number of participants from all provinces of Pakistan and many papers were presented from different branches of Geography. Excursion trip to Taxilla Museum and Tarbela Dam was another item of interest for the delegates.

The 4th Conference was not much successful as the previous one and was attended by only limited number of participants. The number of papers presented were also only few. The main reason for this was that the conference was organized in a haste without sufficient notice to the

members of PGA and other related bodies. The situation was discussed in the General Body meeting of the PGA and it was decided to redraft the constitution in such a way that full participation of all the members of PGA in its elections shall be secured. Prof. Israruddin and Late. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan were assigned the job by acting as adhoc President and General Secretary of PGA respectively. They were specially instructed to meet the representative of Sindh and other geographers to frame a workable constitution for PGA to avoid any such deadlock in the future.

It is to mention that the holding of 3rd and 4th conferences was made possible only through the untiring efforts of Late. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, the then Director of Pakistan Study Center. Q.A.U., Islamabad, Dr. Zafar was a capable geographer and a devoted worker of PGA but due to his sudden death all his plans to publish the proceedings of the two conferences, and the programs to make the PGA as a lively body, could not be fulfilled. May his soul rest in peace (Ameen). It is further added that, aegis of PGA, two symposia on National Level were held in 1983 and 1986. The 1st, "Progress and Development in Karakoram Himaliya", was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. R.A. Tahir Khali, T. I., Vice-Chancellor, University of Peshawar was attended by participants from all parts of the country. Many papers from different experts were presented in the 3 days moot.

The 2nd Symposium on energy crisis in Pakistan was inaugurated by the then Governor of N.W.F.P., Nawab Abdul Ghafoor Khan of Hoti. It was attended mostly by Non-Geographers belonging to Engineering University Lahore and Peshawar, National Institute of Silicon Technology Islamabad, Geological Survey of Pakistan Peshawar, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (Islamabad), and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources (Islamabad).

The 5th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at the University of Karachi from 20 to 23rd June 1987, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Iqtidar H. Zaidi. The General President was Prof. Dr. Muhammad Fazle Karim Khan, the then Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Balochistan. He presented his presidential address on "Urbanization in Pakistan". A large number of papers on a wide variety of subjects in Geography were presented. In all fifteen papers were read. A souvenir was also published on this occasion. A large number of delegates from all the universities, colleges, Government institutions, public and private research organizations, participated and took active part in the conference. An excursion to Pakistan Steel was arranged for the distinguished delegates. The sixth All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at the Islamia University Bhawalpur from 26th December 1993 and was organized at the Department of Geography of the University. The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. Bilal Sukera, Vice Chancellor of the

Islamia University. Prof. Dr. Qazi Shakil Ahmad was the General President of the Conference. His address was on the theme “Whither Geography”? About 36 papers were presented. A special session on desertification in Cholistan was also held.

The Seventh All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at Karachi from December 26th to 29th April 1994 and was organized by the Department of Geography University of Karachi in association with PGA and the Karachi Geographers Association, Prof. Dr. Birjis Talat was the convener of the Conference. The inaugural address was delivered by M.G.D Memon, Advisor to the Governor of Sindh. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Said Dean Faculty of Science. University of Peshawar. Who was the General President, presented his presidential address ‘Natural Hazard of Baltistan’ Prof. Dr. Abdul Wahab. Vice-chancellor, ‘University of Karachi also addressed the inaugural session. In eight academic session 32 papers were presented on a variety of topics. A popular lecture was delivered by Dr. Ishaq Mirza Director space, SUPARCO, gained much attention of Geographers.

The Eight All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at Peshawar from April 6 to 10th 1996 and was organized by the Department of Geography University of Peshawar. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Farzand Ali Durrani, Vice chancellor, University of Peshawar. Prof. Dr. Ahsan Ullah. PGA President acted as the General President of the Conference. Forty research paper were presented in seven academic sessions. Prof. Dr. Farzand Ali Durrani a popular lecture on the subject of “ Role of Environment in the Rise and Fall of Civilization in Pakistan

The 9th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at Islamabad from December 26 to 30 1997 under the patronage of Allama Iqbal Open University and with the collaboration of Islamia Collage for Girls. Islamabad Model Collage for Girls and Government Postgraduate Collage. Asghar Mall Rawalpindi. Syed Ghous Ali Shah Minister of Education Government of Pakistan, who was the Chief Guest addressed the Inaugural session Prof. Israr- ud- Din, Chairman, Department of Geography University of Peshawar presented the general presidential address titled “Changing Geography in Changing Pakistan” Prof. Dr. Anwar Hussain, Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University also addressed the inaugural session. Prof. Dr. Qasim Jan Vice Chancellor, University

of Peshawar delivered a popular lecture. In seven academic sessions 30 papers were presented by distinguished scholars

The 10th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held at Peshawar from July 3-6, 1999 in collaboration with Department of Geography University of Karachi.

The 11th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was hosted by the Department of Geography, the Punjab University at Lahore in 2003. The General President of the Conference was Prof. Dr. Amir Khan (University of Peshawar). This was one of the highly memorable Conferences which was organized in highly professional manner.

The 12th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was also held at Lahore in 2007. The Conference was presided the then Governor of the Punjab Province, Maj Gen. Khalid Maqbool. More than 40 papers were presented in eight technical sessions of the Conference. Prof. Dr. Jamil H. Kazmi presented the General President, who addressed on the “Fate of Geography in Pakistan.

The 13th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held In Department of Geography University of Karachi, Karachi, held from 22-25, December 2008, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Jamil H. Kazmi. This was one of the largest gathering of the Geographers, as 450 participants attended the Conference. The General President was Prof. Dr. Aslam Khan. Many parallel sessions were organized beside two plenaries.

The 14th All Pakistan Geographical Conference was held In Department of Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore from March 7-9, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar. Prof. Dr. Amir Nawaz Khan delivered a lecture on Natural Hazards Management as General President. Prof. Dr. Jamil H Kazmi delivered a popular Lecture on “Geography and GIS Hand-in-Hand” which was well received by the Conference participants.

The Department of Geography, University of Karachi has a tradition of organizing Geographic conferences on National and International scales. The Department had the honor of organizing IGU Conference during 1980s, First PGA Conference in 1964, 5<sup>th</sup> All Pakistan Geographical Conference in 1987, 7<sup>th</sup> All Pakistan Geographical Conference in 1997, 13th All Pakistan Geographical Conference in 2008, first SURE International conference for the region of South Asia in January 2017 organized by SURE South Asian Center president Prof. Dr. Jamil H Kazmi. Keeping this tradition alive, the Department has organized 15th All Pakistan Geographical Conference on the Future of Geography in Pakistan from April 21-23, 2018. Putting together this

event will provide opportunities for scholars working in the field of Geography as well as environmental sciences, urban and city planning, IT professionals, GIS and Remote Sensing specialists working at key positions in numerous governmental and Non-Governmental organizations of Pakistan. This conference will broaden the horizon of research in the fields related to Geo-Sciences Climate change, Water and Environmental Management.

Purpose of the conference was:

To provide all national level geographers to gather, and share innovative ideas on Future issues of Geography in Pakistan.

To Create general awareness among the masses regarding the importance of Spatial Issues related with planning, Climate change, Water resources, Environment and Disaster Management

During the conclusion session of the Conference, the PGA has condemned the Pakistan Surveying and Mapping Act, 2014, which was drafted and presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan without taking the proper consultation of the stakeholders. The Secretary of the PGA is directed to write a protest letter to record the resentment on this Ordinance by the Pakistani Geographers.

**PGA Executive Body**  
**15<sup>th</sup> APGC 21-23 April, 2018**  
**Department of Geography, University of Karachi**

The 15<sup>th</sup> APGC which was held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the Department of Geography, University of Karachi met with an enormous success with participation of over 400 delegates belonging to 26 educational/research institutes across Pakistan, China and UAE. The participants came from 16 districts of Pakistan. In three days event 65 research papers were presented in 6 parallel thematic sessions with 4 plenary talks by eminent geographers of Pakistan.

The following office bearers have been elected in the business session chaired by Prof. Sharif Sheikh (Outgoing Vice President of Pakistan Geographical Association) assisted by Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi (Ex-Secretary PGA) at the end of 15th All Pakistan Geographical Conference held on 21-23 April, 2018. In addition to new Executive Body of PGA, it was further decided that the **16<sup>th</sup> All Pakistan Geographical Conference will be held, hosted and organized by Department of**

**Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore in March, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr Safdar Ali Shirazi.**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Office Bearers</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>1</b>	President	Prof. Dr. Syed Jamil H.Kazmi Department of Geography, University of Karachi, Karachi E-mail: <a href="mailto:jkazmi@usa.net">jkazmi@usa.net</a> , <a href="mailto:jkazmi@uok.edu.pk">jkazmi@uok.edu.pk</a>
<b>2</b>	Vice President	Prof.Dr.Mushahid Anwar Department of Geography, University of Gujrat, Gujrat E-mail: <a href="mailto:mushahid.anwar@uog.edu.pk">mushahid.anwar@uog.edu.pk</a>
<b>3</b>	General Secretary/ Treasurer	Dr. Gohar Ali Mahar Department of Geography, Federal Urdu University of Science, Technology and Arts, Karachi E-mail: <a href="mailto:goharmahar@fuuast.edu.pk">goharmahar@fuuast.edu.pk</a>
<b>4</b>	Joint Secretary	Dr. Noor Hussain Chandio Department of Geography, Shah Abdul Latif University,Khairpur E-mail: <a href="mailto:noorchandio2002@yahoo.com">noorchandio2002@yahoo.com</a>
<b><u>Executive members 2 Each from:</u></b>		
<b>i</b>	<b>Federal Areas</b>	1.Prof.Riasat Ali Abassi Department of Geography, FG for Boys,H-8, Islamabad  2.Mr.Tariq Mahmood Department of Geography, Islamabad Model College for BoysF-10/4 Islamabad
<b>ii</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	1.Ms.Nasuheen Mazhar Department of Geography Lahore College for Women University, Lahore  2. Ms. Saira Batool Department of Geography Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
<b>iii</b>	<b>Sindh</b>	1. Saima Sheikh Department of Geography, University of Karachi ,Karachi

		<p><b>2.</b> Dr Naila Parveen Abbasi Department of Geography, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur</p>
<b>iv</b>	<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>	<p><b>1.</b> Prof. Dr. Iffat Tabassum Department of Geography, University of Peshawar, Peshawar</p> <p><b>2.</b> Prof. Dr. Fazalur-Rehman, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Peshawar, Peshawar</p>
<b>v</b>	<b>Baluchistan</b>	<p><b>1.</b> Dr. Syed Ainuddin Department of Disaster Management and Development Studies University of Balochistan, Quetta</p> <p><b>2.</b> Mr. Taleem Badshah Khattak Department of Geography, University of Balochistan, Quetta</p>
<b>vi</b>	<b>Azad Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	<p><b>1.</b> Asif Rabbani Khan, Muzaffarabad Jeep Club and Kashmir Travel(Eco Tourism), Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu &amp; Kashmir</p> <p><b>2.</b> Muhammad Tariq, Department of Geography, Govt. Degree College for Boys, Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu &amp; Kashmir</p>
<b>vii</b>	<b>Gilgit- Baltistan</b>	<p><b>1.</b> Mr. Abdul Hameed Department of Geography, Govt. Degree College for Boys, Danyor, Gilgit</p> <p><b>2.</b> Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Department of Geography, Govt. Degree College for Boys, Sakardu</p>

Prof. Dr. Jamil H Kazmi, after taking the charge as President, PGA called the Executive Committee to address the employment and curriculum of Geographers of Pakistan. He has visited around Pakistan to experience first-hand the issues of Geographers in Pakistan, especially in the context of the improvement of curriculum and job opportunities. For this purpose, he has visited University of the Punjab (Lahore), GC University, Lahore, GC University, Faisalabad, Islamia University, Bahwalpur, Gojra Post Graduate College, Asghar Mall College, Rawalpindi, University of Balochistan (Quetta), AJK University (Muzaffarbad) and Shah Latif University, Khairpur. The doors for new and professional memberships are now open all over the Pakistan. The website of PGA is underway and will be available for public shortly.

Last year, Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi has participated in the AGA Council Meeting & the 110th Anniversary of GSC held in Beijing, China from October to November 5, 2019 on behalf of PGA. He has presented a paper on the Progress of Geography in Pakistan

The President and Secretary (Dr. Gohar Ali Mahar) have proposed to the Executive Committee to transform PGA into a Professional Body to issue Professional Licences in various of fields of Geography and Allied Sciences. This is important for the standardization of Degrees around Pakistan. It was also proposed to established Pakistan Spatial Data Standards to develop compatible digital data transformation.