



Milestone Newsletter

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Academic Milestone

NEWSLETTER

Applied Economics Research Center, University of Karachi



www.aerc.edu.pk



Association of Applied Economists



Prof. Dr. Nooreen Mujahid
Director, (AERC)

Message from the Director, AERC

I am delighted to share the latest edition of the AERC Digital Newsletter, which captures the significant events of 2023 and 2024. This issue has been designed to highlight exclusive activities at the institute, including the Golden Years celebrations. The event has marked a milestone in the journey of academic excellence as it has facilitated the provision of a platform for high-quality, evidence-based policy research.

Here, I congratulate the AERC students who have showcased their talents and enthusiasm with great zeal and creativity and made seminars, transformative workshops, and the Young Economist Conference successful. These events reflect the institute's intellectual rigor and demonstrate an unwavering commitment to fostering a learning, collaboration, and innovation culture.

Here, the role of Dr. Zia Abbas, Student Advisor, and students cannot be overlooked as their tireless efforts and remarkable contributions are key to the success. I am hopeful that this dedication and pace of learning will lead us to maintain the academic excellence of the institute without any difficulty. The collective efforts of my faculty members are also commendable as they worked tirelessly and provided every required support to the students to make these events more cogent.

At AERC, we genuinely strive to provide a holistic learning culture beyond the classroom. These diminutive measures will likely lead to more comprehensive outcomes in the future. I am hopeful that together, we will continue to build on our legacy of excellence and drive meaningful change in the world of economics and research.



Dr. Syed Zia Abbas Rizvi
Assistant Professor, (AERC)

Message from the Editor and Student Advisor

It gives me great pleasure to address you all through this edition of AERC Newsletter. As the editor of the newsletter, I'm excited to bring you the latest edition filled with important updates, events, and helpful resources to support you throughout your academic life.

As a platform that celebrates your creativity, achievements, and voices, the newsletter embodies the vibrant spirit of our student community specifically in terms of poster conference and young economist symposium. This newsletter not only reflects your achievements but also provides a space for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas. I encourage each one of you to contribute actively, explore your creative potential, and use this medium to make your voices heard.

As your student adviser, I am here to support and guide you in your endeavors. Remember, the strength of Applied Economics Research Centre lies in the diversity and dynamism of its student body. Let us continue to work together to make this publication an even greater success and a source of pride for us all.

Wishing you all the best in your academic and personal pursuits.



Agents Of Change: the Problematic Landscape Of Pakistan's K-12 Education and the People Leading the Change

On February 22, 2022, AERC hosted a discussion on the book *Agents of Change: The Problematic Landscape of Pakistan's K-12 Education and the People Leading the Change*. Co-author Nadeem Hussain engaged with graduate students and faculty, emphasizing the necessity of equitable education and the role of civic participation in educational reforms. The event underscored the book's exploration of Pakistan's diverse educational systems and the disparities therein, advocating for quality education as a fundamental human right.



Insights Unveiled: AERC Multi-Book Launch Event 2023

On September 28, 2023, AERC hosted a book launch event where three significant publications were unveiled, each addressing critical contemporary issues. The event brought together academics, researchers, and students to discuss innovative solutions, social impacts, and governance challenges.

The first book, *Alternative to the IMF and Other Out of the Box Solutions* by Prof. Dr. Shahida Wizarat, explores Pakistan's economic challenges and presents alternatives to reliance on IMF programs. The book offers practical, innovative strategies for achieving sustainable economic growth and financial independence.

The second book, *COVID and Children: 2020 – A Year of Fear* by Ms. Nighat Bilgrami, examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. It sheds light on the psychological and social challenges faced by the younger population during the crisis, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to support their well-being.

The third book, *Governance & Policy Perspective: Mapping the Academic Response to COVID-19* by Dr. Faisal Sultan Qadri, analyzes how governance and academic institutions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on policy adjustments and the role of academic research in addressing the crisis, providing valuable insights for future policymaking. This event showcased the authors' efforts to address pressing issues and fostered meaningful dialogue on solutions to these challenges.

Econometrics: Applications with EViews

The book launch event for *Econometrics: Applications with EViews* by Professor Dr. Abdul Waheed took place at the AERC on October 30, 2023. The event highlighted the book's practical approach to econometric analysis using EViews, emphasizing its utility for researchers and students. Esteemed academics and professionals attended the gathering to celebrate this valuable contribution to applied economics.

Development Pathways: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh (1947-2022)

On April 22, 2024, AERC hosted a book talk featuring Dr. Ishrat Husain, who discussed his book *Development Pathways: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh (1947-2022)*. The event provided an in-depth analysis of the distinct economic trajectories of these three South Asian nations since their independence in 1947. Dr. Husain, a distinguished economist and former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, shared insights into the factors influencing each country's development path, offering valuable perspectives for policymakers, researchers, and students.





Building Resilience and Fostering Sustainable Growth

On March 17, 2023, AERC hosted a seminar featuring Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz, IMF Resident Representative in Pakistan. During the session, she presented the key findings of the IMF's flagship publication, Regional Economic Outlook: Building Resilience and Fostering Sustainable Growth. The seminar focused on regional economic challenges, strategies for resilience, and policy recommendations for sustainable growth, offering valuable insights to researchers and policymakers in attendance.

Policy Choices During the Economic Crisis and Beyond



Conflict between political elites, external debt burden and corruption is identified as the main reasons of economic slowdown, which implies very limited policy options for economic progress. This was concluded in the panel discussion at the University of Karachi, which was jointly organized by AERC and the Social Policy Development Centre (SPDC), held on May 23, 2023.



Provincial Consultation Workshop on Tapping Blue Economy Potential of Pakistan

On May 31, 2023, AERC's Director and faculty participated in a Provincial Consultation Workshop at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, focusing on the World Bank's analytical study, Tapping Blue Economy Potential of Pakistan: Challenges, Opportunities, and Way Forward.



Golden Jubilee Celebration

The Applied Economics Research Centre marked its 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee celebration in 2023. The event included various activities, commemorating five decades of academic excellence and contributions to economic research and policy in Pakistan. The celebrations coincided with Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14, adding a patriotic spirit to the milestone.

Young Economist Conference



The Young Economist Conference organized by AERC is a platform for emerging economists to present their research and engage in discussions on critical economic issues. The event often aligns with pressing global themes, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering dialogue on challenges like poverty, inequality, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.



Poster Presentation

AERC frequently organizes poster presentation events as part of its academic and research initiatives. These events provide a platform for students, researchers, and professionals to showcase innovative research ideas and findings in an engaging visual format. Poster presentations often occur during conferences, seminars, or dedicated research activities hosted by the center.



Alumni Meet and Greet

The AERC Alumni Meet and Greet event in 2024 was organized as a platform for alumni to reconnect with their peers, faculty, and current students. Held on March 8, 2024, at the Applied Economics Research Centre, this event celebrated the achievements of alumni and fostered networking opportunities.

The evening included engaging discussions, speeches from distinguished alumni, and an informal dinner that allowed attendees to share experiences and insights. The event highlighted the impact of AERC's graduates in various sectors and reinforced a sense of community among attendees.

Pakistan's Energy Crisis is Impacting Quality of Life



On August 1, 2024, AERC, in collaboration with the Ataleeq Foundation, hosted a media briefing on "Pakistan's Energy Crisis and IPPs: How Overbilling Impacts Quality of Life and Pathways to Solutions." Experts highlighted the severe impact of overbilling by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on households and businesses, emphasizing the need for renegotiating contracts, ensuring transparency, and implementing energy sector reforms to make electricity more affordable and reliable.



Charter of Economy

The "Charter of Economy" proposed by Dr. Qaiser Bengali, a prominent economist, is part of his broader recommendations to address Pakistan's economic challenges. He emphasizes the need for structural reforms to promote industrial growth, reduce government spending, and ensure fiscal discipline.



Independence Day of Pakistan 2024

AERC frequently engages itself in academic, cultural, and professional events, reflecting its role in promoting academic excellence, professionalism and nationalism. Celebration of the 14 Aug, 2024 (Independence Day of Pakistan) was also be the part of patriotic activities among students. Moreover, AERC organized number of workshops, seminars, and conferences on various socio-economic issues and national events throughout the year.

Understanding Pakistan's Economic Survey



Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, founder of Gallup Pakistan and head of the Gilani Research Foundation, regularly shares valuable insights into Pakistan's socio-economic trends through public opinion polls and reports. He recently conducted a two-day workshop on tools and techniques for analyzing the Pakistan Economic Survey.



Charter of Economy

In a guest speaker session organized by the AERC, Deputy Commissioner of District Central, Mr. Taha Saleem, shared his insights on the role of civil administration in urban development. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between universities and the civil administration in jointly designing and implementing city development plans. Moreover, he emphasized the vital role of civil society in supporting the administration, particularly in the execution of politically sensitive decisions.



Breaking The Debt Cycle

AERC hosted an insightful session titled Breaking the Debt Cycle, chaired by Mr. Qaint Khailullah. The discussion centered on Pakistan's growing debt challenges, examining their underlying causes and potential solutions. Experts and participants explored various strategies to manage and reduce the country's debt burden, including policy reforms, fiscal discipline, and sustainable economic growth initiatives. The session aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the debt crisis and propose actionable recommendations for long-term financial stability.



Role of Leadership in Shaping The Economy

AERC organized an insightful event titled Role of Leadership in Shaping the Economy on August 22, 2024. The session highlighted the crucial role of leadership in driving economic growth, development, and long-term sustainability. Experts discussed how effective leadership influences key policy decisions, fosters innovation, and shapes economic strategies to address challenges such as inflation, unemployment, and financial stability. The event emphasized the importance of visionary leadership in navigating economic uncertainties.



Fisheries Value Chain Assessment for Improvement in Pakistan Workshop

AERC organized a workshop titled "Pakistan: Fisheries Value Chain Assessment for its Improvement" to evaluate and enhance the fisheries sector in Pakistan. The event focused on addressing challenges such as overfishing, mismanagement, and inadequate infrastructure, aiming to bolster food security, employment, and export earnings.



M.PHIL Thesis Defense (2023-2024)

1.Hafeez Ullah (1/9/2023)

An Inquiry into the Causes of Occupation Injuries in Pakistan.

2.Amana Maroof (1/19/2023)

Consumer Intention Towards Usage of Plastic Money in Pakistan: Extension of Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology.

3.Muhammad Ammar Qureshi (1/19/2023)

Macroeconomic Analysis of Factors Affecting Sovereign Credit Risk.

4.Shahzaman (2/13/2023)

Impact of Training on Employment and Earning: A Case of Pakistan.

5.Muhammad Iftikhar Mubbashir (2/23/2023)

Impact of Public Investment on Private Investment-Crowding In or Crowding Out: A Sectoral Analysis of Pakistan.

6.Syed Mujtaba Ali Nizami (3/29/2023)

Impact of Internet Usage, Financial Development, and Energy Consumption on Environmental Degradation: A Case Study of Developing Countries.

7.Ziaullah (5/26/2023)

The Impact of Globalization on Economic Growth and Exports in the SAARC Region: A Social, Political, and Economic Perspective.

8.Ilma Sharif (6/5/2023)

Urbanization and Environmental Degradation: Empirical Evidence from Asian Countries.

9.Muhammad Qaveem Akhtar Khan (6/9/2023)

Empirical Investigation to Determine the Role of Education in EKC for Pakistan.

10.Shahdah Hanif (6/12/2023)

The Significance of Trade Incentives for Export Growth of Pakistan: A Sectoral Analysis.

11.Sarah Nizamani (7/7/2023)

Human Opportunity Index – A Case of Pakistan.

12.Samra Ali (7/30/2023)

Income-Related Inequalities, Financial Inclusion, and Role of Banks in Pakistan.

13.Ghulam Abbas (8/29/2023)

Currency Devaluation & Depreciation Expectation: Effect on Macroeconomic Indicators.

14.Almas Saleem (8/29/2023)

Public Open Space and Physical Quality of Life: Empirical Evidence from Karachi.

15.Uroosa Khan (8/31/2023)

Efficacy of Public and Private Investment on Growth of Small-Scale Manufacturing Sector in Pakistan.

16.Nazish Kiran (9/1/2023)

The Role of Substitution Elasticity in Anti-Dumping Decisions: A Case Study of Pakistan.

17.Iqbal Hussain (9/8/2023)

Wage Inequality Within and Between Occupations: A Case Study of Pakistan.

18.Syed Ahmed Shahab Tariq (9/12/2023)

The Role of Digital Finance in Economic Development: A Cross-Country Analysis.

19.Saba Fariha (10/5/2023)

Analysis of Comparative Advantage and Potential of Leather Export from Pakistan to Its Partners.

20.Tayyaba (10/5/2023)

Estimating the Nexus Among the Capital Account, Current Account, and Investment: An Analysis of Major South Asian Countries.



21. Muhammad Umair Siddiqui (10/8/2023)

Measuring the Determinants of Financial Inclusion: A Micro-Level Analysis of Pakistan.

22. Mudassir Abdul Wahid Moorad (10/19/2023)

Effects of Financial Development and Income on Energy Consumption: Evidence from Pakistan.

23. Imrana Saif (12/1/2023)

Factors Affecting Sports Tourists' Revisit Intention: A Case Study of Pakistan Super League.

24. Muhammad Affan Siddiquie (12/19/2023)

Economic Assessment of Mental Illness: A Cross-Country Analysis.

25. Sarah Muhammad Sharif (2/1/2024)

Nexus Between Financial Development and Human Development in Pakistan.

26. Seemab Naeem (4/9/2024)

Assessment for the Factors Influencing Mental Illness: An Eco-Environmental Perspective.

27. Muhammad Hammad Ul Haq (4/19/2024)

Exploring the Channels of Transmission Between External Debt and Economic Growth: Evidence from Emerging Economies.

28. Lucky Bizenjo (4/22/2024)

(Title not provided).

29. Kiran Tariq (4/26/2024)

Nexus Between Migration and Crime: A Regional Analysis.

30. Sadaf Fatima (5/1/2024)

The Sectoral Employment Choice to Obtain Public-Private Wage Differential and Its Relationship with Employment Choice.

31. Mehaluddin Siddiqui (5/1/2024)

The Effect of Sovereign Debt on Economic Development.

32. Naila Rehmat (7/12/2024)

Economic Valuation of Mangrove Forest at Coastal Belt of Sindh.

33. Taskeen Fatima (9/1/2024)

Fiscal Decentralization and Consumer Satisfaction from Local Government Service Delivery: Pre- and Post-18th Amendment Comparison.

34. Habibullah (10/9/2024)

Revisiting the Nexus Between Unemployment and Crime Rate Fluctuations: A Case Study of Pakistan.

35. Saira Bano (10/19/2024)

Determinants of Carbon Dioxide Emission in Pakistan: Role of Renewable Energy, Non-Renewable Energy, and Urbanization.

36. Fatima (11/19/2024)

Digital Finance, Renewable Energy Consumption, and Economic Development.

37. Sardar Adil Iqbal Khan (11/30/2024)

Comparative and Pattern Analysis of Development Ranking of Districts of Pakistan: 2005 to 2020.

Ph. D Thesis Defense (2024)

1. Abdul Aleem Qureshi (22/01/2024)

Nurture Under Single Parenting: A Case Study of Pakistan.

2. Rooma Asjed (08/11/2024)

Flattening of Phillips Curve and Changing Inflationary Dynamics of Pakistan: An Empirical Investigation.



Muhammad Imran Khan
President, Student Society

Message from the President, AOA

Dear Members of the AERC Community,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the AERC newsletter (2023-24). As the President of Association of Applied Economists (AOA) and a PhD scholar at AERC, I am committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and support within our community. This newsletter serves as a platform to celebrate achievements, share knowledge, and highlight the incredible work being done by our members. Together, we can advance the legacy of AERC as a centre of excellence in applied economics.

I encourage all members to actively engage, share ideas, and support one another as we strive for collective growth and meaningful contributions to the field.

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