

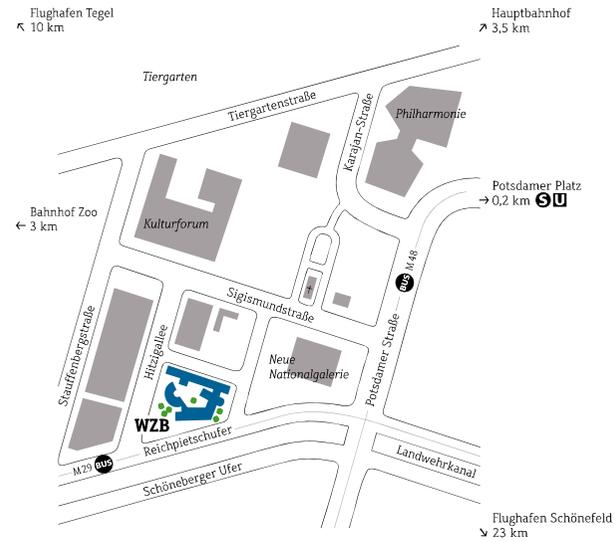
Registration:

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Please respond latest by September 12, 2011

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Conference language: English



WZB

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung

The event is co-organized by:



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
Die grüne politische Stiftung

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
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Understanding Pakistan Ways out of the crisis?

Panel Discussion
September 13, 2011
Social Science Research Center Berlin

Understanding Pakistan

Pakistan, one of the two South Asian nuclear states - has turned to be major challenge for the international community. Its foreign and security policies are crucial not only for regional, but ever more for global stability. However, Pakistan's attention is mainly captured by factors such as the recent rise of urban militancy and violence (for instance target killings in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi), a dwindling state of the economy, or challenges of governance amidst power plays between military and civilian rule. Not to be underestimated should be humanitarian problems: the country has missed almost all United Nations Millennium Development Goals targets; people are struggling with poverty and illiteracy; and public sector development programs are largely dependent on external aid and loans.

After the killing of Osama bin Laden, the rift between Pakistan and its most important donor and friend-foe, the US, has been increasing. Soaring anti-Americanism among the established forces in general and people of Pakistan in particular may threaten the success fighting terrorism. Together with regional challenges under the shadow of the Kashmir conflict, contested water resources and estranged neighbourly relations the future seems to be extremely constrained.

Panel Discussion

at the Social Science Research Center
Berlin

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

- 6.30 p.m. Welcome and
Introductory Remarks
Dr. Dr. Talat Mahmood, WZB
- 6.40 p.m. **Panel Discussion:**
- **Dr. Abid Suleri**, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan
 - **Prof. Dr. Sayed Waqar Ali Shah**, Alama Iqbal Professor, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg
 - **Britta Petersen**, Country Director, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Lahore, Pakistan
 - **Dr. Gunter Mulack**, Executive Director, German Orient Institute, Berlin
- Moderation:**
Prof. Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann,
Freie Universität Berlin and ZELF
- 8.30 p.m. **Pakistani snacks**
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Ways out of the crisis:

Despite this bleak picture, there are sources of optimism that Pakistan could successfully pass through these troubled times: attempts of superior judiciary to maintain rule of law succeed, the media is relatively independent, and public support for religious extremist groups is steadily decreasing.

Against this backdrop experts on Pakistan discuss whether there are more reasons to be optimistic and discuss the country's plausible future. Aside from the above mentioned critical topics, so far neglected aspects regarding Pakistan will also be addressed:

How can the economy recover and help boost education, fight poverty and end a tight system of clientelism? How and who can one overcome the never ending economic and energy crisis and effectively fight poverty and malnourishment in an extremely resource-rich country? How can the international community support indigenous resilience of Pakistan's people against these odds? What are ways out of the crisis for Pakistan?