



Title: Pakistan-South Korea Relations: Expanding Cultural and Educational Connectivity

Event Date: January 29, 2026

Venue: IFQ Hotel and Resort, Islamabad

Time: 1200-15:00

Global educational mobility patterns are changing fast. With the universities in the Asia Pacific region adopting open-campus policies, more and more students from developing countries are now choosing universities in China, Australia, Japan, and Korea. Pakistan, however, remains under-represented in South Korea's higher education sector. To put this in perspective: around 30,000 Pakistani students study in the United Kingdom, 28,000 in China, and 24,000 in Australia. In South Korea, the number stands at just around 1,500. To address this critical gap, the Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES) organized a hybrid international seminar to explore innovative ideas to strengthen the proposed "Pakistan-Korea Knowledge Corridor".

The seminar brought together two of Pakistan's top diplomats (H.E Amb. Moazam Shah, Pakistan's serving Amb. to Korea, and Amb. Masood Khalid, our former Amb. to Korea), industry leaders from the higher education sector of Korea, and Pakistani scholars with educational or teaching backgrounds in South Korea. The seminar also created an opportunity to cement our engagement with the visiting South Korean delegation led by Dr. Mun Yong Ja and Prof. Choi Jong In, vice President of Tongwon University, who visited Pakistan last week. The event also marked the first engagement between CAPES and the Korean embassy, with Col. Kim Jinwoo, the Defense Attaché from Korean embassy, attending the event.

Delivering the keynote address, H.E. Syed Moazzam Shah, Ambassador of Pakistan to South Korea, announced that both countries are collaborating towards the "Pakistan-Korea Knowledge Corridor". There are currently 1600 Pakistani students enrolled in Korean universities, a number soon likely to increase manifold in the near future. To address the language barrier challenge Punjab government and Korea embassy engaged and established 4 language centers in Lahore. He also highlighted that Korea has increased the quota for unskilled labor, from 4200 in 2024 to 5400 in 2025.

Pakistan's Defense Attaché, Col. Asif Mehmood, informed the audience that in April this year, representatives of more than one dozen Korean Universities will be coming to Pakistan to participate in Pakistan-Korea educational expos in Islamabad and Lahore. We are working on a Kartarpur-style corridor to promote religious tourism at Buddhist cultural sites in Pakistan.

Ambassador Masood Khalid provided a historical overview of Pakistan-South Korea relations. He stated that Pakistan was at the forefront in extending help to South Korea during the Korean War. Both Korea and Pakistan are members of United for Consensus at the UN, the UN group advocating for the expansion of non-permanent members of the Security Council.

The academic session featured insights from Pakistani and Korean scholars examining education and culture as drivers of bilateral engagement. Dr. Mun Yong Jo, President of the International Interchange Development Association, underscored the role of digital connectivity in promoting Korean language courses in far-flung areas of Pakistan. He was of the view that Pakistan's rich human and natural resources, combined with Korea's advanced technology and economic expertise, create a win-win prospect for both countries. He also reiterated his support for Pakistan's stance on human rights violations in Indian-Occupied Kashmir.

Prof Choi Jong In, Vice President of Tongwon University, South Korea, shared that his university is soon going to establish a campus in Lahore as a part of the "Pakistan-Korea Knowledge Corridor".

