

# THE PAKISTANI AMERICAN

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## PAC organizes a Workshop on US-Pak Relations in Chicago - Faisal Khan

Chicago (August 15, 2015) — Pakistan American Congress (PAC) established in 1991, continued its commitment towards organizing events and caters to dialogue and networking opportunities for Pakistani American community. PAC organized an annual event and workshop on US-Pak Relations in the current scenario.

This was a great opportunity for folks in Chicago area to come together and listen to special guests- two prominent names Anwar Iqbal-the senior Dawn correspondent in Washington, is a versatile journalist and a wonderful person and friend, and Dr. Mona Kazim Shah- hosts and produces the radio show "Politics Today".

The event was chaired by the Chief Guest HE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, the Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago. The event was organized by Faisal Khan, Ex-



*Planning for the Chicago 2015 Annual Meeting  
Dr. Wasiullah Khan and Faisal Khan*



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### Special points of interest

- Report on the Annual Meeting 2015 of Pakistani American Congress
- What is PAC ?
- PAC Executive Committee goals 2015-2017

## PAC organizes a Workshop on US-Pak Relations in Chicago - cont.

Executive member, Pakistan American Congress and sponsored by Chancellor, East West University, Dr. Wasiullah Khan.

The session was kicked off with the Recitation from The Quran. Later Wajid Hasan gave a quick overview on the Agenda items and introduced the guest speakers.

The new Executive of Pakistan American Congress took oath for the next term 2015-2017. Wajid Hasan, the President, Faisal Khan, Senior Vice President, and Tauseef Siddiqui, General Secretary's oath were conducted by HE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, the Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago.

As the first item on the agenda, Dr. Mona Kazim Shah talked about Project Pakistan that she has recently founded Project Pakistan to help families and individuals in Pakistan by paying tuition, providing clothing, funding weddings, or simply donating food to families in need. Currently she is working in collaboration with documentary film-makers on a number of projects including the upcoming film The Approximate Target on civilian drone attack survivors and another documentary on domestic violence in Afghanistan, Pakistan and US.

The other Speaker, Anwar Iqbal, mesmerizes the audience with his point of view on the current scenario around the U-Pak relationship. He continued his speech with giving an overview on challenges faced by Pakistan. His talk gave a great reflection on his deep insights in to the matter.

Later, Wajid invited Dr. Arshad Mirza, Dr. Wasiullah Khan, Anwar Iqbal, and Dr. Mona Shah to the panel. This panel gave a great opportunity to the audience to ask questions. All the panelists answered the questions posed with the deep insight of the subjects.

Audience raised questions and made comments ranging from brain drain, politics in Pakistan, Pakistan's turbulent relationship with USA in recent times, more involvement of Whitehouse compared to the Congress in terms of Pakistan, Dr. Mona's effort to combat heat wave that strike Karachi in June 2015

In the end, Wajid being the President, Pakistan American Congress, presented his next term objectives and goals.

- ◇ Publish a directory with the name and title of Important Pakistani leaders and their contribution to the Pakistan Cause.



**Chicago 2015 Annual Meeting  
Dr. Mona Kazim Shah, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi**

- ◇ Involve youth of Pakistani origin in PAC activities
- ◇ Annual Meeting & monthly teleconference meetings
- ◇ Organize a meet up in Islamabad/Lahore
- ◇ Connect with the local organizations in each city
- ◇ Establish and Maintain contact with Ambassadors, Senators/Congressmen
- ◇ Publish a quarterly Newsletter
- ◇ Introduction of PAC in bigger cities and hold Meetings in the cities with large population of Pakistani Diaspora
- ◇ Find dedicated and committed leadership for the next term 2017 – 2019

In the end, PAC President, Wajid Hasan thanked the Guest Speaker, event Sponsors, and all the participants. He said “the excitement and support for this

event is inspiring, and we couldn't be more pleased with how many delegates have come together to make it a successful event.” He also thanked PAC EXCOM members for a great show of teamwork.

The success of this event illustrates just how many professionals understand the importance of achieving excellence through continued education and achieving recognized certifications in the area of their expertise – a good sign for the professional community. The event was covered by Voice of America and Ajj TV.

Core meeting of PAC members were held after the larger meeting was concluded over the coffee.

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The author of this report, Faisal Khan, is the Senior Vice President of Pakistani American Congress



*Chicago 2015 Annual Meeting*

*From right to Left: Yaseen Chauha, Wajid Hassan, Mona Kazim Shah, Dr. Wasiullah Khan, Faisal Khan, Hameedullah Khan, Anwar Iqbal, Kishwar Mahmood, Nusrat Mirza*

## **Book Inauguration: Deciphering Pakistan’s Education Reforms**

During the workshop in Chicago , Wajid Hassan presented a brief summary of his recently published book “Deciphering Pakistan’s Education Reforms”.

The focus of his book is to empirically grasp the context and constraint regarding education reforms and offer principles to incorporate collaboration from politicians to the potential human capital of Pakistan. The status of Pakistan’s education system lacks importance, consistency and motivation.

Pakistan who receives millions of dollars from around the world for infrastructure and education yet 58.7 out of 180 million Pakistanis live below poverty and 55 million children over the age of 10 cannot read or write. Incompetent politicians, unstable leadership, abandoned policies, conflicts within and outside its borders contribute to a deficit more important than money, the children.

Wajid also presented his recommendation directed for policy makers, governments (Central, Provincial, Local), for Media and some others for General public to ensure 100% literacy rate in Pakistan.



**Wajid Hassan**  
*President—Pakistani American Congress*

# Whither Pakistani Americans

DR. M. WASIULIAH KHAN

The article is Revised on 7/29/2015

The focus of this brief presentation is the state of Pakistani-Americans and their future. I don't want to reminisce of the days gone by, when Pakistan was the critical U.S. ally and bulwark against communist expansion in South and South Asia and when over one million people welcomed President Eisenhower in Karachi in 1960. Never before, anywhere, a U.S. President was welcomed with such massive enthusiasm. And then, much later, in the 1980's, Pakistanis shed their blood with Afghan freedom fighters to end the disastrous Soviet occupation of Afghanistan which proved to be a critical factor causing the demise of Soviet Union in 1991 and consequently huge peace dividend for the U.S. We Pakistanis come from a civilization- the most ancient of all civilizations of the world as anthropologists call the 5,500 year old Indus Valley civilization – and a culture where friendships are everlasting.

I want to focus on here and now. What Pakistan and its government is doing in comradery with the U. S. to fight global terrorism is critical for the interests of all of us, the U.S. citizens. Brevity of this presentation precludes my sharing with the reader's details of the costs of this comradery that Pakistan is bearing. But I assure you we are a people that friends can always count on, in need and in deed.

Pakistani-Americans are estimated to be over a million in the U.S., concentrated mostly in New York, Chicago, Houston, Detroit and the metropolitan areas of California and Virginia. A 2015 Migration policy report [1] states that approximately 453,000 Pakistani immigrants and their children live in United States. A 1996 publication, the three-volume Reference Library of Asian America [2], says a significant number of Pakistani Americans are highly educated engineers, doctors, scientists, teachers of all levels, bankers,

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## *Approximately 453,000 Pakistani immigrants and their children live in United States.*

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business executives and skilled professionals. They are among the highest salaried workers in the LIS. Their high levels of education and income prevented them from being "ghettoized" in inner city areas or in low paying jobs. But sometimes they experience resentment and discrimination for being Muslims. Pakistanis are mostly family-oriented people. They generally do very well in school and their aspirations closely match the American dream. Most are home owners in suburban localities. There is little tendency to group together in a particular area. Hence, there are generally no significant ethnic neighborhoods where a Pakistani majority resides.

In my opinion, the future of Pakistani Americans which are considered to be the second fastest growing group in Pakistan, reported in Pew Research Centre report [3] and Dawn Newspaper [4] will be determined by the level of commitment we attach to four imperatives. The first and foremost among them is higher education. In the last two decades, the new arrivals from Pakistan have been from the lower middle class, who are not

well educated and often find work as taxi drivers, small business entrepreneurs, gas station attendants, news stand operators, etc. Unless each one of us resolve unto ourselves that he/she would attain at least the first graduate degree ( M.A., M.S., M.B.A. etc ) and constantly goad every one of his/her relatives and friends to do the same, our future will be very bleak in the next two or three decades. If we just look at the difference between the influence and clout that Jewish-Americans and African-American have over legislative, executive and judicial branches of federal, state and city governments, print and electronic media and big corporations, we can derive the right conclusions. Extensive research has proved beyond doubt that higher and professional education causally determine the lifetime income level, family cohesion, social prestige and community leadership capabilities of individuals regardless of age, gender, race, religion and cultural background. The very psyche, worldview and culture of a people change radically with higher education. The Holy Quran asks the question: "Are those who know equal to those who do not know? (39:9). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said we

## Whither Pakistani Americans - cont.

should seek education from the cradle to the grave. I cannot overemphasize the fact that prosperity, dignity and prestige cannot be achieved if the Pakistani American culture doesn't regard higher education the sine qua non of our daily living. There are 168 hours in a week and only 10-15% of that time devoted to attending college can change our lives immeasurably.

The second imperative, in my opinion, is our continually being well-informed about the fast changing world. Among the four largest economies today, three are Asian - China, Japan and India following the U.S. but ahead of Germany, France, U.K., Italy, Russia and Brazil, in that order. With economic and technological prowess, diplomatic and political focuses shift and alter. What to say of some Urdu or English journals being published by Pakistan-Americans, even major U.S. newspapers and media outlets only selectively tell the real stories of daily happenings. We need think-tanks in every urban metropolitan area [5]. East-West University's think tank, the Center for Policy and Future Studies, will Insha'Allah bring out its quarterly journal, East-West Affairs, next year. Pakistan's ex-Foreign Secretary, Hon'ble Riaz Khokhar, has shown interest in joining it.

We have too many organizations in every city and many organization keep splitting with time. But we must have one national organization. Only Pakistani – American Congress, which was established in 1990, deserve to be strengthened because, among other characteristics, it is not one man oriented. There are people among us who want to be chairmen permanently. They start new organizations only to stay chairmen, since they can't continue as chairmen in the old organizations. PAC, on the other hand, is an umbrella organizations of 57 affiliates spread throughout the U.S. and its present, duly elected, fifteenth president, Wajid Hassan has devoted unprecedented resources of his own for PAC's growth and effectiveness.

Our last but not the least imperative is to make combined and ingenuous efforts directed at our fatherland Pakistan's social, political and economic development. America is a land of immigrants. The earlier European immigrants never forgot their countries of origin and strived for their development consistently over the last two centuries. The Marshall Plan after World War II helped European nations develop fast and now some European countries have higher GDP per capita than the U.S. Chinese Americans have materially contributed to China's phenomenal growth in the last two dec-

ades. Pakistan deserves to be South Asia's most developed, prosperous and dignified nation. Just in the field of education, we can build in Pakistan schools, colleges and universities of international standards to function as catalyst institutions. It is quite possible to mobilize resources for such development projects in the private sector, without straining government funds of the provinces or the federation of Pakistan.

### References

- [1] The Pakistani Diaspora in the United States - Migration Policy Institute - June 2015
- [2] Susan Gail and Irene Natwidad (editors), Reference Library of Asian America, another contribum to diversity, Detroit, MI, Gale Research Inc.. 1996, pp. 151 -155.
- [3] Pakistanis are second fastest growing group in US. Faiza Mirza — Published Jul 09, 2012
- [4] Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, A Community of Contrasts, Asian Americans in the United States: 2011. Pew Research Centre 2011
- [5] World Almanac 2004 gives the 2000 population figures (in millions) of New York/North New Jersey to be 21.2, Los Angeles 16.4, Chicago 9.2, Washington/Baltimore 7.6, SanFrancisco /San Jose 7 0, Philadelphia 6.2, Boston 5.8, Detroit 5.5, Dallas/Fort Worth 5.2 arid Houston 4.7.

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Dr. M. Wasiullah Khan is founder and Chancellor of East-West University in Chicago.  
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*Pre-talk session in Chicago on the 15th of August 2015 with Dawn Newspaper Journalist Anwar Iqbal*

**Pakistani American Congress (PAC)** is an umbrella organization of Pakistani Associations of North America.

It was established in 1990 as a non-profit, non-partisan and non-religious premier community organization. It is envisioned to promote goodwill and cordial relations between United States and Pakistan and their people through activism at Capitol Hill.

It serves as a catalyst of social, educational, and political activities which promotes the interests and protects the civil rights & liberties of the Pakistani-American Community in the U.S.

PAC believes that progress and well-being of Pakistani-American community is intrinsic in the friendly relations and economic cum strategic partnership between the two countries and their people. PAC is envisioned to serve as the flag carrier and good will Ambassador of Pakistan-US long lasting friendship, cooperation and partnership based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty.

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Is your organization a member of  
Pakistani American Congress? *Why Not?*  
Talk to your local community leaders and ask  
them make your organization a member of  
the winning team.

The Few, the proud, The Pakistani Americans